

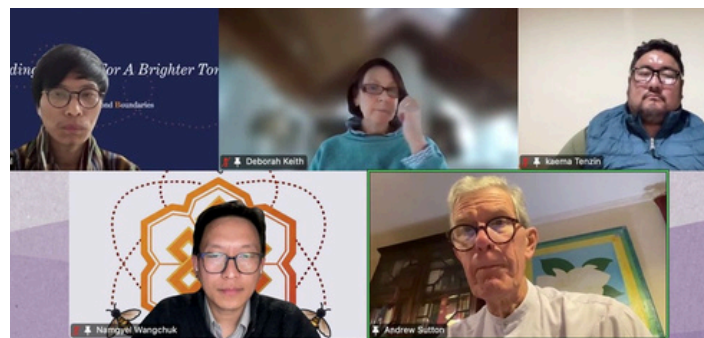


1. *Bhutan Beyond Boundaries* launched

On 20 March 2026, Bhutan Beyond Boundaries was launched with a panel discussion, titled, 'Navigating Transitions: Insights Into a Meaningful and Productive Stay Overseas'. The network has two inter-related objectives, first, to build human capital through networking, mentoring and knowledge sharing; and second, to build social capital by forging deeper and closer connections with friends of Bhutan and Bhutanese anchored on three pillars of support, connection and empowerment.

The members of the panel included, Andrew Sutton, Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the UK, Hon'ble Deborah Keith, Chairman, The Bhutan Society of the UK, Karma Tenzin, Vice President, Bhutanese Wellbeing Association York and Namgyel Wangchuk, a founding Member of Bhutan Beyond Boundaries.

Participants expressed the relevance and the need for such a platform geared towards developing human and social capital, and fostering deeper connections between Bhutanese and Friends of Bhutan. The members of the panel expressed the need for closer collaboration including formalisation of partnerships. The launch of the network on 20 March is to coincide with the International Day of Happiness. Bhutan Beyond Boundaries Website launched - [LINK](#)



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Pema Yangzom, presented a paper on 'Housing as a Determinant of Development and Health Outcomes in Bhutan' at the Housing Studies Association Annual Conference in Sheffield, UK, held from 20 - 22 April 2026. Pema has been awarded the prestigious Alan Holmans Award 2026 for her outstanding work at the intersection of housing, sustainability, and health.

To get in touch with her, email her at pemaa.yangzom@gmail.com



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1. *Za-Chum (Picnic)*

The Bhutanese Community in London will be celebrating the third annual Za-Chum festival on 25 July 2026. Since its beginnings in 2024, Za-Chum has become a special occasion for the Bhutanese community to come together, enjoy favourite traditional meals, celebrate the summer season, and take a meaningful pause from busy daily life to reconnect, reflect and feel grounded within their community. Reach out to our member Dawa at ydawaw@gmail.com for more information.

2. *What brought me abroad? Embracing my calling and finding purpose*

More information on this event will be shared very soon.

BEES CARRY NEWS FROM BHUTAN

1. *Bhutan to join the World Trade Organisation*

The Bhutanese government has submitted 17 accession-related documents including the Draft Working Party Report to the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The government aims to become a member by 2028. Bhutan has been an observer at the WTO for more than two decades. Bhutan's Working Party was established on 06 October 1999. Bhutan revived the interest to join the WTO in 2023. More about Bhutan's accession status can be found at:

https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/a1_bhoutan_e.htm

2. *108 Chorten at Gelephu Mindfulness City*

The momentum is building in Gelephu Mindfulness City. In the latest developments, the works are being done towards construction of 108 stupas, Jangchub Chorten (the Stupa of Enlightenment) to be completed in a single day, on 01 November 2026.

These developments follow His Majesty the King's address during the 118th National Day announcing the plan for Gelephu as 'the first Buddhist city'. More about 108 stupas can be found here: [LINK](#)
As of 12 May 2026, 8 spiritual projects have been approved in Gelephu Mindfulness City.

3. *Deliberations of the Parliamentary Session*

The fifth session of the fourth parliament began on 14 May. The parliament is deliberating on the Renewable Energy Tax Exemption Bill of Bhutan 2026, Agreement between the Kingdom of Bhutan and the Republic of Singapore for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the prevention of Tax evasion and avoidance. Other bills include the Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill 2026, and the Convention on Civil Aviation Amendment 2016. The Prime Minister's Annual Report on the State of the Nation is scheduled on 16 June. The session will conclude on 17 June 2026. It is the 37th session of the National Council and the 5th session of the fourth National Assembly of the Fourth Parliament.

More about parliamentary deliberations can be accessed at: [LINK](#) and [LINK](#)

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