

**Embassy of India
Thimphu**

**Press Release : Bajo Khuru Secondary National Highway, a Bhutan -
India Development Project completed.**

The Bajo Khuru Road covers a distance of 8.6 kms and provides direct access between the Punakha and Wangduephodrang districts. At the outset of the 12th Five Year Plan, a bilateral project was instituted to upgrade the entire length of the road to Secondary National Highway (SNH) standards with Government of India funding support. The proposed outcome of the Project was to shorten travel distance between Wangduephodrang and Punakha, reduce traffic time and vehicle operating costs, facilitate movement of all type of vehicular traffic and to enhance the socio - economic well being of people of Wangduephodrang and Punakha.

The road upgradation project entailed construction of surface and sub-surface drainages, construction of retaining walls for slope stabilisation, creation of cross drainage structure such as hume pipes and culverts, formation cutting, granular sub-base preparation, installation of crash barriers and making markings along the entire length of the road. The upgradation and construction works were done at a cost of Nu. 124.685 million.

The new Bajo Khuru Road will facilitate movement of local and international tourists to religious sites of the region such as ChotenNyingpo, Talo and Nobgang Lhakhang, GoenTshephu, Dompala Lhakhang, Chimi Lhakhang in Punakha and Rinchenling, Kunzangling, Gangtey Gompa, Beylangda, Nyizeegang in Wangdue Dzongkhag. The upgradation of this road will also reduce incidences of accidents and casualties along the highway.

The Embassy of India thanks the Gross National Happiness Commission, Department of Roads, the local administrations of Punakha and Wangduephodrang, Project Contractors, Engineers and workers for their support in making this project a success. Government of India is committed to further its development partnership with the Royal Government of Bhutan for the well being and prosperity of the region.

Date : 25 February 2022