



THE LODEN REPORT

Losar 2023



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The gift of knowledge is the best gift.

- The Buddha in Dharmapada, XXVIV.21

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kuzuzangpo La!

Greetings to all as we usher in the new Water Hare Year. May the wit and wisdom of the hare, bestow upon all near and afar.

Coming out of the pandemic, the year started calm and in anticipation to welcome our supporters after the longest pause. The great resignation wave did not spare Bhutan and a continuous exodus of young Bhutanese to foreign land continues. Numerous transformation efforts to graduate Bhutan out of the Least Development Countries (LDCs) at unaccustomed speed for the Bhutanese created an unsettling mood.

The unsettling remnants of the pandemic and fast paced transformation reminded us at Loden, the aptness of our vision and the activities we pursue in creating an enlightened society through entrepreneurial educational engagement with cultural hindsight and sensitivity.

Being able to physically connect with our foreign trustees and supporters in September, 2022 was a highlight after numerous years of virtual sessions. Without the support of the office team, the trustees, the supporters and the founder, my first year of Presidency would not have been smooth sailing.

Beside continuing our regular educational programmes, we received generous support from partners including the British Library and Boiling Point. Our total scholarships increased to 84 and child sponsorships to 207. Apart from a successful launch and visit of the UNESCO ICHCAP team from South Korea for the 10 cultural documentaries, the culture team through the British Library support has initiated the Endangered Archives Programme scheduled to be completed in 2 years.

Promoting entrepreneurship and funding over 300 entrepreneurial projects including existing ventures, startups, and student businesses, we put together Druk Tshogrig Gatoen- a 3-day entrepreneurs festival to celebrate and reignite the entrepreneurial spirit.

We thank you and shall count on your continued support and generosity.

Sangay Tshering



NOTES FROM AFAR

I was involved with Loden in 2016 after meeting Françoise Pommaret at the "Friends of Bhutan" after a tourist trip to Bhutan in 2010 and Anne and Gerard Tardy, who introduced me to the Loden Foundation during a lovely lunch under the apple trees of Villa Mine on France's west coast.

As an entrepreneur who's really passionate about Bhutan and its philosophy, connections were made, and I found myself on the benches of the G.E.W (Global Entrepreneurship Week) in Thimphu at the end of 2016. Lopen Karma Phuntsho presented the conference theme of "Buddha-business" that morning. What a revelation!

When England decided to close its economic borders with Europe in 2021, fundraising became more difficult. The French team then established the Fonds de Dotation in France to fundraise.

Since its inception, the FDD Loden Initiatives has produced two presentations of the Loden Foundation's activities and raised approximately €50,000. This year, the FDD continues its activities, and more than 20,000 euros have already been collected.

It is rewarding to make a small contribution to this beautiful mission, to support a vision of social entrepreneurship that we so need today, to help young Bhutanese realise their dreams through quality education, and to preserve this Buddhist cultural gem in the heart of the Himalayas. I hope to see you at the next Druk Tshongrig Gatoen to meet the new entrepreneurs and team members!

Thierry Cantereau



Many greetings from Japan. Loden Japan is a small group. Before Covid-19, we visited Bhutan every year. The Loden Japan group was able to support scholarships to the youths and is slowly garnering support for Bhutan and Loden. In these three years, we had no chance to see the beautiful mountains. We strongly hope to see you again this year. We hope to see you soon!

Tadashi and Noriko Nishihira



It is now ten years since I became very involved with Loden, especially in the Entrepreneurial Programme. It is quite clear that Loden continues to provide support which is both needed and highly prized amongst emerging entrepreneurs.

The last three years have been very tough for Bhutan but Loden has been even more active in providing support - to existing entrepreneurs who have sound businesses but need help given reduced activity, targeted assistance to farmers and others engaged in food production and distribution and of course to new applicants.

It is also wonderful to see how our dedicated team members have coped with the challenges and also grown in their own experience and expertise. Well done and congratulations to everyone. I am delighted to continue to work closely with Loden and look forward to my first in-person visit in over three years.

William Tacon



Since 2008, when the Loden Entrepreneurship program was started, young Bhutanese entrepreneurs have faced many challenges. However, they never met a more challenging and unpredictable environment than today. The covid crisis was already a major surprise which offered opportunities for some, but other businesses had difficulty surviving. During this period, Loden made a special effort to support existing Loden entrepreneurs to adapt, and it has been worth it.

Post-pandemic, new challenges appear. Customers and Foreign visitors still need to be back in sufficient numbers, finance is scarce, and with many talented and skilled individuals moving out, it is not easy to recruit and retain key staff. The mission of Loden is more essential than ever to help entrepreneurs to meet the new challenges of the day.

Anne et Gérard



LODEN EDUCATION INITIATIVES

84

Undergraduate scholarships
provided since 2012

207

Children from low-income
families sponsored since 1999

735+

Children graduated from Early
Learning Centres since 2008

55

Bhutan Dialogues sessions held
since 2017



CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

Since 1999, the Loden Child Sponsorship Programme supports children from low-income families to acquire needs such as school uniforms, stationeries, sports gear etc. which pose as too big of an economic burden to the family, and thus, as a barrier to a child's education.

Loden Foundation has focal persons, dedicated teachers and other individuals all across the country, who help identify the children in need of support and/or direct the child to Loden. Once we receive the applications for sponsorship, the Education Committee within the office starts the evaluation process based on the living conditions and income level of the family, parent or guardian. The information is further verified by heads of the schools.

We ensure that all Loden Child Sponsorship beneficiaries are supported from the time the sponsorship has been made effective till the completion of their high school education - after which they have the option to apply for the Loden Youth Scholarship for further studies.

With your support, we could help 5 children from underprivileged families in 2022

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Our Donors both within and outside for their generous support

207 children from low-income backgrounds supported since 1999

EARLY LEARNING CENTRES

Providing children with quality early childhood care and development (ECCD) facilities is critical in equipping the child with the building blocks for a strong foundation for learning, health, and behaviour throughout life.

To ensure equity and equal access to ECCD facilities in rural areas, Loden in collaboration with UNICEF built Early Learning Centers (ELC) in Bumthang, Mongar, Samtse, including Zhemgang and Paro, which have been handed over to the Royal Government of Bhutan.

In 2023, our goal is to equip the three ELCs with EduTech facilities to enhance the equity of digital learning for children in rural areas.

56 children graduated from our ELCs in 2022

Since 2008, more than 735 children have graduated from Loden ELCs.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

WESCO Foundation for supporting us with the EduTech Project

If you are interested to donate books and toys please reach out to us at info@loden.org We will make sure your gifts reach them!

A game of Tug of War at Langthel School, Trongsa, the boys are definitely struggling!



Children at the Ura ELC, Bumthang, gathering for a picture to be taken



A NOTE FROM OUR ELC FACILITATOR URA

Working in an Early Learning Center has allowed me to make a real difference in how a child approaches learning for life. You will also be able to promote, nurture, and support positive outcomes in children’s health, well-being, and learning. Aside from career opportunities and the opportunity to work with like-minded people, working in an ELC allows you to share in children’s experiences and watch them grow, learn, and develop while in your care.

Taking care of children is challenging, especially when two facilitators are responsible for more than 20 children. We must be cautious when handling and nurturing small children. We must ensure that we love and support them equally. Every morning, my facilitator friend and I must take children from their homes to the centre if their parents cannot do so because of their work. Most parents believe that ELC is simply caring for their children, but what we do is develop the children and prepare them for their next phase in life.

Lastly, the Loden ELC Centre at Ura Gewog in Bumthang is not only preparing the community’s children for the transition from preschool to grade school. It also promotes healthy development in the early years and lays the groundwork for long-term educational achievement, economic productivity, responsible citizenship, lifelong health, community vitality, and effective parenting.

On behalf of the community and the centre, I thank all our funders and Loden Foundation for your generous support and looking for kind continued support.

Rinzin Tshomo, ELC Facilitator
Ura, Bumthang



SPECIAL THANKS TO

UNICEF Bhutan and the Ministry of Education and Skills Development for their continued partnership and support

LODEN YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

At the core of all our initiatives is the motto that knowledge is without an owner and that everyone is entitled to it (ཚོས་བདག་མིང་ཀུན་ལ་ཐོབ་ཐང་ཡོད།). Driven by this motto, Loden started the Loden Youth Scholarship Program which aspires to empower our youth with an education of the mind and heart. This holistic education plays a crucial part in our society’s growth and progress.

For many of our scholarship recipients, education is a gateway to breaking out of generational poverty & inequality, and an empowering tool to enable them to rise above their circumstances and also lift others around them.

15 students received support to pursue their tertiary education in 2022

We have our Loden Scholars in Bhutan, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka studying

- MBBS
- Civil Engineering
- Traditional Medicine
- Environmental Studies
- Nursing and Midwifery
- Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation

SPECIAL THANKS TO

AKO Foundation & individual donors for your support to the Education Programme



Our 2022 Loden Scholars, where two other students joined virtually for the orientation session

MEET OUR LODEN SCHOLARS

Karchung



Our Scholar Karchung is from **Sakteng**, Tashigang



MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery)
Khulna Medical College in Bangladesh

My name is Karchung, and I'm from the eastern highlands called Sakteng. Both my parents passed away, and my brother is the sole provider for our family of four children.

Everything was fine until one night when my brother called to tell me that my younger sister was critically ill and had been admitted to the hospital. It happened so fast that I couldn't believe my sister was gone in just a few hours. To make matters worse, my father died not long after my sister. Losing two family members in less than a month was both emotionally and financially devastating. I realised I needed to find a way to support myself because I couldn't rely on my brother.

I found a Facebook post about the Loden Scholarship announcement one day when I needed it the most. I was very hopeful upon seeing Loden's post on the announcement of the scholarship. Growing up in a low-income family taught me a lot of valuable lessons. I was determined to make my parents proud of me. I wanted them to believe that their efforts and sacrifices in sending me to school had been worthwhile. I am confident that they are proud of me wherever they are.

Words fail me to express how grateful I am to Loden for ending my sleepless nights, wondering what I should do next, and 'thank you' is inadequate. My responsibility now is to complete my studies and help those in need. I will do my best to help because I understand how it feels to be helped.



To all the supporters of the Loden Foundation, I would like to thank everyone, you have helped us and we are forever grateful.

- Karchung, Loden Scholar



Sandia Chhetri



Our Scholar Sandia is from **Karmaling**, Dagana



Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Royal Thimphu College in Bhutan

My mother, 52, is currently undergoing dialysis in Thimphu three times a week; since then, my father, who is also ill, has been her attendant. My two older brothers are both inmates, and I have an older sister who is a married homemaker and a younger sister who is in high school. We were in financial difficulty, and our family had to rely on His Majesty's 'Kidu' financial support.

Although I graduated in 2020 and received a scholarship to continue my education in India, I could not take that opportunity. My mother had become infected with Covid during the pandemic, and her health deteriorated even further when her kidneys began to fail. This worsened the situation even more, and I couldn't leave her behind.

I am aware of how the Loden Foundation helps those in need, which is why I applied for the Loden Scholarship because my family and I were in struggling need of financial assistance. After seeing my mother's health condition and being grateful for all the help our family has received from the hospital, I chose Nursing as my field of study. I aspire to help sick people in remote areas of Bhutan.

Dear Loden Foundation and everyone who has assisted Loden, I would like to thank you all for being the guardians of my family and me and helping me achieve my dream of becoming a Nurse someday. Kadrinche la!



You have been the guardian of my family and for helping me in achieving my dream. Kadrinche la!

-Sandia Chhetri, Loden Scholar



BHUTAN DIALOGUES

Bhutan Dialogues is a space for critical and civil conversations with thought leaders and change-makers drawing upon their expertise, achievements and inspiration. It aims to invigorate development thinking and refine our ideas and the pursuit of human progress. It is a forum for the right speech and mindful listening.

Our 53rd session was a special one as our guest speaker was Matthieu Ricard the founder of Karuna Schechen talking about 'Science, Inner Transformation & Buddhism in the Modern World.'

55 sessions hosted since 2017

Bhutan Dialogues has been evolving to a more international viewership and also partnering with educational institutions

“ Bhutan can become any other country - cutting our trees, and exploiting our resources. But none of these countries can become like Bhutan
 -Matthieu Ricard ”

Facebook, YouTube, CastBox icons
 @bhutandialogues bhutandialogues.bt



Bhutan Dialogues with Matthieu Ricard at the Royal Thimphu College

ADOLESCENT SKILLS & EMPLOYABILITY

From the entrance of the Drukgyel Dzong in Paro, through the lush valleys of Punakha along the Trongsa Mangde ridges, to the towering mountains of Bumthang and the plains of Manas in Zhemgang. The ASE programme is a vision in action to empower adolescents in Bhutan to become change-makers for the future they want!

ASE is a youth social innovation and social entrepreneurship programme that supports adolescents and young people to identify problems in their communities and design solutions to tackle those problems. The Education Ministry in partnership with UNICEF Bhutan, the Bhutan Youth Development Fund and the Loden Foundation has initiated this project.

Loden Foundation has been out to the schools of Bhutan in five districts to provide technical support, monitor, strengthen and collect suggestions from the students, teachers and the management of the schools. Students were found in taking the lead role in this learning experience where they identified social issues that they believe can bring solutions to help alleviate their problems!

Ideas such as employment platforms for students with deafness, building their own water tank to mitigate the shortage of water at school, and class libraries to mitigate limited access to reading books were some of the many exciting ideas proposed by the students.

Scan to learn more



A collage of ASE participants across the country!



LODEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME

260

Entrepreneurs supported

19

out of 20 districts covered

5700+

aspiring entrepreneurs trained
since 2018

88

business led by women



LODEN SEED

The Loden SEED (Student Empowerment through Entrepreneurship Development) is an entrepreneurial education programme for college and school students. We believe that we can plant the seed of innovative thinking and entrepreneurial enthusiasm in the minds of young people by equipping them with basic business knowledge and skills. This early exposure to entrepreneurship ensures that students consider entrepreneurship as a viable career option upon graduation.

Our Loden SEED has now reached out to youth of all ages, from schools to colleges, and from technical training institutes to Youth Friendly Integrated Service Centres for out-of-school youth. We are happy to share that SEED has inspired many students and youths through early exposure to entrepreneurship, inspiring them to realise and pursue their dreams at a young age.

Mr Pawan Kumar, a student entrepreneur studying Engineering in Information Technology, will represent Bhutan and his online pharmaceutical business in the Global Student Entrepreneur Award 2023!

In 2022, we trained 56+ out-of-school youths from Four Youth Friendly Integrated Service Centres (YIFSC)

Two business ideas from YIFSCs received the SEED Fund



A total of 32 out-of-school youths in two groups from Thimphu participated in the SEED training

“ I learned about how to approach issues, how to seize opportunities, and what we can accomplish even at our level. Being a part of this program is a blessing to me.

-Participant



A total of 13 out-of-school youths from Punakha participated in the SEED training



A total of 11 out-of-school youths from Sarpang participated in the SEED training

ENTREPRENEURS SUPPORTED IN 2022

Loden-BoilingPoint Fund



Pema Tshoki & Team
Gensum Pasta



Tashi Phuntsho
Thunder Detergent Powder



Namgay Dorji
NK Furnitures



Karma Namgyel
Drukyl Production



Dechen Choden
Dechen Tailoring



Jurmey Choden Rinzin
YLM! Studio



Phuntsho Wangdi
Tshe Yang



Phurpa Dema
Phurpa's Bliss Bite



Jeewan Baral
The Mugwort Solution



Bhupal Gurung
B-Luminaries



Jamyang Dorji
Druk Brush



Yangchen Dema
Tara Dolma Noodles



Penjor
Indigenous Statue Craft House



Phuntsho Wangmo
Yaata Noodles

Loden-FDD Emergency Fund



Jangchubla
Jangchub General Shoe
Production

ENTREPRENEURS SUPPORTED IN 2022

Loden-Society Switzerland Bhutan Fund



Deep Raj Thapa
Dim Sum Baskets



Deepen Raj Ghalley
Deepen's Ornamental
Fish Farm



Kinley Wangmo
Bhutan Hydroponics

Loden-Karuna Shechen Emergency Fund



Sherab Dorji
Khemdro Dairy



Deepika Neopani
Green Product
Manufacturing Unit



Chandrika Tamang
CDK



Nima Lotey
Nima Lotey Fiber Service



Kinley Dhendup & Pema Choden
Kingdom Essence

Loden-Fonds De Dotation Fund



Sonam Norbu
Norbu's Action Studio



Tshering Yangzom
Cafe Delish



Bimal Subba
BSND Farm

Loden-Bhutan Foundation Fund



Dawa Tshering
Bhutan Essence



Kuenzang Norbu
Kuenzang Norbu Audio Visual

Loden-UNICEF Bhutan Fund



Sonam Choki
Druk Costura



Suraj Rai Chhetri
Nya-Kam Studio

Phurpa Dema - Merak Bakery A bakery in the Highlands!

Loden-BoilingPoint Fund



In 2020, I began a food production and packaging business on a trial basis with one employee, with the sole intention of learning food processing methods, market opportunities, packaging ideas, and establishing a supply chain.

I used the latest food dehydration technologies like Greenhouse Solar Dryer (Tunnel Dryer) and Infrared Drying in the dehydration process with some guidance from the post-harvest centre and self-research to ensure high nutrition retention, long shelf life, authentic taste, and premium quality. In addition, to meet international standards, I ensured proper and high-quality packaging with all standard labelling. After a year, I could package over 15 dehydrated products and condiments. With the increasing demand for the products and our ability to establish a full-scale business, I now want to target the spice market, as Bhutan has a diverse range of premium-quality organic spices.

We faced challenges such as post-harvest transportation, logistics, and proper packaging; however, our team found solutions to all of these issues. Our plan for the future is to improve our post-production and packaging skills to improve the supply chain and digitise our procedures by creating a website.

Over 750kg of dehydrated vegetables (equivalent to 1.2 tons of fresh vegetables) were exported to Bhutanese in New York and parts of Australia. These achievements would not have been possible without the help from Bhutan Foundation and Loden.

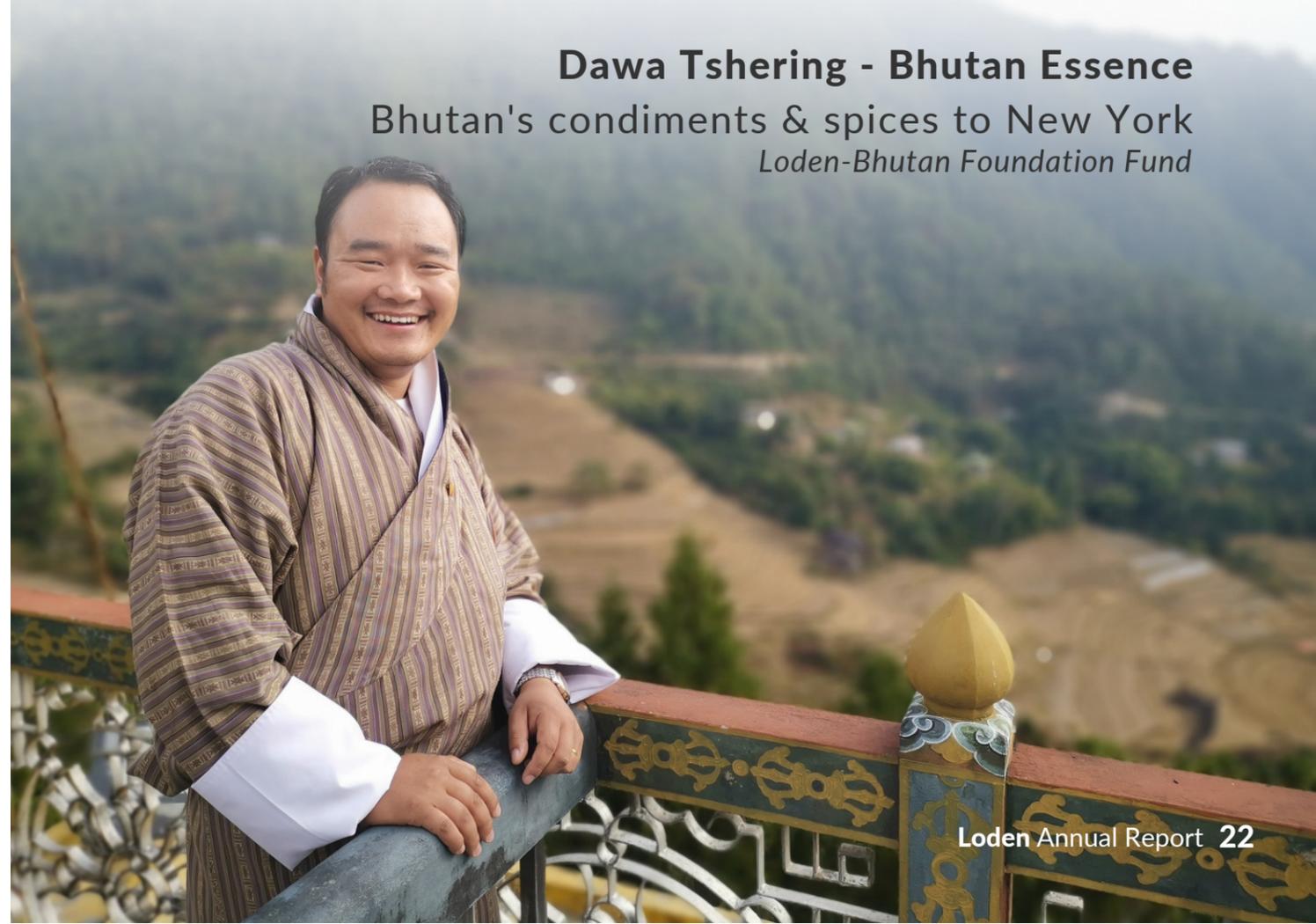
There is a beautiful pastoral community called Merak in the mountainous far east of Bhutan, where many people still rely on Yaks. People have begun to enjoy the benefits of modernisation as the highland community has grown. If a family wants to celebrate a birthday, they must travel 55 km to Tashigang just to buy a cake.

As a result, I decided to solve the problem by opening the first bakery in the eastern highlands! With approximately 400 residents, the demand for baked pastries and cakes has increased, and people can now enjoy fresh, delicious cakes for a change. Families have begun to celebrate their children's birthdays, creating wonderful memories through my business. I also help our community's monastery by baking food offerings known as 'Tshog' on auspicious days and rituals.

We face challenges during the winter because of the freezing weather, which causes our cookies to dry and crumble and our loaves of bread to rise poorly. However, I intend to address this issue by improving my bakery's heating system. My bakery is a testament that young people can find opportunities in their own communities rather than moving to cities or abroad.

I would like to express my gratitude to BoilingPoint, for helping youth like me in paving their way through life and allowing our local people to experience new things. If you visit Merak, fresh warm pastries will be waiting for you!

Dawa Tshering - Bhutan Essence Bhutan's condiments & spices to New York *Loden-Bhutan Foundation Fund*





Kinley Wangmo - Bhutan Hydroponics

A revolution to Agriculture

Loden-Society Switzerland Bhutan Fund

Let me tell you a story about a Himalayan boy who followed his dreams. I'm Sonam, and I grew up learning Taekwondo and dancing at 5 am daily in the mountains. My journey of backflips and acrobatic jumps began when I discovered something called a crash mat.

However, while studying in India, I realised that parkour was my true love and passion, not a regular 9-5 job. Finally, I decided that if it was parkour, I was only jumping from one place to another. Parkour is an athletic training discipline in which participants attempt to get from point A to point B most fluidly and efficiently as possible – traversing environmental obstacles by running, climbing or leaping.

When I received a call from the Bhutan Olympic Committee asking for a meeting with Mr Morinari Watanabe, President of FIG (International Gymnastics Federation), I had no idea what was happening. To my surprise, Watanabe-san asked if I wanted to represent Bhutan in the first FIG Parkour World Championship.

New experiences and meeting people with similar interests fuelled my desire to start something new in the country and create new opportunities, particularly for the youth. However, finances was a significant issue, and I was not selected for Loden support on the first try. After refining my proposal and streamlining my vision, I reapplied and opened Tsal Gym, my Parkour Gym! Thank you to all the supporters of Loden Foundation.

Hydroponics was new to me initially, and I had no educational background related to Agriculture or hydroponics. This venture was solely out of curiosity and deep interest. I contacted a hydroponic company called Zennor in the Philippines and virtually connected to gain all the necessary information and procedures. From that day, I did not look back and continued this new venture with self-research, learning through trial and error. I faced two main challenges: the need for technical expertise in the country regarding Hydroponics and to take the risk and invest personally from my current business (hardware store).

Today, I am proud to say that my soilless farming has grown; I have advocated for over 5,000 people, assisted in installing the system, and provided hands-on training. I've worked with both national and international partners. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock recently provided me with funding to help promote hydroponics in the country. Still, my most important accomplishment is that I have inspired many women to start their own businesses.

In the future, I aspire to advocate hydroponics in all 20 districts, try to manufacture the entire hydroponic system within the country at an affordable rate, innovate agri-tourism, and one day establish an institution. I would like to express my gratitude to Society Switzerland Bhutan and Loden Foundation for your support.

Sonam Norbu - Tsal Parkour Gym

From a street parkour to to an entrepreneur!

Loden-Fonds De Dotation Fund





Deepika Neopani - Green Product Manufacturing Unit

A green woman entrepreneur
Loden-Karuna Shechen Emergency Fund

Areca plates and bowls are biodegradable and thus environmentally friendly and disposable. These plates are an excellent substitute for plastic/polymer and paper-based products. My team and I only became aware of these products after seeing them in large numbers being used in India.

Because I live in Gelephu, areca palm trees are abundant, and in 2014, with my parent's financial support, we bought a small machine. We had difficulty obtaining raw materials from the locals because we needed to persuade them to sell their dried areca palm leaves. This also indicated a critical need for locals to be aware of environmental issues and the impacts of climate change.

However, as the piled leaves became a breeding ground for mosquitoes, the district hospital instructed that the locals pick up and hang the dried areca palm leaves. This made it easier for my team to convince the locals to sell the leaves instead of hanging them.

After ten years, we now have over 100 households in Sarpang selling areca leaves, who understand the environmental benefits of our products. With three more machines, we are now meeting national demand. My team is making small positive changes to the environment, we are often invited to events as they use our products!

We are grateful to UNDP Bhutan, Karuna Shechen, and Loden for their support and guidance, we consider you as our family.

I am the founder of Nya-Kam Studios, a Graphic Design Studio with a vision of bringing technology to southern Bhutan at a lower cost and with a better experience. Nya-Kam Studios was a dream come true for a group of newly graduated freelancers from Gelephu who wanted to turn their passion into a viable business. Seven freelancers are working in the studio at the moment.

As said by Nicki Minaj, "Your victory is right around the corner. Never give up." My hard work and determination to help others as part of a team propelled me to a level where I could achieve anything I set my sights on.

However, funding was an issue. As a result, I decided to participate in Loden UNICEF SEED training. After learning valuable information about starting a business, I was selected from the SEED competition. This was a moment in my life when my dream of opening a studio was becoming a reality. A studio where youths can unwind and spend their free time productively by learning, connecting, and collaborating with one another.

I would like to thank UNICEF Bhutan and the Loden Foundation for all of their support to all of the youths, and we hope that SEED will continue to help more youths like me in the future.

Suraj Bir Chhetri - Nya-Kam Studios A digital dream from South Bhutan

Loden-UNICEF SEED Fund



Fostering a happy and enlightened society through the promotion of education, social entrepreneurship and Bhutan's culture and tradition
Loden Annual Report since 1999

DRUK TSHONGRIG GATOEN

The Druk Tshongrig Gatoen (DTG) or the Bhutan Entrepreneurship Festival is a week-long initiative started by Loden and BAEyul (Bhutan Association of Entrepreneurs) in 2018, with support from government agencies, development partners and other stakeholders. DTG not only celebrates entrepreneurship but also promotes a vibrant culture of entrepreneurship by serving as a platform for the deliberation of entrepreneurship in Bhutan and acknowledging exemplary entrepreneurs.

This year as we overcome the pandemic it was an event to celebrate and connect with our entrepreneurs, to provide them yet again another opportunity to present their business to the public, and to connect and collaborate with stakeholders and potential donors.

The three days programme was filled with beautiful exhibitions from entrepreneurs across the country, with live music. Students from the Royal Institute of Tourism and Hospitality (RITH), received on-field practical work experience and tested real-life business concepts by introducing food and drink items during the three days programme.

The entrepreneurial festival happened all across the country where colleges and training institutes came together to celebrate this festival, Loden entrepreneurs officials and focal from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment and RENEW micro-finance shared their entrepreneurial journey solely to inspire the youths.

A session on mentoring needs, culture and applicability in a Bhutanese context was also aired live on Radio Valley and streamed live on social media platforms. Our social media were filled with content regarding DTG, coinciding with the event, and three videos of Green Entrepreneurs supported through the Loden-UNDP partnership were featured.

We also gave the awards for the Best Loden Entrepreneurs of 2022 and the Best Mentor of 2022. After a vigorous round of pitching, Mrs Sonam Choden the founder of Rolling Pin Bakery was named the Best Loden Entrepreneur of 2022. To encourage the culture of mentorship in the country, Mr Rikesh Gurung, the CEO of Green Road was identified as Best Loden Mentor for his tireless efforts in supporting our start-ups.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

UNDP Bhutan
 UNICEF Bhutan
 Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment
 Society Switzerland Bhutan
 Helvetas Bhutan
 Renew Micro-Finance
 Royal Institute for Tourism and Hospitality
 Royal University of Bhutan
 iBEST
 Radio Valley

Fonds De Dotation
 Tarayana Foundation
 The Green Road
 CSI Market
 Thimphu Thromde
 Royal Securities Exchange of Bhutan
 YLM! Studio
 World Intellectual Property Organization
 Sponsors in Kind & Services
 Volunteers



LODEN CULTURE PROGRAMME

61

Culture projects initiated since
2013

4.38

Million
pages of texts digitised

3340+

hours of intangible culture
recorded

150

Thousand
ancient artefacts documented

LODEN COMPLETES PROJECT REVIVAL

Loden Foundation's project titled "Leveraging Cultural and Scientific Knowledge and Practises for Environmental Conservation in Tali" was successfully completed on May 19, 2022 in an auspicious hour of the day.

The project aimed at conserving natural and cultural heritage around the lake of Tali village in Zhemgang with funding and support from the UNDP Bhutan GEF Small Grants Programme and the Royal Government of Bhutan. The project was executed in partnership with the local community, Zhemgang Forest Division, Nangkor Gewog Administration and the Zhemgang Dzongkhag Administration.

During the closing phase of the project:

- The Tali community cleared the eco-trail footpath towards the sites.
- Ten directional signages were installed in the project area.
- Held discussion with the community regarding the sustainability of the outcomes.
- An amount of BTN 101,428 was donated to the Tali Yoesel Pelri Community Forests.
- A Project Report called Revival was launched.

The project has been the first of its kind in beautifully bringing together nature and spirituality, local community and international expertise, and government agencies and an NGO for the cause of conservation. The film capturing the process of the project has been screened in many international forums and has received acclaim from sustainability thinkers and practitioners.

Scan to view [Project Video](#)



“ This project has been of immense help to the community, it just shows how scientific and spiritual beliefs can come together to solve problems that any community might face.

- Sherab, Village Elder



SUPPORTED BY

UNDP's GEF Small Grants Programme implemented in partnership with the Royal Government of Bhutan

Scan to read [Project Report](#)



The Tali community with officials from the Zhemgang Administration



The Tali-community preparing to install signages across the project site

ICHCAP - UNESCO VISITS LODEN

Loden's work in intangible cultural heritage continued in 2022 with a renewed partnership with the Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre-Asia Pacific, a centre under the auspices of UNESCO in Joenju, South Korea. A team from ICHCAP, led by Ms Gyuri Bak, director of information and research, visited Loden in October to launch the ten cultural documentaries Loden produced through support from ICHCAP.

After successfully documenting ten exotic cultural aspects across Bhutan through audio-visual means, the Loden Foundation handed over copies of the Intangible Culture Heritage videos to ICHCAP officials on October 17 in an event attended by His Excellency, Ugyen Dorji, the Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs. The documentaries under the project include Lhop Festivals, Local Teeth Healing, Subba and Mongar's Marriage System, Saang Ceremony, Yak Lha, Namkha Rabney Festival, Bjava Kam Nyaru, Jomja Cuisine, Story of Pawos, and Mani Hymn.

The Loden Foundation and ICHCAP have been working together for many years with the common goal of preserving, promoting, and making intangible cultures and traditions. The videos will be accessible through the culture web portal, which is currently in the process of being built, and Loden plans to screen the videos at various occasions.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre-Asia Pacific under the auspice of UNESCO



The ICHCAP team presenting IchLinks to the Loden team

“ Modernisation and globalisation makes it even more crucial for Bhutan to have definitive policies and activities to safeguard the rich intangible cultural heritage

-Gyuri BAK, ICHCAP

-  culture.bt
-  @lodenculture
-  @culturesofbhutan



ICHCAP, Loden and NLAB during the closing ceremony



A thank you note shared by Gyuri BAK, ICHCAP



SAVING ENDANGERED ARCHIVES

One of the missions of the Loden Foundation is to safeguard the cultures of Bhutan including written heritage, intangible traditions, and arts and artefacts. Loden’s cultural programme aims to preserve Bhutan’s cultural heritage and promote it by providing free access for religious and educational purposes.

With blessings from the Department of Culture, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Central Monastic Body, the Loden Foundation has been carrying out a programme of digitising manuscripts in archives across Bhutan. Most monasteries, dzongs, temples, and private houses house a wealth of books which are cherished as sacred objects. These books remain in precarious conditions vulnerable to deterioration and destruction by fire, dampness, rodents, insects and theft.

Digital technology presents us with an easy and effective way to create copies not only to preserve priceless collections but make them available to a wider audience and users. Funded mainly by the Endangered Archives Programme of the British Library, our culture team has been engaged in digitising the old scriptures in the two important archives of Semtokha and Mongar dzongs. Among other manuscripts, the recent effort has added two sets of Kanjur canons to nine versions we already have produced before 2022. The current project shall be covering over 20 archives and make a significant addition to our existing digital collection of 4.38 million pages of digital manuscripts. These digitised copies are deposited in several repositories for safe keeping and made available for educational and religious use.

By Dr Françoise Pommaret
A Loden Trustee

SPECIAL THANKS TO

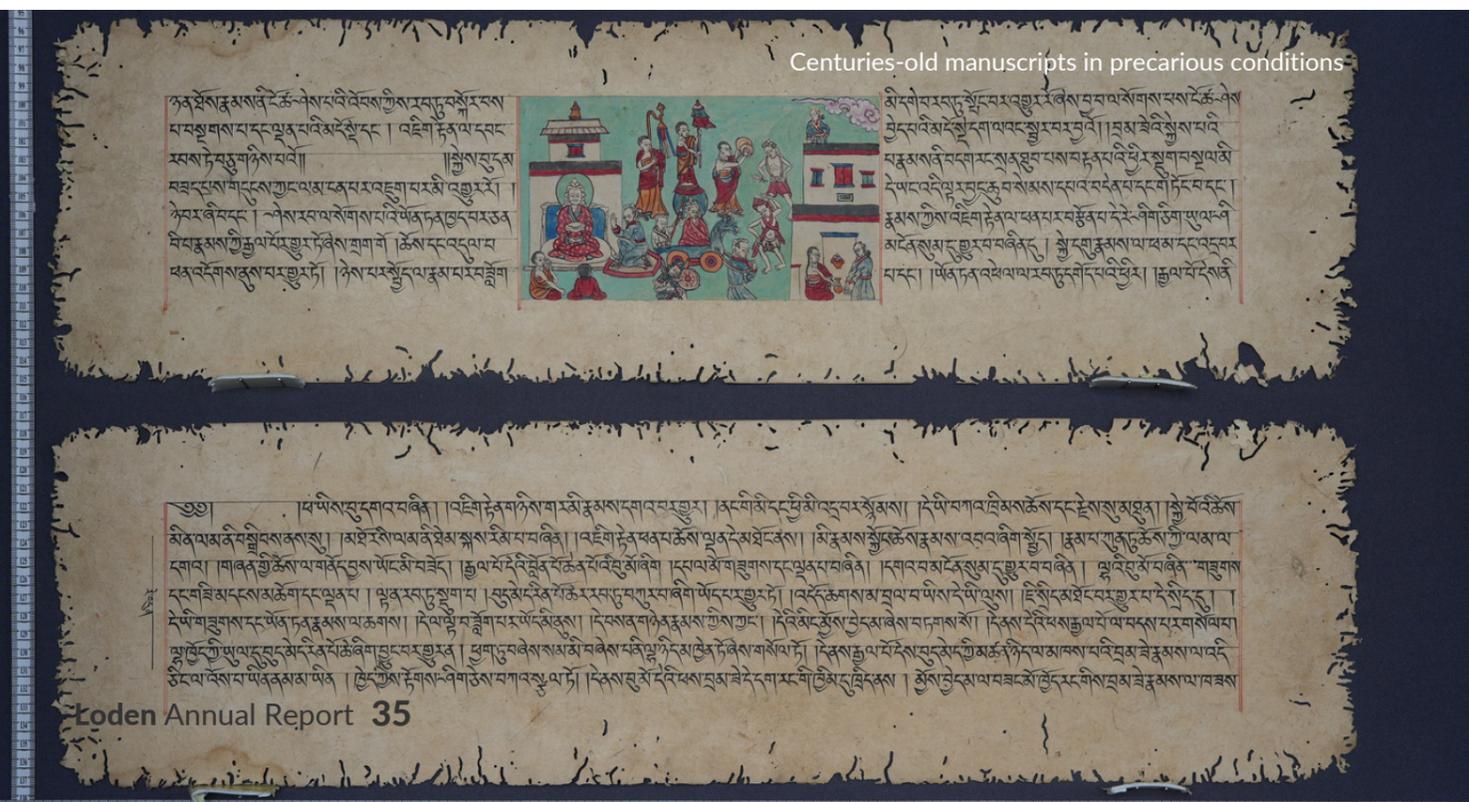
The British Library and the National Library and Archives of Bhutan



The latest mirrorless cameras with macro lenses were used for digitising



A comprehensive manuscript at the Mongar Dzong



Centuries-old manuscripts in precarious conditions



This project exemplifies how modern development and ancient spiritual knowledge can coexist. We sincerely appreciate your efforts. Thank You.

-Lopen Sangay Daw, Senior Monk



Our Culture specialist arranging the manuscript with utmost care



IN GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Today, we are deluged with endless information: reports, newsletters, emails, posts, tweets, chats, messages, etc. through an ever increasing number of information platforms. So, if you got this far and are indeed reading this, you truly care about my engagement with Loden for nearly a quarter of a century. Thank you for your attention and also for joining me on this journey, which still continues.

This past year was the first time in Loden's existence when I did not hold the main reins having passed the mantle to our young capable President Sangay Tshering at the start of 2022. Nonetheless, I have remained as engaged as before and saw the team going through its highs and lows. Bhutan had a tumultuous year with the assessment of senior public servants, change of visitor policy, reforms in higher education and a continuous exodus of young adults to foreign lands. Loden was not spared of the nationwide stress and the morale was sometimes low. Yet, at the end of the year, we had more achievements to revel in than failures to regret.

As we embark on the New Year of Hare, a symbol of wit and wisdom, the stars look promising but Bhutan is also 'transforming' rather dramatically leaving us with an air of uncertainty. The future will no doubt present to us many moments to rethink our purpose and reform our ways. In the thick of such changes, we once again hope that all our friends will stand firm with us to make the difference to ordinary young lives, that is at the heart of Loden's existence.

Wishing Everyone a Wonderful Water Hare Year!

Lopen Karma Phuntsho

LOCAL PARTNERS

Bhutan Association of Entrepreneurs
Bhutan Foundation
Bhutan Spirit Sanctuary
Bhutan Youth Development Fund
CSI Market
Department of Culture
Dratshang Lhentshog
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Royal Securities Exchange of Bhutan
Royal University of Bhutan
Tarayana Foundation
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UNICEF Bhutan
VAST (Voluntary Artist's Studio, Thimphu)

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College of Language and Culture Studies
College of Natural Resources
College of Science and Technology
Gedu College of Business Studies
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Technical Training Institute - Chumey
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Technical Training Institute - Rangjung

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

BoilingPoint
British Library
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ICHCAP - UNESCO
Karuna Shechen
Society Switzerland Bhutan

DONORS IN 2022

We are deeply grateful to our institutional and individual donors and partners for their generosity during trying times.

སྐྱེ་བོའི་ཚོགས་རྣམས་སྤྱི་ལོ་ལྷན་སྐྱོད་ཀྱི་ལྷན་ཁྲིམས་ལྟར་ཅིག །

Through the act of generosity, may all be liberated!

Above US\$ 50,000

AKO Foundation
BoilingPoint
Endangered Archives Programme
Fonds De Dotation - Loden
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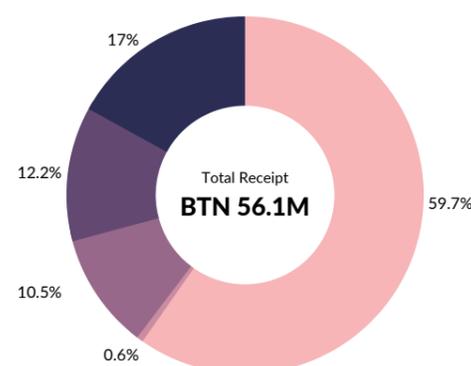
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Tshewang Tashi
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Yangchen Choden Rinzin
Zara Fleming
Zoltan Valcsicsak

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2022

Receipt

	BTN
Institutional Contributors	33,538,300.5
Individual Contributors	330,784.0
Interest	5,901,742.4
Other Revenue	6,840,136.6
Loan Repayment	9,540,006.8

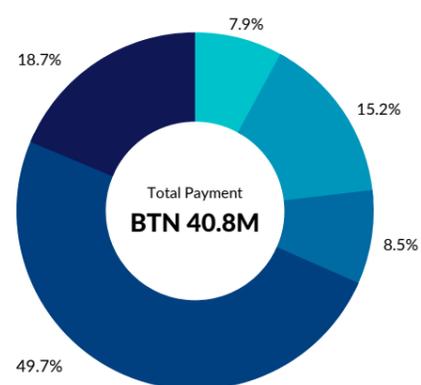
Total Receipt **BTN 56,150,970.3**



Payment

	BTN
Loden Culture Programme	3,236,785.5
Loden Education Initiative	6,199,833.5
Loden Entrepreneurship Programme	3,463,690.6
Loan/Grants Disbursed	20,285,746.0
General Expenditure	7,618,449.8

Total Expenses **BTN 40,804,505.4**



BALANCE SHEET

As of 31 December 2022

ASSETS	NU.
Current Assets	
Accounts Receivable -Entrepreneurs	50,376,510.55
Bank Balance	20,162,305.28
Advances & Prepaid	487,602.07
Total Current Assets	71,026,417.90
Long-term Assets	
Office Equipment & Furniture	3,642,490.73
Vehicle	1,226,700.00
Land	19,686,150
Accumulated Depreciation - Office Equipment & Furniture	-764,885.55
Accumulated Depreciation - Vehicle	-731,482.89
Security Deposits	80,000.00
Salary Advance	405,025.01
Endowment Fund	50,000,000.00
Total long-term assets	73,543,997.30
Total Assets	144,570,415.20
LIABILITIES	
Loan-DHI	6,000,000.00
Accounts Payable	140,544.30
Net Income	26,744,670.29
Retained Earnings	111,685,200.61
Total Liabilities	144,570,415.20



Board of Trustees

Lopen Karma Phuntsho Founder	Sangay Tshering President/Trustee	Aum Sangay Zam Trustee	Dr. Françoise Pommaret Trustee
Gerard Tardy Trustee	Phuntsho Namgay Trustee	Ngawang Gyeltshen Trustee	Rikesh Gurung Trustee

Our Team

Tshewang Tashi Executive Director	Dorji Gyeltshen Culture Specialist	Kuenzang Choden Operations Manager	Lhakpa Asst. Programme Manager (Entrepreneurship)
Pema Tshogyal Programme Officer (Education)	Yeshey Peyden Legal & Recovery Officer	Namgay Lhendup Wangchuk Finance Officer	
Lobzang Jurme Administration Officer	Khandu Senior Researcher	Tendel Zangpo Senior Researcher	Karma Jamtsho Communications Officer

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LODEN ABROAD

Loden Education Initiative, FRANCE

(Thierry Cantereau, Rabsel Dorji, Jeanne Mascolo de Filippis, Françoise Pommaret, Francois Valencony, Anne & Gerard Tardy)

Thierry Cantereau
16, rue de Livet
F-49300 CHOLET
France
Tel: (+) 33607247498
Email: thierry.cantereau@icloud.com

Loden Education Trust, UNITED KINGDOM

(Eric Drury, Karma Phuntsho, Sarah McMillan, Anne Tardy, Pema Tshogyal)

C/O Sarah McMillan
14 Medora Rd
London SW2 2LN
United Kingdom
Email: sarahclairemcmillan@gmail.com

AUSTRALIA

Margaret Gee
PO Box 221 Double Bay (Sydney)
NSW 1360
Australia
Tel: (+) 61-410571497
Email: margaretgee2@gmail.com

GREECE

Kalman Kelemen
64010, Thassos Island
Skala Rachoni
Tel: (+) 36204508211
Email: kelemen.kalman@gmail.com

HUNGARY

Zoltan Valcsicsak
1029 Budapest, Dukta Akos ucla 5b
Hungary
Email: valcsicsak.zoltan@gmail.com

HONG KONG

Yeone Moser Fok
SparkRaise
Unit 617-620, Level 6, Core E
Cyberpoint 3, Cyberport Road
Hongkong
Tel: (+) 8529337 6429
Email: yeone.fok@sparkraise.com

THAILAND

Riamsara Kuyakanon Knapp
127/1 Soi 79 Sukhumvit Rd. Bangkok 10260
Thailand

Loden Support Group, JAPAN

(Tadashi & Noriko Nishihira, Karma Phuntsho, Ngawang Gyeltshen, Phuntsho Namgay, Mizuca Tsukamoto)

Tadashi and Noriko Nishihira
1-3 Takano Tadehara
Kyoto 606-8101
Japan
Tel: (+) 81-75-723-8788
Email: lodenfoundation.japan@gmail.com

SINGAPORE

Alison Tay
Tel: (+) 65 9791 7728
Email: alisontayly@gmail.com

PORTUGAL

Anne and Gerard Tardy
45-3 Esq rua do Conde
1200-636, Lisboa, Portugal
Tel: (+) 44-7968 17 35 59
Email: gerardtardymail@gmail.org
Email: tardyanne@gmail.com

USA

Bhutan Foundation
21 Dupont Circle, NW
Suite 755
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: (+) 1 202 609 7363
Email: info@bhutanfound.org

SWITZERLAND

Erick Rinner
Chalet Les Aiguilles
Route des Ecovets 74
1885 Chesieres, Switzerland
Tel: +41 79 128 20 44
Email: erickrr67@mac.com
Email: erick.rinner@lilo.org

MEXICO

Gabriela Franco
Av. México 63, Col. Hipódromo
Cuauhtémoc, 06100 CDMX
México
Email: gaby.franco@gmail.com

WAYS TO GIVE

Mariam van Husen from Canada trusted our founder and mentioned Loden in her will. Ms Kayako Shintani of Japan, who never visited Bhutan, heard about Loden's efforts and left her legacy to Loden. Their bequest helped us initiate the endowment to support scholarships for decades to come.

REMEMBER LODEN IN YOUR WILL

Through your legacy, your value and good work can live on for perpetuity. We pledge to put your bequest to the best and lasting use while also reciprocating your generosity with very fervent prayers and gratitude.

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For National Donors



For International Donors

Make a Wire Transfer

In Bhutan

The Loden Foundation
Account No. 5000045068011
SWIFT code: BNBTBTBT
Bhutan National Bank, Thimphu.

In the UK

The Loden Foundation/Loden Education Trust
HSBC AC No. 82553872
IBAN Number: GB33HBUK40160882553872
Branch Identification Code: HBUKGB4103J
Sort Code: 40-16-08

UK Charity Details

Charity Name: Loden Education Trust
Charity Registration Number: 1114763

In the US

Bhutan Foundation
PNC Bank AC No. 5308947869
Swift Code: PNCCUS33

In France and Eurozone

Fonds De Dotation Loden Initiatives
16 Rue De Livet
49300 Cholet

Crédit Coopératif Account Number:
08024843342

Branch Identification Code: CCOPFRPPXXX
IBAN: FR76 4255 9100 0008 0248 4334 242

CONTACT US

Mailing Address

The Loden Foundation
P.O. Box 131
Thimphu, Bhutan 11001

Tel: +975-77195588
Email: info@loden.org



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ཐོས་པས་ཚོས་རྣམས་ཤེས་པར་འགྱུར། ཐོས་པས་སྤྲིག་པ་ལྷོག་པར་འགྱུར། །
ཐོས་པས་དོན་མེད་སྤོང་བར་འགྱུར། ཐོས་པས་སྤྱ་ངན་འདས་པ་ཐོབ། །

Learning makes one know the facts
Learning keeps one away from evil
Learning helps one eschew the worthless
Learning helps one transcend suffering.

-The Bodhisattva Basket

