

Lyonchhen Dasho Tshering Tobgay (2024-2028)



Lyonchhen Dasho Tshering Tobgay was born on 19th September 1965, His Excellency received his early education in Bhutan before pursuing higher studies abroad. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh, USA, followed by a Master's in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Upon returning to Bhutan, he began his career

in the civil service, where he played a key role in developing policies to strengthen technical education and vocational training—areas that remain critical to Bhutan's socio- economic development.

In 2008, recognizing the importance of active citizen participation in a young democracy, he became the first civil servant to resign from office in order to engage in Bhutan's democratic transition. He went on to co-found the People's Democratic Party, Bhutan's first registered political party, and continues to serve as its president. He was elected as Opposition Leader in the National Assembly from 2008 to 2013, and later served as the Prime Minister of Bhutan from 2013 to 2018. In January 2024, he was re-elected to lead the country once again. His contributions to public service extend beyond official responsibilities. He volunteered to establish Bhutan's first Youth Center and initiated the Education Staff Welfare Scheme, both of which continue to benefit communities across the country. A strong advocate of Gross National Happiness, His Excellency has spoken on key global issues such as climate change, conservation, democratic leadership, and sustainable development at prestigious platforms including the United Nations and TED.

In recognition of his service to the nation, His Majesty The King conferred upon him the Royal Orange Scarf in 2008 and again in 2013, followed by the Royal Lungmar Scarf in 2014. Internationally, his efforts toward sustainability were acknowledged with the German Sustainability

Award in 2016 and the Distinguished Leadership Award from the Hospitality Committee for United Nations Delegations in 2022.

TALKING POINTS

Good Morning, *Kzungpo la (Hello)*

1. Your Excellency, Prime Minister of Bhutan, Lyonchhen Dashi Tshering Tobgay.

- ☐ Thank you for warm welcome and hospitality extended to me and my delegation.

2. Delighted to meet Your Excellency but this time, for farewell call.

- ☐ Experiencing a mixed feeling to leave Bhutan yet have been seeing the relations grow stronger for these past 4 years during my tenure.
- ☐ The presentation of credential took place on October 2022 which marked the beginning of my official tenure as the Indonesian Ambassador accredited to Bhutan.

3. After these 4 years, witness our bilateral relations are in extraordinary shape and this year we will celebrate the 15th anniversary of our diplomatic ties

- ☐ The Joint Communique on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations was signed by the Government of Indonesia and the Royal Government of Bhutan in 15 December 2011 in New York.

4. Economic cooperation is of significant part of our relationship.

- ☐ Bilateral trade volume continues to increase since 2022. In 2025, the trade volume reached USD 15,4 million, about 7.700% increase from 2024;
- ☐ Eco-tourism and hospitality projects, organic agriculture, manufacturing, and service industries are potential investment sectors for Bhutanese to tap in Indonesia;
- ☐ Believe there are more untapped potentials needed to be further explored in the future.

5. On the multilateral fora, on behalf of the Government of Indonesia, I would like to convey our highest appreciation toward the Royal Government of Bhutan for its valuable support viz-a-viz Indonesia on various Indonesian candidature:

- ☐ To the Council of Administration (CA) and Postal Operation Council (POC) of the Universal Postal Union (UPO); and
 - ☐ The Indonesian Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva as the President of the Human Rights Council of 2026.
 - ☐ Would also like to kindly request your support to Indonesia's Candidature to the upcoming Non-Permanent Member of the Security Council 2029-2030.
6. To bring our peoples closer, would also like to invite Bhutanese students to study in Indonesia through Indonesian government scholarship programs in the future.
- ☐ Indonesian Arts and Culture Scholarship (BSBI) ☐ focused on cultural exchange;
 - ☐ Developing Countries Partnership Scholarship (KNB) ☐ under graduate thru doctoral studies; and
 - ☐ Darmasiswa Scholarship ☐ short-termed study programs on Indonesian language, arts and culture.
 - ☐ The Indonesian Aid Scholarship (TIAS) ☐ Bhutan as one of targeted countries for 2026
7. With this encouraging development, wish our bilateral relations will remain strong in the future.
8. **(Sekiranya dibutuhkan dan ditanyakan)** The Embassy is still awaiting the date regarding the presentation of credentials of the Bhutanese non-resident Ambassador in Bangkok to Indonesia.

Catatan: Berdasarkan informasi Dit. Protokol, jadwal penyerahan *credentials* untuk Dubes Non-Resident untuk Indonesia hingga kini masih menunggu petunjuk dari Istana Kepresidenan.

9. **(Sekiranya dibutuhkan dan ditanyakan)** Touching upon the draft Air Service Agreement (ASA), to date, there has been no concrete plan announced by Indonesian airlines to operate direct flights between Bhutan and Indonesia. As commercial entities, airlines understandably take into account various business considerations, including passenger demand and load factors, in making such decisions. In this context, the implementation of the Air Service

Agreement remains a distinct challenge for the Government in its capacity as the regulatory authority.

Catatan: Berdasarkan komunikasi dengan Dit. Angkutan Udara Kemenhub tanggal 30 Januari 2026, belum terdapat rencana Indonesia untuk membuat ASA dengan Bhutan mengingat belum ada maskapai penerbangan Indonesia yang berencana terbang ke Bhutan.

10. **(Sekiranya dibutuhkan dan ditanyakan)** Regarding the Bhutanese request to the Indonesian government to re-activate Visa on Arrival (VoA) to Bhutanese to Indonesia, the Embassy is still awaiting further guidance from the Head Quarter.

Catatan: Berdasarkan informasi Dit. Asselteng, Permintaan Pemerintah Bhutan untuk kembali memberikan VoA kepada WN Bhutan seperti sebelum masa Pandemi COVID-19 (vide Brafaks KBRI New Delhi No. B-00509/New Delhi/241108) belum diterima oleh Kantor TU Menteri Imigrasi dan Pemasarakatan. Dit. Asselteng masih menunggu informasi lebih lanjut dari Kantor TU Menteri terkait tindak lanjut.

Kerja Sama Teknik

11. Call on the implementation of the 2025 MoU on Cooperation in the Exchange of Financial Intelligence related to Money Laundering, associated Predicate Offences and Terrorist Financing between Indonesian Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (PPATK) and the Department of Financial Intelligence of Bhutan.

☐ Information exchange, capacity building programs and confidentiality arrangement program are three core programs in the MoU.

12. The Government of Indonesia stands ready to continue extending assistance to Bhutan under the South-South Training Program.

☐ In August 2022, the Government of Indonesia organized the South-South and Triangular Essential Training Program on Provision Climate Information for Sectors which one of the Bhutan's Official participated in the meeting.

13. *Kadrin Cheyla (Thank You)*