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# Ogyen Choling Trust Fund

## INTRODUCTION

It has been a year since the heirs of Ugyen Choling decided to manage the complex under the umbrella of a trust fund devoted to the preservation and maintenance of Ugyen Choling as a religious and cultural center. The trustees felt that it is necessary to give an update on the activities and achievements annually. It is envisaged that this form of reporting, especially to the donors, will become a regular feature of the trust fund.

The two major activities; construction of guest-house facilities and setting up of a museum, which were on-going at the time of initiating the trust fund were continued. In line with the objectives of the trust fund several new activities could be initiated.

## BRIEF UP-DATE ON MAJOR ACTIVITIES

**Museum:** Satisfactory progress was achieved with the museum. The highlight was the formal opening of the museum on 5<sup>th</sup> May, by Dr. F. Pommaret, (CNRS-France) who led a group of visitors from the Amis du Bhoutan association. During the opening a *lhabsang thruesol*

ceremony was conducted. Work on the museum continued throughout the year, adding new exhibits and narratives. On the 30.

September the following rooms with specific themes were completed:

1. Trade room
2. Store
3. Kitchen and alcohol distillation room
4. War room
5. Administrative room
6. Bed room
7. Granary
8. Printing room
9. General display room
10. Weaving room

(Exhibits in room 1-5 were well advanced before September 2000).

Most of the exhibits belonged to the house although some items had to be purchased.

The printing room and the weaving room need much additional work.

After the formal opening the museum received a trickle of visitors. It was gratifying to have the students and teachers from the Misethang Primary School and some senior students from the Jakar High school visiting the Museum. The feed back so far has been positive and encouraging.



### ***Purposes of the trust fund:***

- *To continue the traditional religious rituals*
- *To create opportunities for selected persons to use the center for religious studies, research, solitude and prayer*
- *To revive and enhance traditional skills and provide a market for local handicrafts*
- *To provide financial support to needy and deserving students from the locality to pursue religious or modern education/ training at all levels*

**Research and publications:** The publication, Dorji Lingpa and His Rediscovery of the "Gold Needle" in Bhutan (Journal of Bhutan Studies (vol. 2. no. 2. 2000) by Prof. Samten Karmay, is

a significant contribution towards documenting Ugen Choling's connection to Dorje Lingpa.

**Library:** Ugencholing was very fortunate to have the inputs from Prof. Samten Karmay, Director of Research, CNRS (Paris) who has begun the systematic cataloging of all the manuscripts and prints. The catalogue is in both, Cheokay and English and there is a plan to publish it to make scholars aware of this unique collection.



**Guest-house:** The construction of the guest house facilities continued but could not be completed. Yet, the guest house received the first paying guest, Mathijs de Jongh of Amsterdam, already in December 2000. The improved facilities made the stays of the visiting family members easier and more comfortable. There appears to be good scope for income generation through the guest house facilities. Operating the guest house also provides some employment opportunities for Ugyen Choling villagers.

**Human resources:** The temple keeper cum painter is the only fully employed and paid personnel under the trust fund. Specialists (carpentry, masonry, tailoring) and casual labor for all the on-going construction and maintenance work in the museum, the guest-house and the temple are hired from the village on a daily base. The trustees, Kunzang Choden and Ugen Rinzin and their families have contributed many days of work especially to set up the museum and the guest-house.

#### Financial statement

Income	Nu
Donations	119'750
Entrance fee museum	6'700
Guest house	13'100
Loan	300'000
<b>Total income</b>	<b>439'550</b>
Expenses	Nu
Kangso/Druba 2000	36'850
Temple care taker/painter	39'800
Guest house constructions	299'317
Museum	49'975
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>425'942</b>

#### List of donors

Donor	Amount Nu
Family K.C. Roder	40'000
Family Derksen	31'500
Amis du Bhoutan	19'500
Andre Wojkonowitz	9000
Ruth Urban	5000
Family Sonam Wangchuk	4'000
Family Ugen Rinzin	4'000
Jamyang (Chusa)	2'500
Katey Reed	2'250
Dolma Roder	2'000

#### *OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING YEAR*

It is expected that the construction of the guest house can be completed during the next few months. Work on the museum however, will continue indefinitely.

The cataloguing of the manuscripts may be completed during the forthcoming visit of Prof. Samten Karmay during October/November 2001. In future, interested scholars and researchers can apply for permission to use the library.

It is planned to open a small gift shop, which will provide an outlet for local handicrafts. A scholarship scheme will be devised to support needy and deserving students. It is hoped the scheme will become functional with beginning of the school year 2002.