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A Gallery walk on GNH-based Participatory Planning and Community Development Plan

When: 25th August

Where: Le Meridien, Thimphu

Time: 1500hrs - 1700hrs

Bhutan Centre for Media Democracy (BCMD) is organising a **Gallery Walk** for Local Government Office bearers to present co-developed community development plans for their Gewogs and share reflections on the implementation of **GNH-based Community Analysis and Planning** on **25th August, 2021**, at **Le Meridien**, Thimphu.

With the goal to contribute towards *strengthening decentralised planning processes through modeling citizen participation and evidence-based decision-making* local leaders, administrators and residents of nine Gewogs of Thimphu and Paro districts successfully engaged in a series of capacity development workshops and conducted public consultations and developed plans using the Gross National Happiness-based planning toolkit developed by BCMD.

The LG office bearers engaged in inclusive public consultations in their respective chiwog and co-developed community plans with residents using the tools, knowledge and skills from their capacity building program. The program on participatory planning was eye-opening for many of them as they reflected on current practices of Zomdues and planning processes that have not changed while the country has transitioned well into democracy.

Quote: It is evident why decentralised planning has not materialised in its true sense, though our democracy is 14 years old. Consultations and decision-making are made exclusive to the heads of the family, planning begins not with analysis of the needs and data but with prioritisation of activities driven by the budget, and deliberation only with few active individuals. By using the GNH-lens to analyse communities and plan based on the expressed needs, a striking realisation in the participants is why their plans did not vary from year to year and from other dzongkhags.”
- Executive Director, BCMD

The goal of the project is to foster inclusive and participatory planning and development at the local level. The Gallery Walk marks the end of the project in Thimphu and Paro districts.

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