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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT
THIMPHU: BHUTAN

"Construction Industry: Solutions to Innovation and Improved Technology"

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3rd DoR quarterly meeting discusses major activities and issues of the department

The third DoR quarterly meeting was held in Thimphu, Ministry of Works and Human Settlement Conference Hall from 4th September to 6th September 2019. Honorable Minister and Secretary of the ministry graced the meeting on the first day. Director General, DoR, chaired the meeting. The meeting saw the participants from nine DoR regional offices, DoR Head Quarter and Projects. The meeting also served as a platform to sing APA 2019-2020 between the Chief Engineers on Regional Offices and Director General, DoR.

The main objective of the quarterly meeting was to discuss the major activities of the regional offices, issues pertaining to departments and regional offices, and to discuss the innovate ideas in the field of roads.

Director General, DoR in his welcome address highlighted the importance of quarterly meeting to discuss issues, to share the experiences of regional offices and engineers and to be more efficient and effective in implementing the works. He also highlighted the importance of setting up of laboratories for conducting mandatory test to have a quality construction, and to discuss the revised Standard Bidding Documents and Procurement Rules and Regulations.

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DoR quarterly meeting....

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Honorable Minister addressing the meeting said that quarterly meeting plays an important role in discussing and resolving various issues related to the department. He also said that the department should strictly enforce the resolutions of the quarterly meeting.

Dasho Secretary in his address to the participants of the quarterly meeting informed that ninety five percent of the ministry's budget is allocated to DoR stating the importance of DoR. He also highlighted that Regional Offices are faced with many challenges and the quarterly meeting gives them the opportunity to discuss and resolve the issues.

The quarterly meeting had a presentation from DoR head quarter; regional offices and projects highlighting their annual work plan for 2019-20.



Department of Road's Quarterly Meeting Participants with Minister, Secretary and Director General

Office Space Guidelines

The Department of Engineering Services, Ministry of Works and Human Settlement will be soon coming out with Office Space Guidelines for Government Office Buildings.

The objectives of the guideline are;

- i) To promote equity among agencies in the utilization of space;
- ii) To allocate right space to right employee;
- iii) To cut down cost by effective utilization of space; and
- iv) To set as a reference point in approving the space for all government office buildings

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Office Space Guidelines

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At present there is no guideline or standard available for the allocation of office spaces because of which the ministries and agencies has liberty to design, organize and reallocate spaces as desired. Currently, Office buildings for particular government agencies are designed either by the professionals of respective agencies or (if they do not have) outsourced to the private consultant through some tendering process. The designers, in the process of allocating space for various office functions are assumed to be guided by certain international norms like Time Saver Standard, Architect's Data etc. However, during the process of space design, the spaces allocated by designers are subjected to the discretion of client and thus, the office spaces are prone to alteration as desired by client. On the other hand, the designer in fear of disobeying, despite adequate professional knowledge, simply tends to follow and incorporate the client's irrelevant instruction. This injudicious practice has most often led to the exploitation of precious space with some agencies enjoying the luxury of excess space while others strive to acquire comfort in limited space. Such trend is inevitable and will only get worst with time, until and unless certain measures are put in place.

Currently, Department of National Properties (DNP), Ministry of Finance has only a fixed rate to calculate the monthly rent payable. In addition to the rate, DNP shall use this guideline to work out the actual required space permissible for any government agencies looking for office spaces in private buildings. Similarly, this guideline shall also facilitate and serve as a basis for those agencies that are responsible for equitable and justifiable allocation of land and budget for the construction of any new government office buildings. With increasing number of agencies calling up for office buildings and in order to curb the misuse of spaces, the government felt a strong need for some kind of reference point, that can guide and regulate the designer, client (government agencies) and approving agency in determining the optimum space for office functions.

It is expected that the guideline will facilitate and guide the approval of right space for right employee and optimum space for specific functions, thus, ensuring effective and judicious utilization of space for various office functions.

Inauguration of Refee-Koshala Bypass Highway



H.E. Zhabtog Lyonpo inaugurates 16.67 Km Refee-Koshala Bypass Highway

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Inauguration of Refee-Koshala Bypass Highway

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19 October 2019, Trongsa, HE. Zhabto Lyonpo Dorji Tshering inaugurated the Refee-Koshala bypass highway on 19t October 2019 at Trongsa. The bypass is 16.67 Km on the Trongsa- Gelephu Highway.

The new bypass highway will shorten the total distance of Gelephu- Trongsa highway by 16.33 kms and reduce the travel time by more than an hour owing to wider and better road geometry. This road will benefit the people of Bumthang, Trongsa, Zhemgang and Sarpang Dzongkhags.

The project was initiated in 2012 and was implemented by the Department of Road with financial support from the Government of India. In addition, two new bridges at Dangdung and Yurmung chhu were also constructed along the new bypass road. The total cost of the project is Nu. 709.974 million

The Inauguration was attended by the Secretary and senior government officials of the Ministry of Work & Human Settlement including the Dzongdag and other Local Government officials.

Department of Engineering Services signs MoU with Technical Training Institutes and Dzongkhags for promotion of Rammed Earth

The Department of Engineering Services has signed Memorandum of Understanding with two Technical Instittes (Chumey Technical Training Institue, Bumthang and Jigme Wangchuk Power Training Institute, Dekiling, Sarpang) and Four Dzongkhags (Paro, Haa, Wangdue Phodrang and Punakha) for the promotion of rammed earth.

The objective of signing MoU with the institutes and dzongkhags is intended to;

- a) Contribute towards the mechanization and subsequent revival of traditional art of rammed earth construction in the country;
- b) Impart knowledge and skills transfer to the institues and dzongkhags ans cascade down to the local artisans;
- c) Collaborate and reinforce cooperation between DES and Institues and Dzongkhags; and
- d) Identify the roles and responsibilities of both parties with regard to this equipment.

The DES has provided training to Chumey TTI and Haa dzongkhag. The department has also handed over the set of rammed earth equipment and its accessories to two institutes and four dzongkhags.

The rammed earth equipment and its accessories were procured through the “Promotion of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficient Technologies in the Building Sector of Bhutan” supported by the Austrian Development Cooperation.

Zero-Waste- Taking Responsibility

During the 13th Policy and Planning Coordination Meeting, it was decided that there was a need to rationalize on the concept of zero-waste. During the meeting it was decided that the ministry may adopt some areas or neighborhood for the purpose of zero-waste.

Accordingly, the Directorate Service (DoS) was directed to expand the scope of the zero-waste hour to enable the Ministry to shoulder the greater responsibility of setting examples on the need to keep our country clean.



Ministry's staff cleaning the Chubachu Area to mark the Zero-Waste Hour

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