
Ogyen Choling Trust Fund

Annual update (1.1 2008-31.12.2008)

Purposes of the trust fund

- To ensure the long term maintenance of the buildings, the temples and the museum
- To sustain the traditional religious observances and rituals
- To provide a place for religious studies, research and solitude
- To revive and encourage traditional skills and provide a market for local handicrafts
- To provide financial support to deserving but economically deprived students in Tang valley

This update is shorter than usual because the year 2008 was a rather slack one and only a few of the activities foreseen for 2008 could be undertaken. This was basically because of major changes in the personal lives of the trustees and the national events relating to the centennial and coronation celebrations.

From the ambitious activities listed in the outlook for 2008, only the painting of the *utse* roof and some improvements in the guest house facilities (purchase of mattresses, bedding, crockery etc., minor structural changes) could be accomplished. But none of the listed activities have changed their priority status nor will any be abandoned. We will continue to work on them as time and resources permit.



The Museum

Finally towards the end of the year the narratives on the ancestors and the photo galleries of the family could be initiated. Although more work remains to be done, we are confident that these exhibits can be completed in 2009.

The painting of the roof was contracted out to a painter from the village and we are quite satisfied with his work. We decided to paint the roof red as it is the appropriate colour for a religious centre such as Ogyen Choling. As can be seen in the picture above, the painted roof does improve the aesthetics of the buildings!

Electricity and new possibilities

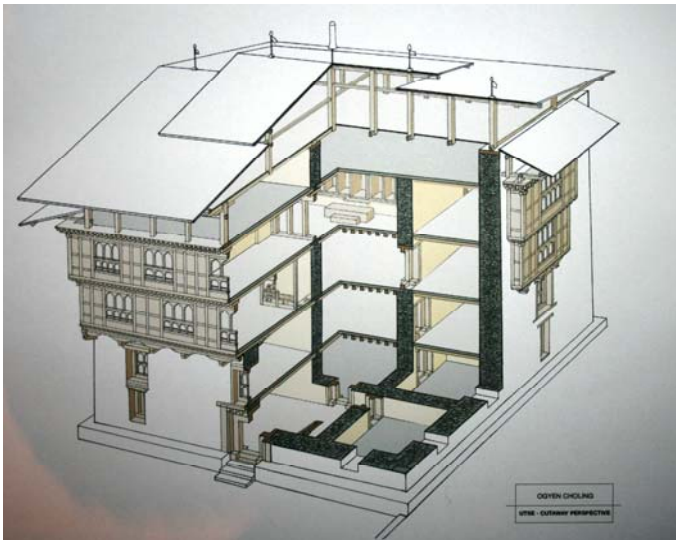
After a delay of more than a year, electricity finally reached Ogyen Choling in December. Life has certainly become easier but everything has changed completely; from the kitchen gadgets to entertainment, leisure and time utilization.

With electricity new possibilities have also opened up, we are now considering a visitors' video room where different documentaries on Ogyen Choling will be screened for visitors. We have already identified a room for this purpose. Electricity will make it possible to use rooms which do not have sufficient natural light and will make it easier to protect delicate artefacts from direct natural light.

All the rooms in the museum are much brighter with the electricity, so everything can be seen clearly including the dust and we will have to do more careful and more regular cleaning. The fire extinguishers had to be refilled. It was quite an operation to bring them all the way to Phuentsholing for refilling and back to Bumthang.

Documenting physical structures

Pierre Pichard, the architect, paid a final visit to Ogyen Choling in December to verify some details. A detailed and personal narrative is being written to complement the architectural drawings. The writing in progress, covers historical as well as the lived experiences of the family members and some of the villagers. We are hopeful that the final draft of the book will be ready by the end of the year.



Future plans

We hope to have more time to work in Ogyen Choling this year. Without being too ambitious we still hope to accomplish the following activities:

- Paint the temple roof
- Repair and re-vitalise the Chamkhang
- Construct a common toilet to be used during festivals and rituals
- Develop a series of audiovisual materials on Ogyen Choling (Religious rituals, Kangso, Personal remembrances, Agricultural practices, Handicrafts etc)
- Make a new main gate to the complex
- Wall around the area between the temple and the main gate

The last two activities are contingent upon the government's cadastral survey which is scheduled to be carried out this year. The cadastral surveys will confirm the boundary of the property.

There are some old documents in the family's possession, covering various aspects of Ogyen Choling, such as taxes, disputes, grains, cattle and boundaries, personal and official correspondence etc. Some documents have been translated and we hope to continue this task during this year and beyond.

Financial report

We would like to extend our warmest appreciation to all of you for your contributions. Along with the earnings from the guest house the income for 2008 was close to Nu. 500'000. With Nu. 301'280 generated by the Ogyen Choling activities the Trust Fund has reached a comfortable level of self-financing.

The most significant expenses besides salaries and loan repayment were the final payment for electrification, various items purchased for the guest house and scholarship/academic prizes.

Donations	Currency	Amount	Amount in Nu
Han Andre Iluk and group	USD	500	21'000
Herbert Roder	CHF	200	7'800
Louis J. Elving & Stephen Carr	CHF	771.15	31'617
Amis du Bhutan	Euro	570	37'050
Prof. Martin & Kungold Menzi	CHF	365	14'965
Fabienne Grossenbacher	CHF	600	23'700
Sigrid & Christian Engi	USD	200	9'540
	£	20	1'402
Robert Hales & Tessa Hall	Nu	3000	3'000
Pierre Pichard	Nu	800	800
Dianne and Ian Turnbull	Nu	1000	1'000
Visitors	Nu	4000	4'000
Kunzang Choden, Bhutan	Nu	20000	20'000
Total			175'874

Income	Nu
Donations	175'874
Guest house	177'900
Entrance fee museum	97'230
Museum books sold	11'800
Salt souvenirs	2'350
Interest on bank deposit	12'000
Roofing materials	8'500
Extra roofing Nails sold	9'080
Total income in 2008	494'734
Balance 1.1. 08	121'694
Balance 31.12. 08 ¹	103'553
Total expenditures	512'875

¹ Oling: 42185; Thimphu: 61368

Expenditures	Nu
Electrification	45'000
Loan repayment	150'000
Salaries ¹	96'000
Scholarships, academic prizes	41'380
Guest house materials ²	66'573
Roof painting	32'700
Loan (interest)	31'500
Other expenses	49'722
Total expenditures	512'875

¹ Temple care taker and assistant curator

² Bedding, crockery etc.

Assets and loans	Nu
Long-term investments	80'000
Loan	200'000

Appreciation and warm wishes

We would like to send out our heartfelt gratitude to all our well wishers, friends and donors for making things happen in Ogyen Choling. Without your continued support and generous donations our dreams and aspirations for Ogyen Choling would remain forever in the realm of dreams. Thank you, through your generosity; you are a part of Ogyen Choling's resilience and survival through time.

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