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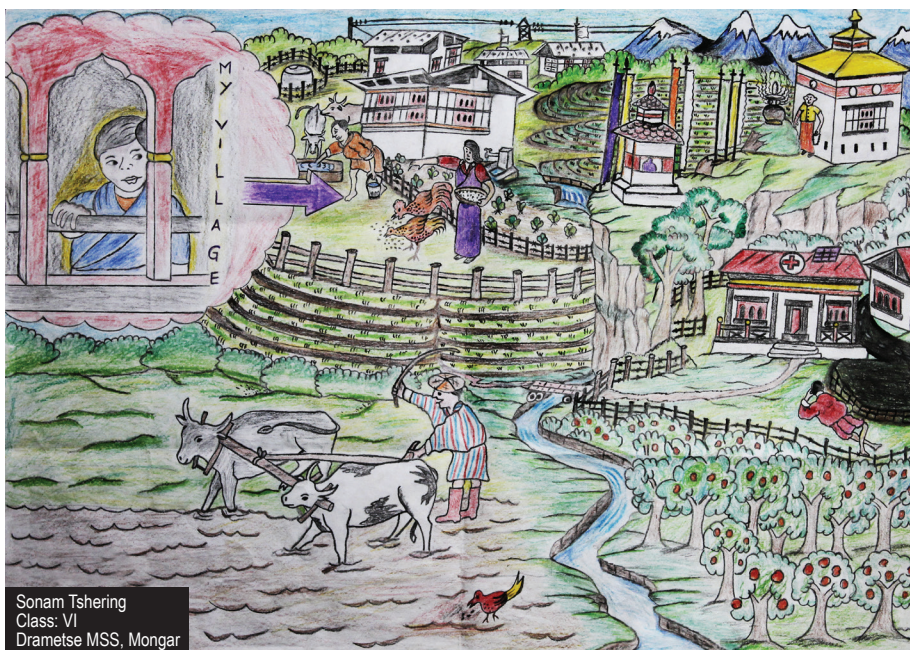
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## RSPN revives Art and Essay Competition for Students



Sonam Tshering  
Class: VI  
Drametse MSS, Mongar

An art entry which won first position in Category II, themed "My Village"

Annually, 2nd June, the Coronation Anniversary of His Majesty the Fourth King is observed as Social Forestry Day. Thousands of trees are planted by communities across Bhutan. And, 4th June

is celebrated as The Birth Anniversary of Her Majesty Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck, Royal Patron of RSPN, in concurrence with the World Environment Day which falls on

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## Study Tour for Farmers conducted



During one of the field trips

A total of 39 selected farmers from Lumang and Kangpara Gewog in Wamrong under Trashigang Dzongkhag were on a weeklong study tour to Tsirang Dzongkhag to study organic agriculture and slope management. They visited the Regional Seed and Agriculture Research Development Centre at Bhur, and got exposed to seed propagation, grafting and seedling plantation methods including bamboo propagation and sustainable harvesting. The visit enabled the farmers to understand how improved seeds and breeds of animals were selected and tested accordingly. In Dhajay village, they had an opportunity to interact with local farmers and exchanged ideas about organic farming.

Farmers also visited the land management site at Salamji to observe different techniques and approaches used to conserve

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## RSPN revives Art and Essay Competition for students

5 June.

On the occasion of the above events, RSPN is pleased to announce the result of Art and Essay competition held among various categories, starting from Pre-Primary to class XII for the students of Bhutan. Through such competitions, RSPN hopes to promote consciousness and promote action oriented

environmental conservation among the Bhutanese, particularly the younger generation.

The evaluation of the Art and Essay entries were done by 16 judges from various schools and staff from RSPN on 25 May 2014, and utmost confidentiality was maintained to ensure fairness and to get unbiased results. Winning essays and arts will be pub-

lished in RSPN website and also in quarterly newsletter here after.

RSPN would like to thank the Ministry of Education, District Education Offices, Thromde Education Offices, Principals and participating students for their support and cooperation and making the event successful. Congratulations to all the winners.

### Result of Art and Essay Competition

Category / Position	1st	2nd	3rd	Total Prize Money (Nu.)
Art Category I (PP-III)	Dolma Tshokye Yoezer Class III Phobjikha MSS, Wangdue  Prize: Nu. 5000/-	Tenzin Lekdrup Class III C Sarpang LSS, Sarpang  Prize: Nu. 4000/-	Karma Wangdi Class II A Shaba PS, Paro  Prize: Nu. 3000/-	12,000.00
Art Category II (IV-VI)	Sonam Tshering Class VI Drametse MSS, Mongar  Prize: Nu. 5000/-	Tshering Lhamo Class V Samtse LSS, Samtse  Prize: Nu. 4000/-	Badal Pradhan Class VI B Dagapela MSS, Dagana  Prize: Nu. 3000/-	12,000.00
Essay Category I (VII-VIII)	Phunstho Choden Tenzing Class VIII C Phuntsholing LSS, Chukha  Prize: Nu. 8000/-	Karma Tshering Lhaden Class VIII D Wangdicholing LSS, Bumthang  Prize: Nu. 6000/-	Pratikcha Gurung Class VIII A Dagapela MSS, Dagana  Prize: Nu. 4000/-	18,000.00
Essay Category II (IX-X)	Ugen Kezang Class IX Druk School, Thimphu  Prize: Nu. 10,000/-	Thinley Penjor Class IX F Gelephu HSS, Sarpang  Prize: Nu. 8000/-	Passang Dorji Class IX B Chapcha MSS, Chukha  Prize: Nu. 6000/-	24,000.00
Essay Category III (XI-XII)	Tashi Chophel XI Sc Tashitse HSS, Trashigang  Prize: Nu. 12,000/-	Ashik Rai Class XI Science (B) Chukha HSS, Chukha  Prize: Nu. 10,000/-	Dinakar Homagai Class XII Arts Sarpang HSS, Sarpang  Prize: Nu. 8000/-	30,000.00
Grand Total (Nu.)				96,000.00





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## Study Tour for Farmers conducted



soil, land and its nutrients. Other activities included talks from the officials and local farmers in the area, visits to demonstration plots and nurseries, poultry farms and greenhouses. The tour was arranged as part of exposure trip under sustainable agriculture in Kangpara and Lumang Gewogs and is funded by Norlha, a Swiss based NGO.



## A Research report on Wetland Ecosystem launched



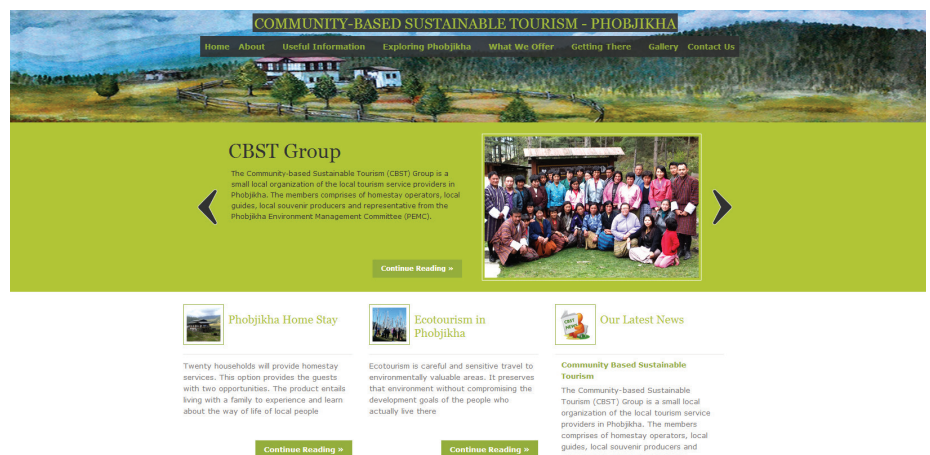
The Hon'ble secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Forests launched the report

Coinciding with the Second Regional Consultation Workshop on Kanchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative, a research report-'An Integrated Assessment of the Effects of Natural and Human Disturbances on a Wetland Ecosystem' was launched by the Hon'ble Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Dasho Sherub Gyaltsen in Tarayana Foundation Conference Hall on 16 April 2014.

The report is a collaborative research effort between the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development and RSPN carried out with financial support from MacArthur Foundation, USA. Besides providing scientific and evidence based information for effective management of Black-necked Crane habitat, the report highlights on the changes taking place around Phobjikha Conservation Area and its impact on wetland bio-diversity, land use and the livelihoods of community.

## CBST Website launched

As part of community-based sustainable tourism (CBST) promotion package, a new website [www.communitytourism.bt](http://www.communitytourism.bt) has been launched for Phobjikha to provide information about the local tourism services, facilities and programs. CBST project in Phobjikha was designed to bridge the gap of conservation efforts and sustainable livelihood opportunities of local communities by harnessing tourism potential of Phobjikha's natural and cultural richness. The project is being implemented in collaboration with the Japan Environmental Education Forum (JEEF) with fund from the NGO Partnership Program of the JICA Technical Cooperation for Grassroots Project.



A CBST web portal [www.coummunitytoursim.bt](http://www.coummunitytoursim.bt)



## Phobjikha MSS adopts a Stream



Students cleaning the stream

Phobjikha valley is known for having one of the largest high altitude natural wetland in the country. The wetland is fed by numerous seasonal and perennial streams flowing from the surrounding mountains. Besides number of important functions in an ecosystem, the wetland in Phobjikha is a winter home for more than 350 Black-necked Cranes.

As a part of educating the residents on the importance of preserving the streams flowing into the wetland, students of Phobjikha Middle Secondary School conducted a cleaning of the stream and collected four 100 kg sacks of garbage consisting of pet bottles, plastics, rags, shoes and glasses.

The activity was funded by the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF), a Japanese funding organization through the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) as a part of environment education and awareness program.

## Stakeholder Meeting for WBH Conservation

A day long White-bellied Heron (WBH) conservation meeting with the stakeholders was organized on 8 April, 2014 in Mendhagang Geog Centre, Punakha with the objectives to draw future plans and strengthening WBH conservation activities.

About 45 participants comprising officials from Wangdue Forest Division, Watershed Management Division, Wildlife Conservation Division, Tewang Geog, Chubu Geog, Dzomi Geog, Punatshangchu Hydropower Project Authorities and two participants from Zhemgang Berti were present for the meeting.

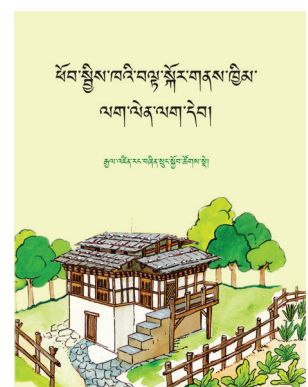
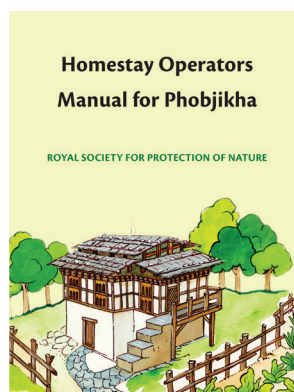
White-bellied Heron is critically endangered in IUCN category and Bhutan has 22 individuals as per 2014 population census



The meeting in session

## Homestay Operators Manual launched

A manual for homestay operators in Phobjikha was published under the Community-based Sustainable Tourism Project of the Royal Society for Protection of Nature. The booklet will be a reference guide to any new and existing homestay operators in Phobjikha and is available both in Dzongkha and English.





## Theme: Bhutan has claimed to have rich natural resources including water. But with Climate Change, water resources are becoming scarce.

*The following entry won first position in the Category I of Essay Competition on above theme.*

**B**hutan has claimed to have rich natural resources including water. But with climate change, water resources are becoming scarcer.

Bhutan is indeed known for its rich natural resources in the world, but careless, greedy and self-centered people make them vanish these resources from the world. Everyone is aware that climate plays the most important role in preserving these natural resources, yet they pretend to be ignorant of it. Climate is given least priority by humans because they are busy in their own world making profits and securing future for their generations. In the process to make assets for their future generations, they destroy every natural environment created by gods. In my opinion, I feel that preservation of climate would be the best asset that the present generation could leave behind for the future generations. But, who would inject this in our people and when would they realize them?

I am afraid; the cost of pretending to be ignorant about climate may bring disasters for every living being on this earth. We as human can feel changes and speak about it for correction, but what about animals that can feel it but remain helpless. Perhaps this is the reason for wild animals coming to our cities and towns. They may be thinking that they should live with humans or indicating that there is not enough forest for them to live.

I am a student of class VIII and I don't know much about climate change, but I am a victim of climate change and I held our elders responsible for this. If climate change has made difference to me as a child, then it would have definitely affected the world at large.

When I was in class V, every winter I go to my village because I found my village to be the best destination to spend holidays. Everything in my village was pure and natural. There, I used to wash and drink from the spring water that flowed next to my house. Now, I walk about two miles to wash and fetch water for drinking and cooking. That is even drying because people wash cars in that small stream. I used to walk to monasteries through green trees that provided shade during hot summer. Now, I walk with umbrella

to protect myself from heat because those trees are taken by furniture and construction industries. I used to get fresh vegetables from the kitchen garden. Now, there is another kitchen on that garden. I used to sleep peacefully by keeping my windows open. Now, I keep my windows shut to avoid bad air and put on fans to force myself to sleep. I used to play with snow in my village. Now, I have to travel to Dochula to find snow because my village has stopped getting snowfall. My grandmother used to give me fresh cow's milk. Now, she gives me packet milk because cows have died due to lack of green grasses in my village. I used to enjoy horse riding from the last road head to my village. Now, till my village, I go by car because new roads have come and horses are no longer used. Many villagers came to see me with different homemade food items. Now, nobody comes because many have migrated from village to towns in search of better life. I listened to my grandfather's melodious songs while ploughing his paddy field with two strong oxen. Now he no longer sings or ploughs his fields because his fields are dried due to inadequate water. I used to see my grandmother using water mills to make flour. Now, mills are powered by electricity because of lack of water. I used to enjoy the waterfall that made my village beautiful. Now, the waterfall is no longer there because it is used to store water to supply to the whole village. I used to see villagers coming together to help each other during paddy cultivation. Now, villagers are in their own world. They started selling their land to buy food items because their paddy fields have become dry land due to inadequate water.

I have been deprived of all above opportunities because my elders have not protected natural resources especially water. Now I realized that every good memory of the past existed because of enough water. It was the water which made green trees to provide shade, healthy life from clean drinking water and green vegetables, strong horses to carry loads, fresh air to breathe and sleep peacefully, strong relationship among villagers, cold weather to make snowfall possible, melodious songs from my grandfather in his fields, and livelihood of villagers with enough water to

cultivate paddy and other crops. But greedy people for their own interest started felling trees, driving vehicles, establishing industries, building hydro power projects and many artificial resources that resulted into climate change which dried up many water resources. From class V to VIII, only three years have passed, but in last three years, lots of changes have taken place. Wet lands have turned into dry land, streams have become garbage collector bin, green trees have turned into furniture, horses have been replaced by vehicles, traditional houses have turned into concrete building, mule tracks have turned into motor road, oxen have turned into power tiller, playing fields have turned into sewerage, fresh air have turned into air conditioner air and many more.

As an individual, I have also lost many good things of my life. Now, I have just memories and moments of my past life. I am sure that nobody can get back what I have lost. There could be many children like me who lost everything of their past life. So, whom should we blame for this? Definitely our elders who did not bother for our future, but we are not going to be like our elders. We will make a difference in saving our natural resources. Every possible effort will be made to preserve our rich natural resources. To begin with, we are going to start plantation of saplings in our schools and communities, stop washing cars in rivers, segregate perishable and non-perishable waste etc. With these habits, we may not be able to replace what we have lost, but I am confident that these events would contribute in preventing and saving from further destructions.

Lastly, I pledge our elders to support us in preserving our rich natural resources before it comes to an end. It is not the climate that changes on its own, it is the people who make it change. So let us all come together to change this change.

**Phuntsho Choden Tenzing**  
Class VIII C

Phuentsholing Lower Secondary School





## WORD SAFARI

In this edition, we have compiled a list of butterflies found in Bhutan.

Find and encircle the words which are **bold** and underlined. We have encircled one to help you get start with.

Common Name	Latine name	Altitude	Average size
Common Peacock	<i>Achillides polyctor</i>	500-2500m	12cm
Paris <b>Peacock</b>	<i>Achillides paris</i>	400-1800m	10cm
<b>Blue</b> Peacock	<i>Achillides arcturus</i>	1200-2800m	11cm
<b>Spangle</b>	<i>Sainia protenor</i>	800-2000m	11cm
<b>Redbreast</b>	<i>Sainia rhetenor</i>	1000-2400m	11cm
Red <b>Helen</b>	<i>Menelaides helenus</i>	<2000m	11cm
Large <b>Silverstripe</b>	<i>Childrena childreni</i>	1000-3400m	8cm



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