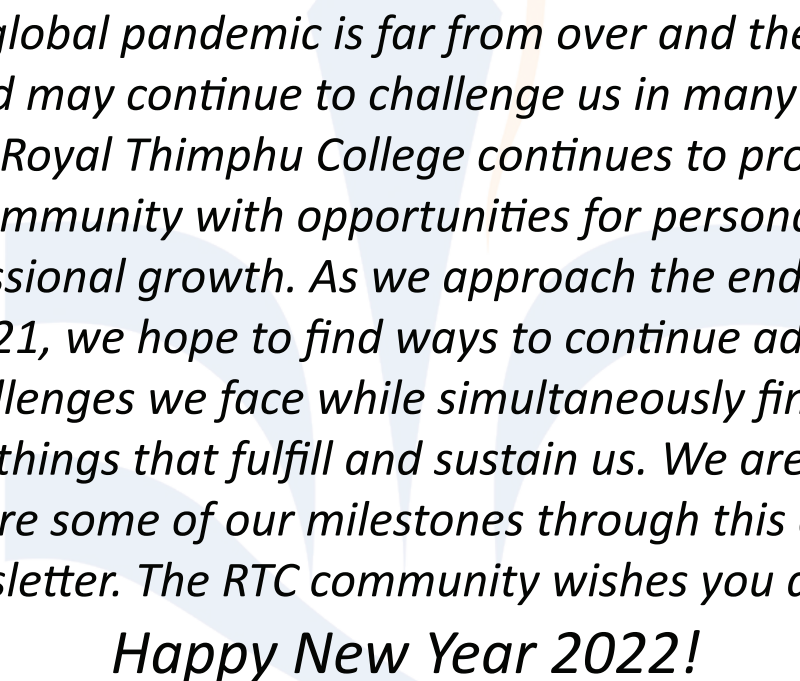




ROYAL THIMPHU
COLLEGE

Reflection ON THE YEAR 2021





The global pandemic is far from over and the year ahead may continue to challenge us in many ways, but Royal Thimphu College continues to provide its community with opportunities for personal and professional growth. As we approach the end of the year 2021, we hope to find ways to continue addressing the challenges we face while simultaneously finding joy in the things that fulfill and sustain us. We are happy to share some of our milestones through this annual newsletter. The RTC community wishes you a very

Happy New Year 2022!

ROYAL THIMPHU
COLLEGE

RTC Milestones



RTC community continues to grow

RTC welcomed 635 new students to its eight different programmes, including two Continuing Education evening programmes, out of which 81 students joined the College on various scholarship schemes offered by RTC and its partner agencies. 12 of them were on the RTC Academic Scholarship, 4 on the RTC-Bhutan Football Federation Scholarship, 6 on the RTC-Bhutan Olympic Committee Scholarship, 1 on RTC-Youth Development Fund Scholarship, 2 on HHEF Scholarship, 30 on DAHE Scholarship, 5 on Comfutura Scholarship, 4 on RTC-WWF Train Legacy Scholarship, 4 on Loden-RTC Need-based Scholarship, 9 on the Bhutan Football Federation Scholarship, 1 on RTC Sports Scholarship, 2 on the Office of the Gyalpoi Zimpon Scholarship and 1 on President's Scholarship.

From the academic year 2021 onwards, the BSc Environmental Management programme at RTC has been updated to a 4-year degree programme to keep up with global trends. The programme aims to provide theoretical knowledge along with practical skills that future leaders will need in order to help create and maintain sustainable societies in Bhutan and beyond. Students will gain a core foundation in natural and social sciences, economics and humanities, as well as business and policy, with environmentally-focused coursework in these areas.

HHEF SCHOLARSHIP



The Himalayan Higher Education Fund, in collaboration with Royal Thimphu College, generously supported a scholarship for one female candidate under the Himalayan Foundation Fund Scholarship programme for the academic year 2021. The Himalayan Higher Education Fund is a non-profit organization that supports higher education opportunities for young women from across the Himalayan region. Through this collaboration, we aim to support high school graduates in Bhutan with sufficient merit to pursue a four-year Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Management at the Royal Thimphu College.

Jottings

From the Field



Student Journal of the Anthropology Programme,
Royal Thimphu College

Vol. 1, No. 1 (2021)

The Anthropology Programme department launched the first anthropological student journal, 'Jottings from the Field'. This is a student-led journal intended to highlight the research of anthropology students as well as provide an opportunity for interested students to learn the skills needed to run a publication. This journal also provides an important snapshot of how anthropology is developing in Bhutan.



International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction at RTC on 13th October 2021! Royal Thimphu College held a day-long event to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction with support of the Department of Disaster Management and Fire & Rescue Service Division of the Royal Bhutan Police. The day started off with an exhibition to familiarize with firefighting equipment at the library foyer followed by a guest lecture by officials from the Department of Disaster Management. To ensure the safety of the entire RTC community, a hazard reporting link developed for the Disaster Management corner on the college intranet website was also launched. Students and employees can now report any potential hazards in and around the campus.

Simultaneously, training on fire safety and management was conducted by the officials from the Royal Bhutan Police for the front-line staff and student representatives. The training included a demonstration on the use of fire extinguishers, handling LPG cylinders, checking valve and hose, handling fire hydrant, fire engine replenishing on-site, and drill by the fire brigade.



RTC Launches

The Himalayan Centre for Environmental Humanities (HCEH)

The Himalayan Centre for Environmental Humanities is an interdisciplinary research and educational centre established at RTC this year. The Centre recognizes that environmental issues today are deeply imbricated in questions of human behaviour, structures, values, and beliefs and that humanist and more-than-human approaches to the environment are fundamental to develop multi-being sustainable intelligence and futures. We recognize that the Himalayan region is particularly vulnerable to anthropogenic impacts, and so to potentially catastrophic effects, both for lived ecologies, biodiversity and life within the Himalaya itself and for the over two billion peoples living in adjacent alluvial plains for whom Himalayan gifts, such as monsoons, sediments, and rivers, are a vital life-source.

The Centre focuses on developing new research methodologies to better apprehend human-environment interactions, to study and forefront indigenous knowledge and practices and to bring these in dialogues with the sciences, and to envision and put into practice multispecies ethics and justice. From its base in Bhutan, which is heir to distinctive knowledge traditions in the human-environment interface, the RTC Himalayan Centre for Environmental Humanities promotes research, teaching, and interdisciplinary alliances in the environmental humanities across the greater Himalayan region. It also aims to leverage Himalayan insights to contribute to new ways of thinking and acting in relation to planetary problems.



hceh.rtc.bt



fb.com/hcehbhutan

Alumni Spotlight



“

Everything in my life has been unfolding on its own since the day I joined RTC as a student in 2013. My 3 years in college were the most memorable times of my life; I cherish these even today. Now that I am a faculty member at RTC, I feel nostalgic every time I walk into the classroom to teach. Prior to that, I was an assistant librarian at the RTC library during which time RTC announced the annual Indian Ambassador Scholarship and I was selected to pursue my Master's in Anthropology in India.

RTC's lifelong learner motives kept me going, and I was able to successfully complete my MA in Anthropology from Pune University in the year 2020. While pursuing my Master's degree, I not only learned how to do well academically but also learned how to be empathetic towards others, and what it truly takes to be a human. Since then, I have always been striving to do my best in whatever little ways I can to better myself and the community I live in. I will always remain grateful to RTC and I am proud to be able to give back to the institution that gave me so many opportunities.”

Tashi Choden
Associate Lecturer, RTC

In May 2021, during the Spring semester, six alumni members who are pursuing their careers in different fields were invited as guest speakers to speak to the final-year students about their experiences on life after college. They shared valuable perspectives on the journeys towards their present careers and also took time to provide information to the current students about career options other than appearing for BCSE. The talk was insightful and the knowledge shared by them provided some food for thought as the final-year students prepared for their lives and careers after college.



Royal Thimphu College bid farewell to the first graduating cohorts of Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication in the year 2021. The first programme of its kind in Bhutan, BA in Anthropology is currently only offered at RTC and is taught within the context of Bhutanese values and its rich cultural heritage, focusing mainly on cultural anthropology. The BA programme in Mass Communication is a single-subject undergraduate degree programme designed to provide students with adequate knowledge and appreciation of communication theories and applications as well as hands-on content creation experience to be able to analyse, strategize, and produce quality communications.



HOME

BA in Anthropology
Class of 2021

GROWN

BA in Mass Communication
Class of 2021



The RTC Business Department organized its first-ever Business Festival on 21st September 2021.

The festival hosted a series of fun and competitive activities throughout the day, celebrating and encouraging young creative minds to engage, learn, nurture and experience the art of business. The business fest included a quiz competition, video-making competition, business plan competition, live music, food, and game stalls.



***RTC team “Boxing Studio”
wins University Business Idea
Competition 2021!***

In view of promoting entrepreneurship and as part of their overall entrepreneurship development, 9 RUB Colleges, including Royal Thimphu College, took part in the RUB University Business Idea Competition 2021 and pitched their ideas to a panel composed of an external jury. His Excellency, George Goh, a friend of Bhutan and a philanthropist, sponsored the prize money of Singapore \$ 10K each to three best business ideas from RUB students.



International Day!

Celebrating diversity on campus

Royal Thimphu College observed its 2nd International Day on 23rd October 2021. The event included a variety of food and game/entertainment stalls along with various Information Booths on the ongoing Erasmus+ projects and Bhutan's Regional Diversity.



The Erasmus+ HAPPY Project was launched on the 6th of April 2021 at Royal Thimphu College (RTC) in Thimphu. The opening was attended by the President and Dean of Academics of RTC, the Director of Research and External Relations from the Office of Vice Chancellor (OVC), project members of RTC, Sherubtse College, College of Cultural Studies (CLCS), and Norbuling Rigter College (NRC). The project is the first of its kind to take place at a national level with a core focus on discussing ways of improving qualitative research methodology (QRM) by introducing new pedagogical approaches to contribute to sustainable development at the level of state, civil society, business, and local communities, in dealing with rapid social change, cultural preservation and promotion, and climate change.

The Bhutanese members had the opportunity to meet each other in person and discuss their expectations and upcoming events/arrangements. The members met again in July 2021 at NRC to complete a baseline study and need assessment.



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

The HAPPY project then held its Higher Education Institutions (HEI) Management Sensitization at RTC on 15th November 2021. The sensitization was graced by the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, and other Academic members from the OVC, RUB, Presidents, and Academic Deans from the partner colleges. The session was joined virtually by the EU project coordinators from Vrije University (VU), University of Ljubljana (UL), University of Leiden (LEI), and the Institute for Innovation and Development of the University of Ljubljana (IRI UL).

The project conducted its first 40 hour ToT on Qualitative Research Methodology from 13-17 December 2021 with 40 participants from the partner colleges.



happy-project.eu



fb.com/EUhappyproject



happy_project_eu



F R I E N D S

On 10th March 2021, the **FRIENDS** Partners at RTC in Bhutan inaugurated the FRIENDS Teahouse on campus. In an effort to promote and nurture an inclusive and multicultural environment on campus, the Teahouse has been established with the vision to serve as a hub for students from all walks of life and culture who will have the opportunity to interact and share intercultural experiences. Aside from a dining area, the Teahouse is fitted with a lounge and a 65 inch smart TV appropriate for hangouts, team meetings, and presentations. The facility also houses desktops and a multifunction printer along with a stable Wi-Fi connection.



The Royal Thimphu College, in collaboration with Erasmus+ funded project FRIENDS, celebrated the 'FRIENDS International and Intercultural Festival' on 2nd June 2021. The event was organized to help students understand the importance of cultural diversity and intercultural experiences, featuring presentations by Bhutanese students who went on exchange programmes to the US, Europe, and Japan.



erasmusplusfriends.eu



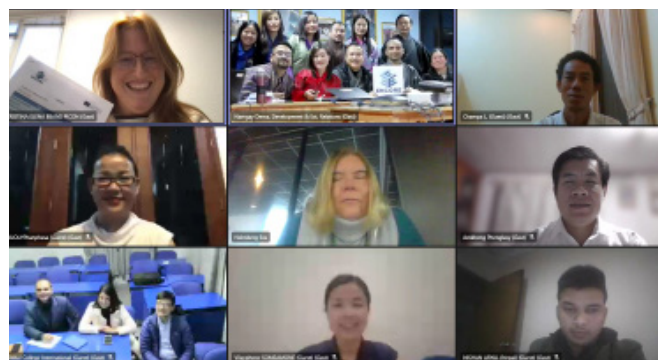
The Erasmus+ **ENCORE** programme focuses on Capacity Building in Higher Education in entrepreneurship education, designing an entrepreneurial mindset, and business development in Bhutan, Laos, and Nepal. The ENCORE project at RTC is liaised by the International Relations Office and four members (faculty/staff) from the Academic Affairs Department and Finance Office to work on the project for three years (Feb 2021 to Feb 2024).

The project officially kick-started on 9th and 10th February 2021. It has already completed several tasks to date towards its ultimate goals. RTC has been working closely with various stakeholders and entrepreneurs in Bhutan through meetings and discussions with the Ministry of Labor and Human Resources, Thimphu Tech Park, and FabLab Bhutan, and entrepreneurs in Bhutan to document a Status-quo analysis of the status of entrepreneurship in Bhutan and ideas on the establishment of the Entrepreneurship Knowledge Centre (EKC) on campus.



Along with the project, the business department has worked closely with business students and represented RTC in pitching for a business idea competition organized by the Royal University of Bhutan. Further, the business department organized a day-long business festival to provide a platform for students to demonstrate their organizing, leadership, and enterprising skills.

ENCORE's first Training of the Trainers (ToT) on Business Model and Planning for Innovation was conducted and organized by FH Joanneum in Austria, the University of Alicante in Spain, and Haaga-Helia in Finland, an online and hybrid training among the partners from Europe, Bhutan, Laos, and Nepal in November 2021. The objective of the ToT was to build knowledge, share experiences, and work on the upcoming work packages and tasks within the project.



Way forward

The project members will continue in the series of ToTs and work towards the installation and operationalization of an Entrepreneurship Knowledge Centre on campus.



fb.com/EntrepreneurshipEducationErasmusPlus



The Royal Thimphu College community was extremely blessed to have an audience with His Holiness Gyalse Trulku Jigme Tenzin Wangpo on 15th September 2021. In a religious discourse (Choeshay Layrim), His Holiness spoke about the importance of self-care and holding on to our cultural roots against the pressing challenges of modernization. The session was followed by KAGO and Cha-Wang (blessings) presided by His Holiness.

NATION WIDE COVID-19 VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

The RTC community was proud to be a part of the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination campaign. The students, staff, and faculty received their first and second jab of the vaccine on campus. The RTC venue continued to facilitate the campaign for the nearby community.



The members of *econscious Society* of the Royal Thimphu College initiated the first 'ecologue' on 6th April 2021. Ecologue is a talk series that aims to bring environmentalists from Bhutan and around the world to share their insight and knowledge about various environmental challenges and the ways to combat them for a sustainable future. The first talk series featured Dasho Paljor J Dorji (fondly known as Dasho Benji), Special Advisor to National Environment Commission, and Mr. Sonam Wangdi, Chief Forestry Officer at Nature Conservation Division.



**VEBAKA
BHANDARI**

International Opportunities

My exchange programme experience was significantly unique and life-changing. I joined Royal Thimphu College as an academic scholarship recipient in 2017. I had always known about the exchange programme scholarships offered by RTC, one of the reasons I was drawn towards the institution. In Fall of 2019, I got this amazing opportunity to go to the USA as an exchange student at one of RTC's partner institutions, Centre College, a liberal arts college in Danville, Kentucky. With field trips organized by the classes I was taking, I visited the states of Alabama, Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. Every different state gave me a glimpse of cultural vibrance within the USA. My one-year experience in the US was elevated by the special bonds I created with so many friends and my host family who were the kindest to give me a surprise birthday trip to Florida. It was simply remarkable, the American story of my life would always be indebted to RTC.



Centre for Innovative Teaching and Learning

In line with the vision of the College to become an institution of academic excellence and inspire students to become independent life-long learners who are well-rounded, responsible citizens, Royal Thimphu College launched the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) on 29th July 2021. With the establishment of the CITL, the institute aims to inspire innovative teaching and learning culture on campus by engaging experienced faculty and expert professionals from around the world. The Centre conducted baseline and need assessment research, conducted over 30 hours of teaching-learning training for faculty members, and initiated planning on a national conference on higher education teaching-learning to be held in July, 2022.



Summit on Education, Employment, and Social Participation for Persons with Disabilities in Bhutan



The Royal Thimphu College in collaboration with the University of Birmingham, England and the University of Minnesota, USA has been conducting research since 2019 on social participation of persons (16-30 years old) with disabilities who are transitioning into their adult lives. The project was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, UK through the Global Research Challenges Fund. After 2+ years of extensive research, intervention programmes and evaluation, the project presented their findings and experiences on the outcomes/results on 15th and 16th December 2021.



Student Activities



Teve the Dairyman

First ever Musical Play by the RTC Performing Arts Club
September 6, 2021



*RTC
Got Talent*
September 20, 2021

Uplifting, appreciating and
celebrating talents!

Mass Communication

Photo Exhibition

June 4, 2021



RTC Annual Marathon

With the theme, *'Recovering from the pandemic; run to celebrate the new normal'*, Royal Thimphu College organized its annual marathon on 06th November.

Cultural Events

Welcome Show
August 18, 2021



Boedra Competition
April 5, 2021



Return Show
September 2, 2021