

The youth initiative (YI) summer training was held at the BCMD media lab from July 6 to 10, 2015. During the training more than fifteen youth representatives, different officials and members of parliament actively participated in different sessions.

The 5-day training conceptualised by the BCMD and the older youth representatives aimed to introduce the concept of 'Service-Learning' and exploring how to integrate it in the youth initiative local actions. The training also aimed to strengthen team dynamics of the youth initiative and explore the way forward for youth initiative in the coming years.

Each day sessions began with a 10-15 minute meditation and talking about the importance of meditation in our daily lives. Youth representatives also learned about active listening and the importance of it in our everyday lives.

On July 9, the youth representatives engaged with the 5 members of the parliament to understand the institution of the the parliament, difference between the National Assembly and the National Council and both their functions, how laws are made and the different types of committees in the National Assembly.

The session resulted in drafting a communication strategy between the Women, Children and Youth committee (WCYC) of the National Assembly and the YI. The communication strategy will enable the YI and the WCYC to collaborate in trying to solves some of the pertinent youth-related issues. Both the YI and WCYC shared some of the issues that they are concerned about.

On July 10, the youth representatives were also brief on a 'Project Management Cycle' and some of the 'things-to-do' as they go ahead to plan 3 local actions. The session was lead by Tashi Pem, Deputy Country Director of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Bhutan.

As a result of the 5-day training, the youth representatives are now working on developing 3 actions that they are going to carry out.

The YI plans to adopt a land near Lungtenphu (Below old highway) to plant around 200 tree saplings. The land has been approved and designated by the Thimphu Thromde. YI will also continue to lead social media conversations around schools in Thimphu and develop a social media guideline that will be distributed in schools. And, YI also plans to collect books from urban areas and distribute it to a rural community to commemorate National Reading Year 2015 and also to encourage Bhutanese people, especially youth, to read books.