



[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

First round of Youth Debates on Key Policy Issues

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Timing: 2:00-5:30pm, Friday, January 17, 2014

Venue: YDF Assembly Hall

The Youth Initiative for Debate, Deliberation and Development (YIDDD) is an educational training workshop where a group of 20 youth learn about public policy, research, debating and communication skills, and democratic problem-solving.

After a fortnight's training and research period, the group will host a debate and deliberation session on Friday, 17th January. The session will deliberate on the following issues from a youth perspective:
Bhutan should reduce the imports of junk food to promote local industry and lower non-biodegradable waste production.

The public and private sectors need to take collaborative measures to improve the employment opportunities for differently abled persons.

An independent Teacher Accreditation Council should be formed to improve teacher recruitment and management.

The YIDDD gives a select group of youth practical, hands-on experience in deliberating on national issues with a non-partisan approach. The training built on their understanding of what it means to be a citizen and how they can delve deeper into issues and provide feedback for decision-making. Youth learnt how to listen to diverse views and to explore the values of democracy. Speakers at the training included representatives from the ACC, GNHC, the National Council and the media.

Following the training, the participants formed committees to research the issues prioritized. Observers will be able to offer feedback after the forum.

Friday's debate and deliberation forum is meant to provide the youth with a platform to discuss and debate issues and to seek and share solutions. YIDDD is part of an experiential process whereby the project hopes to be able to learn how to integrate democratic problem-solving into future educational initiatives. By giving youth these platforms, we believe that they can become compassionate and visionary leaders capable of bringing positive social change.

Programme

1400hrs – Guests Seated

1415hrs – Opening Remarks by Phub Dorji, co-founder of YIDDD

1425hrs – Screening of YIDDD documentary

1435hrs – Forum opens

1440hrs – Discussions and Deliberations

1640hrs - Audience Feedback

1700hrs – Final summary

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