

ICT FOR A GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

How ICT can durably contribute to the wellbeing of all citizens around the world



International Conference
European Commission – Brussels
January 22 – 23, 2009

Biography

Session 2: Vision of a true sustainable future
Session chair: Roger Torrenti
Day 1 - January 22, 2009

Dasho Karma Ura

The Vice Chair of the National Council, who is elected by the members of the National Council, is Dasho Karma Ura. Coming from Bumthang Ura, he studied in Yangchenphug School and Sherubtse College (then Pre-University level) before going to St. Stephen's College, Delhi University. While in St. Stephen's, he obtained a competitive scholarship from Magdalen College, Oxford to read Politics, Philosophy and Economics from 1982 to 1985. From there, he went to the University of Edinburgh to graduate an M. Phil degree in Economics from 1985-87. Selected by competitive examination, he joined the Royal Bhutanese civil service in 1989, in particular the Ministry of Planning, the main agency responsible for framing the five-year socio-economic plans at a macro-level. For 12 years there, he participated closely in the formulation of this country's 7th, 8th and 9th five-year plans by the Ministry. He also directed the Sustainable Development Secretariat of the Ministry of Planning. In 1999, the Royal Government, through an executive order, founded a non-aligned, objective, multi-disciplinary and autonomous social science research centre focused on GNH and related indicators, and on culture and history of Bhutan. He was appointed the Director of the Centre for Bhutan Studies at the time of its establishment, but at present, he is its Executive President since 2008. In the 20-year working life, Dasho Karma Ura conducted research on many issues pertaining to official interests, and drafted numerous position and information papers. At the same time, he served on numerous committees and boards including the Constitution Drafting Commission and the Tarayana Foundation, a nation-wide humanitarian NGO. He is the author of books: Hero with a Thousand Eyes, Ballad of Pemi Tshewang Tashi, Deities and Archers, Faith and Festival in Nimalung. His essays and articles have appeared in international journals, magazines and books. He is a painter and meditator. In 2006, he was conferred the ancient and well-known title of Dasho by His Majesty the 4th Druk Gyalpo.