

ABILITY BHUTAN SOCIETY



BIENNIAL REPORT 2015 - 2016

"See the Person Not the Disability"



His Majesty The Fifth Druk Gyalpo Awards ABS The National Order of Merit (GOLD)

His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck The Fifth Druk Gyalpo awarded (ABS) the National Order of Merit Gold during the 109th National Day Ceremony on 17th of December, 2016. The award was given “for volunteering time and effort promoting humanitarian values, our culture and tradition and our national objectives; for taking on the responsibility to provide support and assistance wherever the government is unable to reach; and for keeping alive the sacred values of compassion and empathy.” ABS offers our gratitude to His Majesty for recognition. ABS is grateful to Her Majesty The Gyltsuen for her unconditional support and guidance for ABS in serving the nation. The award was received by the ABS family in Zhugdrel Tendrel Ceremony held to honour it on 22nd of December 2016.

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1. MESSAGE FROM ABS CHAIRPERSON

To,

Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck,

The Queen of Bhutan and The Royal Patron of ABS, &

Honourable Members of the Ability Bhutan Society, Stakeholders & Wellwishers

I have the honour and pleasure to present the Second Annual Report of the Ability Bhutan Society for the year 2015 and 2016 to the Second Annual General Meeting of the Society for ratification by the AGM.

The Year 2016 has been very auspicious as the Ability Bhutan Society celebrated the Birth of His Royal Highness The Gyalsey of the Kingdom of Bhutan and successfully launched The Accessible Bhutan Project on the Birthday Celebration of Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen, the Royal Patron in 2016. ABS concluded the Year with the grand celebration of the honour bestowed by The King of Bhutan, with award of the **National Order of Merit Gold**.

I was personally happy that I had the proud privilege of representing the Board and the Society to receive the Award from His Majesty The King on the 109th National Day Celebration of Bhutan. I also had the rare honour of photograph being taken on the ancient **East-West -Zhunglam** with His Majesty The King of the Historic *Trongsa Chhokor Rabdentse Dzong* on a Historic Day.

ABS offer our gratitude to His Majesty The King, ABS with greatest sense of achievement and purpose, motivated greatly and in highest of spirit, pledges to offer our services to the best of our capabilities to uplift the wellbeing of as many Bhutanese as we can.

Of the many activities planned the progress to acquire a plot for building the ABS Centre in Thimphu and minimum of five regional centres in the Dzongkhags is yet to be materialized. We shall pursue it in the present financial year.

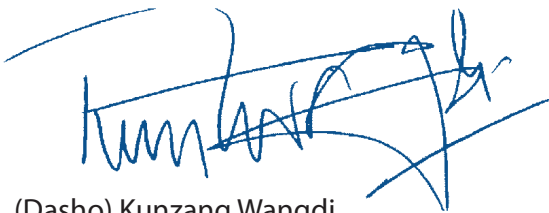
It will be my prayers that while ABS will continue to serve many individuals living with moderate to severe disabilities from the present facility we would with the support mainly from the Royal Government of Bhutan, Pro Bhutan, Germany and Bussi-En, Japan be able to plan and build: (1) ABS National Center at Thimphu, and (2) Five Regional Centers located at five dzongkhags towards expanding our reach and services to the rests of the Dzongkhags in Bhutan.

In this regard, we are proud to establish the Seed Fund for the Construction of the Centers with initial donations made generously by our wellwishers. We look forward to others to join in the good cause.

The Board also takes the opportunity to thank the members of the Society for the election of the Members of Board of Trustees and representative of the Parents for the first time. The elections had ensured in electing a resourceful and competent Board capable to live up to Wishes of Her Majesty The Royal Patron, meet the expectations of the Members and ultimately serving the best interest of all individuals living with moderate to severe diverse abilities.

I would like to thank all Members of the Board of Trustees and dedicated staff of Ability Bhutan Society for their support and cooperation rendered in the discharge of my duties as the Chair.

Lastly, as I offer my best wishes and Happy Losar, we rededicate our services, with gratitude for the honour, to serve Her Majesty The Royal Patron and the Society with greatest of our zeal.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kunzang Wangdi', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

(Dasho) Kunzang Wangdi

Chairperson

2. ABS HISTORY, VISION, MISSION, VALUES AND OBJECTIVES

A. The History of ABS:

ABS is a Public Benefit Organization which was founded on the recognition that persons living with moderate to severe diverse abilities, primarily children and their families, have special needs. ABS was registered with the Civil Society Organization Authority of Bhutan (CSOA) under Registration No. CSOA/PBO15 on the 10th of November, 2011.

The concept of ABS was inspired by the vision of a Just and compassionate society by His Majesty The Fifth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. ABS was inaugurated by Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck, The Royal Patron of ABS, on April 6th, 2012 as a project under the Kidu Foundation which was established by Their Majesties as an endowment for Royal Projects.



The greatest strength of ABS is The Royal Patronage of Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen who takes a deep and active interest in ABS and its activities. Her Majesty is indeed a source of inspiration and aspirations for individuals living with diverse abilities.



B. The Vision of ABS:

Empowering individuals with diverse abilities to live independently and with dignity within Bhutanese Society

C. The Mission of ABS:

Enhancing the quality life of individuals living with moderate to severe diverse abilities by:

1. *Advocating* and creating awareness of the rights of people living with diverse abilities in Bhutanese society;
2. *Developing* core groups of dedicated, committed and trained Social Workers and care givers;
3. *Enhancing* family and caregiver skills to empower those living with diverse abilities in their care; and
4. *Providing* direct interventions to enhance the capabilities of people with differing abilities.

D. The Objectives of ABS:

The organizational objectives of the ABS are to:

1. Create a purpose-built National Facility with Regional Level Care Centers staffed with highly qualified care providers;
2. Advocate inclusion of persons living with diverse abilities in Bhutanese Society;
3. Ensure accessibility to public facilities and services to widen the opportunities for participation of persons living with moderate to severe diverse abilities in society to their fullest potential;
4. Develop the professional skills of ABS' social workers through training, exchange programmes and educational developments;
5. Support families, care givers and families of persons living with moderate to severe diverse abilities through educational and psycho-social support;
6. Create a network with sister organizations for cooperation and sharing of experiences, including to date: (a) Action for Autism (New Delhi, India); (b) Anderson Centre for Autism (New York, USA); (c) Ummeed Child Development Centre (Mumbai, India); (d) Autism Speaks (New York, USA); and (e) Queensland University of Technology (Brisbane, Australia); and
7. Ensure that ABS has sustainable funding and appropriate organizational skills at all levels.

3. ABS GOVERNANCE

Royal Patron:

Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck

Board of Trustee:

Chairperson

Dasho Kunzang Wangdi, Member
Royal Research and Advisory Council
His Majesty's Secretariat

Vice-Chairperson

Dr. Mahrukh Getshen
Transfusion Specialist, JDWNR Hospital

Treasurer

Mr. Pema Tshering
Managing Director, T Bank Ltd

Members

1. Dr. Kinzang P. Tshering, President, Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan
2. Aum Chhimmy Pem, Director General, Tourism Council of Bhutan
3. Ms. Deki Yangzom, Managing Director, Lathing Enterprise
4. Mr. Chencho, Head of Government Performance Management Division, Prime Minister's office
5. Ms. Saldon Lhamu, Her Majesty's Secretary, Queen's Project

Member Secretary

Ms. Beda Giri, ABS Executive Director



Nine board meetings were held for the year 2015 and 2016.

ABS would like to offer our gratitude to Dr. Kunzang Getshen, former board member and treasurer of Ability Bhutan Society for his timeless effort and support to ABS. He has been also actively involved in fund raising activities.

Parent Representatives to Board:

1. Ms. Karma Sonam Dorji, Board of Director, Wood Craft Centre Ltd
2. Mr. Bishnu Bakta Mishra, Education Officer, UNICEF
3. Ms. Prashanti Pradhan, Managing Director, Lee Enterprise
4. Mr. Phuntsho Wangdi, Consultant (In-Country Trade Facilitation and Customs Expert)

After the formation of parent's representatives, one parent's representative meeting was held to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the parent's representatives.

ABS has conducted its first **Annual General Meeting** in January 2016, It was attended by Board members, staff, parent's representatives, donors, supporters and relevant stakeholders.

ABILITY BHUTAN SOCIETY'S COMMITTEE ORGANOGRAM

HR Committee	Procurement Commitment	Fundraising Committee	Outreach Committee
1. Chairperson Dr.K.P.Tshering	1. Chairperson Mr.Pema Tshering	1. Chairperson Ms. Deki Yangzom	1. Chairperson Dr. Mahrukh Getshen
2. Vice-Chair Aum Chhimmey Pem	2. Vice-Chair Aum Chhimmey Pem	2. Vice-Chair Ms. Saldon Lhamu	2. Vice-Chair Mr.Chencho
3. Member Ms. Beda Giri	3. Member Mr.Tshering Lhabu	3. Member Ms. Chey Chey Ms. Prashanti Pradhan Mr. Phuntsho Wangdi	3. Member Mr. Namgay Dorji Ms. Karam Sonam Dorji Mr. Bishnu Bhakta Mishra

HR Committee

So far two HR committee meetings were held. The Committee review monitor and make recommendations to the board of directors on the organization's human resource strategy and policies and ensure that human resource activities are adequate and effective.

Procurement Committee

The committee ensures that the society follows Procurement Rules and Regulations 2009 of the RGoB. The Committee monitors the financial transactions and assure that it is in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee ensures that fundraising activities are conducted frequently to met the expenditure of various programmes and activities of the society.

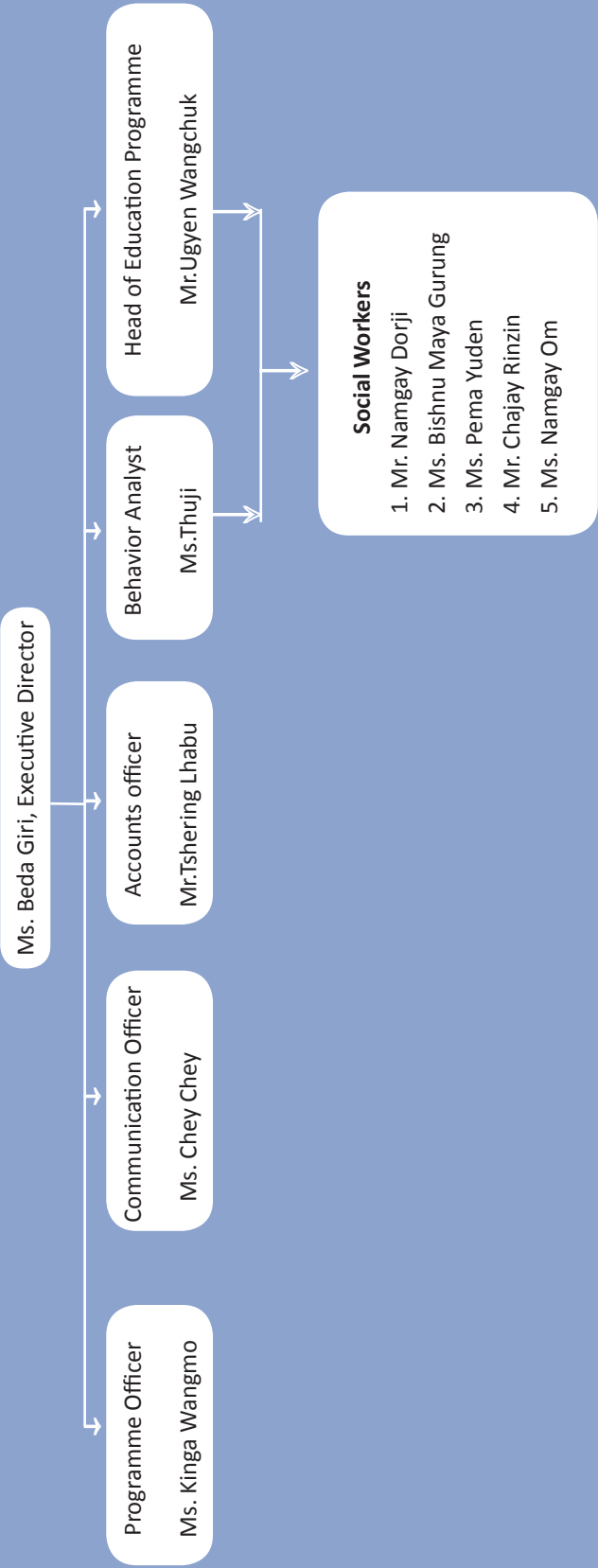
1. Two fundraising meetings were held.
2. Conducted a High Tea Fundraising at Taj Tashi.
3. The members of fundraising committee also made personal contribution and raised funds from their close family members and friends

Outreach Committee

The Committee ensures that outreach activities are conducted in the community to remove the barriers to inclusive development by increasing awareness through educating and informing community on disabilities;



MANAGEMENT TEAM



4. ABS INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES

A. ABS Centre-Based Intervention Programme



The families of those children living with diverse abilities who come to the ABS Center for the intervention sessions have confirmed their children's significant improvement in performing Activities of Daily Living at home and in public. Some of them do not even need any adult support for their daily chores.

In 2015 and 2016, ABS enrolled 10 children from its Intervention Programs into public schools. ABS currently has 21 children registered for clinical services in the ABS Centre's morning and afternoon intervention programmes; and it undertook interventional intakes of 13 children in 2015-2016.

B. ABS Home-Based Intervention Programme

For those children with profound diverse abilities who cannot participate in the ABS Centre-Based Intervention Programme, ABS social workers provide home-based services by visiting those children's homes and teaching care givers about Activities of Daily Living skills. In doing so, the parents and caregivers are trained simultaneously in such skills. The ABS Home-Based Intervention Programme educates the child in the least restrictive and most comfortable environment for the child.

In 2015-2016, ABS supported 12 families in its Home-Based Intervention Programme.

C. ABS School-Based Intervention Programme



ABS provides services to need based children at schools, upholds the policy of an Inclusive Education and tries to mainstream students with special needs in schools. Social workers visit schools and collaborate with special education teachers to exchange strategies and ideas in order to work collaboratively to enhance the lives of children with disabilities. ABS social workers visited 11 such schools in 2015-2016. Currently ABS visits Changangkha Middle Secondary school every Friday.

5. ABS FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMME



ABS conducts a family support programme to bring together parents and care givers of CWD in order to have them share their views and opinions with each other and to know that they are not alone and can support each other. Professionals are also invited to talk about matters regarding diversity and related interventions to help parents and caregivers. The parents are grateful to ABS for the professional information and new knowledge. Approximately 100 families participated in the ABS Family Empowerment Programme in 2015-2016.

6. ABS CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

A. Capacity Development Programmes

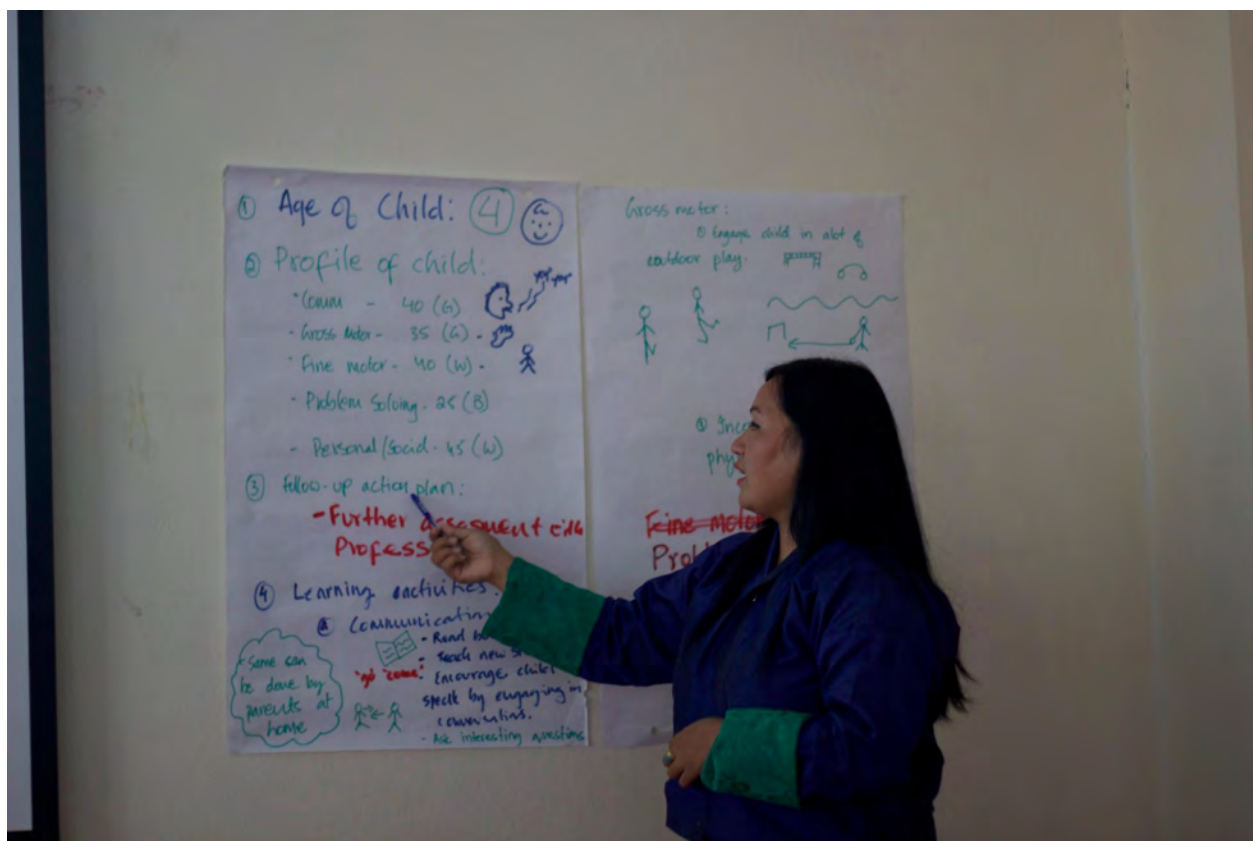
1. “Capacity Building in Serving People With Diverse Abilities” Programme



The Civil Society Organization Authority of Bhutan (CSOA) through the funding of Australian Development AID was able to lead 12 day training programme for professionals and parents of children with disabilities in September, 2015. ABS received this grant for enhancing the provision of service delivery to a wider group of individuals living with disabilities. With the help of the grant, ABS was able to conduct training for caregivers in the field of disability. The training was conducted by two different groups from India: Action for Autism from Delhi and Umeed Child Development Center from Mumbai. The project enhanced the efficiency in the delivering of quality care and the guidance to individuals living with disabilities in Bhutan, thereby empowering parents and caregivers.

40 Parents and Caregivers were trained in Understanding individual with Autism and milestones of Child Development

2. Empowering ECCD facilitators to Create inclusive Classrooms for Children with Special Needs



While there are currently many (Early Childhood Care Development Centers (ECCD) in Bhutan which provide early education for young children, however these services are limited to children with additional needs. Children with disabilities are often refused admission to these centers because of the lack of expertise, skills and facilities within these ECCD centers to support them. Therefore, ABS strives to reach out to more ECCD centers in order to provide formalized training to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills for the inclusion of children with disabilities. ABS training for ECCD facilitators was held from 6th to 10th of September, 2016. It was supported by Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI).

20 ECCD facilitators from 11 Dzongkhags were trained in Creating Inclusive Classrooms for children with special needs

ABS received positive feedback from the participants with one stating: "The training programme met my expectation, and in fact I can say that it exceeded my expectation. It is very informative and the practical component made it more realistic to apply once we are back to our center. It was great opportunity for us to meet with the children and social worker(s) at ABS".

B. Advocacy and Awareness Programmes

1. **ABS Programme on “Advocate, Empower and Protect Human Dignity of People living with Disabilities”**

The Project focused on the rights of individuals with disabilities and strives to protect them by educating leaders and citizens with proper information. Through this project, we have created greater awareness in three dzongkhags (Samtse, Tsirang and Paro), in which approximately 1,200 persons attended in numerous communities. The presentation included discussions of (1) the prevention of the increase of disability, (2) the rights of persons with disabilities, (3) the elimination of violence against persons with disabilities and (4) the identification of Disabilities. The project was supported by Canada Fund for Local Initiatives in 2015.



2. **Promoting Social Inclusion and Rights of People living with disabilities.**

ABS conducted an outreach awareness programme on “Disability Awareness” in which 957 people attended during the last week of December, 2016 in six Gewogs in Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag. So many people attended in one community that the program had to be presented twice. The awareness programme included discussions of: (1) the services that ABS provides; (2) the prevention of disabilities; (3) the types of disabilities; (4) the rights of children living with disabilities; (5) inclusion of persons with disabilities in society; (6) child protection; (7) and the personal experiences of an ABS Volunteer who is visually impaired. The project was supported by Canada Fund for local Initiatives (CFLI) in 2016.

3. Sensitization Programme on Child Protection and Child Rights



ABS conducted sensitization programme on (1) child protection, (2) the UNCRC (United Nation Convention on the Rights of Children and (3) the UNCRPD (United Nation Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) in Paro, Gelephu, Samtse and Thimphu. The project was supported by UNICEF.

About 1,135 teachers, professionals, students, religious bodies and community members were sensitized on the above topics.

7. OBSERVANCES OF INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY DAYS

A. International Down Syndrome



On 21st of March, 2016, ABS took the lead in observing the International World Down Syndrome Day. The theme was “My Friends, My Community-The Benefits of Inclusive Environments for Today’s Children and Tomorrow’s Adults.” It focuses on the acceptance and inclusion of individuals living with Down Syndrome into our societies and communities and ensuring that they take an active part. ABS coordinated and conducted various activities, including: (1) a School and College Awareness Campaign; (2) a Radio Awareness Campaign; (3) a “Rock Your Socks” Campaign; (4) a Down Syndrome Day Picnic at the Centenary Park, Thimphu; and (5) video interviews.

B. World Autism Awareness Day



ABS observed World Autism Awareness Day on 2nd of April 2015 for the third time in Bhutan. The programme raised awareness about autism by having parents and teachers, who deal with children with autism, share their experiences. The programme was followed by a fund raising dinner which raised Nu. 1,261,045. Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen, the Royal Patron of ABS, graced the occasion. HRH Ashi Kesang Wangmo Wangchuck, Ministers, Members of Parliament, members of ABS, various stakeholders, family members and children with autism attended the event to observe the day on the theme "Employment: The Autism Advantage." As part of the event, the Memorial Chorten, Amankora, Druk Hotel and Taj Tashi were lit in blue, the color for autism.

For April 2nd, 2016, World Autism Awareness Day, ABS initiated a previously recorded panel discussion on national television. On the morning of 1st of April, Miss Jean Ho, a speech therapist from Singapore volunteering at ABS, along with ABS Executive Director Ms. Beda Giri and Mr. Gadhen Chopel, Project Coordinator, Draktsho Vocational Training Institute, recorded a panel discussion on Autism at BBS which was aired later that evening. Prior to April 2nd, Miss Jean Ho also conducted a five-day workshop on Autism from 28th March to 1st April, 2016 with the parents of five children living with autism and also included house visits to the homes of the various participants. The goal of the workshop was to help parents better understand and communicate with their children. On the 2nd of April, 2016, under the Royal Command of Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen, ABS Chairperson



Dasho Kunzang Wangdi, Ms. Saldon Lhamu Norbu from His Majesty's Secretariat Office, Mr. Tamiki from Bussi-en, ABS Executive Director Ms. Beda Giri and the staff of ABS lit up Buddha Point in blue lights and took part in a Butter Lamp lighting ceremony. Le Meridien, Memorial Chorten and Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital also took part in the 'Light It Up Blue' initiative to raise awareness and show their support for autism.

C. 2016 Observance of World Cerebral Palsy Day



Bhutan observed the World Cerebral Palsy Day on 5th of October, 2016 for the first time in Bhutan. CP day was observed to create awareness about cerebral palsy and to ensure that children and adults with CP have the same rights, access and opportunities as anyone else in society. Individuals living with CP and their families gathered together to observe the day and to discuss with the audience how CP has affected their lives graced the program. Through the World CP day, ABS had the opportunity to raise awareness about CP in communities and assist others to look beyond the disability. The Chairperson highlighted the importances of the day to the participants.

D. International Day for Persons with Disabilities

ABS was a major participant in the year 2015 and 2016 International Day for Persons Living with Disabilities. The theme for the International Day for Persons with the disabilities was “Inclusion Matters: Access and Empowerment for People of all Abilities.” The event was held by ABS in collaboration with Buss-EN Group under the Tarayana Foundation. Ms. Jean Ho, a Speech Therapist from Singapore, gave a presentation and a generous donation to ABS of the Toy and Resource Library which aims to create a community resource to provide a range of educational and therapeutic toys to children with special needs.



The 3rd of December, 2016 Programme’s Theme was “Achieving 17 Sustainable Development Goals for the Future We Want.” Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck, The Royal patron of ABS, graced the occasion as The Chief Guest. Also present were the Honorable Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, the Health Minister Tandin Wangchuk, the Foreign Minister Lyonpo Damcho Dorji and The Chief Justice Tshering Wangchuk. ABS Chairperson Dasho Kunzang Wangdi gave with the Welcome Speech. Mr. Sidarth Pradhan and Mr. Pema Dorji shared their personal experiences living with disability. There was a presentation regarding the launch of the “Educational Resources on Communicating with Young Deaf Children” by the Wangsel Institute, Paro under the Ministry of Education. This new Resource CD, including how to sign in English and Dzongkha, was presented to Her Majesty by the Wangsel Institute. After the event, Her Majesty met with many differently-abled children and adults, individually and collectively. It was joint event of ABS and Ministry of Health .

8. ABS HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Developments in Staffing

ABS hired its first Communication Officer, its new Programme Officer, its new Accounts/Administration officer and its first Head of Education Programme, all of whom have enabled ABS to provide its services more efficiently and effectively. ABS also has had several Volunteers and Interns during this period.

B. Developments in Staff Training

Two ABS staff members traveled for training at the Anderson Center for Autism in New York for 9 months and 18 months respectively. One ABS staff member traveled for training at BUSSI-EN's Kanasawa Social Inclusion Programme, Hakusen City, and Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan for 6 months. One ABS staff member traveled for training at the "Adapt" Programme in Mumbai, India for 3 months. Staff also received other periodic training at ABS during 2015-2016.

9. ABS SUMMER PROGRAMME



The ABS Annual Summer Programme was held on 14th and 15th of July, 2016. The first day was a sports event at Druk School playground where children, caregivers and staff had fruitful sessions followed by lunch at Buddha point. The second day was a visit to the Botanical Garden to observe the various flora and fauna followed by a visit to the Lodrung Memorial Garden where children enjoyed watching golden fish and other species of fish. The event ended with a picnic by the side of the garden. The main objective of the Summer programme was to bring children out of their homes to develop confidence, interact with other children and also to enhance their knowledge on the arts and literature, their social environment and physical activities to improve their motor and socialization skills. A total of 25 families and children participated in the event.

10. WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY **ADAPTATION OF CENTENARY PARK**



Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen graced the ceremony to unveil the Wheelchair Accessibility Adaptation of the Centenary Park on 7th of June, 2016. The adaptation is part of an initiative to make public spaces accessible to people with disabilities upon the Royal Command of Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen to Make Bhutan Accessible. Experts designed structures to make the Centenary Park Wheelchair accessible, ramps and railings were installed by the Thimphu Thromde. The event was jointly organized by ABS, Thimphu Thromde, Bhutan Kidney Foundation and the Royal Society for Protection for Nature. Thimphu Thromde plans to work with ABS to take this initiative forward and to work on making other public areas in Thimphu accessible to people with disabilities, including planning for wheelchair accessibility of Clock Tower Square in Thimphu and National Memorial chorten funded by Tourism of Bhutan and Thimphu Thromde.



11. NATIONAL DISABILITY REGISTRATION SURVEY

ABS, along with Disabled Persons' Association of Bhutan, Tarayana Foundation, Draktsho, Bussi-en completed the National Disability Registration Survey in 2015 with the aim of collecting a comprehensive and qualitative data of people living with disabilities throughout the country. The survey compiled information on the total number of people living with disabilities in the country and how best to help and to better serve these individuals and their families. ABS covered disability registration survey in Paro, Tsirang, Zhemgang, Chhukha and Sarpang. The numbers of the individuals living with disability by dzongkhags are as follows:

1. **Chhukha: 446**
2. **Sarpang: 237**
3. **Zhemgang: 309**
4. **Paro: 159**
5. **Tsirang: 379**

12. FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

Fundraising is one of the most vital elements of ABS to meet its expenditures and for future sustainability. Without funds, our capacity is limited. However, our volunteers made a great effort to raise funds through successful shows. Through such programmes we had not only raised funds but also created awareness on the issues of diverse abilities in communities. The following are the fund raising activities conducted in 2015 and 2016:

Sl.No	Fundraising Activities	Amount Raised (Nu)
1	Charity Dinner on World Autism Awareness Day at Taj Tashi Hotel	12, 61,045
2	National Graduate Orientation Program Fundraising	1,00, 000
3	Joss Stone Concert	77, 240
4	Charities Run organized by Le Meridien Paro, Riverfront and Le Meridien Thimphu	68, 300
5	High Tea Fundraising at Taj Tashi Hotel	2,41, 155
6	Fund Raising Party at the Pulse Club	27, 700

Executive Director went for official tour in Queensland, Australia to establish network with universities. During the visit, two fund raising event were held and Aus \$ 6000 was raised to assist ABS in delivering services to Children and Families.

13. ABS ACTIVITIES ON EXPANSION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

For some time, ABS has wanted to create the ABS Interventional and Resource Centre in Thimphu as the first of several ABS Centers around the country. In 2016, ABS received initial architectural plans for the Centre which was created *pro bono* for ABS by a volunteer architect. ABS is grateful for his personal contribution. It is now in communication with international donor who has expressed possible interest in funding a portion of the Centre's construction. ABS soon will begin the process of trying to locate appropriate land in Thimphu on which to build the Centre.

14. DELEGATION VISITS

A. Visit by HRH Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and Kate Middleton, Duchess of Cambridge





On 14th of April, 2016, children and staff of ABS were honored to be invited to meet with Britain's HRH Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, and his wife, Kate Middleton, Duchess of Cambridge at Changlimithang Stadium during their visit to Bhutan.

B. 2016 Visit to ABS by the Bangladesh Ambassador His Excellency Jishnu Roy Chaudhuri and the Shuchona Foundation

On 14th of September, 2016, a team of 5 delegates from Bangladesh led by Vice Chairperson Prof. Pran Gopal Datta of Shuchona Foundation visited ABS. Shuchona Foundation is a not-for-profit advocacy, research and capacity-building organization specializing in neurodevelopment disorders and mental health issues. His Excellency Jishnu Roy Chaudhuri, Ambassador to Bhutan from Bangladesh, also accompanied the delegation. Professor P. G. Datta and the team shared that they were in Bhutan regarding the International Autism Conference which they are planning to conduct in Bhutan next year. The team already had several meetings with relevant agencies such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the World Health Organization (WHO) in Bhutan regarding the event. The team shared that they wanted to include ABS as technical partner in the conference. Prof. Pran Gopal Datta assured that this conference will help to build a long term association with ABS and the Shuchona Foundation.

C. 2016 Visit to ABS by the High Commissioner of Canada to India

On 22nd of November, 2016, The High Commissioner of Canada to India and Bhutan, His Excellency Mr. Nadir Patel, along with Ms. Pearl Wierenga, Project Manager of the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, and Ms. Mira Chatt visited ABS. The Canada Fund for Local Initiatives has been graciously supporting ABS since its initial phase and still provides much needed support. The delegation was given a brief presentation on ABS and the works of the organization by ABS Executive Director. His Excellency was briefed on the grants received by ABS from the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives and their utilizations by ABS which enhanced the delivery of services to a wider group of individuals living with diverse abilities. His Excellency expressed how happy he is with the work that ABS has been doing and will continue to support ABS, keeping in mind the objectives of both organizations. His Excellency also expressed his personal interest in helping ABS in terms of fundraising and linking ABS with similar Canadian NGOs.

15. ABS PUBLICATIONS

A. The ABS Training Manual for Professionals on Child Protection for Children with Disabilities



ABS published Training Manual for Professionals on Child Protection for Children with Disabilities which was supported by UNICEF Bhutan. The Manual was written by 2 physiotherapists from JDWNRH and Professionals from Australia. It provides clear guidance to professionals who come into contact with CWD on how to (1) prevent child abuse, (2) identify concerns relating to child protection and (3) take steps to ensure that CWD are protected at all times.

49 teachers including 10 Special Education Need teachers, 13 health workers and 20 professionals from Civil Society Organization were trained on Child Protection for children with disabilities.



B. The ABS Training Manual for Caregivers on Child Protection with Children with Disabilities

ABS published its ABS Training Manual for Caregivers on Child Protection with Children with Disabilities. The Manual provides caregivers with the following essential information: (1) it helps caregivers understand disability and the types of disability; (2) it helps caregivers understand the prevalence of children with disabilities in Bhutan; (3) it enables caregivers to examine the impact of disability on individuals, their families and society at large; (4) it informs caregivers of the rights, current laws and policies in place to protect the rights of CWD; (5) it raises awareness of child protection and what constitutes abuse of CWD; (6) it helps caregivers understand the signs and symptoms of abuse in children with disabilities; and (7) it informs caregivers whom to contact with concerns regarding child protection of children with disabilities.

ABS has trained about 49 parents and caregivers on child protection with the training manual.

C. ABS STRATEGIC PLAN

ABS has adopted its Strategic Plan in 2015 which focuses on the earnest delivery of programmes successfully and improving the long-term wellbeing of CWD so that they can coexist in harmony in society without stigma and discrimination. The ABS Strategic Plan has six Objectives:

1. To strengthen its organizational governance and general management;
2. To ensure financial stability and sustainability;
3. To improve the quality of clinical services;
4. To foster disability inclusive development and promote the rights of persons with disabilities;
5. To widen the coverage of ABS services; and
6. To engage in a robust monitoring and evaluation of its objectives.

16. ABS PARTICIPTION AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

- ABS is serving as Co-Chair for the **National Action Coordination Group (NACG)** for eliminating violence against Children. A National Action and Coordinating Group against Violence against Women and Children (NACG) is established in each South Asia Country (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka), and linkages are developed to the regional South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Women and Children (SACG). The purpose is to strengthen inter-agency work with governments and children groups to end violence against women and children. NACG is composed of UN agencies, multi-lateral and bi-lateral agencies, NGOs, civil society organizations and children's (girls and boys) and young people's groups.
- ABS is also a member of Bhutan Country Coordination Mechanism (hereinafter "CCM"). CCM is comprised of members representing government, private, civil society organization, people living with diseases, faith based organizations, and multilateral and bilateral partners. CCM is responsible for submitting proposals for GFATM financing, nominating the PRs and overseeing grant implementation. CCM is a country level entity that is a composed of all key stakeholders in a country's response to the three diseases (HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria).
- ABS is a task force member for the **Formation of National Disability Policy** which was convened by Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC)
- ABS is a High Level Inter-Agency task force member on the **UN CONVENTION on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** convened by Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).
- ABS is a task force member for **Formation of National Sanitation & Hygiene Policy** which was convened by Ministry of Work and Human Settlement (MoWHS)



17. Pledge Members

A. Individual Pledge Members

Premium Lifetime Member

1. Her Royal Highness Ashi Kezang Wangmo Wangchuck
2. Ms. Shaneen Nilofer , UNICEF Bhutan

Gold Lifetime Member

1. Aum Phub Zam, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Sliver Lifetime Member

1. Ms. Nancy Strickland, Bhutan Canada Foundation

Dedicated Lifetime Member

1. Aum Sangay Zam , Ministry of Education
2. Mr. Man Bahadur Ghaley, Save the Children Bhutan
3. Mr. Pema N. Nadik, Bank of Bhutan
4. Mr. Tshering Wangchuk ,Bhutan Broadcasting Services (BBS)
5. Mr. Tamiki Nakashima, Bussi-En Bhutan office
6. Ms. Pushpa Chhetri, Bhutan Media and Communications Institute
7. Mr. Dechen Dorji , World Wildlife Fund Bhutan
8. Mr. Karma L Dorji , Pelkhil School
9. Dr.Kunzang Getshen , JDWNR Hospital

B. Organization Pledge Members

1. Sunshine School, Dedicated Lifetime Member
2. Bhutan Foundation , Dedicated Lifetime Member

18. ABS INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS AND DONORS

A. National Donors

Bank of Bhutan
Bhutan Development Bank Limited
Bhutan National Bank
DANTAK
Etho Meto Tours and Travel
Hotel Gangtey Palace
Hotel Jumolhari
Le Meridian Hotel
Nima High School
Royal Insurances Corporation of Bhutan Limited
Sunshine School
Dr. Tobgyel School
His Excellency Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay , Honourable Prime Minister of Bhutan.

B. National Partners

Civil Society Organization Authority of Bhutan
Draktsho Vocational Training Center for Special Youth and Children
Disabled Persons' Association of Bhutan
Kidu Foundation
Tarayana Foundation
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Education
Radio Valley

C. International Partners and Donors

Action for Autism
Bhutan Foundation
Bussi-En Group, Social Welfare Organization
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives
Save the Children, Bhutan
Ummeed Child Development Center
Unicef Bhutan



19. ABS INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

RECEIPT AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT 2015-16 ABILITY BHUTAN SOCIETY RECEIPT AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30.06.2016

Amount in Ngultrum			
	Schedule	2016	2015
Opening Balances		4,751,392.64	2,605,328.08
Cash in hand		62,462.13	37.53
Cash at Bank	1	4,688,930.51	2,605,290.55
RECEIPTS:			
Receipt of funds from various sources	2	3,331,742.43	6,126,576.06
Salary Tax & Health Contributions		52,373.00	54,889.00
Other Recoveries	3	166,074.00	117,361.00
Personal Advance (Recoveries)	4	109,000.00	305,153.10
Tax Deducted at Source (TDS)		39,462.00	22,536.00
PW Advance (Recoveries)	5	243,000.00	278,935.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		3,941,651.43	6,905,450.16
TOTAL FUND AVAILABLE		8,693,044.07	9,510,778.24
PAYMENTS:			
Current Expenditure	6	3,677,813.50	3,576,467.10
Capital Expenditure	7	853,096.00	460,000.00
Salary Tax & Health Contributions (Remittance)		47,473.00	54,889.00
Other Remittance	8	153,614.00	117,361.00
Personal Advance	9	113,000.00	309,152.10
Tax Deducted at Source (TDS)		41,159.00	21,516.40
PW Advance	10	243,000.00	220,000.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS		5,129,155.50	4,759,385.60
Closing Balance		3,563,588.57	4,751,392.64
Cash in Hand		84.63	62,462.13
Cash at Bank	11	1,563,503.94	4,688,930.51
Tashi Bank: Fixed Deposit Account		2,000,000.00	-

Prepared by:

Approved by:

[Signature]
Finance Officer

[Signature]
Executive Director



RECEIPT AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT 2014-15
ABILITY BHUTAN SOCIETY
RECEIPT AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30.06.2015

Amount in Ngultrum

	Schedule	2015
Opening Balances		2,605,328.08
Cash in hand		37.53
Cash at Bank	1	2,605,290.55
RECEIPTS:		
Receipt of funds from various sources	2	6,126,576.06
Salary Tax & Health Contributions		54,889.00
Other Recoveries	3	117,361.00
Personal Advance (Recoveries)	4	305,153.10
Tax Deducted at Source (TDS)		22,536.00
PW Advance (Recoveries)	5	278,935.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		6,905,450.16
TOTAL FUND AVAILABLE		9,510,778.24
PAYMENTS:		
Current Expenditure	6	3,576,467.10
Capital Expenditure	7	460,000.00
Salary Tax & Health Contributions (Remittance)		54,889.00
Other Remittance	8	117,361.00
Personal Advance	9	309,152.10
Tax Deducted at Source (TDS)		21,516.40
PW Advance	10	220,000.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS		4,759,385.60
Closing Balance		4,751,392.64
Cash in Hand		62,462.13
Cash at Bank	11	4,688,930.51

Note:

The opening balance in Bank has increased by Nu.14,752.12 from Nu.2,590,575.96 to Nu. 2,605,290.55 after reconciliation by each bank.

Prepared by:


Finance Officer

Approved by:


Executive Director





20. ABS FUTURE PLANS

ABS is aspiring to be more professional with the support from much appreciated individuals, corporate, national and international supporters. ABS continues to develop and grow its four “Intervention programmes” described earlier. ABS future plan is to;

1. Build ABS National Center at Thimphu; and Five Regional Centers located at five Dzongkhags towards expanding our reach and services to the rests of the Dzongkhags in Bhutan;
2. Reach out to the communities, ABS will seek to create Family empowerment support group in two Dzongkhags;
3. Promote early identification of Children with Disabilities (CWD) and initiate early intervention with them;
4. Conduct further staff training and recruit professionals from relevant fields;
5. ABS will be one of the key partners of the International Conference on Autism and Neurodevelopment Disorders which is to be hosted by the Ministry of Health, Bhutan in coordination with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Bangladesh in April 2017 in Thimphu, Bhutan. The theme of the Conference will be ‘developing effective and sustainable multi-sectorial programme for individuals, families and communities living with Autism Spectrum Disorder(ASD) and other neurodevelopment disorders’.

21. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ability Bhutan Society (ABS) would like to acknowledge and express its heartfelt gratitude to all of its individual donors (both national and international), stakeholders, Civil Society Organization Authority, organizations, volunteers and supporters for their constant and attentive support of ABS. Their generous assistance has made a tremendous difference by enabling ABS to continue to deliver needed services to children with disabilities and their families.



ABS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

ABS envisions Empowering individuals with diverse abilities to live independently and with dignity in Bhutanese Society.

ABS solicits your/your organization's support to fulfill its vision through pledging one or more of the options below.

Your Pledge, Your Commitment to a Worthy Cause

Your pledge could be...

I. Membership

- **Premium Lifetime Members**
 - Individuals - Nu 30,000 or more per year
 - Organisations - Nu. 300,000 or more per year
- **Gold Lifetime Members**
 - Individuals - Nu 20,000 or more per year
 - Organisations - Nu.200,000 or more per year
- **Silver Lifetime Members**
 - Individuals - Nu 10,000 or more per year
 - Organisations - Nu.100,000 or more per year
- **Dedicated Lifetime Members**
 - Individuals - Nu 5,000 or more per year
 - Organisations - Nu.50,000 or more per year
- **One-Season Members**
 - Individuals - Nu 5,000 or more one-time contribution
 - Organisations - Nu.50,000 or more one-time contribution

II. Matching Funds

- Contribution to Match Funds received from individuals and/or organisations

III. Sponsorship

- Sponsorship from Individuals, Organisations, Government and Donors for:
 - (1) Capital Financing
 - (2) Specialised Equipment and materials
 - (3) Referrals, Specialist Services
 - (4) Trainings, Research, Advocacy and Lobbying
 - (5) In-kind endowments

Lifetime Members and those pledges above Nu.20,000/- will be honoured with plaque of honour from Her Majesty Gyaltsuen, The Queen of Bhutan, The Royal Patron of the ABS at an important ABS Function personally from Her Majesty or Her Majesty's *Kutshab*.

*** Contribution to ABS, in any form, is TAX Deductible**

(Contributor Declaration overleaf)



ABS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

ABS envisions Empowering individuals with diverse abilities to live independently and with dignity in Bhutanese Society.

UNDERTAKING

I,, moved by the plight and potential of those with different abilities and declaring my heartfelt wish to support the cause of ***"Empowering individuals with diverse abilities to live independently and with dignity within Bhutanese Society"***, do hereby pledge to become a (strike "or" or "and" whoever not required):

1. IndividualMember of the ABS
2. OrganisationalMember of the ABS
3. Donor to match Funds for
4. Sponsor to support

In such declaration of my/my organisation's wish and undertaking to fulfil the said requirements and contributions, I put my signature hereunder:

(Signature)

Contact Number:

Name: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____ Post Box: _____





Donation

Your contribution can make a lot of differences in the life of a person living with disability. Please donate:

National Donors

Cash/Cheque may be handed over directly at Ability Bhutan Society Office in Thimphu (or) Cash/Cheque may be wired into the Ability Bhutan Society's account with T Bank Ltd.,

Account No. **77777005865003**

International Donors

Standard Chartered Bank, New York, USA

Swift Code: SCBLUS33

ABS Routing No: 026002561

Account No. 3582-025720-001 of T Bank Ltd Thimphu

Swift Code **TBBTBTBT** (or)

Account No. **7771-100586-5002** of Ability Bhutan Society, T Bank Ltd (or)

Intermediary Bank in India: Axis Bank Ltd,

Siliguri Branch , West Bengal, India

IFSC Code: UTIB0000035

Beneficiary NAME AND ADDRESS: T bank Ltd, TCC

Complex, Thimphu

Account No. **910020017480903**



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att.com

Ability Bhutan Society

Near DHI office Mothithang

Post Box #1715

Thimphu, Bhutan

Tel/Fax: +975 2340747

Mobile: +975 17163060

Email: absbhutan@gmail.com

•Facebook : Ability Bhutan Society

www.absbhutan.org