



## National Standards Conclave 4<sup>th</sup> May, Thimphu

Proceedings Note

7<sup>th</sup> May 2018

### National Standards Conclave proceedings

The first ever national standards conclave was held at Thimphu on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.

In preparation for the 12 FYP, Bhutan Standards Bureau conducted a one day national standards conclave at Namgay Heritage Hotel on 4<sup>th</sup> May. The conclave was aimed to bring together all the senior officers, PPD Chiefs and quality & standards officers to come up with a common understanding of the national standards development works and finalise the national standards requirements in their sectors, agencies and offices for the 12 FYP period.

#### Proceedings Note at a Glance

The one day conclave started with a series of presentations by BSB on national standards. Participants interacted with Q & A session with BSB officials. Participants will provide the prioritized standards for the 12 FYP to BSB by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018. Focal points for online national standard commenting will be nominated by agencies.



Bhutan Standards Bureau  
The National Standards Body of Bhutan

## Opening Remarks by GNHC Secretary

Mr.Thinley Namgyal,Secretary to GNHC opened the national standards conclave with his opening remarks.He said that it was the right moment to have this conclave as the government was gearing up for the 12 FYP.While there were many standards in the agencies,it was important that standards were used and implemented. It was important for agencies to collaborate and coordinate in areas of standardization so that there are no conflicts,duplication and are harmonized for easy implementation. The government in the past five year plans had focused on numbers and coverage in development works.However,from now on,the government will give emphasis on quality too.For this it is important to prioritise national standards and facilitate their implementation. It is also important for all agencies both in government and private sector to collaborate with BSB and come up with national standards.The national standards conclave will provide opportunities to review process,make changes to standards and explore areas of national standardization works.



### GNH and Standards

It was shown that amongst the nine GNH domains,the living standards domain had the maximum number of standards share.This showed the gap in other sectors and domains which would be given priority in the 12 FYP.There was a strong correlation with GDP,as the BSB research found that sectors with high GDP contribution also had the highest number of standards.The private sector showed that it had poor number of standards even whilst it is touted as the engine of growth for the economy.The social sectors like health,education,good governance had no national standards or were insignificant in comparison to engineering standards.BSB will prioritise standards for those sectors which currently have no or less number of standards share in the 12 FYP.



## Director General,BSB

Mr.Sonam Phuntsho,DG of BSB welcomed the participants to the first ever national standards conclave.He highlighted the importance of national standards and how BSB is striving to bring together all the agencies in standardization works.The conclave would give a common platform to all entities involved in the standards development works.He invited all participants to participate in the future national standardization works and BSB will facilitate their participation in standards development works.He thanked all participants who made their time available to attend and participate in the conclave.





## Presentations by BSB

A series of presentations were delivered by BSB. The presentations covered the national standardization works, process, development pathways, protocols and findings by the BSB research unit on standards mapping exercise. The national standardization strategy methodology and prioritization process was also presented to the participants.

**1.**

Standards Overview :The Head of standards division gave an overview of the national standardization works.

**2.**

Standards Mapping Exercise:A complete findings on standards in Bhutan was presented. Also, current national standards development works were presented.

**3.**

National standardization strategy: 12 FYP national standards prioritization. Methodology and process of national standards prioritization was demonstrated.

## National Standards Harmonisation

Bhutan is a member to SARSO(SAARC Regional Standards Organisation) and participates in the five technical committees for the regional standards development. Currently there are 8 SARSO standards and are applicable across all SAARC countries. This is to facilitate trade and access to all markets in the region. BSB has ensured that all stakeholders are represented through its 10 technical committees.

There is a need to streamline the standards development process in the international arena where various agencies participate. It was proposed that MoFA and GNHC to assist BSB in streamlining this current practice where BSB is not in the loop. It would be important for BSB to know what agencies have agreed to, signed on with regards to international standards, so that when national standards are developed there are no conflicts or disharmony.



## Q & A Session

A full hour for the question and answer was dedicated in the afternoon session. Participants were encouraged to have their queries answered and doubts cleared if any.

Questions were asked from government, regulatory authorities, private sector and public agencies.

Some of the important Q & A's are being surmised here under.

### ***Q. What comes first standards or regulation?***

*A. There is no rules for which to be put first. As long as standards are not referenced by name, regulations can be put in place before standards also. However, it strengthens the regulations if national standards are referenced.*

### ***Q. Why national standards for the 12 FYP?***

*A. In 11 FYP, development was focused on coverage and numbers. This led to quality being left out e.g. Water supply coverage stands at 98 % but it doesn't say much on quality or service of water. To ensure that quality aspects are considered for, national standards shall be implemented.*

### ***Q. What is the difference between national & sectoral standards? Which standards govern legally when there is confusion in its interpretation?***

*A. As per Bhutan Standards Act 2010, the standards is defined as a document, established by consensus and approved by Bureau that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of optimum degree or order in the given context. Sectoral standards are those standards which are developed by respective agencies and not approved by Bureau. A national standard will be the basis of all legal interpretation during the conflict in the interpretation of standards.*



### ***Q. What are the overall benefits of national standards?***

*A. The national standards on products enable market access as it is the principal documents which governs and assures quality and safety of products. Trading country recognizes the international, regional and national standards only and not the sector or in-house product standards. On the other hand the product, service and personnel certification based on national standards gives confidence to the consumer, manufacturer and the employer of its worthiness. Overall, the national standards are the only basis on which the cross border trading of products, service and exchange of technical expert will be judged in all regional and international market.*



## Way Forward

With the important topics covered during the day, some tasks that were found crucial to take the national standardisation works were discussed.

The participants agreed to the important steps to be taken up immediately and also asked BSB to initiate the activities at the earliest.

- Formalise all focal points across the sectors for the national standards online commenting works. BSB will send an official letter to all sectors and agencies to formalize the focal points .
- All participants shall submit the stakeholder prioritized standards list to BSB by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018.

## Closing of conclave

Head of Standards Division gave a vote of thanks and the conclave was closed with appreciation note to all participants for their cooperation and active participation.

| National Standards Conclave 4 <sup>th</sup> May Invitee/Participants List |                           |                          |          |              |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Sl. No  | Name of Participant       | Designation              | Agency   | Remarks      |
|   | Thinley Namgyal           | Secretary                | GNHC     | Chief Guest  |
| 1   | Mr. Tseten Thinley        |                          | DGPC     | Not Attended |
| 2   | Mr. Sangay Tenzin         | Specialist               | MoWHS    | Not Attended |
| 3   | Ms. Tshering Lhamo        | PO,PPD,                  | MoWHS    | Not Attended |
| 4   | Mr. Wangdi Gyeltshen      |                          | CAB      | Not Attended |
| 5   | Mr. Tandin Dorji          |                          | RTC      | Not Attended |
| 6   | Mr. Chengay               | Chief Engineer           | CDB      | Attended     |
| 7   | Mr. Tshering Dorji        | AAE                      | AMC      | Attended     |
| 8   | Mr. Ugyen Dorji           | JAE                      | AMC      | Attended     |
| 9   | Mr. Karma Thinley         | CEO                      | FMCL     | Attended     |
| 10  | Mr. Pradeep Pradhan       | Associate Director       | BPC      | Attended     |
| 11  | Ms. Sonam Dema            |                          | SABAH    | Not Attended |
| 12  | Mr. Sangay Chedar         |                          | GNHC     | Attended     |
| 13  | Ms. Rinzin Dema           |                          | MoHCA    | Not Attended |
| 14  | Mr. Dochu                 | Offtg. Chief             | PPD, MoE | Attended     |
| 15  | Mr. Wangda                |                          | Druk PNB | Attended     |
| 16  | Mr. Tsherim Dorji         |                          | APIC     | Attended     |
| 17  | Mr. Tashi Penjor          |                          | MoH      | Not Attended |
| 18  | Mr. Pelden Chejor         |                          | DRA      | Attended     |
| 19  | Ms. Ngawang Dema          | Chief Regulatory Officer | DRA      | Attended     |
| 20  | Ms. Deki                  | Chief Tourism Officer    | TCB      | Attended     |
| 21  | Mr. Passang Wangchuk      | Planning Officer         | RAA      | Attended     |
| 22  | Mr. Chencho Dorji         | Head Adm/HR              | T-Bank   | Attended     |
| 23  | Mr. Nagphey               | Internal Auditor         | BOB      | Attended     |
| 24  | Mr. Sangay Phuntsho       |                          | BEA      | Attended     |
| 25  | Mr. Sangay Dorji Tshering | Dy. EE                   | BEA      | Attended     |
| 26  | Mr. Thinley Norbu         | Sr. D. O                 | MoFA     | Attended     |
| 27  | Mr. Sonam Dorji           |                          | OAG      | Not Attended |
| 28  | Mr. Kin Dorji             | PIPO                     | ACC      | Attended     |
| 29  | Mr. Sonam Tobgay          | Program Officer          | OGOP     | Attended     |
| 30  | Ms. Pema Lhadan           | Program Officer          | OGOP     | Attended     |
| 31  | Mr. Younten Jamtsho       |                          | BNB      | Attended     |
| 32  | Mr. Tashi                 |                          | BNB      | Attended     |
| 33  | Ms. Tshewang Zam          | Sr. P O                  | NEC      | Attended     |
| 34  | Ms Ugyen Pema             | SPO                      | PPD,MoEA | Attended     |



|    |                        |                    |            |              |
|----|------------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------|
| 35 | Mr. Kiran Parajuli     | General Secretary  | Bhutan ICT | Attended     |
| 36 | Ms. Tshewang Pem       | Adm. Officer       | RENEW      | Attended     |
| 37 | Mr. Jigme Dorji        | Portfolio Officer  | UNDP       | Attended     |
| 38 | Mr. Tshering Drukpa    | GM                 | BDBL       | Attended     |
| 39 | Ms. Sonam Deki         | Laboratory Officer | BAFRA      | Attended     |
| 40 | Mr. Sonam Tshering     |                    | OAG        | Not Attended |
| 41 | Mr. Chablal Adhikari   | ICT                | BICMA      | Attended     |
| 42 | Mr. Sangay Gyeltshen   | General Secretary  |            | Attended     |
| 43 | Mr. Thinley            | Director(L)        | DGPC       | Attended     |
| 44 | Mr. Khandu Dorji       | SPO                | MoIC       | Attended     |
| 45 | Mr. Sonam Dorji        | PPD                | BCCI       | Attended     |
| 46 | Ms. Sonam Choden       | Reporter           | BBS        | Attended     |
| 47 | Mr. Tandin Dorji       | Offtg. Director    | DoS,MoLHR  | Attended     |
| 48 | Ms. Karma Cheki        | Reporter           | Kuensel    | Attended     |
| 49 | Mr. Kubir N. Bhattarai | Sr. RQO            | BAFRA      | Attended     |
| 50 | Mr. Sonam Phuntsho     | Director General   | BSB        | Attended     |
| 51 | Mr. Tshering Tashi     | Head/SD            | BSB        | Attended     |
| 52 | Mr. Karma Wangdi       | Head/CD            | BSB        | Attended     |
| 53 | Mr. Karma Tenzin       | Head/IRD           | BSB        | Attended     |
| 54 | Mr. Tenzin Dorji       | Head/MLSD          | BSB        | Attended     |
| 55 | Mr. Tashi Tenzin       |                    | BSB        | Attended     |
| 56 | Mr. Sangay Yeshe       |                    | BSB        | Attended     |
| 57 | Ms. Tashi Choden       |                    | BSB        | Attended     |
| 58 | Mr. Pelden Dendup      |                    | BSB        | Attended     |
| 59 | Mrs. Chenzom           |                    | BSB        | Attended     |
| 60 | Mr. Karma Tsetrim      |                    | BSB        | Attended     |
| 61 | Mr. Cheten Zangmo      |                    | BSB        | Attended     |
| 62 | Mr. Tek Bahadur Chetri |                    | BSB        | Attended     |
| 63 | Mr. Pema Dorji         |                    | BSB        | Attended     |