Bhutan Civil Society Network (BCSN): Present Status and the Way Forward

Rinzin Rinzin, Tshewang Tashi and Needup Zangpo
Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Eminent Member respectively
Executive Committee, BCSN
Outline of the Presentation

1. Civil Society Organizations in Bhutan

2. Opportunities/Challenges
Civil Society Organizations in Bhutan

- Civil Society Act 2007 of Bhutan, the then National Assembly of Bhutan
- Registrations began in 2010 during the First Parliament of Bhutan
- Currently there are 54 registered CSOs: 42 PBOs and 11 MBO
  - 25 new CSOs in the process of getting registered

Source: CSOA, 2022
The Evolution

➢ Need for collaboration and coordination
  o Core Coordinating Committee (CCC) was formed in 2015
    • Poor ownership, cooperation and coordination
      ✓ Came together and reorganized ourselves as the Bhutan Civil Society Network (BCSN) in November 2021
      ✓ CCC rebranded as the Executive Committee of the BCSN
      ✓ Set common Vision and Missions
      ✓ We stand united and better coordinated now
BCSN works under eight (8) Thematic Groups:
1. Arts, Culture & Entertainment (FAB, MBRC, RTAB & VAST Bhutan);
2. Education and Youth Development (BYDF, LF, LS & PSA);
3. Environment and Climate Change (RSPN, BES, BFL, BTA, CB, BES);
4. Health and Sanitation (BKF, BTO, BCS, BHA);
5. Gender and Vulnerable Groups (RSSC, ABS, RENEW, NL, DVTSC, BNEW);
6. Good Governance, Media and Democracy (BCMD, BMF, BTI, JAB, GAB, EAB);
7. Socio-economic Development and Livelihoods (ABI, BAWE, ABTO, BTF, CAB, HAB, HRAB and SABAH); and,
8. Wellbeing: (BARCO, CARSPCA, CPA, and Lhak-sam)
## Our Contribution to Economic Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income generated between 2010-2019</th>
<th>Projection (2020-2030)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nu. 3,315.31 Million</td>
<td>Nu. 3,829.18 Million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Employment between 2010-2019</th>
<th>Projection 2020-2030</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>507 staffs</td>
<td>5577 staffs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6205 volunteers</td>
<td>68,255 volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of volunteers work</td>
<td>Nu. 4,200 Million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Civil Society Contribution to Bhutan’s 21st Century Economic Roadmap, CSO CCC, 2020
Opportunities/Challenges

1. Building image, and gaining trust & confidence:
   a) Strategic Plan for EC of BCSN (2022-2024);
   b) Communication Strategy for EC of BCSN (2022-2024);
   c) Draft CSO-Government Collaboration Guideline 2021; and,
   d) Assessment and Enhancement of Internal Governance Mechanism of CSOs

   ▪ CSO-Parliament Collaboration Guideline is in the pipeline
   ▪ We hope DPG will help develop a CSO-DP Collaboration Plan
2. DPs can capitalize and leverage on CSOs’ capacities (HR, expertise, reach, information, facilities...)

- Explore for synergies and collaborations – help develop a comprehensive strategy/plan
Opportunities/Challenges

3. Strengthen BCSN to enhance civic space, bridge gaps in public service delivery, promote GG...

- Help build as well as enhance capacity of CSOs (TA)
- Strengthen BCSN Secretariat for better coordination among the members of the network (office space, staff, equipment etc.)
Opportunities/Challenges

3. Strengthen BCSN

- Help build platform for CSO-CSO networking at the regional and international level

- Difficult to sustain some CSOs

  ✓ Help build an endowment fund for BCSN to work on sustaining CSOs in Bhutan
Thank You!