



# REFLECTIONS 2024



ROYAL THIMPHU  
COLLEGE

**Inspiring Education in  
Bhutan**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



### Tshewang Tandin

Welcome to Reflection on 2024, Royal Thimphu College's annual newsletter capturing the year's milestones, challenges, and accomplishments.

This year has been a testament to RTC's vibrant community spirit and global engagement. Highlights included a grand Business Festival and International Day celebration, with participation from students and faculty representing nearly ten countries. We also hosted a 3-day interdisciplinary symposium on Multispecies Migration in the Climate-Changed Himalayas, bringing together global scholars to address pressing issues—an event that underscored our commitment to fostering academic excellence and meaningful dialogue.

The Himalayan Centre for Environmental Humanities (HCEH) advanced its impactful research with projects like SUCCESS and Living with Uncertainty, supported by IDRC, offering Environmental Management students hands-on opportunities to explore migration and adaptation strategies in South Asia. We celebrated the completion of the HAPPY Project, a transformative four-year initiative with Bhutanese colleges and European universities, training 199 faculty members and preparing students as thoughtful researchers contributing to societal development. Additionally, the HCEH launched the four-year Perpetuating Highland Heritages project with Leiden University, supported by the Gerda Henkel Foundation, while continuing to contribute to the Eat Well project, strengthening research capacity and exploring indigenous knowledge.

RTC hosted the Rethinking Economics Festival 2024, strengthening partnerships with Delhi University and fostering student-faculty collaboration. In a historic milestone, RTC successfully hosted AFC Women's Champions League matches. Our Women's Football Club celebrated back-to-back championship victories, while our Men's team secured fourth place for the third consecutive year in a highly competitive league.

Leadership orientation workshops, community service initiatives, and vibrant cultural events like RTC Got Talent, Mental Health Week, and Diwali Celebration enriched campus life. The Tarayana RTC Club expanded its outreach, making meaningful impacts in local communities. Faculty development continued with workshops on blended learning, AI in education, and innovative teaching strategies led by experts from Bhutan and abroad. Exchanges under Erasmus+ and the HAPPY Project enabled faculty and students to benefit from 38 outbound and 27 inbound opportunities, alongside five faculty-led visit programmes. Nine RTC students embarked on year-long study abroad programmes, while 26 international students enriched our multicultural campus.

A grand graduation ceremony marked the farewell of 400 students. We had record performance at the BCSE (Bhutan Civil Service Examinations 2024: 51 graduates selected into the civil service including ten in the top ten—notably, the top two positions in public administration and the topper in nursing.

As we reflect on 2024, we celebrate the resilience, creativity, and dedication of our students, faculty, and staff, whose collective efforts continue to inspire excellence. Thank you all for making this a truly memorable year!



# REFLECTIONS 2024

## WELCOME NEW FACULTIES



Royal Thimphu College warmly welcomed new faculty members for the 2024 academic year! A total of 21 talented educators joined during the Spring semester, followed by an additional 32 members in the Fall semester. These dedicated professionals participated in a week-long orientation programme designed to introduce them to RTC's professional work culture, values, and academic environment.

RTC takes pride in its growing academic community and looks forward to the contributions these educators will make toward enriching the learning experience.

## WELCOME INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



In our efforts toward internationalising and offering a diverse and multi-cultural higher education environment, RTC welcomed 25 international students this year.

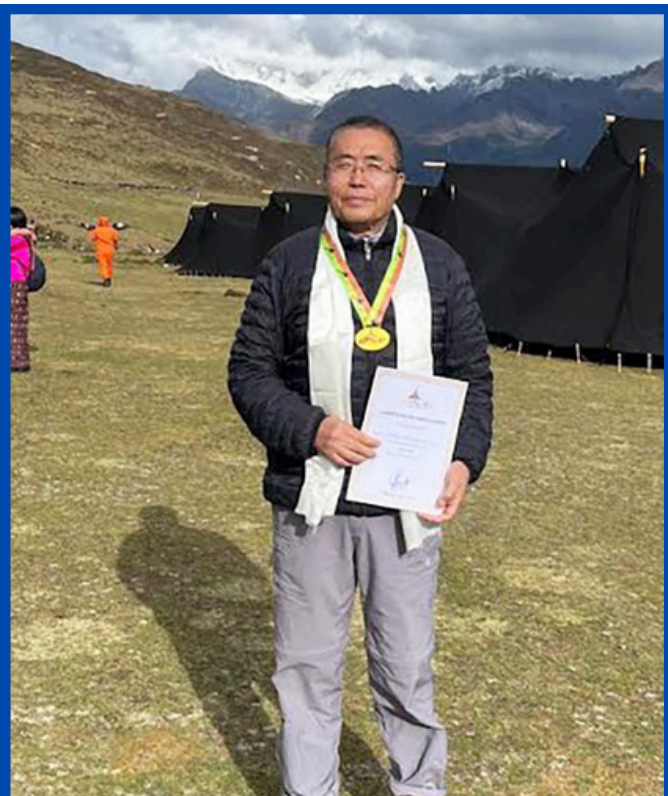
### HONORARY CONSULATE OF CZECH REPUBLIC

### FOUNDING DIRECTOR TENZING YONTEN



The RTC community proudly congratulated its founding director, Tenzing Yonten, on his prestigious appointment as the Honorary Consul for the Czech Republic!

Our best wishes as he embarked on this new journey of service and representation, aimed at fostering international relations and creating a positive impact in our global community.



### RTC PRESIDENT TSHEWANG TANDIN

The president of RTC, made history as the oldest runner in the 2024 Laya Run, held during the Royal Highland Festival in Gasa.

At 65, he completed his first 25km run in four hours and 38 minutes, setting the bar high for future participants.



## RTC PRESIDENT TSEWANG TANDIN

The President also received the prestigious Bura Karpo and Patang from His Majesty the King on the 117th National Day!

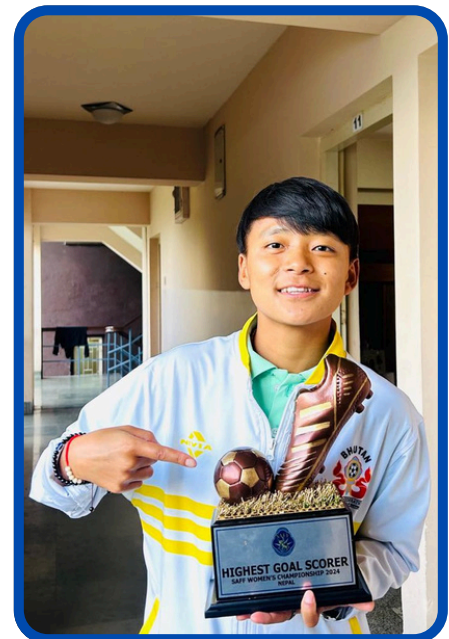


## DR. JELLE J P WOUTERS

Dr Jelle is appointed as the Co-Chair of the Himalayan University Consortium (HUC) Thematic Working Group of the ICIMOD, and as the director of the Research and Development Office, RTC.

## DEKI LHAZOM

A member from the RTC Women's FC won Golden Boot as she became the first Bhutanese footballer to score a hat trick at the SAFF 2024.



## PEMA YANGSEL NORBU

RTC Alumna won Second Prize at the Kingdom of Bhutan International Film Festival.



# REFLECTIONS 2024

## HM'S ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE CERTIFICATE AWARD CEREMONY



### ACADEMIC TOPPERS OF 2021-2022

The Academic Toppers of 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 were honoured with His Majesty's Academic Excellence Certificates in separate ceremonies. Graced by Honourable Dzongda Dasho Phub Dorji, Thimphu Dzongkhag Administration, and the Honourable President of Royal Thimphu College, the events celebrated academic excellence and dedication.



### ACADEMIC TOPPERS OF 2022-2023



Award Day recognised students for their academic excellence. Prizes were awarded to top students from each programme, with the President's List honoring those who scored 80% and above, and the Dean's List recognising those in the top ten with at least 70%.



**MS. SANGAY CHEZOM**  
THE LEARNING  
RESOURCE CENTRE (LRC)  
READING COMPETITION



**TANDIN GYELTSHEN**  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
STUDENT LIFE



**DR. RICHARD KAMEI**  
EXCELLENCE IN ACTIVE STUDENT-CENTRED TEACHING





### WORKSHOP ON CREATING STORYBOARDS FOR LIVE-ACTION FILMS

Inauguration of the "Workshop on Creating Storyboards for Live-Action Films," led by Renowned Hollywood-based storyboard artist, Kurt Van Der Basch.

The event was joined by Her Excellency, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to India and Bhutan.







### AT RTC

RTC hosted a 3-day leadership exchange program with student leaders from Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law (JSWSL) and Norbuling Rigter College (NRC), focusing on fostering collaboration, skill development, and strengthening institutional ties for national development.

JSWSL hosted student leaders from NRC and RTC as part of the 'Linksphere' initiative, further promoting cooperation and collective efforts among the institutions.



### AT JSWSL





The Performing Arts Club at RTC proudly staged *Water* by Beverly Andrews, marking the first global performance of this profound play.

Celebrated the successful performance of *A Knight's Tale*, written by RTC alumnus Alex Vanhoesbost, winner of the Fall Semester 2023 Script Writing Competition.



This captivating student-written play, filled with medieval and surreal elements, explored the timeless theme of love.





Panel discussion organised by the Career Development Office in collaboration with the Alumni Office featured distinguished RTC alumni who provided invaluable insights into their transition from student to professional lives.

The discussion highlighted the challenges they faced during the Royal Civil Service Commission Examinations and how their education at RTC played an instrumental role in shaping their successful careers.



**STUDENT LEADERS**



**STUDENT AT AV STUDIO**





## BIRD LIFE SOCIETY

The RTC Bird Life Society embarked on an enriching field trip to Tashithang as part of the Citizen Science Beyond Classroom initiative. The trip was a perfect blend of exploration, learning, and connection with nature. Members had the opportunity to observe diverse bird species, deepening their understanding of Bhutan's rich biodiversity while fostering a shared passion for conservation.



## CAMPING TO JELE DZONG

Students and staff embarked on a memorable camping trip, venturing beyond classroom walls for an adventure filled with nature, camaraderie, and unforgettable experiences. The trip brought everyone together, creating lasting memories and fostering a strong sense of community.





## NURSING LAMP LIGHTING CEREMONY

Lamp Lighting Ceremony for our first-year BSc Nursing & Midwifery students, honoring the legacy of Florence Nightingale. This symbolic event marked the beginning of their clinical education, inspiring them with values of compassion, knowledge, and dedication.



Stepping forward as the future leaders in healthcare.





## CONVOCATION

15th RUB Convocation Ceremony for the RTC graduates of 2019-2023, with the theme "Honouring Dreams, Celebrating the Future." The ceremony celebrated the realisation of dreams and the transformative power of education. His Excellency Lyonpo Lekey Dorji, the chief guest, shared his inspiring journey from humble beginnings to a ministerial role, emphasising perseverance and the values of Tha-Dramtse and Drin len.



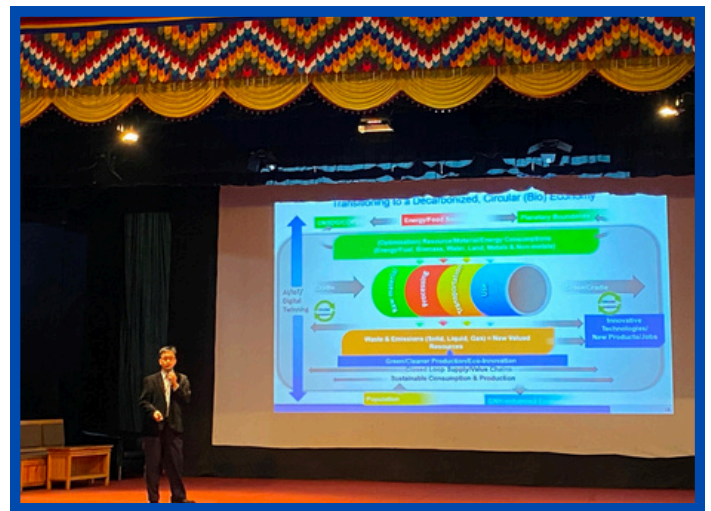




Sharing his filmmaking journey with final-year and BA Communication Arts students, offering inspiring insights and guidance to aspiring filmmakers.

**PAWO CHONING DORJI**

From The University of Queensland. His lectures on Circular Economy and research writing left a lasting impact on our academic community.



**DR. ANTHONY HALOG**

Royal Bhutan Police conducted a session on crime and drug abuse, emphasising the role of leadership in tackling these issues.

**DASHO COLONEL PASSANG DORJI**



A session on the essence of Buddha's teaching in cultivating kindness, mindfulness, and wisdom in every step of our lives.

**LAMA SHENPHEN ZANGPO**





Tony Kim, Dr. Aparna Phalke, and Ms. Sarah Cox, presented groundbreaking Earth observation technologies in agriculture and food security, inspiring students and professionals alike.

### THE NASA-SERVIR TEAM

The founder of Global Girlfriend shared her entrepreneurial journey and insights on empowering women through sustainable market opportunities.



### DR. STACEY EDGAR

Ambassador of the Czech Republic, gave an enlightening talk on the Czech Republic's history, politics, and culture.

### H. E. ELISKA ZIGOVA



AFC Competition Management Manager and FIFA Match Director shared insights on international football, career opportunities in the field, and the role of a Match Commissioner.

### MS. YIN XINAN (NANCY)







Royal Thimphu College and the National Pension and Provident Fund (NPPF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The collaboration aims to enhance skills, knowledge, and professional development, fostering a culture of lifelong learning within the NPPF organisation.

### RTC & NPPF

Royal Thimphu College and RENEW signed an MoU. This partnership aims to ensure equal educational opportunities for children across Bhutan, particularly those who have experienced unsafe home environments helping them continue their education and achieve their potential.



### RTC & RENEW



### RTC & SAMUH

Royal Thimphu College and Samuh Mediatech Private Limited signed an MoU to enhance the Communication Arts and Creative Media programme. The collaboration aims to provide hands-on learning experiences and help Samuh Mediatech source and nurture talent.





### RTC & KANSAI UNIVERSITY

Kansai University, Japan and RTC continues to explore potential areas of collaboration, strengthen academic connections, and identify new pathways for mutual growth and innovation.



### RTC & MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Guests from Michigan State University and Asia Hub, including senior leaders and researchers, to explore potential collaboration opportunities between the institutions.





### MURDOCH AND RTC

RTC & Murdoch University enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), marking a key milestone in our internationalisation agenda. This partnership aimed to foster collaborative projects and training initiatives in areas of mutual interest, promoting academic excellence, intercultural learning, and global engagement.



### RTC & RUB

Officials from the Office of the Vice Chancellor (OVC) and Gedu College of Business, led by Dr. Rinchen Dorji, the Pro Vice-Chancellor, visited RTC for an insightful exchange. The visit provided an opportunity to learn from RTC's best practices. The Founding Director shared a comprehensive presentation on RTC's inception, growth, and the core values, principles, and philosophy that shape its organisational culture.





## HAPPY PROJECT SEMINAR

The Erasmus+ HAPPY project concluded its five-day Closing Seminar in November marking the final year of the EU-funded initiative aimed at building capacity in qualitative research and a people-centred approach to research and development in higher education. The project partners included RTC, Sherubtse College, CLCS, and NRC from Bhutan, alongside Vrije University Amsterdam, Leiden University, University of Ljubljana (UL), and the Institute for Innovation and Development (IRI) from Europe.

The seminar highlighted the project's research achievements, featuring a panel discussion on the role of social sciences and qualitative research in education. The establishment of a well-equipped Qualitative Research Methods Lab, a state-of-the-art Audio-Visual Studio, and a Learning Management System ensures that the project's legacy will continue to impact higher education and research in Bhutan.





## HUC-ICIMOD CONFERENCE



RTC and HUC-ICIMOD hosted a symposium on Multispecies Migration in the Climate Changed Himalayas. As part of this event, the globally acclaimed Professor Willem van Schendel from the University of Amsterdam delivered a keynote address titled “Sapiens and Others”.

## INAUGURATION OF VIRTUAL STUDIO & QRM

2024 marked a significant milestone with the inauguration of our Audio-Visual Studio and Qualitative Research Method (QRM) Lab.



The Centre for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) at RTC, in partnership with the Centre for Teaching and Learning at VU Amsterdam, conducted a workshop on “Blended Learning and AI in Education”.

## CITL WORKSHOP IN QRM LAB



## INVESTING IN MENTAL WELL-BEING



Royal Thimphu College Class Representatives at the a two-day Search Inside Yourself (SIY) workshop, led by SIY-certified facilitators Mr. Tshewang Tandin (RTC President) and Mr. Tshewang Dorji (Environmental Management faculty).

## YOGA SESSION BY INDIAN EMBASSY



The Nehru Wangchuck Cultural Centre organised a special yoga session on our campus to celebrate the International Day of Yoga, in collaboration with the Embassy of India. The session provided staff and students an opportunity to rejuvenate their minds and bodies before the semester-end exams, helping reduce stress, improve concentration, and enhance overall well-being.





## ENVIRONMENT DAY ADVOCACY

Plastic waste is a mounting issue globally. To contribute to creating awareness, the Communication Arts and Creative Media programme organised a campaign coinciding with World Environment Day



## BLOOD DRIVE

Blood Drive Campaigns. This year 120 students, staffs and faculty participated in the campaign.







### MARATHON AT RTC

Annual Marathon Event, themed 'Run for Zero Waste,' celebrating the athleticism of our participants. Runners gathered to push their limits, conquer challenges, and enjoy the excitement of the race.



### PICKLEBALL ON CAMPUS

Pickleball enthusiasts from the US on our campus.



### TALAKHA HIKE POST

President Tshewang Tandin continues to inspire healthy living with walks and hikes. Our international faculty and staff embarked on a scenic hike to Talakha Gonpa providing a refreshing escape into nature





**RTC MEN'S FC**



The Royal Thimphu College Football Club, established in 2022, has achieved significant milestones in a short span. After securing a top-four position in the BOB Bhutan Premier League qualifiers 2023, the team continued their impressive performance and held onto the 4th position in the BOB Bhutan Premier League 2024. We commend their dedication and look forward to their continued success!



**BASKETBALL**  
24





The RTC Women's FC made history by winning the BOB Women's National League for the second consecutive year! Their hard work, dedication, and teamwork led them to secure the title once again. We are incredibly proud of their achievement! Additionally



**KITCHEE FC(HKG)**



**BAM KHATOON FC (IRAN)**

RTC FC hosted teams from Iran and Hong Kong for the preliminary round of the Women's AFC at Changlimithang, where they were cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd of supporters.







We were thrilled to host students from Druk School, Yangchenphug Higher Secondary School, Taktse Rigzhung Central School, Bjishong Central School, and Dechencholing High School for our Open House event. The visit provided students with an opportunity to learn about RTC, including our admissions process, scholarships, academic programs, and international opportunities



They also had the chance to explore our campus and experience the facilities at the indoor Multipurpose Hall.



**BJISHONG CENTRAL SCHOOL**



**DECHENCHOLING HIGH SCHOOL**





A huge shoutout to our three CMC members for completing the Laya Run! They were joined by five international students and a faculty member, all pushing their limits together. A big thank you to Prof. Stephen Griffith for inspiring this amazing adventure.



Our international student had the incredible opportunity to interact with His Majesty.



**CMC MEMEBRS**





# REFLECTIONS 2024

## RTC BUSINESS FESTIVAL 2024

### A DAY OF INNOVATION AND INSPIRATION!



The RTC Business Festival 2024 brought a fantastic day of inspiration and innovation to campus, proving the future of business is brighter than ever! Students showcased their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit, imitating the strategies of world business leaders during their pitches.



## MUSIC FEST

Music Fest at RTC by the Music Club







We had an amazing celebration for International Day at Royal Thimphu College, uniting diverse cultures with vibrant performances, engaging booths, and meaningful connections!



### RTC ALUMNUS

It was heartwarming to welcome back our alumni, who joined in the festivities, reconnected with faculty, students, and one another, and embraced the lively atmosphere.



Here's to celebrating unity in diversity and the lifelong bonds that bring us together!





### RTC in Top 10 BCSE 2024

*Congratulations!*



 Kinga Lhazom Administrative Rank #1	 Pem Dechen Topgay Administrative Rank #2	 Kinley Wangmo Finance Services Rank #4	 Kinley Chogyal Finance Services Rank #7	 Pema Yeshey Technical (Env) Rank #9
 Mani Dem Technical (Nursing) Rank #1	 Dorji Dolkar Technical (Nursing) Rank #4	 Pema Dorji Tamang Technical (Nursing) Rank #5	 Sangay Choden Technical (Nursing) Rank #7	 Pranisha Sharma Technical (Nursing) Rank #8

44% of RTC Students who sat for the BCSE main examination  
secures a spot in the most-sought after civil service!

 Kinga Lhazom Administrative, Rank #1	 Pem Dechen Topgay Administrative, Rank #2	 Kinley Wangmo Finance, Rank #4	 Kinley Chogyal Finance, Rank #7	 Mani Dem Technical (Nursing), Rank #1	 Dorji Dolkar Technical (Nursing), Rank #4	 Pema Dorji Tamang Technical (Nursing), Rank #5	 Sangay Choden Technical (Nursing), Rank #7
 Pranisha Sharma Technical (Nursing), Rank #8	 Priya Rai Administrative	 Kinang Choden Finance	 Tshering Yuden Finance	 Jampel Lhamo Finance	 Namgay Choden PGDE	 Dorji Lhaden PGDE	 Kolzang Yangchen PGDE
 Ugyen Tshering PGDE	 Pema Dorji PGDE	 Yangka PGDE	 Kinley Dema PGDE	 Kinang Dema PGDE	 Lhazzen Tsheltrum Chedra, PGDE	 Karma Chopel PGDE	 Sangay Lhamo PGDE
 Sangay Chozom PGDE	 Tshering Om PGDE	 Sarita Ghalley PGDE	 Saraswati Subba Technical (Nursing)	 Sonam Choden Technical (Nursing)	 Dorji Technical (Nursing)	 Chandana Gurung Technical (Nursing)	 Pasang Zangmo Technical (Nursing)
 Desha Gurung Technical (Nursing)	 Suk Maya Gurung Technical (Nursing)	 Namarata Bhattarai Technical (Nursing)	 Sonam Choden Technical (Nursing)	 Sonam Tina Rai PGDE	 Chador Wangdi PGDE	 Ugyen Tshering PGDE	 Pema Rigsel Yangzom Technical (Nursing)
 Sonam Choden Technical (Nursing)	 Bikash Bhattarai Technical (Nursing)	 Kezang Denkar Technical (Nursing)	 Thuji Yonten Technical (Nursing)	 Tshering Choki Technical (Nursing)	 Arati Rai PGDE	 Tshering Deki PGDE	 Ngawang Dema Technical (Nursing)
 Khandu Doma Gurung Technical (Nursing)							





**FACULTY 2024**



**STAFF 2024**





Dr. Shiva Raj Bhattarai appointed  
as the new President of Royal  
Thimphu College.



Tasli  
Delek