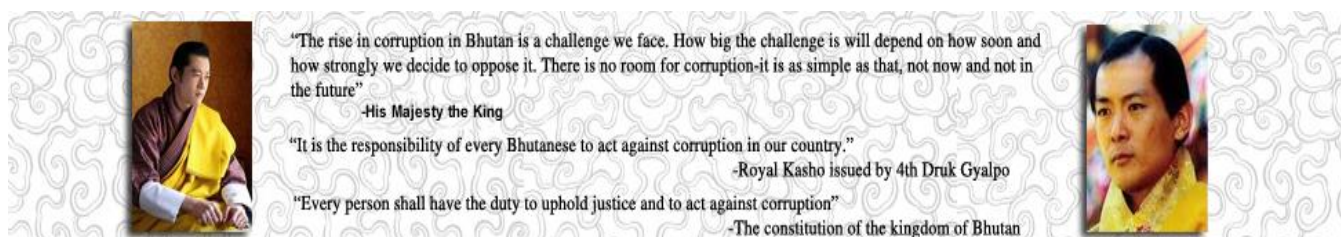


THE ANTI CORRUPTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN



ACC Meets with RTI Experts on May 31, 2012

Governance is an operating system, simplistically stating, that engages all stakeholders in ensuring justice, equity and well being of all citizens. Information and knowledge is power, which is integral to and vital for good governance. Empowerment per se has no essence if sincere processes of empowerment through knowledge creation/sharing and social accountability systems (on which the concerned parties are educated) are not in place. And access to information is central to it (e.g. local budget, appropriations, expenditure details, fund collection, award of contracts, appointments, service standards & public servants' duty, grievance redressal mechanism, etc.).

Bhutan, as one of the youngest democracies in the world and a nation that professes happiness as her ultimate goal, and with the sincere commitment to building a strong democratic culture has to design its own access to information system and infrastructure drawing on the rich experiences of countries with similar cultural, social and political context.

The Chairperson met with Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, Chairperson of the National Minorities Commission, former Chief Information Commissioner, India, Mr. Satyananda Mishra, Chief Information Commissioner of India, Mr. Shekhar Singh, former Advisor Planning Commission, India, RTI expert and Lok Pal advocate, Ms. Ann Florini, Academic from Brookings Institution, Dr. Shamsul Bari, UN Special Rapporteur for Somalia/RTI Expert (Chairman, Research Initiatives Bangladesh), Mr. Tony Verheijen, Manager, Public Sector Group and Mr. Vikram K. Chand, Sr. Public Sector Specialist, World Bank on may 31, 2012.

The experts were in the country for a seminar on RTI in Thimphu, organized by the Ministry of Information and Communications, Government of Bhutan in collaboration with the World Bank.