



Minutes of FRIENDS Reunion Event at RTC
May 07th, 2022
9:30 am – 12:00 PM

Presenter:

1. Leki Dem Tamang, Project Member
2. Tshering Choden, Project Member
3. Kencho Pelzom, IR Manager
4. Choeing Lhazin, RTC FRIENDS Students members
5. Jigme Thukten, RTC FRIENDS Students members
6. Pem Dechen Topgay, RTC FRIENDS Students members
7. Pelden Lhamo, RTC FRIENDS Students members

The FRIENDS Reunion was conducted by the Royal Thimphu College on 7th May, 2022 as part of the FRIENDS Intercultural Passport Dissemination and Promotion. The event was held on 7th May 2022 from 9:30 am onwards and had a brief introduction to the FRIENDS Project including its purpose and focus on Capacity Building in Higher Education Institute like RTC, FRIENDS IACD and Tea House experiences and lastly a short presentation on Inspiration session on “Importance of Cultural Dialogue and the Relevance of Intercultural Awareness and Competence from an Employability point of view”.

The RTC FRIENDS Project members and the Bootcamp Participants teamed up to start working on the presentations and agenda for the event. The participants for this event were from Norbuling Rigter College, Sherubste College, Gedu College of Business Studies and College of Language and Culture Studies.

The event started with Ms. Tshering Choden welcoming the participants and introducing the Project members. Ms. Tshering Choden also talked about the project details and the overall activities completed by RTC.

The first part of the caravan activity focused on the FRIENDS Project including a brief presentation on the project and also explaining why such a project is beneficial for HEIs. Ms. Tshering also took the opportunity to present the FRIENDS Project website to the audience and presented to them the Bhutan subsite. Ms. Tshering also introduced the FRIENDS Teahouse concept to the audience and also showed pictures of the Teahouse on the RTC campus.

Followed by the presentation on the FRIENDS project, the 4 RTC FRIENDS Students member took turns and talked about their experiences in running the Tea house and working on the project. They talked about the important aspect of IACD MOOC and a brief description of the MOOC Structure was also presented to the participants by the 4 students. The students explained how they learned other skills through the MOOC such as time management and multitasking, because though they were attending the MOOC virtually-delivered by the European partners, they also had to make sure to meet their academic requirements at RTC so juggling between the two have helped them become better organized, learn time management skills and at the same time they could see the potential within themselves to challenge their capabilities and succeed. The students' presentation completed with pictures of Tea House and its importance at RTC.

After the virtual break of 20 minutes, the next presentation was done by Ms. Kencho Pelzom, IRM Manager (RTC) on the topic Inspiration session on "Importance of Cultural Dialogue and the Relevance of Intercultural Awareness and Competence from an Employability point of view". She mainly talked about Intercultural Awareness & Competency. She described Intercultural competency as 'an individual's ability to function effectively across cultures'.

The relation with employability was linked with RUB Degree Graduate Expectation i.e. the 10 skills Wheel of Academic Law. Also, RUB's annual employment annual report was discussed during Ms. Kencho's presentation.

Lastly, Ms. Kencho's presentation ended with RTC's past data on Internationalization where different Erasmus Projects, Short-term exchange programmes and inbound study abroad programmes were discussed.

The last presentation was on FRIENDS project outcome dissemination at RTC by Ms. Leki Dem Tamang. She mainly highlighted the activities carried out through the FRIENDS project to date such as Intercultural Awareness and Cultural Diversity Massive Open Online Course – MOOC, Digital Storytelling Contests, Intercultural Passport Award, Home Away from Home Programme (Bootcamp), Friends beyond FRIENDS and RTC Tea House. The objectives, prerequisites and the importance of an Intercultural Passport were described by the presenter thoroughly.

With all the presentations completed, the RTC FRIENDS team was ready to take questions from the audience and interestingly most of the participants had different questions about the IACD MOOC, Intercultural Passport and FRIENDS Project on a whole.

The event concluded with Ms. Tshering thanking the participants for agreeing to provide assistance to RTC and taking the time to attend the event virtually on their own personal data expenses.

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