

**BHUTAN TOILET ORGANISATION**



# **SUMMER NEWSLETTER**

**SUMMER, 2023**

**ISSUE 1**

# CONTENTS

**01**

Piloting Johkasou Tank

**02**

Portable Toilet Services

**03**

Towards city wide  
inclusive sanitation

**04**

Outreach Program

**05**

Our Interns

**06**

Inclusive Toilet in  
Drukgyel



# Piloting Johkasou Tank



## Piloting the Revolutionary Johkasou Tank

Johkasou tanks are a type of decentralized wastewater treatment system from Japan. It's used for treatment of domestic wastewater generated from households, small communities, or commercial buildings in areas that are not connected to a centralized sewer system. These tanks are designed to handle sewage as well as greywater from laundry, kitchen and bathroom in a single unit. In order to evaluate the feasibility of such technology in Bhutanese conditions, we have initiated the piloting of two units of tanks in Motithang. The Japanese philanthropists, Mr. Shinobu Terao and Ms. Sara Ogawa, who donated the tanks flew in to install the tanks themselves following the strict standards. They left the country after the successful completion.

The regular affluent tests conducted on the two tanks showed amazing results; it showed that the treated wastewater from the tank was cleaner than the stream nearby. This technology has the potential to revolutionize wastewater treatment in various regions of Bhutan where big treatment plants are not geographically possible. The introduction of the Johkasou tank is part of the SPG project aimed at reducing sewage leakage into the water bodies. Thimphu Thromde is our strategic partner on the ground.

## Prime Minister's Advice on Johkasou Tank

Our project team including the Japanese Philanthropists, Ms. Sara and Mr Terao got an audience with Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr Lotay Tshering. We briefed His Excellency on the Johkasou tank project and its progress. He expressed his appreciation for the technology that is timely and relevant to our situations.

He advised the team to;

1. Make people aware of the technology, so that they appreciate it.
2. Make it available, so that they can adopt it.
3. Make it affordable, so that no one is left behind.



# PORTABLE TOILET SERVICES



## Haa summer festival and Thimphu Music Festival

One of the first services we have initiated was the portable toilet facility. It has come a long way; from the wooden structures we built in 2015-2016 to world class imported portable toilets we have now. We have rendered our service to hundreds of events across the country, most of which are free services.

Over the years, we have seen the commercial potential in it to help us sustain our social activities and thus we have started hiring them for private and commercial events. This season, of the many events we have covered, the Haa Summer Festival and Summer Mega Festival were significant. We have strived for excellence and each time we try something different; this time we made a facade around the toilets with proper lighting and signage, which catered to thousands of visitors across midnight into the wee hours.

We always look forward to a day when private entrepreneurs would start the toilet hiring service, or at least take over our service and let us focus on the more important projects.





# TOWARDS CITY WIDE INCLUSIVE SANITATION

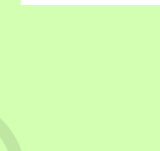


## PARTNERSHIP MEETING

FANSA Bhutan Chapter spearheaded by BTO is implementing a project "Fostering inclusive Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene services' ' in partnership with relevant CSOs and government agencies. This initiative aims at empowering and developing the capacity of both service providers and beneficiaries to contribute towards realization of a citywide inclusive sanitation service. In this effort we have conducted several rounds of consultation and partnership meetings to foster interactions, innovative approaches, and new ideas in response to community sanitation issues. With the contributions and support from partner agencies we have worked on various exciting and empowering activities that will include a series of dialogues, events, seminars, case study local actions to inspire collective action to realizing safe and equitable sanitation services. The project is supported by the Milanda Gates Foundation through the FANSA Regional Network.

## LOCAL PARTNERS

- Thimphu Thromde
- FANSA
- Bhutan Toilet Organization
- Bhutan Media Foundation
- Bhutan Kidney Foundation
- Bhutan Transparency Initiative
- Ministry Of Health
- Ability Bhutan Society



# OUTREACH PROGRAM

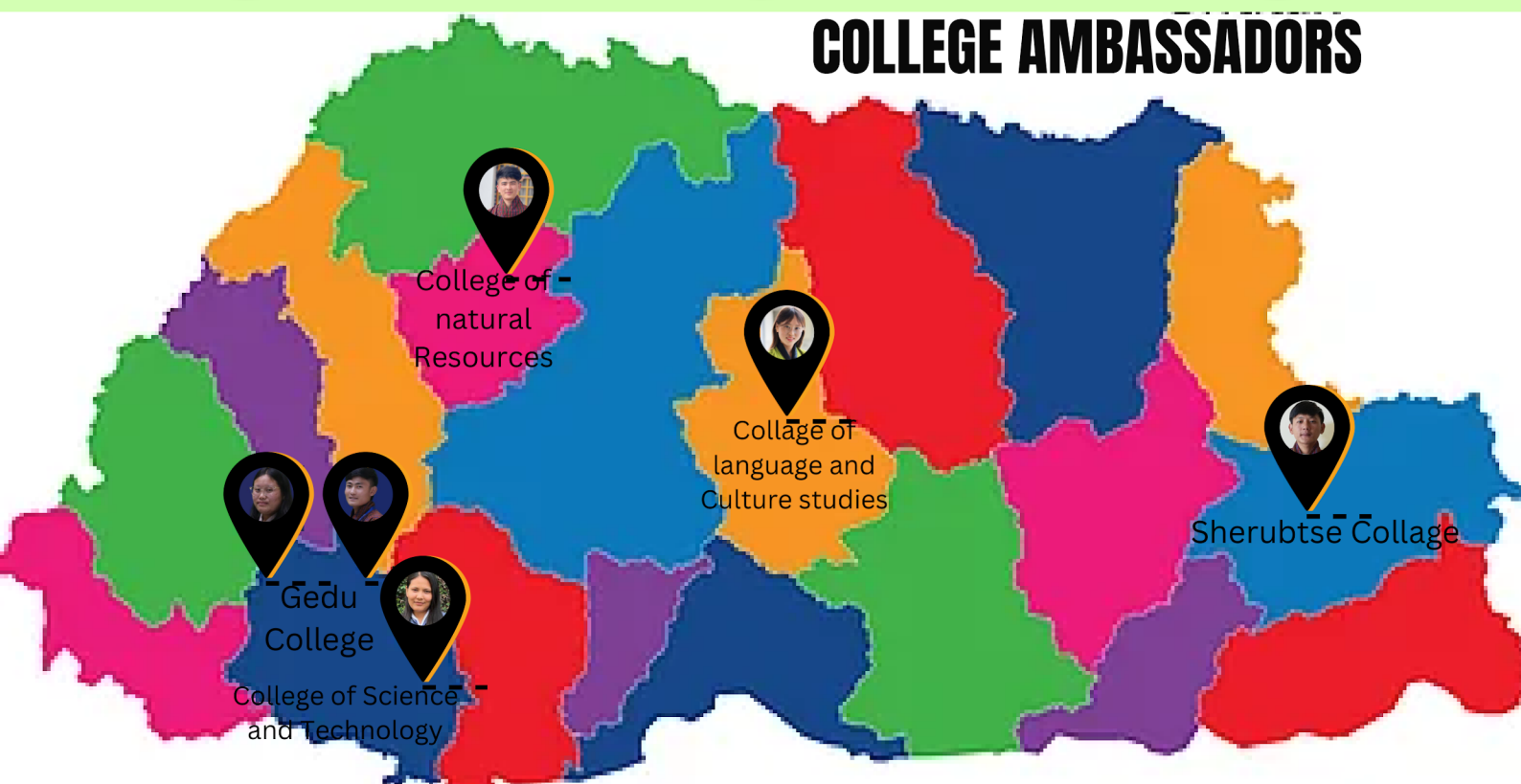
## TOILET CLUB INITIATIVES

In pursuit of advancing the vision for universal clean and safe toilets, and fostering positive behavioral shifts, Bhutan Toilet Organization is dedicated to enhancing its network. Recognizing the pivotal role that educational institutions play in instilling core values among the youth, schools and colleges stand as the cornerstone. Bhutan Toilet Organization has taken the lead in establishing clubs within multiple colleges affiliated with the Royal University of Bhutan. Presently, we are thrilled to report that 5 colleges are enthusiastically engaged in various toilet-related initiatives, all aligned with the overarching mission of Bhutan Toilet Organization.

### Colleges and Ambassadors

- College of Language and Culture Studies\_- Jigdreng Lhamo
- Gedu College of Business Studies- Jamphel Nidup and Sonam Choden
- College of Natural Resources- Jangchub Dorji
- Sherubtse College of Education- Tenzin Wangchuk
- College of Science and Technology- Bishnu Maya

## COLLEGE AMBASSADORS





# OUR INTERNS



## Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders: Bhutan Toilet Organization's Internship Program

We are delighted to share with you the remarkable strides being taken by the Bhutan Toilet Organization in nurturing young talents through our Internship Program. At the heart of our organization's mission lies the commitment to not only revolutionize sanitation and hygiene practices but also to empower the next generation of professionals. With this objective in mind, we have crafted an internship experience that offers young graduates an unparalleled opportunity to grow and thrive.

We handpick two young and dynamic graduates Mr. Sujan Gurung and Mr. Pema Dorji from college of language and culture studies. As interns, these bright minds embark on a journey of discovery, venturing into the realm of office routines and practices. A pivotal aspect of their experience involves mastering the art of composing reports, letters to various offices, and compiling proposals. With guidance from our professionals.

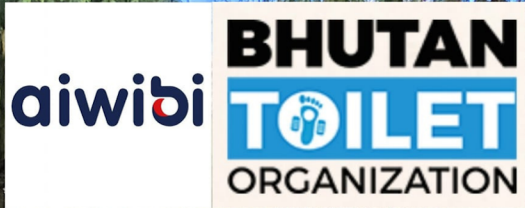
## A Journey of Fulfillment

As we witness the transformation of these interns from eager learners to confident professionals, we are reminded of the importance of such programs in shaping a brighter tomorrow. Our Internship Program is a symphony of learning, growth, and empowerment, and we couldn't be prouder of the contributions our interns make to our organization's vision.

In closing, we extend our gratitude to all our supporters who believe in the power of investing in young minds. The Bhutan Toilet Organization's Internship Program is not just about office work; it's a conduit for realizing aspirations, fostering leadership, and ultimately, contributing to a cleaner and healthier Bhutan.



# INCLUSIVE TOILET IN DRUKGYEL



Two passionate teachers who were in charge of these children reached out to us for support, which made us innovate a simple solution. We redesigned two portable toilets with accessible features and built them right next to their classroom. These two toilets, one each on both the school, have directly contributed to the well-being and convenience of the students with special needs and given the schools the time to plan and propose for better toilets. The two toilets were sponsored by Aiwibi Bhutan, a business that believes in changing the lives of people.

Both Drukgyel High School and Primary School cater to children with disability. But the toilet facilities are not yet ready for the special needs students. Children with mobility limitations and hypersensitivity to smell were said to avoid visiting toilets because of the distance and the condition of the existing school toilets.







## Highlight



We welcomed new board member Mr. Karma Wangchuk during the 14th Board meeting anticipating diverse experience representing public sector.

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# Thank you