

FOCUSED GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD)-BHUTAN

DATE: 2nd April, 2014

VENUE: Hotel Termalinca

PARTNER PARTICIPANTS: Mr.Buddhi Raj Sharma(GrAT), Mr. Raja T Chidambaram(ASSIST), Mr. Deependra Pourel(ASSIST), Mr.Ravi Kumar Mainali(ASSIST), Ms. Tshering Wangmo(ASSIST), Mr.Kesang Wangdi(BCCI), Mr.Damcho Tshering(BCCI).

LOCAL CONSULTANTS: Nim Dem Hingmang, Nim Tenzin Tamang, Dhan Kumar, Jigme Tenzin.

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Kesang(GPP), Ms.Pem Lama(GPP), Mr.Sangay Dorji(RSPN), Mr.Shashi Bhattari(KHINT), Mr.Sonam Dorji (Ghasel Hotel), Mr.N Lhendup(BTCL), Mr.Sherab Jamtsho(DRE), Mr.Namgay T Dorji(Menjog wood), Mr.Durga Lal Dahal(Hotel Wine N Dine), Mr.RD Wangel(ABTO), Mr.Ugyen Dorji(Bhutan Agro), Ms.Nim Dem(Bhutan Agro), Mr.Bhakta Shangshan(CNR), Mr.Tashi Dorji(CNR), Mr.Sunil (RSA Pvt), Ms.Sujata(Hotel Termalinca)

The registration was complete with representatives from industries and institutes with a total of 26 participants. The morning session of the event began at 10:00 AM with a welcoming speech by Mr Kesang Wangi, Project Manager from BCCI. Subsequently, Mr Rajachidambaram T, Project Manager from ASSIST introduced the objectives of FGD, discussion parameters and expected output.



Fig 1. Welcome note by Mr. Kesang



Fig 2. Mr. Raja outlining the FGD layout

This was followed by a presentation by Ms Pem Lam on the outline of GPP project and developments and findings so far. Green Public Procurement (GPP) is another project by EU and Switch- Asia funding.



Fig 3. Presentation by Green Public Procurement (GPP Bhutan)

The Tea break was followed by group discussion. The group was divided into Group 1 and Group 2. Each group included representatives from Academia, Industry, Association and Government Agencies. The group discussion went on for an hour. After the discussion the output was presented by each group and it was again discussed and debated on in the forum. The discussion for the two groups is same and the discussion was mainly focused on the “**Empowering Academia**”

GROUP DISCUSSION- OUTCOME

FINAL OUTCOME OF GROUP 1:

1. Need for formal mechanism for interaction.
 - Current system is ad hoc
 - Improve knowledge management system
 - Create online mechanism for interaction.
2. Creating Connection between alumni and Industry
 - Linking it with incubation centres
 - Curriculum development and greater flexibility in applying new inputs
 - Identification of required skills on job trainings.
 - One to One interaction.
 - Making Internship more demanding
 - Motivating for engagement
 - Two way feedback.

FINAL OUTCOME OF GROUP 2:

1. A. Expectation/ Solution

- Understanding ground reality of consumption of Resources in the industries
- Major procurement done by construction Industry
- Capacity Building for faculties and students

B. Solution:

- Set Green building standards
- Use green building materials
- Conduct regular meeting between Industries and Academia
- Attachment, OJT with the industries (Taken for granted)
- Training in collaboration with SEID Project
- Exchange program between Industries and Institution
- Collaborate with industries on behalf of colleges/institution spread across the country

C. Things to be done:

- Research on efficiency of building materials and streamline procurement policy
- Action Consultancy as the part of the curriculum which will add value to the Industry based on which student reports are graded
- A set of team from SEID project for the resolution
- Online learning platform
- Research oriented project than course work
- Academia tied-up with consulting firms (Sustainable knowledge management while working for Govt.)

2. A. Expectation/Problem:

- Building Professional body in institution to help industries/lack of fund to form such professional body
- Institution import vegetable from India/ Electricity consumption is high, Fire wood consumption is high

B. Solutions:

- Industries should join to fund the Institutions so that industries come forward to avail the service

- Institution can procure goods from local farmers, explore alternative source of energy such as SWH & RWH for water consumption and save as Role model for “Sustainable consumption and Production”
- C. Things to be done:
- Match-Making between Industries and Academia.
 - Eg: Hotels and RITH, Milk factory and CNR.



Fig 4. Group Discussion: Group 1



Fig 5. Group Discussion: Group 2



Fig 6. Output by group 1

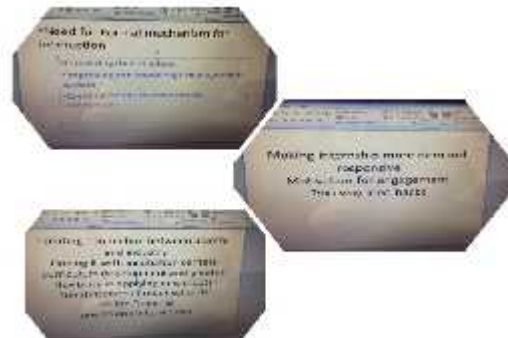


Fig 7. output by Group 2

Mr. Raja and Mr Ravi summed up all the findings and promised the gathering that an expert study based on the findings will be carried out. This was followed by lunch at the Hotel and a photo session before the group dispersal. The FGD was very fruitful and the level of interest shown by the participants was genuine and commendable. All of the participants voiced their concerns and interest which resulted in the final output of the group discussion.



Fig 8. Group photo