



Teaching English in Thailand

Bhutanese youth take on the opportunity to earn more while working as English teachers to teach students who haven't learned the language before

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Lisha woke up to an unusual heat. She felt all too alien. It was 6 a.m. and she saw everything different outside of her window. She decides to have a quick shower and prepare for the day.

The thought of what to wear pre-occupied her mind at the breakfast. She automatically thought of wearing a matching tego with a kira. But she's not home! She quickly reminded herself. She's come to Thailand to teach English. So, she decides to wear formal skirt and shirt. She looks at the mirror and wishes the day was over.

Lisha Subba, 23, is placed in Pattaya Technical College, a vocational school, which is an hour's drive from Bangkok. The campus and infrastructure of the college overwhelmed her. She was quite lost to find her way to faculty's room. She managed it anyway.

The first day was dreadful. When she entered her class, she was greeted by fifteen silent students. She nervously nodded and gestured them to sit down. An awkward Pg.3



► Lisha with her students

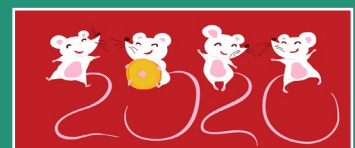


► A Bhutanese teacher taking a class

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Wishing everyone a Happy New Year



Picture Story: Together We Can

Sonam Choden
ICT Division



Top Left: Hon'ble Lyonpo, Ugyen Dorji Top Right: Sweepers and night guards
Below: Messengers, Drivers and Motor Transport Officer

Acknowledging the significant role of the supporting staff in achieving organization's success, Lyonpo Ugyen Dorji met the supporting staff of the Ministry following the year-end tenure in the office.

Despite busy schedule Lyonpo personally took time to discuss activities, issues and challenges faced by them while working in the office. Alongside, the session also served as a platform to listen to suggestions and exchange views on ways to optimize the benefits of working together under one umbrella.

Lyonpo in his address said, "Success will come and go, but integrity is forever." So one need to live and work hard with honesty, ethics and succeed with integrity, he added; citing driver Tshering Norbu as an example.

Lyonpo will also be meeting the other officials of the ministry in due course of time.

From Pg.1

moment ensued. Lisha felt at loss of words to break the ice with her students. She was told they did not have prior learning of English language. The first day was spent trying to find a way to connect with the students. Lisha used all manners of sign language and the little Thai language she learned before being sent abroad. "The first class was the longest one of my life having to deal with students who did not have any background on English language," Lisha recounted her experience to the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources (MoLHR). She's loving her job now. She smiles and quips this advice: "Waking up early; getting dressed neatly and decently; reaching on time and never losing temper; are the few most important things that one needs to practice at all times as a teacher."

Sonam Chophel, 22, has taken his job at Ratchaburi Technical College. "I'm loving my job," Sonam said with a smile. "I'm happy to have availed this opportunity to teach abroad." Lau Raj Bhattarai, 26, has been teaching in Thailand for past two years. "The language barrier was a challenge in the beginning. Today, I'm happy that my students can at least communicate with me in English," he said.

Lisha and Sonam are batch of 2019 selected from among 500 applicants who applied for the job of teaching English across institutes in Thailand. The Ministry annually selects about two dozen Bhutanese youth to taken on such opportunity. The job is advertised in mass media including Ministry's website and social media. In 2019, about 25 slots were announced.

Lisha's hopes were down against the huge applications. She knew it was going to be a daunting ride to the top. All she could do was try to progress through criteria of selection procedures. Shortlisting through documents verification, written exam and viva voice were the hurdles Lisha faced to get to the top 25. But the test was not over until she has completed a training in basic Thai language and teaching pedagogy. Bhutanese fluent in Thai taught the language to the candidates and experts from Paro College of Education (PCE) oriented them on teaching.

Lisha always dreamt of working abroad. Being a teacher never crossed her mind. Two weeks of intensive training equipped her with fundamentals of being a teacher. Like her, the twenty-four others were so excited to work abroad.

Air travel was first time for most of them. Their families have accompanied them till the airport. It was a bittersweet moment for many to depart. Luckily, they were escorted by Ministry's officials to find their employers in Thailand. When they arrived, they were received by Thai officials. The greetings involved garlanding. The youth were overjoyed by the warm welcome. The young teachers were blown away by the glitters of metropolitan while driving through Bangkok city. A grand accommodation in a luxury hotel made it feel like a vacation. Next day, dressed as Bhutanese, the young teachers attended a ceremony where they were formally handed over to representatives from the employer institutes. Youth were happy to see folks join from Royal Bhutanese Embassy in Bangkok. Soon it was time for young teachers to disperse and go to their respective workplaces across Thailand. They embraced the adversity with their passion to fulfill their mission.

The young teachers are aware that their workplaces will not be the luxury hotel. They are told to keep their expectation low, and their hearts open. Some Bhutanese teachers have connected so well with the locals that it didn't feel strange anymore to work abroad.

More than 200 Bhutanese youth are working as English teachers in Thailand since the program started in 2013. It is the collaboration between MoLHR and Office of the Vocational and Educational Commission (OVEC) of the Royal Thai Government. The teachers are given a year's contract. Some are still teaching having renewed their contract several times.

Thailand has shown lot of demand for Bhutanese teachers. Starting 2020, the demand for Bhutanese teachers is expected to increase. More Thai agencies want Bhutanese teachers. Opportunities seems abound. And we're happy to open the doors to our youth.



Candidates undergoing teaching training



Candidates appearing exam



Conducting oral interview

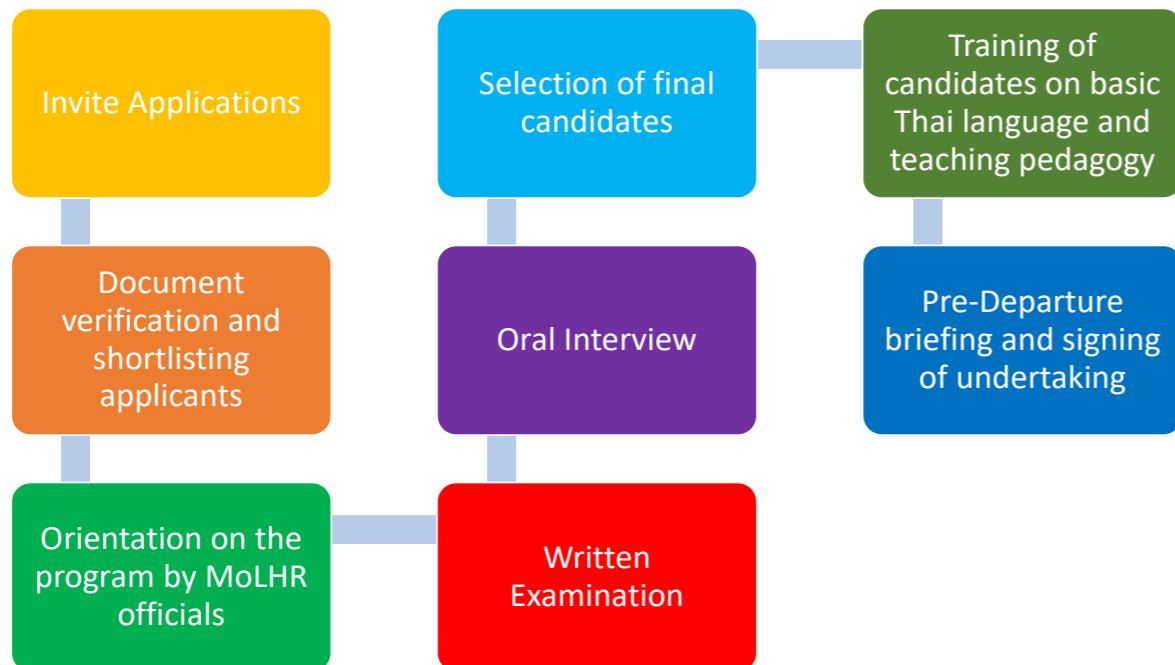


Top 25 after completion of training



Apartment for Bhutanese teacher at Ratchaburi Technical College, Thailand

Selection Process of English Teacher



Chumo Wangmo
Regional Office, Gelephu



Students of Damphu Central School attending counseling program

Employment counseling program to the schools is one of the major components of the works carried out by employment officers in the regions. Notably, due to academics and other extra-curricular activities the students are ignorant of job market scenario. The employment counseling program is conducted with an objective to make jobseekers aware on the current labour market information, so that it will assist in making a right decision in choosing their career. Yearly employment officers cover all the middle and higher secondary schools. As of today Gelephu region has completed three dzongkhags (Sarpang, Tsirang and Dagana) and counseling program at other three dzongkhags: Bumthang, Zhemgang and Trongsa are scheduled to be conducted soon.



Letting the students know the current scenario of labour market

Critical Skills Training

Skills for jobs and livelihood



Critical Skills Training (CST) is implemented in partnership with different registered training providers in the country. Skills offered ranges from 3 to 12 months. The objective of the program is to:

- Provide Skills required to foster meaningful and gainful employment of job seekers through skills aligned to the labour market requirement, and
- Meet the critical HR requirement of our industry through supply of skilled and competent workforce.

For the 2019 & 2020 intake, CST will be offered to about 800 jobseekers both in-country and ex-country. Some of the skills areas are:

•Food Production	Bakery and Confectionery	•Hair and Beauty	Front Office	•Massage Therapist
House Keeping	•Cable TV Technician	Food and Beverage Associate	•Bhutanese Food Production	Visual Effect Artist
•Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD)	Home Appliance Repair	•Photography and design	Mobile Phone Technician	•Dairy Product Development
Fashion Design	•Food and Fruit Processing	Furniture Making	Chocolatier	Traditional Healing & Therapy



Certification

Skills provided under CST will lead to National Certification by the Department of Occupational Standards (DOS), MoLHR.



Job Facilitation

Skills will be complemented with On-the-Job training to provide industry-based experience/learning opportunities. Trainees will be provided employment facilitation support.



Entrepreneurship

Skills will be complemented with Entrepreneurship training to enable those who are interested in setting up their own small business using the skills learned through CST.

Admission

Training areas will be announced at www.molhr.gov.bt and in print media. An applicant must meet the following criteria:

- Be registered as job seekers;
- Have valid security clearance certificate;
- Have valid Citizenship Identity card (CID);
- Should not have availed any other program supported by MoLHR in the past (with the exception of University Graduates Internship Program and Pre-Employment Engagement Program);
- Have minimum qualification as specified for each skills area;
- Must be 17 to 29 years at the time of application deadline, and 18 years at the time of employment; and
- The selected candidates must successfully complete the training and take up the post training employment.

Scholarship

CST is fully funded by the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources. The MoLHR provides tuition scholarship for the whole duration of the training. In addition, a stipend of Nu. 1500 per month will be provided throughout the training duration.

Stay Informed

Ministry of Labour and Human Resources webpage

www.molhr.gov.bt

Job Portal- Register as a job seeker to avail our services

<http://www.molhr.gov.bt/JobPortal/>

Social Media

Facebook: [facebook.com/molhrbt/](https://www.facebook.com/molhrbt/)

YouTube: [youtube.com/channel/UCzXLgxhfP1TJ-CQTj9ZpDPw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzXLgxhfP1TJ-CQTj9ZpDPw)

Twitter: twitter.com/MOLHRBhutan

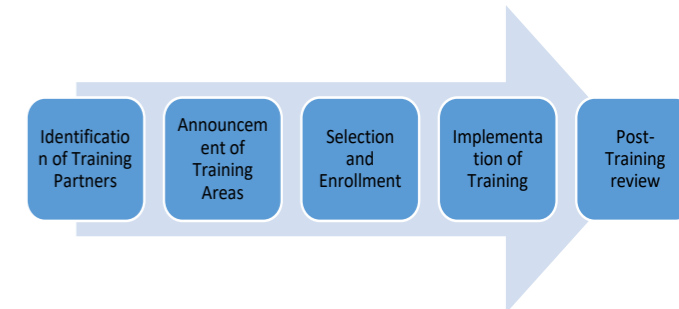
Contact us

HRSDD Office - 02-330419

Employment Service Center – 02-334495/ 330577

Process

The training partners are identified in the month of July and November. Training announcement will be made from November 2019 onwards. Announcements are made in the MoLHR webpage or through different media outlet. Job seekers registered with MoLHR can also expect SMS messages on their phone about the skilling opportunities.



About HRSDD

The Human Resource and Skills Development Division (HRSDD), Department of Employment and Human Resources (DoEHR) is the key agency responsible for planning and implementation of CST. The HRSDD also provides upskilling and reskilling opportunities to workforce engaged in different economic sectors.



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