

The functions of the Support Group

The Eutok Goemba Support Group is a group of volunteers from the community who is fully committed to the restoration of the Eutok Goemba monastery as well as the monastic school. The Group members have pledged their support to preserving the rich old heritage which, if lost, could never be recovered.

The Eutok Goemba Lam (Head Monk) is the Chairman of the Support Group. The Deputy Chairman, also from the community, assists the Chairman in making sure that the project work goes well and that quality of construction is maintained. The Gup (Village Headman) and the Mang Ap (Assistant Village Headman) make sure that all the supplies necessary for the works are made available. The Secretary who also functions as the Treasurer is fully responsible for making sure that the funds are available and that all expenses with regard to the project are made judiciously and that quality of materials purchased are maintained by the suppliers. The Secretary to the Group also functions as the focal person for all activities related to the project. The Group's Internal Auditor makes sure that all funds received are put into proper usage. Monthly report of expenses is presented to the Group through the Internal Auditor.

As the project does not have sufficient funds, the members have also been fully involved in fund raising. The project is, therefore, seeking for fund support from outside the country. To be able to complete on time, the project has also taken loans from the Bank.

Project Fund Management and Monitoring

A bank account has been opened with the Bhutan Development Bank Limited (BDBL) and the Bhutan National Bank (BNB) for the above projects. The Eutok Goemba Support Group in a meeting earlier decided that all bank transactions shall be done with the signatures of two members namely the Chairperson and the Secretary.

All funds and expenses for the project is presented to the Group on a monthly basis, and the Group apart from conducting its own internal auditing through the Internal Auditor will also request the Royal Audit Authority(RAA) of Bhutan to audit the project upon completion.

Transparency and Accountability

Upon the completion of the entire project, it is proposed that the names of all the donors and the final accounts will be displayed in the monastery as well as printed in the national newspaper.

Donors can also check the accounts of the project not just at the monastery but also on facebook once the entire project is completed.

For enquiry & contributions, donors may contact the following address :



SINGAPORE

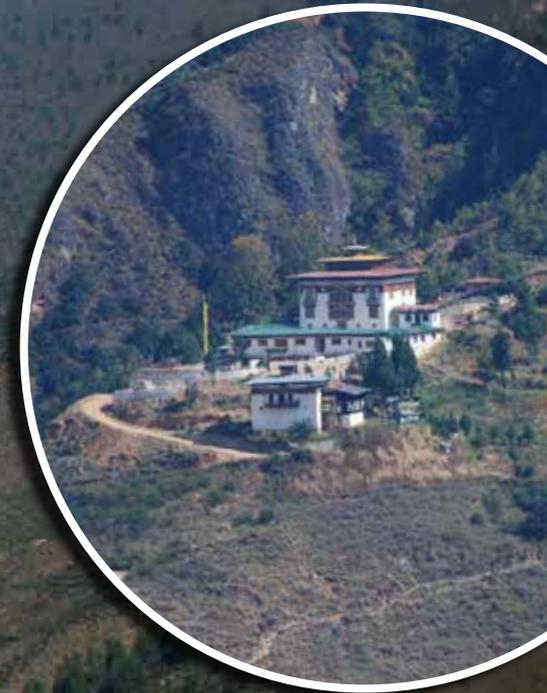
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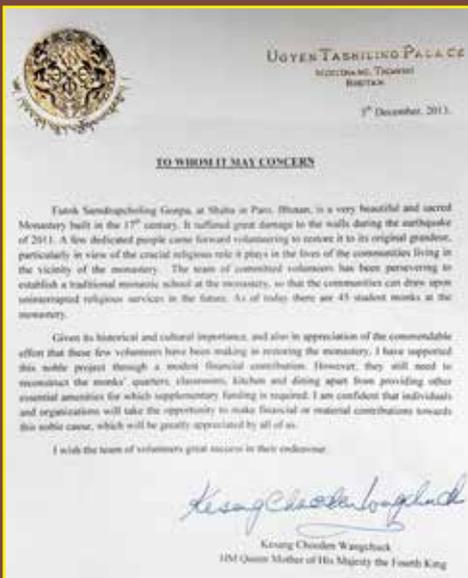


BHUTAN

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SOLICITING FUND SUPPORT FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE 17TH CENTURY MONASTERY AND THE MONASTIC SCHOOL PROJECT IN PARO, BHUTAN





The Renovation of the 17th Century Eutok Goemba Monastery, Paro, Bhutan

One of the oldest monasteries in the Paro valley in Bhutan is the 17th century Eutok Goemba. The three storied monastery, once abuzz with cultural and religious activities, was severely damaged by the September 21, 2011 earthquake.

As the government was unable to fund the renovation due to severe financial constraints, a group of committed volunteers calling themselves the "Support Group" felt that unless something was done urgently, the monastery could collapse to the ground and with it the entire history of the monastery, which is an important cultural and heritage site for the country as well as the world.

With a meagre fund of less than S\$ 22,000.00, work on the renovation began in March 2013 supported by the Open Air Prisoners' program of the Royal Bhutan Police. As the work progressed, the support group was able to receive donations and assistance from many well wishers including Her Majesty the Royal Grandmother Ashi Kesang Choeden Wangchuck.

Today, the renovation is almost complete. The entire project is expected to cost about S\$ 3,61,000.00. The Committee is able to collect about S\$ 2,61,000.00 but is short of about S\$ 100,000.00.

The monastery during the course of its renovation works was blessed with the visit of many people who made valuable contributions. One visitor and a strong supporter for the cause of the monastery, having seen the state of the structure and the conditions of the young monks living there, is Dr. Loretta Chen from Singapore.

"We are blessed with not just the financial contribution but also the heartfelt support by Dr. Loretta Chen," says Lam Tsewang Penjore, the Head Monk of the monastery. "And we are hopeful that through her we will be able to receive a lot of support from our brothers and sisters in Singapore." "On our part we will make sure that every contribution that we receive is well accounted and utilized for the purpose it has been given for. As a monk, I have nothing to offer our supporters except my prayers for their wellbeing."

Dr. Loretta Chen has personally visited the renovation site about three times and also met with the monks at the monastic school.



The Monastic School Project

The aftermath of the September 2011 earthquake was most felt by the young student monks of the 17th century monastery. The school's classroom which was also used as dining hall and dormitory had been seriously affected by the earthquake. Giant cracks in the walls was a constant reminder of the earthquake. Till a temporary structure was built, the monks continued to live in these structures.

The destruction caused by the earthquake gave rise to the "Monastic School Project". With this project, it is hoped that the monks will enjoy an improved life through the betterment of basic essential facilities.

Despite shortage of funds, the Eutok goemba renovation project also undertook the construction of a study hall, dining hall, kitchen, toilets and dormitory for the monks. Prior to the construction, the room that monks used for studying was also used for dining and dormitory at night. There was no proper kitchen and toilets for the monks. The monks even today do not have proper chairs, tables, beds and beddings.

Once again, Dr. Loretta Chen, is one of the pillars of support behind the idea of the "Monastic school project".

At the Eutok goemba monastic school, we have about 54 young monks mostly from poor family background. Some of them are orphans and some from parents who have been separated.

This project, depending on funds, aims at providing a good monastic education as well as English language courses for these young monks so that they grow up to be responsible and learned monks who will ultimately be able to look after themselves meaningfully and will also be able to render all possible assistance to children of similar background in the future.

"We hope to make these children into good monks who will be useful for the society as well as support the cause of the under privileged as they grow up," says the Head Monk.



A relic of the footprint on stone of the founder of Eutok Goemba

