

Inauguration of Professional Development Centre, Tsirang

On 1 November 2018

Address by Hon'ble Chief Guest - *Dasho Ugen Chewang, Chairman, DHI*

Distinguished Guests, Auditor General and my friends from the Royal Audit Authority.

I am privileged and fortunate to associate myself with the RAA yet for another time. It's always a pleasure. This time to celebrate and rejoice the fruition of the efforts we jointly planned some years ago! I congratulate the Hon'ble Auditor General and his team for having continued the perseverance and ensuring that it culminated into what we envisaged as epitome of professional excellence. Yes, I proudly say that it was during my tenure as the Auditor General that we conceptualized the creation of such a learning institute in furthering the professionalism in auditing profession. I am really happy that this had become a reality today. The Hon'ble Auditor General and his team deserves the credit for having endured the challenges in bringing it into a desired shape. I can feel the ecstasy the present team shares in marking the great and significant event and milestone of this institution. Notwithstanding all possible constraints, you have succeeded with your sheer spirit and determination. I congratulate all of you for this success.

Today, we see the jubilant opening of this professional institute, which is geared to provide comparable facilities and learning environment, and of all these, it is indeed a great delight to see the ushering in the new dimension

and historic development in the field of auditing and accounting services in the region. I am sure that it will prove worthy of huge investment and ensure value for money in every Chhetrum invested into it.

I would like recollect some of the trails of how it was conceptualized and garnered every possible support of the Royal Government of Bhutan. It was in 2005, the proposal was put to the Lhengye Zhungtsog followed by deliberation during 87th session of then National Assembly. The legislative authority saw merit of the proposal and graciously approved the commencement of construction. The fund was however uncommitted. Later in 2009, we were fortunate that we found ourselves supported by the Government of India with the total committed fund of Nu. 150 million. The process of construction started from 2011 with approval of activities by the GNH and MoF.

Firstly, I take this opportunity to thank the Royal Government of Bhutan for all kinds of support rendered in realizing RAA's aspiration to create such historic institution. Without the funding from the GOI, it could have been a great challenge to bring to the desirable shape and on behalf of the Government as well as the Royal Audit Authority, I extend my warmest gratitude to the Government of India for their generous support. In this long process, RAA has had long associations with the Ministry of Finance and the Gross National Happiness and has received numerous supports. Their

valuable contribution and support definitely deserve due appreciation and gratitude.

As you operationalize the training institute, you have yet another daunting challenge of realizing the aspired goals. This entails putting in more efforts into core business and focusing on being more relevant to the purpose for which it was conceived. Today, this institute is rendered complete in terms of its physical forms and structures. But only with sustained effort and the ability to actualize the plans and intents, can we see the actual attainment beckoning. I hope that with the dedicated team already in place, the preparedness of the institution to undertake its core business is ensured. Today's event marks only the beginning of actualizing the dreams and intents. The real challenges lie ahead and that must be overcome.

The initiative of RAA in offering training would help in steering RAA's auditing systems in a new direction and diversify its skills. Over the years, we observed that the RAA has experienced overhaul in the way it undertakes its audit. With the implementation of ISSAIs, we see phenomenal growth of auditing profession specifically in terms of conducting quality audits in compliance to the international standards and practices. By offering a wider range of courses to our auditors and Bhutanese participants, and also to the participants from peer organizations from the region, we not only nurture talent for our nation but also would help elevate our own status as a regional

knowledge hub. This is very much aligned to the goals of integrating RAA into international arena and to be seen as active global player.

It gives me immense pleasure to be back at the RAA to witness the inauguration of the Professional Development Centre. I hope that PDC will serve as platform for professional growth, to explore deeper collaboration, to promote research and exchange of expertise and training in auditing fields. This exciting initiative shall come to fruition with enduring and unwavering efforts of all those who are associated and the committed leadership of the RAA. The birth of this professional institute signifies strong commitment and shared vision of Royal Government and GOI to enhancing professionalism and collaboration.

With a view to promoting professional excellence, the PDC is poised to support the auditors and officials in related field in their pursuit of continuing education. This institute is the first ever that is establish to respond to the needs of further capacitating our professionals in the fields of accounting and auditing. With the distinctive system of designing of training curricula backed by specialized research unit, I foresee that the institute grows by leaps and bounds and turn out to be much sought after by both within and outside professionals seeking to broaden their horizons of knowledge and skills. I am hopeful that collaborations with relevant stakeholders both from within and outside will further deepen in the years to come.

The selection of the area has been greatly influenced by the national policy of balanced regional development. By virtue of being centrally located, it was seen as more convenient factor in terms of accessibility and reach from both Gelephu Domestic Airport and Paro International Airport. We hope that bringing international training centre to this place will have lots to offer to the locality in terms of boosting their economy indirectly. Tsirang provides diverse and vibrant cultures, appealing natural vegetation extending far and wide, majestic view of surrounding gorgeous hills and mountains and many other unique social and cultural aspects to treat the visitors from both within and outside. The uniqueness and ambience it has to offer, was another compelling force in choosing this place to host this institution.

The RAA, which always aspires to deliver value and benefits to the citizens at large has realized the importance of its professional capacity to support public sector governance. During my entire tenure as Auditor General from 2005 to 2015 with the Royal Audit Authority, I have always accorded highest priority in development of the human resources. I have always believed that the quality of its reports and recommendations is must to create the desired impact. The Quality of its products can be sustained only through your professional work and must be considered as prerequisite to building institutional credibility. And hence, high level of professionalism is the hallmark of any SAI.

It is through such training institute that offers platform to learn and re-learn and embrace highest level of professionalism. Besides, the way the training programmes are to planned, it is geared to provide interactive forum to share, explore and discuss contemporary topics of interest which is a good sign of global integration. It will certainly be a great place for convergence of knowledge from across the borders in the process of which, RAA shall stand to benefit immensely in terms of furthering its capability in delivering its sacred mandates.

Lastly, while I share the same aspirations as you, I take this opportunity to offer my Tashi Delek and wish all of you stand to benefit from this institute and pray that it becomes epitome of excellence in learning. Let this be the start of long journey of creating positive impact in promoting good governance in the country, which is considered as encompassing pre-requisite to realizing our collective of Gross National Happiness. I also offer my good wishes for the successful take off and many successes in the years to come.

Tashi Delek
