
Ogyen Choling Trust Fund

Annual update (1.1 2006-31.12.2006)

This is the sixth Annual update of the activities and plans of Ogyen Choling Trust Fund. As stated in the 2005 update we have stayed true to our forecast to take the black years (2006 and 2007) as a period of rest to recover our energies and replenish our resources. So in the year 2006 there were not many major activities but minor ones continued throughout the year. We foresee that this will be the way of the future of the Trust Fund; continuous renovations, improvements and new activities that are necessary and achievable towards the sustenance of Ogyen Choling.

Purposes of the trust fund

- To preserve and maintain the Ogyen Choling complex as a religious and cultural centre
- To continue the traditional religious rituals
- To create opportunities for selected persons to use the centre for religious studies, research, solitude and prayer
- To revive and enhance traditional skills and provide a market for local handicrafts pursue religious or modern education/training at all levels

The Museum

With the increase in size (area and exhibits) routine cleaning and maintenance work require increasingly more effort. Preservation of artefacts continues to be a major concern. Many visitors and well wishers have offered advice, but so far no realistic and practical solutions could be found.



Royal visitors to Ogyen Choling; Her Majesty the Queen Mother and entourage

No major additions or changes were made in the museum during the period under report. Work on the new themes “The Ogyen Choling family through photos” and “Textiles” has made good progress and we expect to complete both within the year 2007. Most of the items for both exhibits will be those in the possession of the family, which will be donated or loaned to the museum. Some other textiles and clothing which are considered to be representative of Bumthang have also been purchased. Selected photographs (family members and others of some significance for Ogyen Choling) have been collected and enlarged or reproduced. Boxes and frames for displaying pictures have been made. The room for the textile exhibit is a rather dark and will need additional light. As electricity may not reach the valley within this year we will have to make provision for solar lighting.

The Guest House

The occupancy rate of the guest house facilities remained low. However, visitors who have stayed at the guesthouse expressed their appreciation, in spite of the modest facilities. The new kitchen being nearer to the guest house dining room has made food service easier.

Visitors

Ogyen Choling *nagtshang* and the community were doubly honoured by the visit of Her Majesty the Queen Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck in March and Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Kesang Choden Wangchuck in June. Her Majesty the Queen Mother was accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Ashi Sonam Choden Wangchuck, Ashi Kesang Wangmo Wangchuck, their children and by Ashi Deki Choden and her children. The royal visitors had gracious words of encouragement for our efforts to maintain and preserve Ogyen Choling. Other distinguished visitors included His Excellency Sudhir Vyas the Indian Ambassador to Bhutan and party and His Excellency Dominique Dryer the Swiss Ambassador to Bhutan from New Delhi and party.

The museum also benefited from the visit of renowned museum specialist:

- Dr. Preston Scott (World Foundation for Environment and Development) and Dr. Helga Wall-Apelt (Ringling Museum): Their visit was in connection with the preparation for Smithsonian Museum’s Folk Life Festival 2008 at which Bhutan’s environmental and cultural life will be celebrated visited the museum.
- Dr. Terese Bartholomew (Curator, San Francisco Art Museum) and Mr. John Johnston (intern Honolulu Academy of Arts): They visited Ogyen Choling as representatives of the Honolulu Academy of Arts which is organising a Bhutan Art Exhibition in 2008. Ogyen Choling has loaned a *thangka* of Dorji Lingpa to the exhibition for a duration of 2 years.

Minor construction activities:

The drainage around the *utse*, central tower had become problematic over the last years. It was poorly maintained and no longer functioned. The drain has been repaired with concrete and the plinth has been covered with stone slabs.

The family kitchen and toilets are finally complete. Enjoying the facilities of the new kitchen we have been asking ourselves, “Why did we wait so long to change the kitchen?” It is spacious, effective and clean without the smoke and the soot unlike the old kitchen. Everything looks different even the cats in the kitchen look cleaner.

Change in temple care taker

Ngawang Jampay who has been looking after the Ogyen Choling temples for the last 8 years has handed over his responsibility to Goem Phurba of Ogyen Choling village. Ngawang Jampay, who is a gifted artist wanted to have more time for his artistic endeavours. We would like to acknowledge his contribution towards the maintenance and renovation work in the temples as well as the museum. His art work greatly enhanced some of the museum exhibits.



Ngawang Jampay and .Goem Phurba outgoing and new temple caretaker

Special projects and other events

Documenting physical structures: We were fortunate to avail the expertise of the reputed architect and conservationist Mr. Pierre Pichard to prepare drawings of the structure of the Ogyen Choling complex. Pierre spent 3 weeks at the site taking detailed measurements. The drawings will be completed within 2007. This project could be realized thanks to funding obtained from the Williamson Fund UK.



Pierre tacking physical measurements

Road access: As already reported in the last update, the village of Ogyen Choling has now a farm road, which was paid for by the Ogyen Choling community. While we may have to wait

indefinitely for a bridge across the Tang river, we continue to use tractors occasionally to carry material to Ogyen Choling.

Electrification: In preparation for the electric supply reaching Ogyen Choling in the near future, the Power Department has completed the placing of the transmission poles. We have negotiated with the Department to defer the placing of the poles in the compound of the complex. The poles would have been rather obtrusive, interfering with the existing structures. Although expensive, we decided to opt for underground lines once the supply is available, in order to retain the aesthetics of the site .

Gate for guest house compound: The wall into the compound around the guest house had to be opened several years ago to allow access by tractors and power tillers. This year we could finally make a proper gate to close the opening.

Future plans

Over the years the wooden shingles on all the buildings, except for the dance house (*chamkhang*), were replaced with corrugated galvanized tin sheet roofs. We have, however decided to keep the shingles on the oldest building, which is the dance house. We have also been advised by experts that the roofs should be painted to impede the onset of rusting. We have not decided on a colour, but most probably it will be red or green and we hope that we can complete this task within the year.

Another major project we foresee is the making of glass window panes in all the exhibit rooms. Right now we have just placed the glass without proper frames which does not allow for cleaning. Proper window frames have to be made and fitted with the window panes. This is, however a major project, which may be initiated, but not completed this year.

If finances and human resources allow, we will also repair the main entrance gate and some of the chortens along the access path to the *nagtsang*.

Financial report

In the year 2006 the trust fund received contributions from 18 donors (groups and individuals). We would like to extend our warmest appreciation to all of you. Compared to the previous years the number of donors and the amount received has declined substantially. Almost half the income of nearly 0.4 million Nu was generated through the museum fees, guest house and sale of museum books. We expect that the income from museum entrance fees will increase substantially in the coming years as the tourist numbers increase and as there is a growing interest from the tourist agencies and tourists. As we did not have any major project, the expenses were less than 50% of the previous year. The most significant expenses were salaries, followed by expenses for the annual ritual, interest on loans and scholarship/academic prizes.

Donations	Currency	Amount	Amount Nu
Herbert Roder, Switzerland	Fr	200	7'120
Martin & Kungold Menzi, Switzerland	Fr	300	10'680
Family Frey, Switzerland	Fr	1000	35'600
Swiss Ambassador, D. Dreyer, Delhi	USD	200	8'940
Sabinne Liebherr, Switzerland	Nu	500	500
Matthijs de Jongh, Netherlands	USD	500	22'500
Han Andre Iluk, Thailand	USD	500	22'500
M.M. Kliks, Hawaii	USD	20	900
Visitor	Nu	500	500
A friend from Switzerland	Fr	300	10'680
Peter A. Zahn, Switzerland	USD	500	22'250
Nancy Strickland, Bhutan	USD	101	4'495
Laura Morgan	USD	20	890
Tom Novotny	USD	20	890
Michele and Francine, France	Euro	60	3'384
Sonam Wangchuk, Bhutan	NU	2500	2'500
Amis du Bhutan	Euro	450	25'380
Kunzang Choden, Bhutan	Nu	30000	30'000
Total Nu			209'709

Assets and loans	Nu
Long-term investments	80'000
Loan	450'000

Appreciation and warm wishes

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our well wishers, friends and donors to the Ogyen Choling trust fund. It is only through your support and encouragement that our dreams and projects become realities.

We would also like to wish each of you a very Happy Losar (New Year), and may the **Year of the Fire Female Pig** be filled with joy, peace and happiness

For additional information consult our webpage:
<http://www.geocities.com/ogyencholingmuseum> or write to
kcrjakar@druknet.bt

Income	Nu
Donations	209'709
Sale museum books	22'350
Sale library catalogues	3'200
Guest house	86'400
Entrance fee museum	71'250
Total income in 2006	392'909
Balance 31.12. 05 (negative)	-111'186
Balance 31.12. 06 (negative)	21'566
	303'288

Expenses	Nu
Salaries ¹	96'000
Kangso	58'102
Scholarships, academic prizes	32'560
Loan (interest)	31'500
Kitchen/bathrooms/drainage	32'000
Other expenses	53'126
Total expenses	303'288

¹ Temple care taker and assistant curator



Mask of pig face (Ogyen Choling museum)