

Druk White Lotus Schools, Ladakh, Indian Himalaya

Status Report, Summer 2010



Schools

Druk White Lotus School in Shey has operated since 2001

Branch school opened in Khachey in April 2010 with 21 students

576 students in total (281 girls and 295 boys)

200 residential students from remote areas

28 teachers, of whom 14 Ladakhi, 9 Tibetan and 5 from outside Ladakh

29 support staff, including warden and house mothers

Nursery class (age 4) through Middle School class 8 (age 16)

Montessori methods in Nursery, Lower and Upper Kindergarten

4 team houses (marmot; pika; yak; blue sheep) to foster teamwork

English-medium school

Study of Bothi (Ladakhi) language

Parents' Association

Plan to apply for affiliation to Central Board of Secondary Education (Indian national examining board)

Education Development

New Principal, Mr Prasad Eledath, appointed in February 2010

Teacher Resource Centre initiated

Key staff recruited from outside Ladakh to help raise teaching and learning standards

International volunteers actively involved in English, arts and IT

165 international sponsors finance disadvantaged day and residential pupils

282 students cared for by international volunteers in April 2010 under a dental preventive care programme



Winter vacation training for selected staff

Language laboratory soon to be installed

Active cooperation with Indian and international NGOs and schools

Sustainability

Buildings orientated to maximise use of solar energy

Trombe walls use passive solar energy

VIP latrines minimise use of water in a desert environment

Construction uses mainly local materials

School buildings are earthquake resistant

Master Plan includes recycling/composting and greenhouses

Several thousand trees planted on the campus

State of the art solar energy system generates electricity on the campus

Featured in US television documentary series "e² design: the economies of being environmentally conscious"

Aiming for financial sustainability in the long-term through local income generation

Targeting educational sustainability through training programme for local staff

School nurturing student and staff talents to foster sustainable human development

Construction

Master Plan inspired by His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa

Nursery & Infant Courtyard won three World Architecture Awards

Received 'Design for Asia Grand Award' in Hong Kong, December 2009

School designed by international team from Arup Associates and Ove Arup Partners, London

Secondary classrooms, Residence 4 and staff accommodation under construction

Secondary School buildings and infrastructure must be completed by October 2013



Organisations

Druk Padma Karpo Educational Society
non-profit society
School Governor

Drukpa Trust (United Kingdom)
UK registered charity No. 1014948
International Project Manager

Live to Love Charitable Foundation
Partner

Heritage

Location for several film-shoots, including 'The 3 Idiots' Bollywood movie

The Dragon Trail heritage project underway

Hosted 800th anniversary celebrations of the Drukpa Lineage

Emphasis on Ladakhi performing arts

School welcomes children from all backgrounds and aims to ground them in Ladakhi culture

Visitor Centre being developed with help from BaSiC Initiative volunteers from the USA



Contacts

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Finance

Not-for-profit fee-paying school with fee levels set at locally affordable levels

School receives no direct financial contribution from Indian educational authorities

£1.3 million raised to date for capital investment

£420,000 urgently needed to complete the Secondary School, Residence 4 and related infrastructure

Renewable energy equipment installed, co-financed by voluntary carbon-offset funds

Very significant contributions in kind from professional individuals and organisations



International Co-operation

Alton College, Perse School and St Christopher School (UK)

Arup Associates and Ove Arup & Partners

BaSiC Initiative, USA

Jet Airways (India) Ltd.

kontentreal, New York

Princeton University, USA

Reliance BIG Pictures

Vinod Chopra Films