

# About Us

**NEWS:** Second International Conference on Vajrayāna Buddhism

**NEWS: CALL FOR PAPERS: Seventh International Conference on Gross National Happiness: “GNH in Business”**  
9 to 11 November 2017

The establishment of the Centre was approved by the Council of Ministers, the highest executive body in the Royal Government of Bhutan. Subsequent to this approval, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Lyonpo Jigmi Y. Thinley issued a government [order No. Com/02/52](#) dated 11 November 1998, commanding the establishment of the Centre.

The Centre was officially inaugurated on March 25, 1999.

## **Objectives**

- Conduct evaluative studies on existing programmes of the government and providing feedback on the basis of which the Royal Government can improve programmes and policies.
- Support basic research by other agencies in Bhutan.
- Conduct inter-disciplinary studies of Bhutan in its

social, cultural, and economics aspects, focussing largely, but not exclusively, on contemporary issues.

- Act as a clearing-house of information on various studies and researches being conducted in Bhutan and abroad by foreign institutes. Within Bhutan, the Centre will maintain a close research alliance with other people and institutes engaged in similar activities.
- Generate programme proposals or writings, as assigned by the Council for the Centre.
- Host special lectures and seminars on themes related to its charge by Bhutanese, and by foreign scholars who visit Bhutan for whatever reasons.
- Commission studies or research by Bhutanese scholars, related to its charge
- Publish occasional research papers.
- Publish the Journal of Bhutan Studies (annual publication)
- Encourage participation of younger scholars in research.
- Serve as a vehicle to train individuals in research skills to analyse, in particular, contemporary issues.

## **Regulatory Guidance**

The Centre is an autonomous body governed by a set of [Tsa-thrim](#) (rules and regulations) approved by the Council of Ministers.

**Disclaimer:** Some people easily confuse between Centre for Bhutan Studies & Gross National Happiness Research (CBS & GNHR) and Gross National Happiness Centre (GNHC). We want to clarify that there is no relation between the two. GNHC is an NGO based in Bumthang while CBS & GNHR is an autonomous government institute whose mandate, among others, is to study GNH by enriching the concept, developing GNH Index and GNH indicators for influencing public policy, programmes and projects, and developing tools for Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC) to integrate GNH into national planning process.