

## Panel Two: Bhutan Biographies and Abstracts

Thursday 10 June 2021

**Dr Lovleen Bhullar** is a Lecturer at Birmingham Law School, University of Birmingham. She is interested in the role of rights and of the judiciary in addressing issues relating to the environment, water, and sanitation in India, and in international and domestic (India) regulation of antimicrobial resistance and climate change. She has previously written on climate change and water law and policy in the ASEAN region. Lovleen is a member of the editorial board of the Law, Environment and Development (LEAD) Journal. She holds an undergraduate law degree from the National Law School of India University, Bangalore, an LLM and a PhD in Environmental Law from SOAS, University of London, and an MSc in Environmental Policy and Regulation from LSE.

**Nawaraj Chhetri** has been working with the UNDP Bhutan for the last eight years as a Portfolio Analyst supporting the Environment and Livelihood unit. He manages the project on Bhutan Sustainable Low-emission urban transport project, which focusses on transition to low emission transport with the replacement of 300 fossil fuel cars to electric taxis. In addition, he is the project manager for the Climate Resilient Agriculture project that prioritizes on improving the resilience of small holder farmers in Bhutan. He has experience working on policies and strategies for transport, energy efficiency and renewable energy. Prior to joining UNDP, he worked with the Bhutan Power Corporation, a power utility company and has worked extensively on energy access and strategic plans. He can be connected on LinkedIn and Twitter (@nawaraj77) He holds BE degree in Mechanical Engineering from India and MSc in Management of Technology from Delft University of Technology, Netherlands.

### Abstract:

As a small landlocked country with a fragile mountainous ecosystem, and with high reliance on climate sensitive sectors such as hydropower and agriculture, the Kingdom of Bhutan is particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. The evidence shows that Bhutan will experience more extreme weather events (both more extreme and with increased frequency). Climatic events, such as heavy rainfall, will become more common and lead to floods, erosion and landslides.

The UNDP Bhutan is supporting the Royal Government of Bhutan to pursue low emission development pathways. I will be presenting about the detail areas of support including policies and strategies in place to combat challenges due to climate change. To link with the theme of the workshop, I will be discussing the GNH screening tool for approving any policies in Bhutan.

**Nima Dorji** is Senior Lecturer of Comparative Constitutional Law and Bhutanese Constitutional Law at Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law (JSW School of Law) in Bhutan. He is one of the founding faculty members of Bhutan's first law school and a PhD candidate at the University of Victoria. Prior to joining JSW School of Law, he worked as a Legal Officer at Bhutan National Legal Institute (BNLI), Bhutan's Judicial Academy, and he was one of the founding staff of the institute. Nima received his Master of Laws from University of Canberra in Australia and Bachelor of Law and Arts from NALSAR University of Law in India. Nima's research examines the intersection between law and happiness more generally and in particular the relationship between happiness and constitutionalism. Nima was a founding editorial member of Bhutan's first law journal (Bhutan Law Review), and he is Editor-in-Chief of the recently launched first volume of the Journal of Gross National Happiness (GNH) and Law published by JSW Law Publishing Series.

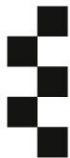
### Abstract:

#### Constitutionalisation of Environmental Protection: A GNH Perspective

Climate change is caused by the anthropocentric activities around the world. While it would require a global initiative to counter the challenges of the climate change, each state can play an important role. For Bhutan, Gross National Happiness is the guiding policy that takes into consideration environmental concerns in the development—environmental protection is one of the pillars of GNH. GNH policy was adopted in 1970s, prior to the adoption of the democratic constitution in 2008.

Therefore, this presentation will provide highlights on whether the constitution of Bhutan constitutionalises the GNH framework more generally, and in particular, environmental protection in light of the climate change concerns. The presentation will focus more on climate justice within the concept of environmental and ecological justice, as one of the underlying values of the environmental protection pillar of the GNH—whether constitution adopts mechanisms to ensure administration of such justice.

**Dr. Kent Schroeder** has over 20 years of experience working on sustainable development initiatives in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and the Canadian arctic. He has worked as a project manager, trainer, researcher, consultant and academic. Kent has an interest in the political dynamics surrounding the implementation of alternative development models and the role of cultural values in shaping these dynamics. He is particularly interested in Bhutan's Gross National Happiness model and has worked on a number of initiatives in Bhutan since 2006. Kent is currently the Executive Director of the Bhutan Canada Foundation.



**Abstract:**

The Himalayan country of Bhutan has developed a multidimensional development model known as Gross National Happiness (GNH). GNH conceptualizes development in a manner that recognizes the inherent interconnections people have with one another, across time, and to the natural world. This presentation will explore the nature of GNH and how it influences the decision-making of Bhutanese governance actors in its application in practice. It will focus on how policy decisions are shaped by both GNH values and GNH-specific governance tools and structures and assess how the model might be applied elsewhere, particularly in terms of addressing climate and human rights.

