

# Druk White Lotus Schools, Ladakh, Indian Himalaya

## STATUS REPORT, AUTUMN 2014

PROTECT A CULTURE

BUILD A FUTURE

Druk White Lotus School

*Druk White Lotus School, Shey, was opened by its founder, His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa, on 24th September 2001. On that day, 88 Nursery and Lower Kindergarten students started school life. His Eminence Thuksey Rinpoche is the Chair of the governing body.*



Crossing icy waters along the frozen Zaskar River to reach the Druk White Lotus School in the Indus Valley for the start of term in March.



Roof of the 'Roundhouse' in the new Adventure Playground.

## Education

August 2014 Science Day with scientist from the CERN Research Centre, Switzerland.

The school grew year-by-year to 711 students in 2014 (363 boys and 348 girls), of whom 295 are sponsored.

Nursery class (age 4) through Secondary School class 10 (age 16).

Residence Courtyard 1 opened in 2002. There are now four Residence Courtyards.

360 residential students, mainly from remote areas, live on the Shey campus.

67 displaced-children were taken in after the August 2010 mudslide.

In Shey, there are 34 teachers, of whom 16 Ladakhi, 10 Tibetan and 8 from outside Ladakh.

There are 36 support staff in Shey.

A branch school opened in Khachey in April 2010. The school has 46 students from Nursery up to class 4.

Druk White Lotus School, Khachey, has 3 teaching and 1 support staff.

English-medium schools with study of Bothi (Ladakhi) and Hindi languages.

Montessori methods in Nursery, Lower and Upper Kindergarten.

School magazine, "Drukskat", available on [www.dwls.org](http://www.dwls.org)

## Education Development

Vice Principal, Mrs Stanzin Kunzang started on 1st August 2014.



Regular training programmes are conducted for the teachers and students.

Project and activity-based learning is used across the curriculum.

Examinations and coursework are combined in the internal assessments process

Special focus on support for students studying for their external exams in classes 8 and 10.

Staff salaries have been raised in line with the Indian Government's Sixth Pay Commission.

Student Council training programme: focus areas are leadership skills, team-building, decision-making and problem-solving.

Students participated in 'Science Gadget 2014' and won several prizes. This science exhibition was organised by Star Club Welfare Society.

Targeting educational sustainability through training programme for local staff.

## Sustainability

A defensive structure has been completed to protect against possible future mudslides.

Buildings are orientated to maximise use of solar energy. Trombe walls use passive solar energy.

Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines minimise use of water in a desert environment.

Construction uses mainly local materials: granite, mud, poplar and willow. Buildings are earthquake resistant.

State-of-the-art solar energy system generates electricity on the campus, solar pumps used for water.

Aiming for financial sustainability in the long-term.

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

## Landscape Programme

In 2012 a Landscape Programme started in collaboration with The University of Greenwich, UK.

A gardening competition for all students involved the whole school in improving the campus.

A landscape masterplan has been designed and every year graduates from Greenwich will advance the "greening" of the school.

Masterplan includes plant nursery, recycling and composting, play areas, study garden, sports areas and shade.

The Plant Nursery has developed and a drip-irrigation system has been installed.

## Construction

Master Plan inspired by His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa.

Nursery & Infant Courtyard won three World Architecture Awards.

Received 'The Emirates Glass LEAF Award for Best Sustainable Development' in 2012 and 'International Stone Architecture Award' 2013.

School designed by international team from Arup Associates and Arup, London.

Aiming to complete the Secondary School by the end of 2015.

2013-14: Residence 4, latrines, dining hall & kitchen extension, 2 classrooms, bus shelter, support staff housing, DPKEs office, central courtyard upgrade.



## Heritage

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

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 their own culture.

Visitor Centre built by BaSiC Initiative architect volunteers from the USA.

Visitor Centre staff give tours of the campus to thousands of visitors and manage the Visitor Shop.



## 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.

US\$3.5/£2.1/€2.6 million raised to date for capital investment.

US\$55,000/£36,000/€46,500 urgently needed to complete the current phase of the Secondary School.

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

Very significant contributions in-kind from individuals and organisations.



## Organisation

**Druk Padma Karpo Educational Society,**  
Ladakh, J&K, India  
non-profit society  
*School Governor*

**Live to Love International**  
*Partner, Education & School Activities*

**Live to Love UK**  
**Registered charity No. 1138534**

**Live To Love France**

**Drukpa Trust, UK**  
*Partner, Design & Construction*  
**Registered charity No. 1014948**

## Contacts

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## International Co-operation

Arup Associates and Arup

Childreach International  
Read Library

La Ngonpo Project - IT workshops, Czech Republic

PRAVAH - Indian teacher training and development NGO

SEEDS - Indian disaster mgt NGO  
Snow Leopard Conservancy, India

Vinod Chopra Films

UK Educational links: Exeter School, Kings School Worcester, Perse School, St. Christopher School Letchworth, The Exploration Society.

The University of Greenwich UK - Landscape Architecture Department.

USA support: BaSiC Initiative, Princeton University.