

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Centre for Sustainability Studies

Bhutan Climate Futures Lab

Co-Founder/Lead Trainer (2021 to Present)

- o Startup accelerator for climate literacy, training & entrepreneurship incubation
- o Designed, created and curated training workshops content to 10 colleges and schools impacting over 200 students through the following secured projects/clients:
 - “UN 50 Roadshow on Climate Action Workshop” for UN Resident Coordinator’s Office for colleges around Bhutan: January to December 2021
 - Climate Futures Workshop and Innovation for Global Shapers Thimphu Hub with funding secured from Global Shapers Community, WEF

Virtual Bhutan ~ www.virtualbhutan.com

Founder/Lead (2021 to Present)

- o VR initiative and platform to pilot and incubate immersive experiences for tourism, education and documentary storytelling on Bhutan. We envision enabling every global explorer with minimal carbon footprint for an immersive and personalized “Bhutan Experience” of the pristine beauty and culture of the only carbon negative country by leveraging VR technology
- o Our mission is to offer an alternative climate conscious choice that is accessible and inclusive to every individual globally to experience Bhutan
- o Designed and curated a pilot “Virtual Reality Wilderness Tourism” funded Bhutan Ecological Society for a community based tourism group in southern Bhutan. The objective was leveraging technology for economic livelihood and market expansion as an attempt to pivot and innovate due to pandemic hardships
- o Current projects under ideation and project development stages in collaboration with international partners
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- **Research and Study:**
 - **Evaluation of Bhutan WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023**, Local Senior Expert, Particip GmbH Evaluation Team, May to December 2022
 - **“Innovative Financing for Protected Area Network - Bhutan for Life Initiative”** for Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry: October 2021 to March 2022
 - **“Design of TVET (Technical Vocational Education and Training) Curriculum on Circular Economy and Sustainability in Waste Management”** funded by Asian Development Bank for Ministry of Labour and Human Resources: November 2021 to January 2022
 - **“Midterm Evaluation of FAO Country Program Focus”** for FAO Bhutan: Sept. to November: 2021 Working closely with the FAO Country Team, review and update the CPF document.
 - **“Developing a Comprehensive Plan for Parliamentary Functionality in times of Pandemic”** for UNDP Bhutan: September to November 2020: Guidelines and strategy on how to enable parliament functionality in times of crisis.
 - **“Enabling An Energy Efficient Built Environment in Bhutan”** for Bhutan Ecological Society: December 2017 to March 2018: Researched and drafted the preliminary draft report.

THINLEY CHODEN

- Cultural Consultant/Fixer the Embassy of Switzerland, New Delhi: August 2018: In the absence of physical presence of the Embassy, hosted Dr. Van Driem for the Moutan Echoes.
- **WFP Bhutan Country Office Mid-Term Operational Evaluation of Bhutan Development Project 200300 “Improving Children’s Access to Education: November 2015 to June 2016:** Local M&E consultant team member for TANGO International (Technical Assistance to N.G.Os International, Inc)’s international consultant team lead.
- Business Development and Strategy Consultant for The Ginger People Inc, USA: December 2015 to September 2016: Represented the company and conducted business development and landscape study to evaluate opportunity for market expansion in Bhutan and India. Including travels and business meetings in Delhi and Mumbai.
- **Legal and Strategy Consultant for private Bhutanese company: December 2015 to June 2019:** Represented and won law suit for illegal termination of contract.
- **Social Enterprise Consultant for READ Bhutan: November 2014 to July 2015:** Lead and implemented the organization’s social enterprise pilot initiative.
- **Strategy and Fundraising Consultant for READ Bhutan: October to December 2014**

Impact Bhutan, Thimphu Bhutan

Co-Founder/Mentor/Board Member (January 2019 to Present)

- An entrepreneurship platform that offers impact investment, mentoring and consultancy services to grow Bhutan’s entrepreneurial talent and ecosystem
- Mentor for “Climate Action for Clean Air” entrepreneurs funded by ICIMOD with Institute for Learning Solutions Bhutan and Entrepreneur Nepal: December 2021 to March 2022
- Mentor for “GIST Innovates Bhutan” for 16 social enterprise startups with VentureWell: April to July 2021

Give2Asia, San Francisco, USA

Bhutan Country Advisor (October 2014 to Present)

- Facilitate due diligence for new, prospective and existing grantees for Give2Asia grants.
- Business development and networking for awareness and opportunity
- Grant monitoring and reporting and advising Give2Asia on the performance of the grantee
- Content for donor education and non-profit partners via articles and speaking engagements

Bhutan Tours and Travels ~ A Knowledge Impact Travel Company, Thimphu Bhutan

Founder/CEO (February 2015 to December 2021)

Co-owner/Advisor (January 2022 to Present)

- Design, market, conduct impact and propose driven journeys to Bhutan around education, wellness, cultural exchange, adventures and service trips for international schools, public diplomacy projects with Governments, filming/documentary trips and more

Global Shapers Thimphu Hub, World Economic Forum

Founding Curator (Feb. 2020 to June 2021)

Hub Advisor (July 2022 to Present)

- Established the First Global Shapers Hub in Bhutan
- Mentor young Shapers
- Design and implement several Hub Projects and Activities

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- Network and build relationship with local leaders/government/organizations, Global Shapers Community at Geneva HQ and with other World Economic Forum programs and activities
- “Davos Lab Dialogues,” March/April 2021: Designed and coordinated 4 youth driven dialogues of Davos Agenda on: Net Zero, Conscious Consumerism, Youth Engagement, Digital Literacy.

Acumen Fund, New York/India

Acumen Global Fellow (September 2016 to October 2017)

- A highly competitive 12-month global fellowship for 12 social sector leaders who employ service above self and dedicated to changing the way the world tackles poverty.
- Rigorous 5-week training in leadership and investment portfolio management in New York
- Senior Manager of Strategic Partnerships, Greenway Grameen Infra in Bangalore, India - an Acumen company

READ Bhutan – Rural Education and Development Bhutan, Thimphu Bhutan

Founder/Country Director (December 2008 to September 2014)

Board Member (June 2021 to Present)

- Established READ Bhutan country office impacting 35,000 beneficiaries
- Mobilized resources and cultivated strong relationships with foundations, corporations, government, individuals and other organizations – amounting to USD2 million
- Lead and provided strategic leadership, vision and direction
- Provided financial oversight, developed strategy for financial sustainability
- Lead the development, design and implementation of programs in education, sustainable enterprise, and women’s empowerment and community development
- Established monitoring and evaluation system

Wehrheim Productions/Vendetti Productions, Honolulu Hawaii

Project Manager/Consultant (July 2003 to March 2008)

- Worked on the production of, “Bhutan: Taking the Middle Path to Happiness” – winner of 2 Emmy Awards – www.bhutanFilm.com
- Conducted Q&A sessions with sold out Xilm tours in the Hawaiian Islands
- Coordinated work on, “Bhutan: Hidden Lands of Happiness” book published by Serindia

United Nations World Food Programme, New York USA

Liaison Assistant (July to September 2006)

- Attended and covered meetings and wrote briefs on humanitarian, development and security issues in the Security Council, General Assembly and the ECOSOC

United Nations World Food Programme, Thimphu Bhutan

Program Officer (September 2003 to June 2005)

- Managed Food for Education program for 170 schools (36,000 school children)
- Conducted nutrition, food management trainings for district education officers and field staff
- Conducted quantitative and qualitative monitoring and evaluation, and needs assessment
- Focal person for HIV/AIDS at Workplace Program and Organizational Values Task Force
- Served as Security Focal point during the “flush out operation” in October to December 2003

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS

- Vital Voices Global Ambassador 2022

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- EWC Innovation Fellows for SDG 2021
- Climate Reality Leadership Corp - Trained and Certified, June 2020
- Vital Voices GROW Fellowship for Women Entrepreneurs 2020
- SOCAP Entrepreneur Fellow, San Francisco, October 2018
- Cordes Fellow, Opportunity Collaboration, Ixtapa Mexico, October 2017
- Acumen Global Fellow, New York and India, 2016 to 2017
- Entrepreneur delegate, Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2016, Stanford University, June 2016
- Asian and African Feminist Activist Fellow, Global Empowerment Program, Ewha Women's University, Seoul Korea, January 2016
- Stanford University: Draper Hills Fellows, Center for Democracy, Development and Rule of Law of the Freeman Spogli Institute, July to August 2015
- Freedom through Literacy Award 2015, Judith Reading Room, USA, March 2015
- Wharton Business School: Executive Program "Strategic Decision Making", September 2013
- Beyond Access Award for Civic Participation, IREX, Washington DC, October 2012
- Asia Pacific Youth Forum, Asian Development Bank, Kyoto Japan, dJanuary 2007

LEADERSHIP/VOLUNTARY EXPERIENCES

- Host, Acumen Academy Circle Thimphu (aka Acumen Circle)
- Founding Curator and Advisor, Global Shapers Thimphu Hub, World Economic Forum
- Advisory Board Member: READ Bhutan
- Founding President, East-West Center Alumni Bhutan Chapter
- Board Member, Asia Pacific Leadership Program Alumni Board, East-West Center
- Climate Reality Leadership Corp, trained and certified in July 2020
- Global Shapers, Global Shapers Community, WEF
- [DeSuung](#): His Majesty's Guardians of Peace Corp: Trained in the 33rd Executive Batch – March 23 to April 14, 2019.
- Education Endowment Fund, Ministry of Education, Royal Government of Bhutan, Board Member, Feb. to Sept. 2014
- East-West Center, Honolulu Hawaii, USA, Co-Chair for the International Student Graduate Conference, Oct. 2005 to Mar. 2007
- Bhutan Youth Club – "Nazhoen Lamzhang", Thimphu Bhutan, Club Coordinator and Advisor, Jan. 2004 to Mar. 2005
- Woodstock School, Uttranchal India, Group Leader Community Service, Oct. 1996 to Apr. 1998

SPEAKER: PUBLIC FORUMS, DIALOGUES AND VIDEOS

- Speaker, "Bhutan's Climate Stories" a panel at Bhutan Echoes: Literary Festival, August 2023
- Speaker, "Bhutan's Climate Vulnerability and its Threats to Women, Economy and Politics" Indo-Pacific Environment Security Forum, Maldives, August 1 to 4, 2022
- Host and Moderator, Stockholm+50 Youth Voices of Bhutan. Video Podcast Episode 2 on "One Story, One Farmer, One Food System" aired on Radio Valley FM and on UNDP Bhutan YouTube, June 2022
- Speaker and host for the dialogue on "Climate Change and Ecotourism: What does it mean for Bhutan?" at Leadership Summit by the East-West Center July 30, 2021
- Moderator on the Satoyama Initiative National Policy Dialogue on "Financing for socio-ecological production landscapes" July 20, 2021

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- Speaker, “Bhutan: Our Forest, Our Future - A Nature Based Solution to Climate Action” Pacific Environment Security Forum, Hawaii, February 2021
- [Climate Adaptation and Resilience Vision: What will success look like?](#) February 22, 2021
- [Bhutan Launch of Human Development Report 2020](#), January 26, 2021
- [Reimagining Bhutan: Building Forward Better Beyond COVID Conversation Series 2: 'Future of Economy'](#) UNDP Bhutan and BCMD (Bhutan Center for Media and Democracy), Oct 13, 2020
- Panel Discussion: Implementing the Reforms and Translating Rhetoric to Reality, BEFIT (Bhutan Economic Forum for Innovative Transformation), July 19, 2019
- [“Women Represent – Boosting Public Women’s Participation in Public Sphere”](#) 2012
- [“Creating a Culture of Reading”](#) READ Bhutan 2012
- [“Inspiring Rural Prosperity in South Asia”](#) 2011
- University of Southern California, Graduate Doctoral Program on Global Executive Ed.D, [“Education Innovators”](#), 2013
- UN post-2015 MDG aired on national television – Bhutan Broadcasting Service: [“The Future We Want: Can GNH Shape It?”](#)

PUBLICATIONS

- [“Perspective of LDC Youth: What COP26 outcomes will enhance global action on climate adaptation and resilience,”](#) IIED: International Institute for Environment and Development, UK
- [“Enabling An Energy Efficient Build Environment in Bhutan”](#), preliminary draft report (not final authorship), Bhutan Ecological Society, (March '18)
- [“Invest in Bhutan’s nascent NGO Sector. You will see the results,”](#) Give2Asia Perspective
- [“Three Climate Threats that can become opportunities for Bhutan,”](#) World Economic Forum Agenda
- “Reach Higher: Redefining Women’s Rights and Gender Equality in Contemporary Bhutan”, The 9th EGEP: Feminist Voices from around the World, Ewha Womens University, Seoul Korea, January 2016
- “Bhutan: Balancing Growth with Environment Conservation through Hydro Power,” Asian Development Bank, 2007
- *“Empowering Jimba”* – an article on Gross National Happiness and public service, “The World and I: Innovative Approaches to World Peace,” November-December 2004

TRAININGS and WORKSHOPS

- Gender Based Analysis Plus, Canadian High Commission, New Delhi - November 2022
- Angel Investing Basics, ACA Angel University - October 2021
- Climate Reality Leadership Corp Training, Climate Reality Project - June 2005
- Gender Equality, UN Global Goal #5, Hackathon with Hacktivism at Stanford University, 1st place winning idea “Safe Harbor” for domestic violence victims.
- NEXT Library Conference, Chicago, USA – June 2014
- Program Design Hackathon, IREX, Bucharest, Romania – Feb. 2014
- Internet Governance Forum, Bali, Indonesia – Oct. 2013
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, “6th Peer Learning Meeting”, Cape Town, South Africa – April 2013 and “5th Peer Learning Meeting”, Seattle, USA – Sept. 2011
- Gross National Happiness Center Training of Trainer, Thimphu Bhutan – Dec. 2012

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- Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop, Learning For Action (LFA), Nepal – Nov. 2012
- Beyond Access Initiative (IREX), “Libraries for Development”, Washington DC – Oct. 2012
- High Level Workshop Gender Based Budgeting, UN Women/UNDP, Thimphu – July 2012
- “Happiness and Economic Development” workshop by Professor Jeffrey Sachs of Earth Institute/The Center for Bhutan Studies, Thimphu Bhutan – Aug. 2011
- “Sustainable Development in Asia Pacific” - East-West Center Conference, Hanoi, Vietnam – Dec. 2006

EDUCATION

Master in Public Administration Sept. 2005 - May 2007
Economics and Public Policy/Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance
East-West Center Degree Fellow
University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu Hawaii, USA

Asia Pacific Leadership Program Sept. 2002 - May 2003
Leadership and International Studies
East-West Center, Honolulu Hawaii, USA

Bachelor of Arts (Cum Laude) Economics Aug. 1998 - May 2002
Beloit College, Beloit Wisconsin USA

LANGUAGES

- **Fluent (spoken and written):** English
- **Conversational (spoken only):** Hindi and Nepali
- **Basic (spoken and written):** Spanish
- **Mother Tongue:** Dzongkha