



KHORYUG

Khoryug's Activities under the Aegis of Kun Kyong Charitable Trust:

Kun Kyong Charitable Trust is a Religious & Charitable Trust created in 2012. A 12A Registered body with exemptions on incomes from the Income Tax Department. Also have general FCRA permission from the Government of India

Kun Kyong's Aims & Objectives relating to Khoryug:

- To conserve, protect and promote natural resources such as water, forest, minerals etc. by popularizing afforestation/tree planting in the community, introducing water harvesting techniques, and advocating sustainable exploitation and use of minerals.
- To work with the Government and other Non Government Organizations on major programs for replantation of deforested areas, conservation of water sheds, and the protection of lakes and other sources.
- To establish, manage and run centers for the study and protection of ecology and/or environment.
- To introduce simple and sustainable technologies and practices for improved water and sanitation facilities, and waste disposal.
- To use various medium of communication if and when required sensitizing the masses and creating awareness among them in matter of environmental and social issues.

Khoryug's Vision

KHORYUG'S VISION IS ALIGNED WITH KUNKYONG'S AIMS & OBJECTIVES

KHORYUG is a network of Buddhist monasteries and centers in the Himalayas working together on environmental protection of the Himalayan region with the aim of practically applying the values of compassion and interdependence towards the Earth and all living beings that dwell here.

KHORYUG aims to develop a partnership with community based organizations and NGOs wherever there is a member monastery or center so that together with our communities, we can help and protect all life on Earth now and for the future

- Can have its own by-laws, rules and regulations which should be in aligned with the Aims and Objectives of the Kun Kyong Charitable Trust

Khoryug's Logo and its significance:

During his opening address of the 8th Khoryug Conference, 22nd March 2017, His Holiness the 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje revealed his design for a new Khoryug logo. The new design depicts Mount Kailash at the centre with rivers flowing down to Lake Mansarovar, all of which is embraced by two hands.

His Holiness explained that he chose to portray Mount Kailash in the new logo due to its great significance in Hindu and Buddhist cosmologies.

The second reason His Holiness gave for selecting Mount Kailash and the sacred turquoise lake of Mansarovar was because they so perfectly represent the geographical significance of Tibet and the Himalayas. He noted that this logo illustrates the ties between India and Tibet and hopefully also brings attention to how Tibet and the Himalayas play a beneficial role for all of the surrounding lands and people.

General Information:

Areas of environmental works that Khoryug undertake are very broad. We consider environment as a whole rather than in components as per the Buddhist Theory of Interdependence. The term “KHORYUG” literally means environment in Tibetan. To be specific, nuns and monks of Khoryug monasteries are engaged in tree plantation, waste segregation, rainwater-harvesting, organic farming, environmental education, biogas production, reuse, reduce, recycling, disaster management and training, practicing vegetarianism, application of renewable energy resources such as solar, composting, community cleanup with local community and other activities since 2009 under the leadership and guidance of His Holiness the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje. Most of these activities are ongoing and have been continuing since many years.

Every year, since 2009, we have been holding annual Khoryug conference presided over by His Holiness the 17th Karmapa. The last Khoryug conference was the 9th Khoryug Conference held at Rumtek Monastery, Sikkim, India in April 2018. At the conference, all the Khoryug staffs and coordinators of each monastery meet, present and share each other’s ideas, activities, projects, successes and feedbacks. Environmental activities carried out in each monastery as per their location and other factors are mostly decidedly at the yearly conference.

Over 400 nuns and monks are trained as emergency and disaster responders. More than 100,000 trees were planted through Khoryug. More than 20,000 individuals are being served per year through monastic health care. Monks and nuns receive on average 20% of the food from their own organic farm and garden. Most of the nuns and monks in the Khoryug monasteries have been successfully being imparted the importance of environment through Khoryug.

Most of the activities carried by the Khoryug are at the grassroots level in the Himalayan region. Nuns and monks from very young ages to the older ones are involved in the environmental activities. Once or twice a year, most

of the Khoryug monasteries by collaborating with the nearby local and villagers are involved in environment cleaning and creating environment awareness.

Environmental activities are being carried out by Khoryug are within the monastic institutions mostly. Since the Khoryug monasteries are being located in the Himalayan region of India, Nepal and Bhutan. The environmental activities directly or indirectly involve with the people residing near the monastery or those who follow Buddha Dharma, His Holiness the Karmapa and who follow Khoryug activities.

We reach out to people through the Khoryug website (www.khoryug.info) and through Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. And many people do know Khoryug and its activities directly or indirectly because of His Holiness the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa and his compassionate and Dharmic activities.

Khoryug is led by His Holiness the 17th Karmapa. And we have Mrs. Dekila Chungyalpa as the advisor and one Khoryug officer. And we have three Khoryug country coordinators each from India, Nepal and Bhutan. For example: India Khoryug coordinator will manage all the coordination and communication within India. And in each Khoryug monasteries located in India, Nepal and Bhutan, we have at least one Khoryug staff nominated by the respective monastery.

Khoryug is a project undertaken by Kun Kyong Charitable Trust. Kun Kyong Charitable Trust is a non-governmental organization established in 2013 for the benefit of society at large without any regard to their creed, gender, religious denomination and any artificial differentiator. His Holiness the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa, Ogyen Trinley Dorje is the Principal Patron of the trust. Khoryug is an association of over 50 monasteries located in India, Nepal and Bhutan.

TIMELINE

21st - 25th March 2009
The first Khoryug Conference
“108 Things that You Can Do to Protect Environment”
|
3rd to 7th October 2009
The Second Khoryug Conference
KHORYUG was born after the agreement among the conference representatives
|
14th to 16th November 2010
The Third Khoryug Conference
|
5th to 9th June 2012
The Fourth Khoryug Conference
|
6th to 10th November 2013
The Fifth Khoryug Conference
|
Researchers from Yale and Princeton University
|
November 2015
The Sixth Khoryug Conference
|
January 20th and 21st
Khoryug Workshop at Mirik, West Bengal
|
21st to 24th March 2016
The Seventh Khoryug Conference
|
1st to 5th October 2016
Spiritual Ecology Fellowship Workshop, Trilokpur, Himachal
|
22nd to 24th March 2017
The Eighth Khoryug Conference
“Disaster Management Guidelines”
The new **Khoryug Logo** was created by His Holiness
|
2nd to 5th April 2018
The Ninth Khoryug Conference, Rumtek, Sikkim
|
10th Year for Khoryug Anniversary

HISTORY:

In 2007, His Holiness the 17th Karmapa built off of his many statements about the environment to begin strongly advocating for environmental protection activities within the Kagyu community. At the 2007 Kagyu Monlam in Bodh Gaya, His Holiness made environmental protection a priority and said that he would like to see practical results within the Kagyu community. He made a special request to his monasteries that they plant 1,000 trees if they could. He also encouraged the congregation of his followers around the world to take individual responsibility for protecting the environment in their own respective countries. In the following year, all monasteries under him planted trees, and some monasteries planted several thousand saplings. In 2008 His Holiness published Environmental Guidelines for Karma Kagyu Buddhist Monasteries, Centers, and Community, a guide that lays out the most serious environmental issues in the Himalayas and offers solutions based on the most recent scientific and practical knowledge available.

In March of 2009, His Holiness hosted the First Environmental Conference for Kagyu Monasteries, Centers and Community in Sarnath, India, where 60 representatives from 22 monasteries and nunneries gathered for 5 days of science-based learning and site-based strategizing and problem solving. Collectively their brainstorming generated 108 Things You Can Do to Help the Environment, an accessible booklet with practical suggestions for environmental action. As the representatives returned to their monasteries and nunneries and worked to begin implementing change, they realized the importance of ongoing mutual support and learning from others' experiences. Khoryug conference became an annual gathering for monks and nuns to learn about different environmental topics, share their progress and best practices and organize with other monasteries and nunneries in their region. The association Rangjung Khoryug Sungkyob Tsokpa (Khoryug) was formed.

Achievements

1. We have around 70 member monasteries and nunneries in India, Nepal and Bhutan.
2. 85% of our monastic Khoryug coordinators whose environmentalism was inspired or deepened by the working with Khoryug.
3. Over 400 monks and nuns trained as emergency responders.
4. Over 100K trees planted by nuns and monks through Khoryug programs
5. Over 20K people served per year by monastic health clinics.
6. Approximately 1720 monks and nuns receive on average 20% of their food from their own organic farms and gardens.
7. Most of the Khoryug monasteries and nunneries have proper Disaster Management Plan in case of emergency.

5 Year Khoryug Plan

Implementation

Short Term

- Reduce, reuse, recycle and encourage others to do so.
- Invite teachers to organize workshops and trainings, as well as organize field trips for senior and junior monks.
- Provide organizational capacity building to country and monastic committees. Assign monks and nuns individual responsibilities.

Long Term:

- Develop and provide practical education materials in monasteries that can be used in outreach.
- Focus on gaining personal commitment in monasteries.

Communication

Short Term

- Adopt more user friendly channels such as Facebook messenger or Whatsapp with rules and restrictions.
- Create country coordination committees with minimum 2 people/monasteries for 3 years.
- Hold regional training conferences, and one central training/reporting conference per year.

Long Term

- Invite senior leadership from monasteries to be involved in Khoryug and provide support.
- Appoint next monastic coordinators for 3 year term, ask them to find next generation and start training now.

Coordination

Short Term

- Give coordination role to monastery, not individuals.
- Ensure that country coordinator is freed up of other responsibilities for 3 years.

Long Term

- Ensure monastic coordinator has authority to make decisions and that Khoryug is their only responsibility.
- Provide monastic and country coordinators with intensive training so that they have relevant knowledge and authority.

Organization

Short Term

- Analyze and ensure legality of all organizations related to Khoryug and Kun Kyong.
- Use Kun Kyong as a facilitator for future fundraising. Inform Kun Kyong and Central Committee of fundraising.

Long Term

- Create a central committee working underneath HHK with at least one country representative and including senior members, professionals, monastic managers. Committee will oversee regional group, communications, and activities. Provide specific training to committee members and develop regulation standards (like keeping formal record of attendance and notices of meetings).
- Set an annual time for Khoryug conference.



Planning and On-going Activities as per the THE FAITH LONG-TERM PLAN PROGRAMME:

1. Faith-consistent use of assets

Construction and buildings

Water: Water resources are the most immediate threat facing Himalayan communities today. Groundwater aquifers and mountain springs are regularly depleted during the dry season and changing monsoon patterns often fail to fully recharge these sources despite the increase in glacial meltwaters. Many Himalayan communities, including monasteries and nunneries, are finding their water supply severely limited during the dry season and are gaining awareness that this trend is only further exacerbated by climate change and degradation of watersheds. We have 15 monasteries and nunneries with rainwater harvesting systems. 1.6 million liters of rainwater is being harvested collective per year. And we have 4 monasteries and nunneries with grey-water recycling systems.

Case study: Benchen Monastery, Kathmandu, Nepal

Benchen Monastery has built their main shrine after the 2015 major earthquake. They planned and executed to make underground water storage tanks beneath for the rainwater harvesting for the dry season of Kathmandu from October to April. They can store up to 700,000 litres in their underground water tanks for the dry season.

Wildlife/habitat protection/Land and forests: Deforestation and degradation in the Himalayas are depleting the health and cover of its forests. This trend is threatening local wildlife and increasing the risk of landslides, floods and water scarcity. Monasteries and nunneries can play a vital role in reforesting the area in and around their monastery and working with local people on community reforestation and wildlife protection

initiatives.

Over 100,000 trees planted by 33 monasteries and nunneries since 2009. And we have 4 monasteries and nunneries using biogas to reduce fuel-wood consumption.

Case Study: *Biogas in Neydo Tashi Choeling Monastery, Pharping, Nepal*

When Karma Legzin arrived in Neydo Tashi Choeling Monastery in Sakital, Pharping, he immediately spotted an opportunity for biogas. Having already implemented a biogas plant in his village, he got approval from the monastery's senior monks to install one on campus, which began operating in 2010. Every day monks dump food waste from the kitchen and dining hall into a large tank on the outskirts of the monastery. Over time the food breaks down and ferments, returning flammable gas to the monastery kitchen through thin pipes that weave through the monastery's grounds. After neighbors began complaining about the smell of rotting food, the monks managed to eliminate the odor by planting native grasses and reeds around the biogas tank.

Nowadays the tank is easy to overlook; the surrounding area looks more like a small garden than a dumping ground for decomposing food. The air is fresh and odorless. Nevertheless, bacteria in the tank are hard at work, currently producing enough gas to cook the monastery's lunchtime lentil *daal* stew and brew its morning tea. When Nepal experienced a severe gas shortage in 2015, the monastery was able to rely on their biogas supply and intermittent electricity instead of resorting to cooking with wood fuel. This not only protected trees and saved the monastery money when fuel was prohibitively expensive but also demonstrated the value of self sufficiency and subsistence in an increasingly uncertain climate.

Healthcare, including medical facilities: Almost all the Khoryug nunneries and monasteries do have primary healthcare Center. Over 20K people served per year by monastic health clinics.

Purchasing and consumption, eg, food, suppliers, recycling, waste management: Approximately 1720 monks and nuns receive on average 20% of their food from their own organic farms and gardens. 22 monasteries and nunneries use solar energy to heat water. 21 monasteries and nunneries

engage in organic farming and gardening. 20 monasteries and nunneries generate solar electricity. We have 24 monasteries and nunneries practicing proper waste management and segregation and recycling. 22 monasteries and nunneries are composting food waste into gardening and landscaping. 12 monasteries and nunneries are practicing up-cycling to reduce plastic trash.

Case study 1(Organic Farming): Kagyu Nalanda Monastery, Karnataka,

India

The use of chemical inputs in agriculture has spread throughout South Asia, including into much of the Himalayas. And yet climate change continues to transform growing conditions through everything from water resources, soil erosion and fertility to seasonal temperatures and pests. Farming with chemical inputs is subsequently becoming increasingly unreliable while at the same time public awareness is rising about the health and environmental risks associated with chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

Kagyu Nalanda Monastery in the South Indian state of Karnataka is working to address these challenges with an extensive organic farm that produces 80% of the vegetables, fruit and rice and all of the dairy for the monastery's 30 monastics. The monks work several hours per week on the farm in their Agriculture Class where they expand on the knowledge they have from growing up in farming communities and learn about organic farming and sustainable agriculture.

Case study 2 (Waste Management): Bokar Monastery, Mirik, India:

In 2016, Bokar Monastery partnered with a local NGO to begin implementing waste segregation.. Whereas the monastery used to burn all of its trash before the project, they now segregate their waste into five categories and thereby maximize the amount they can sell as recycling or turn into compost. Within 8 months of the center being active they have earned over INR 13,000 and recouped 23% of their investment. In addition, they are able to process the waste from their immediately surrounding lay community and have completely stopped burning trash, protecting the health and well-being of themselves, their community and the local environment.

Case Study 3 (Plastic Recycling Project) Benchen Monastery, Kathmandu:

Benchen Monastery's new plastic recycling project is a great new start after planning for three years long. They have successfully installed Hikon Machine. This plastic recycling project is a pioneering social enterprise not only in Khoryug but also all over Nepal. With inception of this incredible project, all the plastic wastes in Khoryug monasteries including wai wai plastics, chips and lays plastic and other plastics (excluding PET), shall be collected and recycled for free of cost by the Benchen Khoryug Committee. Khoryug Nepal is very near to reach zero waste in near future.

2. Education and young people

Because of His Holiness the 17th Karmapa's consistent hardworking, wisdom, compassion and aspiration and his follower's devotion and pure perception towards him, all our Khoryug member nunneries and monasteries have been and still educating the young nuns and monks not only in the traditional Buddhist philosophy and practices, but also in the field of environmental science and philosophy. Some of the monasteries they invite experts and teachers to teach the monks and nuns about environment and its importance. In some, they have proper classes to learn about the environment. Khoryug officer will visit each monasteries and nunneries once in two years to do environmental monitoring and teach the young ones about the importance of our mother earth and give basic environmental science education. Some of the monasteries, they do collaborate with the local people in keeping the environment clean and provide awareness about the environment like climate change, global warming, importance of biodiversity etc. to the people.

Case Study (Environmental Guidelines for Karma Kagyu Buddhist Monasteries, Centers and Community), Rumtek Monastery:

Unlike the early years, because of the importance of English as an international language around world now, young monks are being taught the basic English as an extra curricula. There has been instance of teacher teaching them English using "*Environmental Guidelines for Karma Kagyu*

Buddhist Monasteries, Centers and Community". Thus getting the double benefit of learning English and at the same time of receiving awareness about the importance of our environment.

We have successfully published few books.

1. Environmental Guidelines for Karma Kagyu Buddhist Monasteries, Centers and Community
2. 108 Things You Can Do to Help the Environment
3. Disaster Management Guidelines for Tibetan Buddhist Monasteries and Nunneries.

3. Wisdom

Theological education and training: All the Khoryug member nunneries and monasteries get proper training and education in the field of traditional Buddhist philosophy of compassion and emptiness. Teaching of compassion leads to care and love towards not only to one-self but also to all the sentient beings. Teaching of emptiness leads to the mentality of interdependence.

Every year since 2009, we had annual Khoryug conference where all the Khoryug members from India, Nepal and Bhutan meet to discuss and share their experience and learn new things from experts invited to speak during the conference. Till now we had nine Khoryug conferences so far. Due to the sudden outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic, the tenth Khoryug conference delayed indefinitely.

Summary of Conferences Held from 2009 to 2019

- The first Khoryug Conference was held at Vajra Vidya Institute, Sarnath from 21st to 25th March 2009 under the guidance and leadership of His Holiness the 17th Karmapa. A total number of sixty representatives from twenty-two institutes from India, Nepal and Bhutan had attended the conference, including the guest of honor Thrangu Rinpoche and Drupon Rinpoche. The objective of the conference was to gather, train and introduce the representatives to basic environmental concepts and issues. Various environmental concepts and issues were introduced within the five-day conference, such as forestry, water, wildlife, waste management and climate change. *108 Things You Can Do to Save the Environment* was created while discussing problem solving and strategy development, later was published as

a book, and was distributed throughout the world. The institutes created short term and long-term goals and presented them to His Holiness the Karmapa and the conference was concluded. The conference was organized, managed and facilitated by the Khoryug advisor Ms. Dekila Chungyalpa.

- The second Khoryug Conference was held later that year from 3rd to 7th October at Gyuto Monastery in Dharamsala. The objectives of the conference was to provide basic environmental education to senior monks and nuns from different institutes, to provide practical training on afforestation, rainwater harvesting and solar energy, to develop preliminary work plans for these projects and establish an office to oversee and manage those projects. Thirty-four institutes sent their representatives for the conference. The participants got to witness water conservation designs, eco-friendly designed nunnery, waste management and composting structures. The conference was immensely benefited from the expertise of Nepal Buddhist Federation, Wildlife Trust of India, TESI Environmental Movement and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). "**Khoryug**", the association of monasteries for the conservation of environment was the brainchild of the conference. Khoryug would be open to anyone from any ideological and philosophical background. His Holiness told " *Whatever I do, I wish it to have a long term impacts and for it to be practical. If I have the opportunity, I want to create a long term vision and to improve the environment of Tibetan Plateau, especially the forest, the water and the wildlife....*"
- From 14th to 16th November 2010 at Kagyu Nalanda Institute, Bylakuppe in Mysore District, the third Khoryug conference was held. The conference was hosted by Venerable Karma Tulku Rinpoche and was attended by representatives of thirty-eight institutes from India, Nepal and Bhutan. The objective of the conference was to hear the reports from the monasteries regarding the ongoing environmental activities and projects and to provide project management training and skill. Additionally, the conference also hoped to build regional projects comprising group of monasteries and institutes to work and coordinate for a common objective. The thirty-eight institutes reported that thousands of trees were planted since the conception of Khoryug, they begun the proper waste segregation, recycling, giving environmental education and sustainable organic farming. Some of the institute also had begun with the solar energy, biogas and rainwater harvesting. Many of the institutes confessed that before His Holiness the Karmapa established Khoryug and started giving environmental education and teachings, they were ignorant regarding the important environmental issues, conservation and protection. They also realized that many more things need to be done for the coming years.
- The fourth Khoryug Conference was held at Norbulingka Institute in Dharamsala from 5th to 9th June 2012 on Climate Change, Disaster Preparedness and Biodiversity. His Holiness and the speaker of the Tibetan

Parliament in Exile, Mr. Penpa Tsering, inaugurated the conference. Representative from 45 different institutes attended the conference. Khoryug members presented their reports of their annual environmental activities in their monastic areas. Rumtek Monastery done a special presentation based on a survey done in Monasteries in Sikkim regarding the earthquake and lessons learnt from it. During the conference, participants were broken down into groups based on the natural disaster that might likely to occur in their area and to discuss and come up with a solutions and remedies. Lectures by experts on health and food security, biodiversity and natural disaster, wildlife trading, disaster preparedness and eco-friendly architecture.

- The fifth Khoryug conference was from 6th to 10th November 2013 at India International Centre, New Delhi. The theme of the conference was "*Conservation of Freshwater Resources in the Himalayas*". Chairperson of the conference was His Holiness the Karmapa and the facilitator was Ms. Dekila Chungyalpa. Basics of freshwater science, hydrology, human health and wellbeing, biodiversity of the aquatic ecosystem. His Holiness spoke of spiritual and cultural value of the rivers. Dekila gave presentation on the importance of high altitude wetlands. There were group discussions and field visit to the Jamuna River in Delhi.
- In November 2015 at Norbulingka Institute in Dharamsala, the sixth Khoryug Conference was held with fortyfive delegates from different institutes. Unlike the previous five Khoryug Conferences, the sixth conference was held to emphasize on assessing the lessons and experienced gained since the inception of the Khoryug from 2009 and to improve and innovate new ideas and methods for the next five years till 2019. Questions like 'What environmental issues do you face in your area?' and 'Which environmental projects were most effective?'. During the conference, important issues of Khoryug as an administration, like organisation, coordination, communication, fundraising and implementation were discussed thoroughly. Research done by the fellows from Yale and Princeton university were also presented and discussed.
- The seventh Khoryug Conference was held from 21st to 24th March, 2016 at Vajra Vidya Institute, Sarnath. The theme of the conference was Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction and was facilitated in partnership with the National Institute of Disaster Management. During the conference, His Holiness resolved to prepare monasteries and nunneries for potential disasters and to train monks and nuns to become first responders and risk reduction educators to the local community. Monks and nuns from Nepal and Sikkim shared their experiences and observations that they had during the actual and after the devastating earthquake in January and the previous years. Experts from the National Institute of Disaster Management gave wonderful and thorough lectures and teachings on natural disasters, like how

to mitigate the disastrous effects, mitigating measures, proper planning and implementation.

- The eight Khoryug Conference was held at Tergar Monastery in Bodh Gaya from 22nd to 24th March 2017. Seventy-two delegates from twenty-five institutes attended the conference. The focus of the conference was Disaster Management and Waste Management. His Holiness commenced the conference with the release of the new Khoryug logo. And he launched the Disaster Management Guidelines and explained "...if we have the training on disaster management, we can institute disaster management teams in each monastery, so that monks and nuns can protect themselves and extend the help to surrounding communities". During the conference, monks and nuns proudly demonstrated their Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) skills with a disaster response. Disaster Management wasn't the only focus; members were also trained and lectured on wastes management.
- From 2nd to 5th April 2018 at Rumtek Monastery, the ninth Khoryug Conference was held. It was the only conference where His Holiness was not present, but he spoke from afar, sharing his thoughts via video, with ninety representatives from thirty-four institutes. He said "I am aware of how hard you have been working on environmental protection for the last nine years and very pleased with the success you have all achieved. Due to the importance of Tibet and the Himalayas as a source of water to billions of people downstream, I appeal to you all to also as a part of our Buddhist practice because everything we do will benefit other sentient beings." The theme of the conference was "Climate Resiliency for Ourselves and Our Community". The conference was facilitated with the experts from ATREE, WWF, ECOSS, UNDP and science and technology department of Government of Sikkim. Representatives were lectured on effects of climate change on glaciers, forests, health, food security and water security.

The essence of Buddhism lies in the union of compassion and emptiness: the deeply felt dedication to alleviate the suffering of all living beings and the understanding that everything is devoid of self-nature. These two halves of a philosophical whole speak particularly to the goals of the environmental movement. -17th Gyalwang Karmapa

Crisis and adaptation: After the huge 2015 earthquake in Nepal, His Holiness the Karmapa has directed Khoryug members to organize seven regional workshops during 2016 in India, Nepal and Bhutan, that focused solely on the topic of disaster management. We were fortunate to partner on these workshops with the National Institute of Disaster Management of the Government of India, the National Disaster Response Force of the Government of India, the Osel Foundation, and the White Mountain Training Institute in Nepal.

Disaster Management training to the nuns and monks is still a on-going initiative.



Liturgies, quotations and orders of prayer:

Here are some of the quotes by His Holiness the Karmapa-

As I grew up and began studying Buddhist philosophy and teachings, I discovered great harmony between Buddhism and the environmental movement. The emphasis on biological diversity, including ecosystems — in particular, the understanding that animate and inanimate beings are parts of a whole — resonates closely with Buddhism’s emphasis on interdependence- 17th Karmapa

Our lifestyle in the 21st century makes huge demands on the environment. We use more and more resources like fossil fuels, timber and water without any understanding of what the outcomes will be. We think we need all kinds of gadgets, toys and machines without stopping to think if these are really important and useful to us. Sometimes there seems to be no natural limit to human desires. But there is a limit to how much Mother Earth can sustain us and we cannot afford to indulge in our desires unthinkingly. - His Holiness the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa

“To be content with little and have few wants is an important practice in Buddhism.”-
17th Gyalwang Karmapa

The environmental emergency that we face is not just a scientific issue, nor is it just a political issue; it is also a moral issue. - 17th Gyalwang Karmapa

In the past, people in most parts of the world had a very straightforward relationship with the environment. They used the resources provided by nature as needed and due to the simplicity of their lives, rarely did great damage to the Earth. However, this has changed considerably in more recent times. Not only are our lives no longer so simple, our relationship with the environment is much more complicated and we now have tremendous power to do it harm.
- His Holiness the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa

"In each monastery, we've introduced tree planting, so thousands of trees have been planted — also the preservation of the natural mandala, or natural environment, that is already there, and the creation of functioning small farm gardens, or vegetable gardens sustained and cultivated without the use of artificial fertilizers. The influence of this goes beyond the monasteries themselves, because the monasteries then spread this work to the adjacent villages and towns."- His Holiness the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa

Pray:

An Aspiration for the World

World, we live and die on your lap.
On you we experience all our woes and joys.
You are our ancestral home of old.
Forever we cherish and adore you.
We wish to transform you into the pure realm of our dreams.
We wish to transform you into a land for all creatures,
Equal for all and free of prejudice.
We wish to transform you into a loving, warm, and gentle goddess. Our
hope in you is so ever resolute.
So please be the ground on which we all may live
So all these wishes may come true,
So all these wishes may come true.
Do not show us the dark side of your character,
Where nature's calamities reign.
In every section of our world's land
May there thrive a fertile field of peace and joy,
Rich with the leaves and fruits of happiness,
Filled with the many sweet scents of freedom.
May we fulfill our countless and boundless wishes.

Composed by His Holiness the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa, Ogyen Trinley Dorje.
Translated by Tyler Dewar Note: The prayer is originally in Tibetan
language

4. Lifestyles:

Traditions of simple living:

“To be content with little and have few wants is an important practice in Buddhism.”-
17th Gyalwang Karmapa

In 2006, during the 24th Kagyu Monlam from 27th December to 3rd January
in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, His Holiness the 17th Karmapa publicly said that he is
become an vegetarian and he spoke strongly against eating meat. He has
suggested and urged his student and followers to adopt pure vegetarianism

or reduce the consumption of non-vegetarian products. Since then all the common kitchen of all the Khoryug monasteries and nunneries has been complete vegetarian.

In all the Khoryug monasteries and nunneries, they have a common kitchen and dining hall. Thus the wastage of food, water and fuel is minimal. All the nuns and monks wear red or maroon robes, thus buying new clothes like lay people is minimal. Old robes and clothes are collected by the elders and after thorough washing; they give it to the new and young monks or those in need.

Pilgrimage and tourism: Every winter, there is a grand puja called ‘Kagy Monlam’ held at Bodh Gaya where thousand devotees and followers gather to receive and practice Buddha’s teachings. During that time, all the Khoryug monasteries and nunneries do also attend the puja. Free medical facilities are provided and environmental awareness is also provided to all the puja attendees.

5. Media and advocacy

Subject matter/Influence/Advocacy: Khoryug is active on social media like Facebook, Instagram and we have our own website (www.khoryug.info). We post on the activities done by the members in India, Nepal and Bhutan towards protection our precious environment. On Facebook, Khoryug has more 5K followers.

Khenpo Chokey, Nepal Khoryug coordinator represents Khoryug and presents the last ten years of work carried out by Khoryug member monasteries and nunneries in the main plenary and at a workshop at the International Congress of Conservation Biology in Kuala Lumpur on 23rd July 2019.

Guides and handbooks/Materials:

1. Environmental Guidelines for Karma Kagyu Buddhist Monasteries, Centers and Community
2. 108 Things You Can Do to Help the Environment

3. Disaster Management Guidelines for Tibetan Buddhist Monasteries and Nunneries

We are planning to publish many more books and materials for awareness and wisdom.

6. Partnerships, eco-twinning and new environmental departments

Dedicated staff and funding/Lay people: We have around 65 dedicated staff members from each Khoryug member monasteries and nunneries located in India, Nepal and Bhutan. We have one advisor and one Khoryug Officer. And we have supervisors and accountants. Khoryug is an association of nuns, monks and lay people. We get our funds from Kun Kyong Charitable Trust.

Eco-twinning: We have Khoryug conference every year. During that time, all the Khoryug members get together and share ideas and experiences. If one member likes the idea of another member, they take it back to their monastery or nunnery, then they replicate the same activities there.

Partnerships and Collaborations: Name of the few associations that has helped or collaborated with Khoryug are Nepal Buddhist Federation, Wildlife Trust of India, TESI Environmental Movement and World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Yale University, National Institute of Disaster Management, ATREE, ECOSS and UNDP.

Social Enterprise: There is a huge potential for a monastery or nunnery to generate some income from Khoryug activities like Khoryug remanufacturing, making Tibetan mattress (Boden) from old clothes, selling surplus organic vegetables etc.

We look forward to work closely with many more associations and individuals to preserve our mother earth and promote world peace.

We hope that one day our Khoryug nuns and monks could take part in international environmental and climate meetings and conferences.

7. Celebration:

Traditional festivals/New festivals/New traditions: These days, during the birthday celebration of His Holiness the 17th Karmapa and other teachers and gurus, Khoryug member monasteries and nunneries plant trees on that day to celebrate the auspicious occasion and pray for their guru's long life and prosperity.

New beautiful places and developments:

The Chittamani Karma Park

Location: Kathmandu Nepal

Date of Inauguration: 4th and 5th June 2018

The Chittamani Karma Park is the culmination of fruitful negotiations with local authorities and community to bring about an ecological development for both immediate and long-term benefits. The Chittamani Ghat and Karma Park Development Program is being implemented in the heart of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, on the bank of Bagmati River in Teku under the auspices of Khoryug Nepal. On 4th and 5th June 2018, World Environment Day, Khoryug Nepal and Karmapa Sewa Samaj, with support from Ward 12 Office and Chittamani Improvement Committee organized a tree-planting program on the grounds of Chittamani Karma Park. The Mayor of Kathmandu Metropolitan City inaugurated the program. The Mayor, Vice Mayor, Chairman Ward 12, Khoryug Nepal Team, Karmapa Sewa Samaj Chairperson and Chairperson of Karma Samtenling Trust commemorated the occasion by planting “dhupi” (Japanese red-cedar) and “cherry blossom” trees. This was followed by all monks, nuns and lay people joining in planting a total of 500 trees. More than 200 monks, nuns and lay people from 15 monasteries/nunneries, Karmapa Service Society, Chittamani Improvement Society and Jan Uddhar Sewa Samiti (local orphanage) participated in the two-day program (4th and 5th June 2018).

Some of the Significant Photos of Khoryug:



1. His Holiness the 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje presiding over the 8th Khoryug Conference



2. Nuns and monks taking part in the Disaster Response & Management Preparation in Nepal



3. Nuns at Thrangu Tara Abbey, Bhutan. They have their own organic garden.



4. 8th Khoryug Conference



4. Karma Park, Nepal cleaning and tree plantation drive



5. Khoryug Conference attendees listening to an elder on the bank of Yamuna River, Delhi



6. His Holiness the Karmapa and all the Khoryug conference members making an aspirational prayer for all the sentient beings.



7. Monks being in the solid waste management at Bokar Monastery, Mirik