



## **CHIPHEN RIGPEL**

**Enabling a Society Empowering a Nation**

### **Project Background**

**C**hiphen Rigpel is an ambitious human capacity building project designed to help Bhutan to successfully transition to a modern Knowledge Society. The RS 2050 million Govt. Of India assisted project was launched by the Prime Minister's of India and Bhutan on April 30, 2010 on the sidelines of the SAARC summit in Bhutan. The project in its entirety is expected to provide ICT skills to over a quarter of the population of Bhutan to help them to become skilled and empowered citizens of a connected and ICT enabled world.

The project aims to reach out to all strata of Bhutanese society including:

1. Ministers, Administrators and Civil Servants
2. Teachers who are the backbone of the education system and play a key role in building the knowledge capability of Bhutan
3. Youth and tertiary students at the brink of entering the job market and professionals in the labor market who wish to improve their skills
4. School students
5. Children beyond the digital divide who do not have access to IT knowledge or infrastructure
6. The Private Sector
7. The Monastic Body

## Project Components

The Chipen Riggel project comprises six major components

- Enabling E-Governance
- Empowering Teachers
- Education for Employability
- ICT@ Schools
- Reaching the Unreached
- Managing E wate

**Enabling eGovernance:** This component is designed to address policy makers, leaders and civil servants to enable them to drive the policy and E Governance framework required for developing a knowledge society. The component is designed to support the Government's E-Governance initiatives by providing Civil Servants the ICT skills and the conceptual framework required to successfully implement the Government's E-Governance initiatives.. The project will train over 200 National Leaders and 7000 Civil Servants from Cabinet Ministers to Mid and Junior level Civil Servants as a part of the program.

**Empowering Teachers:** Teachers are the foundation of any society. The success of any knowledge based society depends largely on the quality of its teachers. The Chipen Riggel project aims to significantly improve the quality of Education in Bhutan by providing focused training to its teachers. The training program for teachers aims to ensure that all teachers in Bhutan have the required IT skills to successfully integrate ICT into the Teaching and Learning process. 5000 teachers in Bhutan will be covered by the program.

**Education for Employability:** A knowledge society requires a trained, skilled, and highly capable workforce to create, deploy and use the technology and infrastructure inherent in a knowledge society. This requires a huge investment in tertiary education to develop the necessary capability and skills among the youth. NIIT will setup a network of training centers in Vocational Training Institutes and in tertiary educational institutions to deliver world class IT training to the youth. These centers will not only help build technological

capability but will also help the youth to compete in national and international labor markets. In addition, three centers will be setup to rehabilitate vulnerable youth recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. A total of 16 training centers will be set up to train and certify approximately 10,000 youth under this program.

***Taking ICT to Schools:*** For truly sustainable development any effort to improve the education standards must begin at the school level. The schools component of the Chipen Rigpel project aims to ensure universal and comprehensive IT literacy among all Secondary Schoolchildren in Bhutan. The project also aims at integrating ICT in the teaching and Learning process by providing Computer Aided Learning software, tools, and educational materials to children and teachers. NIIT will establish fully equipped computer labs at 168 schools under this project. In addition to providing the hardware, software and educational materials, NIIT will also provide a trained teacher at each of the 168 schools for a period of 5 Years to provide training to students and teachers. It is expected that more than a 100,000 students will receive IT skills training under this component of the project.

***Reaching the Unreached:*** Access to ICT knowledge and infrastructure is often the prerogative of a privileged few. A digital divide separates the Haves from the Have Nots. This is unfortunately often especially true for children. The Chipen Rigpel project aims to universalize access to ICT knowledge and infrastructure in Bhutan by reaching across the digital divide through its Hiwel Playground Learning Stations. The HIWEL Learning Stations are a much acclaimed approach that helps underprivileged children to acquire computer literacy without the need of a formal education system. To bring the light of learning to all sections of society NIIT will setup 131 HIWEL Learning Stations in across the length and breadth of Bhutan as a part of this project.

***e-Waste Management:*** Around the world, there is an increasing awareness of the problem of E-Waste and its impact on soil toxicity and the environment. An effective and thoughtful e waste management strategy is key prerequisite for a successful transition to a knowledge society. The rapid proliferation of computers and the large number of planned ICT initiatives have brought the problem into sharp focus in Bhutan. E-Waste Management is a key component of the Chipen Rigpel project. The Chipen Rigpel project will facilitate the development of an effective E-Waste policy in Bhutan, and will also deliver training programs to concerned stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of the policy. The Chipen Rigpel project will also conduct awareness programs for the Private sector to acquaint them with the dangers of E-Waste and also with the business opportunities afforded through Scientific management of E-waste.



## Project Achievements

The Chiphen Rigpel has been a tremendous success with the project receiving widespread acclaim and appreciation. The project has significantly met the project goals for all components of the project. The achievements of each component of the project are given below:

### **Enabling E Governance**

Under the Enabling E Governance Component the project has established 7 Training Centers and has provided E Governance training to key leaders including members of the Cabinet, The Members of the National Assembly and National Council, Senior Civil Servants and Members of the Armed Forces. The project has also trained more than 7000 Civil Servants on Program Management, Project Management and Operations. To reach out to all sections of society trained more than 400 members of the monastic body have also been trained under this component of the project.

### **ICT@Schools**

The project has set up fully equipped computer labs and provided training faculty at 168 schools across Bhutan which provide training to more than 80,000 students each year using a curriculum developed in collaboration with MOE. In addition to providing IT Training to children in Classes 7 to 12, the ICT @ Schools component also provides Computer Aided Learning and Tools such as Smart Science Stations and Math Software to enhance teaching and Learning.

### **Empowering Teachers**

The project as set up 7 Teacher Training Labs across Bhutan and has provided training to 5204 teachers across Bhutan, The Teachers were trained on ICT Skills and also on methods for Integrating ICT in the Teaching and Learning process.

### **Education for Employability**

This component of the project has developed IT infrastructure at a variety of institutions catering to the youth of Bhutan. These include Technical Training Institutes under the Ministry of Labour, The Royal University of Bhutan, The Youth Development Fund and The Royal Institute of Management. In all 16 training centers have been established to provide ICT training to the youth of Bhutan. A variety of Modular and Professional training programs have

been provided at these institutes resulting in over 16000 ICT certifications for youth..

**Reaching the Unreached**

Under this component 131 Playground Learning Stations have been set up across Bhutan at community centers to help provide ICT skills to underprivileged sections of the society.

**Managing E Waste**

The Managing E Waste component surveyed more than 3000 household in Bhutan and developed the E Waste Regulations which were adopted the Government of Bhutan. In addition, the Project has also provided training on E waste to a variety of stakeholders including Municipalities, Thromde's Private Sector, and Government agencies. The Project has also developed the National E-Waste Guidance Manual for the Royal Government of Bhutan to help implement the E-Waste Strategy.

Some Glimpses from the Project:



Prime Ministers of India and Bhutan at the Launch of Project Chipen Rigpel along with Raji Pawar, Chairman of NIIT



NIIT Team with Prime Minister and his entire Cabinet after successful completion of their training





Training of Cabinet Ministers in Progress



Launch of Teacher Training Project by Indian Ambassador



Launch of Youth Training Project in the presence of Indian Ambassador





Launch of Youth Training Project by Indian Ambassador



Launch of Training Project for Monks



Launch of HiWEL Project





## Some Press Snippets

Chiphen Rigphel

# To spread the light of IT

One of the steps towards realising the dream of a knowledge-based society has to begin with teachers

SORIAM PRIZEN

Some 500 teachers across the country will spend about 10 days of their approaching winter vacation acquainting themselves with some aspects of computer applications.

## TECHNOLOGY

One of the steps to digitalise Bhutan, that "clicked off" in April this year, this first batch of 500 teachers will be trained in information and communication technology skills at the seven teacher training centres that opened yesterday.

The centres are at the colleges of education in Paro and Samtse, Dambhu, Zhemgang, Mungar and Janjung higher secondary and Samdrup-

jongkhar middle secondary schools.

"It's to empower teachers with ICT skills, which could be used as a teaching tool," Chiphen Rigphel project director Tandi Wangchuk said. "The training would teach teachers to use computers for correspondence, research, lesson planning and record keeping."

A survey of some 4,000 teachers revealed that about 70 percent of them had no or very little computer experience, and the remaining 30 percent had some computer usage proficiency.

Based on the finding, two levels of training for ten days and five days would be provided to teachers.

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ICT For All: Education is the common foundation of the four pillars of GNH

HOME

Pg. 3

Traditional structures withstand well

ECONOMY

Pg. 5

ADB grant to tap three elements

HOME

Pg. 9

Gender Disaster  
Women made to look weak



# Another feather in Indo-Bhutan ties

*Under the Chiphen Rigphel project three IT drop-in-centers have been established*

By Tshewang Penjore

**Thimphu:** Bhutanese youth recovering from drug and alcohol will now have the opportunity to learn basic information technology (IT) skills at two drop-in-centers in Thimphu and one in Bumthang. Moreover, those interested will also be provided the opportunity for advanced IT courses.

Established under the Chiphen Rigphel project, the center in Thimphu was inaugurated at the Nazhoen Pelri complex in Thimphu yesterday, by the Indian Ambassador to Bhutan, Pavan K Verma.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, the Indian Ambassador said that the Chiphen Rigphel

project is one of the most important and ambitious projects and symbolizes the depth of Indo-Bhutan friendship. Highlighting that it is also the largest Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills development project, the ambassador said that the benefits of the project will seep to all sections of the Bhutanese society.

The project director of Chiphen Rigphel, Tandin Wangchuck, said that "education is the common foundation of the four pillars and that ICT enabled education is the way forward in the 21st century."

Currently, three IT centers are being established under the Youth Development



>> The chief guest observes the traditional marchang ceremony

program to reach out to the most vulnerable sections

provide the people necessary life skills and help

Technology (NIIT). They will operate the center

Chiphen Rigphel Project

## School component launched



**ICT-enabled Education:** The agriculture minister and education secretary at the inaugural ceremony held at Jakar school

SAMTEN YESSEL BUNTSANG

Cement Prices

## Second rise within six months

KINDA DEMA, P/LING

Construction costs across the country are expected to soar with the recent hike in cement price.

### CONSTRUCTION

Penden Cement authority raised the price of Portland pozzolana cement and Portland slag cement by Nu 5 a bag in central Bhutan about three days ago, almost five months after the last price hike.

The hike in other regions is expected to take hold by this month-end.

Similarly, in its second price hike this year, Lhakl Cement also jacked up its cement price by Nu 5, closing the cost difference be-

supply in the Bhutanese and Indian markets.

Besides the hike in cement, manufacturers fear the cost of steel is bound to increase further this year, gauging global trends.

As of yesterday, TMT bars in Pasakha were between Nu 38,000 and Nu 39,000 a tonne, which manufacturers said saw a decline recently against last month's price of about Nu 40,000 a tonne.

Last year, steel bar prices remained stable at about Nu 32,000 a tonne.

"The flood in Australia mainly caused the surge in steel price, as about 75 percent of coking coal used for steel worldwide comes from there," Drak

