



YOUTH SUMMIT

2017-2019

A Photographic Journey

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Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy



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YOUTH SUMMIT

2017-2019

A Photographic Journey

Get lost in
Savour a peaceful moment
Refresh your spirit with what

a story,
as it is unfolding,
fascinates and delights you

Nanea Hoffman



What is the Youth Summit (YS)?

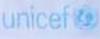
The Youth Summit (YS) is a week-long residential programme that brings diverse youth from across Bhutan together and takes them through a reflective process of self-discovery, exploration of socio economic issues and the role of youth in a democracy. It emphasises inclusivity by serving as a forum that is open to all youth from different socioeconomic backgrounds, academic standings and gender identities.

Participants get to listen to and interact with leaders in social work, and others who can inspire them through storytelling, sharing of experiences and reflections. More importantly, youths learn to see each other as sources of knowledge, experiences and inspiration. To many, YS is an orientation into awakening their social consciousness.

YS also provides hands-on facilitation training to youth leaders. Having been trained as peer facilitators, the youth leaders apply their learning to real-life settings by co-facilitating the Youth Summit. Through this, youth leaders are able to hone their knowledge and experience of organising and coordinating youth events, as well as exemplify models of behavior that demonstrate productive engagement in socially useful activities.



YOUTH 'Be The Change' SUMMIT 2018

July 11th - 14th | Royal Thimphu College 





3
Years (2017-'19)

15
Days

582
Youths

18
Teachers



*Igniting a generation
young active citizens*



UNIVERSITY OF
SE

h.soc

The real voyage of discovery consists
but in having

not in seeking new landscapes,
new eyes

Marcel Proust





If learning is compared to farming with the goal of harvesting crops, then creating an open, relaxed and empowering space is tantamount to preparing the soil for the crops to grow. YS participants are engaged in exploring each other's stories.



Participants discover themselves, friends, community and their responsibilities!

Introduction to the programme and fellow participants happen at this stage. Participants are divided into family groups wherein they get to know other members of the group through name games, ice-breakers, energizers, etc.

Participants discover each other's reasons for attending the Summit through expectation sharing. To become inspired and begin their reflections on the social issues and assets within their respective communities, participants engage with audio-visual content training packet. They are introduced to the complexities and challenges facing the global community in relation to the opportunities that lie ahead of them. Reflective sharing sessions that take place throughout the day enable them to discover the situation they are in and the action they can take in bringing about desired changes.



situation. How did y

Human Center for Justice and Democracy
Investigative





Handwritten mind map text:

- Central node: **Myself**
- Branch 1: **My school**
 - How to be on
 - My school
- Branch 2: **My family**
 - My father
 - My mother
 - My sister
 - My brother
 - My grandpa
 - My grandma
 - My uncle
 - My aunt
 - My cousin
 - My nephew
 - My niece
 - My granduncle
 - My grandaunt
 - My grandnephew
 - My grandniece
- Branch 3: **My friends**
 - My friend
 - My friend's friend
 - My friend's friend's friend
- Branch 4: **My community**
 - My neighbor
 - My neighbor's neighbor
 - My neighbor's neighbor's neighbor
- Branch 5: **My country**
 - My country
 - My country's capital
 - My country's language
 - My country's culture
 - My country's history
 - My country's geography
 - My country's economy
 - My country's politics
 - My country's religion
 - My country's education
 - My country's health
 - My country's environment
 - My country's transportation
 - My country's communication
 - My country's science
 - My country's technology
 - My country's art
 - My country's music
 - My country's sports
 - My country's entertainment
 - My country's industry
 - My country's agriculture
 - My country's fishing
 - My country's mining
 - My country's energy
 - My country's water
 - My country's air
 - My country's land
 - My country's sea
 - My country's sky
 - My country's earth
 - My country's sun
 - My country's moon
 - My country's stars
 - My country's planets
 - My country's galaxies
 - My country's universe
- Branch 6: **My world**
 - My world
 - My world's map
 - My world's climate
 - My world's weather
 - My world's seasons
 - My world's time zones
 - My world's languages
 - My world's cultures
 - My world's religions
 - My world's education
 - My world's health
 - My world's environment
 - My world's transportation
 - My world's communication
 - My world's science
 - My world's technology
 - My world's art
 - My world's music
 - My world's sports
 - My world's entertainment
 - My world's industry
 - My world's agriculture
 - My world's fishing
 - My world's mining
 - My world's energy
 - My world's water
 - My world's air
 - My world's land
 - My world's sea
 - My world's sky
 - My world's earth
 - My world's sun
 - My world's moon
 - My world's stars
 - My world's planets
 - My world's galaxies
 - My world's universe
- Branch 7: **My future**
 - My future
 - My future's goals
 - My future's dreams
 - My future's aspirations
 - My future's challenges
 - My future's opportunities
 - My future's risks
 - My future's rewards
 - My future's responsibilities
 - My future's obligations
 - My future's commitments
 - My future's promises
 - My future's hopes
 - My future's fears
 - My future's doubts
 - My future's uncertainties
 - My future's certainties
 - My future's possibilities
 - My future's probabilities
 - My future's inevitabilities
 - My future's contingencies
 - My future's alternatives
 - My future's options
 - My future's choices
 - My future's decisions
 - My future's actions
 - My future's inactions
 - My future's reactions
 - My future's responses
 - My future's behaviors
 - My future's attitudes
 - My future's beliefs
 - My future's values
 - My future's principles
 - My future's ethics
 - My future's morals
 - My future's laws
 - My future's regulations
 - My future's standards
 - My future's norms
 - My future's customs
 - My future's traditions
 - My future's rituals
 - My future's ceremonies
 - My future's holidays
 - My future's festivals
 - My future's celebrations
 - My future's commemorations
 - My future's remembrances
 - My future's honors
 - My future's awards
 - My future's recognitions
 - My future's appreciations
 - My future's acknowledgments
 - My future's thanks
 - My future's gratitude
 - My future's love
 - My future's affection
 - My future's care
 - My future's concern
 - My future's compassion
 - My future's empathy
 - My future's sympathy
 - My future's solidarity
 - My future's unity
 - My future's harmony
 - My future's balance
 - My future's equilibrium
 - My future's stability
 - My future's security
 - My future's safety
 - My future's protection
 - My future's defense
 - My future's offense
 - My future's attack
 - My future's war
 - My future's peace
 - My future's conflict
 - My future's resolution
 - My future's negotiation
 - My future's mediation
 - My future's arbitration
 - My future's litigation
 - My future's judgment
 - My future's verdict
 - My future's sentence
 - My future's punishment
 - My future's reward
 - My future's incentive
 - My future's disincentive
 - My future's consequence
 - My future's result
 - My future's outcome
 - My future's effect
 - My future's impact
 - My future's influence
 - My future's power
 - My future's authority
 - My future's jurisdiction
 - My future's sovereignty
 - My future's independence
 - My future's autonomy
 - My future's self-determination
 - My future's self-governance
 - My future's self-reliance
 - My future's self-sufficiency
 - My future's self-actualization
 - My future's self-fulfillment
 - My future's self-actualization
 - My future's self-fulfillment

A dream you dream
A dream you dream

alone is only a dream
together is reality

Yoko Ono





Cleaning to
cou



ep your to

Every dream needs nurturing! To pursue individual dreams in harmony with the larger societal aspirations, participants are introduced to values of good citizen. The participants discuss values that are important in everyday lives of an individual that would ensure harmonious co-existence in a democratic setup and an interconnected world.

Speakers share field experiences covering current and emerging topics ranging from organic agriculture, waste management, economy, youth engagement, Gross National Happiness and many more.

This helps participants consider multiple issues and stakeholders as they envision their ideal future. It culminates into group presentations where participants share their dream with the group through news reports, skits and other formats that appeal to them.



Diverse Talent for Children

All Educated

BHUTAN

2023

More Educated Farmers

Increased School

Early Enrollment in School

MORE Export

Shopping

Land

(95)





Youth's vision of an ideal Bhutan

- Self-reliant and green economy with thriving private sector
- Empowered and engaged youth where youth take leadership roles
- Skilled and employed youth with first ever Bhutanese scientist
- Technological advancement through artificial intelligence and space studies
- Gender equality where women are empowered to participate in decision making
- Green Bhutan with green energy and global warming reduced
- Safe and peaceful Bhutan with zero crime
- No brain drain





Inspired by values of harmonious-coexistence and motivated to pursue a 'collective future' together, respective groups share their dream of Ideal Bhutan with the rest of the participants. Questions, comments and insights from fellow participants form part of the visioning exercise.

Always design a thing by considering
A chair in a room,
A house in
An environment

it in its next larger context
A room in a house,
an environment,
in a city plan

Eero Saarinen



An aspect of bringing dreams down to reality involves field trips to various sites where they get the opportunity to interact with people who work towards solving social issues of our community and country. This helps them narrow down and focus on one issue which the young participants, within their own capacity, can find the ideas and motivation to bridge the gap.







MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Tenzin Chodro

Design
2015

Design a Good Future



As participants envision their ideal world, they identify issues and propose corresponding solutions.



As participants envision their ideal world, some of the issues identified are:

- Increasing waste production and global climate change
- Rural-urban migration and youth unemployment
- Gender inequality
- Effects of divorce on children
- Heavy dependence on import
- Youth and substance abuse
- Social media usage and its effect such as cyber bullying, scam and anonymous accounts

Proposed solutions to the above-mentioned issues include:

- Pursue environmentally friendly lifestyle such as reducing plastic use and efficient use of water
- Encourage educated youth to take up agriculture in villages to create jobs
- Collaborate among Civil Society Organisations in empowering women
- Consider the needs of children before divorce
- Work towards achieving self-reliance
- Engage youth in civic activities including political participation
- Provide media literacy courses to youth







“The future is neither
It is what
What work we do with
Will shape

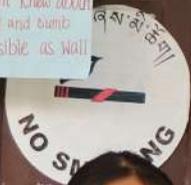
unseen nor unknown
we make of it
our two hands today
our nation''

His Majesty the King of Bhutan

Voice



I was the referee. I was the ref. They didn't know about boy and girl. Invisible as well.



making harmonious family and creating happiness in the society.



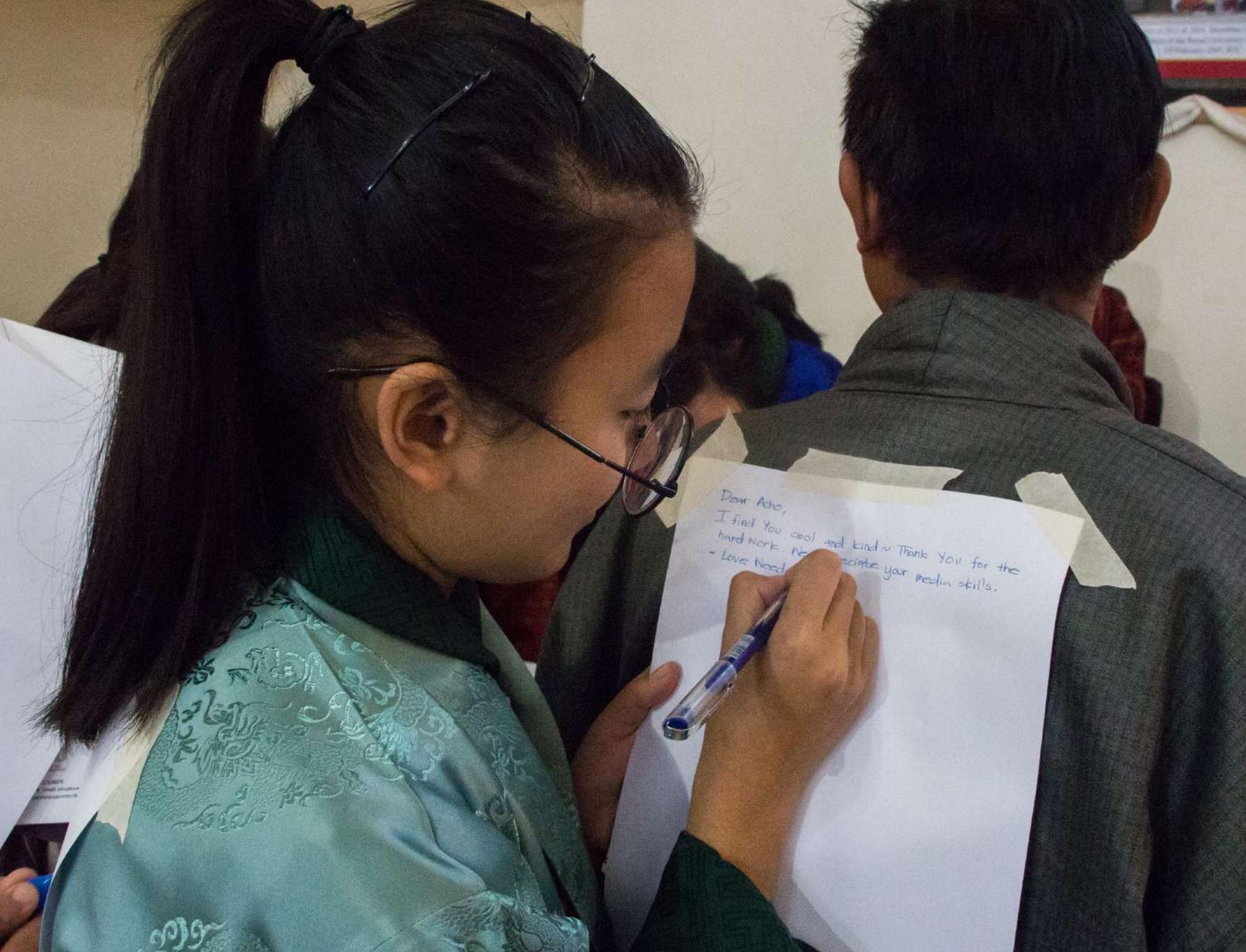


A Multiplier effect

Students share their learning and experiences from the Summit with their friends, teachers of their host school, community leaders and parents. Their stories and presentations help inspire other young people to be socially conscious and responsible. In 2019, their presentations were attended by 66 teachers and 775 parents/students and other members of the community including a local leader.



A 'Letter to myself' serves as a reminder of the passion, energy and learning that dominates the atmosphere of the Summit. What better way to become re-energised than a letter from your past self to work towards the betterment of your community?



Dear Ache,
I find You cool and kind ~ Thank You for the
hard work. No appreciate your medicin skills.
- Love Need

Six Buddha Bix

Gesarling Central School



UNION
POSTALE
UNIVERSELLE

lettres - services spéciaux
letters - special services



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Bhutan
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I bid goodbye to the Summit and friends with a broad smile, radiating hope and energy. Were the Summit and fellow participants equally satisfied by having me among them?

Throughout the rest of the journey, I shall ponder upon what I had contributed, the missed opportunities and what I can do hereafter.

The Summit came and went, but my journey has just begun...

How has your journey with social change been so far?

We thank our funders
for making this
journey possible!





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