

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ZORIG CHUSUM

E-NEWSLETTER (BIANNUAL EDITION)



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## GLOBAL PEACE PRAYER FESTIVAL

Traditional Arts & Poster Exhibition

4<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> November 2025



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ZORIG CHUSUM, THIMPHU



## Highlights

His Majesty's Visit: A  
Milestone Event of 2025

A Moment of Honor: Our Role in  
the Thai Royal Visit

Zorig Goes Global: Trained First  
Cohort of International Students

## His Majesty's Visit: A Milestone Event

On 16th April 2025, His Majesty's visit to the institute became a deeply memorable occasion for everyone present. For both trainees and faculty, simply being able to listen to His Majesty in person felt like a rare honor and a reminder of our responsibilities to the nation. His Majesty spoke about the need to keep pace with a rapidly changing world by fostering innovation, nurturing an entrepreneurial spirit, and adopting new technologies, all while safeguarding Bhutan's timeless cultural and spiritual traditions. He further highlighted the need to align institutional facilities and teaching methodologies with international standards. With deep concern for future, His Majesty urged the trainees to uphold Bhutanese values, work diligently, and embrace lifelong learning to be able to navigate an increasingly volatile and uncertain economic environment.



NIZC joins the Department of Workforce  
Planning and Skills Development in  
welcoming Dasho Phub Rinzin as the  
New Director General.



## Contributing to the Global Peace Prayer Festival

The National Institute for Zorig Chusum took part in the preparation work for the Global Peace Prayer Festival.

## Where Tradition Meets Tourists – A Daily Scene at the Institute

Tourists visiting the institute take great interest in observing trainees engaged in various forms of traditional art, making it a vibrant attraction throughout the year.



## Celebrating the Fourth Druk Gyalpo's Legacy through Poster Art

In celebration of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo's 70th birth anniversary, a poster exhibition was launched on 11th November 2025. Trainees from each trade showcased entries on the theme "Noble Achievements of HM the Fourth Druk Gyalpo," highlighting their creativity and talent.



## Experience Bhutan's Living Arts at the Global Peace Prayer Festival



Visitors at the festival got hands-on with Bhutan's rich artistic heritage at the Institute. From watching trainees at work to trying crafts themselves, guests enjoyed a vibrant celebration of traditional arts.





## A Moments of Honor: Our Role in the Thai Royal Visit

During the historic State Visit of Their Majesties King and Queen of Thailand from April 25–28, 2025, On 27<sup>th</sup> April, at a special exhibition at Lingkana Palace, we displayed works from various trades, including wood carving, tailoring, sculpting, gold & silver smithing, and painting. This experience was invaluable, highlighting our cultural heritage and setting a new standard for our future endeavors.

## Honoring Our Traditions

The Institute's trainees and staff perform regular prostrations and offerings at the in-house temple that house a sacred statue of Guru Rinpoche believed to be more than half a century old. Monthly rituals coincide with the waxing and waning moons, while annual ceremonies mark major Buddhist occasions, supported by benefactors and alumni.



## Fresh on Campus: Our Latest Program



The Diploma in Fashion and Apparel Design, a 20-month course, has recently been introduced with the aim of nurturing creativity, building technical expertise and entrepreneurial mindset. By bringing together traditional practices and modern approaches, the program is designed to prepare students for dynamic opportunities in design and fashion, and production industries.





## Threads & Strokes: Zorig Goes Global

The Institute welcomed its first batch of 10 international students to pursue Bhutan's traditional arts under the Bhutan Summer Skills Program, piloted by the Department of Workforce Planning and Skills Development, MoESD. They were trained in traditional Bhutanese painting and traditional Bhutanese embroidery, gaining both artistic skills and cultural insights into Zorig Chusum. Their participation enriched the learning environment, fostered cross-cultural exchange and promoted Bhutanese artistic traditions at the global level.

## Commemorating the Strength and Spirit of Women

The Institute celebrated the International Women's Day on March 8, 2025, under the theme "Accelerate Action." The event included a poster competition on gender equality and the launch of a Free Emergency Sanitary Pad program.

We extended our gratitude to the RENEW-BEST Project for their financial support on making the program without which we maynot have been able to observe the important day.







## Proud moment: First place in Painting

In celebration of National Zorig Day, the Department of Workforce Planning and Skills Development, MoESD, held the 2nd National Skills Competition from May 8–12, 2025, with over 49 participants competing in seven trades. In Painting trade, Threchhu Dorji, a painting trainee of NIZC, secured first place.

To mark the occasion, NIZC also organized an in-house competition, awarding prizes across trades to inspire trainees and promote pride in craftsmanship.

## Crafting Clarity: The Gold and Silver Work Handbook Launched

On 12th May 2025, during the celebration of National Zorig Day at the Thimphu Clock Tower, Her Excellency Lyonpo Yeezang De Thapa, Minister of Education and Skills Development, inaugurated the “Gold and Silver Work Handbook.” The handbook is a valuable resource for preserving traditional crafts and supporting our trainees’ learning.



## Showcasing Bhutanese Artistry on Prestigious Platforms



- Showcased trainees’ creativity through painting and live craft demonstrations at the Bhutan Innovation Forum 2024.
- Exhibited products at the 41st Asian Bankers Association meeting at the sacred Dungkar Dzong.
- Exhibited products during a sacred concert blending tradition, contemporary voices, and Yo-Yo Ma’s artistry.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



My journey proves that even an ordinary person can achieve extraordinary things through hard work and belief in self worth.

## How Zorig Shaped My Destiny

I came from a humble background in Mongar with little formal education, but I never let that hold me back.

I joined the National Institute for Zorig Chusum in 1999. I dedicated myself to learning sculpture, overcoming many challenges to prove myself. After training under masters in Bhutan, India, and Nepal, I've been creating statues for temples and monasteries across Bhutan and abroad since 2012.

This craft has provided a stable income and allowed me to train other young Bhutanese. I believe skill is the key to self-reliance, and with passion and determination, anyone can turn their craft into a meaningful livelihood while preserving our culture.

– Karma Tenzin

## Level Up Fast: The Accelerated Skilling Program

To empower unemployed Bhutanese youths without access to further education, the institute has launched an accelerated skilling programme to equip them with skilling vocational skills. The initiative was closely aligned to His Majesty The King's vision of developing skilled Zorig artisans for the Gelephu Mindfulness City project.



### Courses We Offer

#### National Diploma Courses

1. Painting
2. Fashion and Apparel Design

#### BQF Certificate 2&3 Courses

1. Painting
2. Woodcarving
3. Gold and Silver Smith
4. Embroidery
5. Tailoring
6. Sculpture

#### Institute Certificate Courses

1. Painting
2. Woodcarving
3. Gold and Silver Smith
4. Embroidery
5. Tailoring
6. Sculpture
7. Applique



## KNOW ABOUT INSTITUTE



### The Legacy of Zorig: A Heritage of Skills and Artistry

The National Institute for Zorig Chusum (NIZC) is Bhutan's premier institute dedicated to the preservation and promotion of traditional arts and crafts. It was established in 1971 by HRH Princess Dechen Wangmo Wangchuck on the command of His Majesty the Third Druk Gyalpo, King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck.

### Current Statistics of Staff

- Female Trainer: 5
- Male Trainer: 16
- Female Support Staff: 10
- Male Support Staff: 10

### Current Statistics of Trainees

- Regular Female Trainee: 38
- Regular Male Trainee: 94
- Accelerated Skilling Program(ASP) Female Trainee: 25
- Accelerated Skilling Program(ASP) Male Trainee: 55

Explore more about NIZC at [nizc.edu.gov.bt](http://nizc.edu.gov.bt)

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