

“My new role is not exactly new to me”

The new chairman of Druk Holding and Investments (DHI), Dasho Sangay Khandu took office on March 10.



What would be your first order of business (your priorities) as the new chairman of Druk Holding and Investments (DHI)?

I will first take stock of the situation that DHI is going through and I will have a SWOT analysis. (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats)

Q&A

Having served as the Secretary, the National Land Commission, what advantages or disadvantages do you see in the new role you have taken over

My experience in the National Land Commission will be an advantage for me as all the projects have to be established on land and I know the best way forward to acquire or lease land.

My new role is not exactly new to me. In fact, I am more at home in DHI than I was in the Land Commission since I was CEO of four corporate bodies and also served in the Ministry of Economic Affairs as the Director of Trade and Industry.

Due to the lack of investment avenues, the public is interested in investing in big companies under DHI, will DHI divest shares of some of its companies like Bhutan Telecom and Dungsam Cement?

DHI is working on divesting in few companies like Dungsam Cement Corpora-

tion Limited and will also review the other companies. DHI is of the view to divest in all where DHI holds less than 50% (DHI Linked Companies)

Land issues had stalled several projects started by DHI like, construction of Wellness Centre in Limukha, Punakha, Bhutan international convention centre in Thimphu and Education city. What is your take on that?

The Wellness Centre in Limukha was dropped as the Private Sector is competent to invest and manage such undertakings. Besides the viability of International Convention Centre is still being reviewed.

The Education City is a government promoted project and not DHI owned enterprise. The decision will be taken by the Bhutan Education City Board and the Government.

DHI, according to some critics have not achieved in the investment front as much as they wanted to when they were formed. Will DHI explore new investment avenues? Where?

DHI was established only in December 2007 and during the last few years it has initiated several feasibility studies for investment and has established the organization on a strong footing. Now DHI needs to sharpen its business acumen. DHI is always exploring new opportunities for

investment both inside and outside the country which the Bhutanese Private Sector is not able to undertake.

Besides training and guiding entrepreneurs, what are your plans to bring about tangible developments in the private sector?

DHI will continue to support Private Sector and it desires to lead the fragile Private Sector in Bhutan and take them on board in its business undertakings. One important initiative is the Better Business Summit by DHI in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Bhutan Chamber for Commerce and Industry.

Does DHI have any plans to add more companies under its holding?

Yes, DHI proposed to bring more State-Owned-Enterprises under its umbrella and we are discussing with the Ministry of Finance to take

over the Enterprises. DHI will also establish new ones depending upon the economic situation and the priorities of the Government.

What are some new infrastructural projects that DHI will be looking forward to? (Earlier interviews with DHI officials said new projects like fuel pipeline, ropeway transportation, and hill top airports are some new projects in the pipeline).

Yes, DHI is looking at both, infrastructure and manufacturing and also other sectors for investments.

DHI initiated the Education City project and the Land Commission called it illegal and the government decided to close it. Is there any

chance, the project will be revived or reconsidered considering a huge amount was spent on ancillary works.

Education City is a Government project and DHI had provided technical support as desired by the government but is not a promoter in the Education City.

Where do you see DHI after three years?

DHI would have established few more enterprises and I expect that people would have by then be convinced of the necessity of or the reasons behind the establishment of DHI. They will begin to appreciate the role DHI play to provide investment support to the Government and the people.



FLIGHTS

DRUKAIR

| Date | Route | Flight No. | Departure | Arrival |
|----------|--------------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| March 23 | Bangkok to Paro via Bagdogra | KB 131 | 06:50 am | 10:00 am |
| March 23 | Paro to Bangkok via Guwahati | KB 140 | 10:50 am | 04:15 pm |
| March 23 | Paro to Delhi | KB 204 | 11:25 am | 01:35 am |
| March 23 | Delhi to Paro | KB 205 | 06:35 am | 09:25 pm |
| March 23 | Singapore to Paro via Kolkatta | KB 501 | 06:30 am | 10:30 am |
| March 24 | Bangkok to Paro | KB 129 | 04:45 am | 06:45 am |
| March 24 | Bangkok to Paro via Guwahati | KB 141 | 06:50 am | 10:15 am |
| March 24 | Paro to Bangkok via Dhaka | KB 126 | 10:05 am | 03:10 pm |
| March 24 | Paro to Kathmandu | KB 400 | 08:00 am | 09:05 am |
| March 24 | Kathmandu to Paro | KB 401 | 09:55 am | 11:25 am |
| March 24 | Delhi to Paro | KB 205 | 06:35 am | 09:25 pm |
| March 24 | Paro to Delhi | KB 204 | 11:25 am | 01:35 pm |

DOMESTIC

| | | | | |
|----------|------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| March 23 | Paro to Bumthang | KB 1001 | 07:00 am | 07:35 am |
| March 23 | Bumthang to Paro | KB 1002 | 07:55 am | 08:30 am |

Note : All timings in local. Timings are subject to change. Call Drukair toll free No. 1300 for latest flight information.

BHUTAN AIRLINES (TASHI AIR)

| | | | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------|----------|----------|
| March 23-24 | Bangkok to Paro via Kolkatta | B3-701 | 06:30 am | 09:45 am |
| March 23-24 | Paro to Bangkok via Kolkatta | B3-700 | 10:35 am | 03:50 pm |



Fuel Prices

(IN NU)

| Dzongkhag | Diesel | Petrol | Kerosene | LPG |
|-----------------|--------|--------|----------|-----|
| Thimphu(DPCL) | 55.58 | 69.66 | 14.94 | 510 |
| P/Ling(Damchen) | 53.87 | 67.65 | 13.86 | 466 |

*Prices as of yesterday