

Helping Bring Insights from Japan to Bhutanese Development

Kinley Dorji was mentored by a JICA Expert as a university student—an experience that sparked his enduring passion for Japan. He was deeply impressed with Japanese work practices, mannerisms, ethics, and values, something that was further reinforced during his postgraduate studies in Japan. Kinley’s return to Bhutan coincided with an opening for National Staff at the JICA Bhutan Office, and his career path was set. As a testimony to his diverse talents and length of service, Kinley has worked in all areas of operations. Currently, he is focusing on ODA loan projects in Rural Electrification, Grant Aid projects and Technical Cooperation projects for agriculture, health, entrepreneurship, and gender mainstreaming.

Kinley’s work highlights are numerous, including a fundamental role liaising between JICA and the government of Bhutan to establish projects in gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women. While still in progress, helping to create a “Gender and Child Protection Emergency Preparedness and Response to Covid-19 Contingency Plan” targeting socially vulnerable groups, will prove to be another of his valuable contributions. It was also a very meaningful experience for him to play the role as Event Director of a charity benefit show held in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. This event provided Bhutanese people with an opportunity to show their solidarity with and sympathy for the Japanese people. “I was really moved by the tremendous support and outpouring of whole-hearted generosity from all quarters

of society—government agencies, private firms, schools, institutions and individuals. It was a truly memorable moment, albeit on a sad note,” said Kinley.

Kinley is very proud of the impact JICA’s cooperation has had on the development of his country. “Infrastructural development, machinery and essential equipment have greatly contributed to the development of Bhutan. But, equally important has been the intangible knowledge and insights gained in regard to work ethics, time consciousness, consideration for others, waste management, and environmental awareness. The insights gained by Bhutanese during trainings in Japan, and from interactions with Japanese, have a long-term impact on the development of Bhutan.” Kinley is confident of the two countries’ future, and looks forward to an ever-deeper relationship that is further bolstered by meaningful cultural exchanges and expanding educational ties.



JICA staff and volunteers at Paro for the reception for His Imperial Highness Prince Akishinomiya on his visit to Bhutan in 2019.



In the fields for a technical cooperation project to help coordinate horticulture promotion

Supporting the Royal Centre for Disease Control with safety equipment during the Covid-19 pandemic



Kinley Dorji,
Chief Program Officer,
JICA Bhutan

