

Another Milestone: Thimphu Tech Park



By **Kinzang Choden**
in THIMPHU

The groundbreaking ceremony and foundation laying ceremony of Bhutan's first IT Park was held yesterday at the project site in Serbithang by His Excellency Lyonchhoen

Jigmi Y Thinley along with Lyonpo Nandalal Rai, Lyonpo Thakur Singh Powdyel, Lyonpo Dorji Wangdi and dignitaries from the World Bank (WB), Assetz property group and senior members of the government and industry.

According to the press release, Thimphu Tech Park hailed an iconic project in Bhutan, to be built in complete harmony with traditional Bhutanese architecture with most contemporary facilities. It states that the Thimphu Tech Park will be a green building in a green country which will promote green IT. It is a project to be developed over 5 acres of land.

"We will bring in the best practices to provide this IT Park with A class facilities at the same time respecting Bhutan's rich culture and heritage," said Mike Holland, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Thimphu Tech Park.

In the first phase of the project, Thimphu Tech Park will build over 50,000 sq ft of office space with the latest technological facilities like warm shell space, ATM, Travel desk, shared services etc.

It was conceived by the Ministry of Information and Communications, to harness the immense potential of Bhuta-

Another Milestone : Thimphu Tech Park

» CONTD... FROM PAGE 01

nese youth.

Lyonpo Nandalal Rai in his speech said that the IT Park will be housing multitudes of technological facilities with Hi tech companies, developing IT applications and providing tech support and services. IT and IT enabled services is a huge global opportunity whose worth is expected to be around \$ 1.5 trillion by the year 2020.

Apart from the whooping revenue generating capacity, he said the micro state of this huge global opportunity will also provide business and employment opportunities for about 10,000 youths ten years from now.

"Bhutan is also aspiring to create an export opportunity of \$ 100 million by

2020 thus creating a spiraling impact on employment both direct and indirect. It will also house some leading IT companies both global and national," he said.

The project will develop data and incubation centre for developing young Bhutanese technology entrepreneurs and a shared service centre to provide facilities like conferencing on a 10,000 sq ft area which will be leased by the government.

"We have seen some exciting developments in the Bhutanese ICT sector, positioning it as an emerging destination for ICT knowledge led economy hub. We want to be perceived by global communities as a potential future IT destination," he said.

The minister also said that the human

capacity required in the IT industry will be filled by already trained Bhutanese graduates.

"We are also fast tracking ICT education on an unprecedented scale and bringing ICT skills and awareness to all sections of Bhutanese society, from out of school youth to the highest levels of decision making in our program known as Chiphen Rigphel," he said.

Thimphu Tech Park (TTP) is being developed jointly by Assetz Property Group and Druk Holding and Investments (DHI). Promoted by the Department of Information Technology and Telecom (DIT&T) and supported by World Bank TTP, it has been designed to take advantage of the country's inherent resources and grade.



The groundbreaking ceremony for the IT park was held at Serbithang yesterday