

## **PUBLICATIONS IN BHUTAN SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ISBN AGENCY**

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### **Introduction**

There has been a direct co-relationship between the printing industry and volume of publication in the country. Printing is not a new art. Traditional xylographic printing has been in existence for hundred of years in dzong and lhakhang. There, indigenous printing presses were established. Some of them still exist today. The National Library has a mini xylographic printing press and has about 10,000 wooden blocks covering about 20 religious texts. The construction of dzong in the 17th century and introduction of monastic syllabus across the country promoted the writings and publications of religious texts.

The publishing industry in Bhutan has been gradually expanding and increasing their output over the last few years. The number of printers has shot up from just one in 1983 to about 65 as of June 2000 although 64% of them are concentrated in Thimphu. The approximate total output in the last ten years has been just over 600 publications (excluding school text books). However, the rate of output has increased every year. Many printing and publishing houses are being established. But there has been no agency in Bhutan to co-ordinate and standardize use of identifying numbers for various publications. The need to streamline system of identification for publications along international standard has been long felt.

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## **The National ISBN Agency for Bhutan**

In many countries, the ISBN group agencies are located within national libraries or at publishers' associations. The Royal Government of Bhutan designated the Centre for Bhutan Studies as the ISBN agency responsible for the implementation of International Standard Book Numbering in Bhutan. In a circular issued on 9 August 1999, the Royal Government authorized the Centre to enter into contract with the International ISBN Agency in Berlin, Germany. Consequently, the Centre signed the contract in August 1999 whereby it undertook to fulfil the functions of the agency as postulated in the General Contract.

## **Scope of ISBN**

The purpose of this International Standard is to co-ordinate and standardize the use of identifying numbers so that each international standard book number (ISBN) is unique to a title or edition of a book or other monographic publication published or produced by a specific publisher or producer. It specifies the construction of an international standard book number and the location of the printed number on the publication.

This International Standard is applicable to books and other monographic publications, which may include: printed books and pamphlets (and their various bindings or formats), mixed media publications, other similar media including educational films/videos and transparencies, books on cassettes, microcomputer software, electronic publications, microform publications, braille publications, and maps.

## **ISBN Seminar**

A seminar was organized at the Centre for Bhutan Studies on April 28, 2000 to introduce the concept and use of ISBN to publishers in Bhutan. About 40 participants attended the seminar. Authors, publishers and printers have been

enquiring and applying for ISBN numbers ever since. In administering the ISBN system in Bhutan, the Centre for Bhutan Studies has been able to fulfil one of its mandates as a clearinghouse for various information and publications in Bhutan.

An in-house seminar was held in September 2001 to enhance capabilities of the staff of the Centre to improve ISBN administration.

### **Popularity of ISBN**

It is only two years since the National ISBN Agency for Bhutan was established. When the agency submitted its annual report in September last year, one year after its formal establishment, there were only 12 ISBNs issued to a total of six publishers. The second year saw a 100 % increase with 25 ISBN issued to different publishers. This does include the 200 ISBN issued to the Curriculum and Professional Support Division of the Department of Education, which is the largest publisher in the country. So far, 17 publishers have registered with the Agency. They comprise of commercial, governmental, non-governmental, institutional and international organizations.

### **The Functions of the Agency**

The ISBN system is administered at three levels: international, national and within publishing houses. The National ISBN Agency is the local authority in ISBN matters and the interlocutor for all interested persons.

The agency is responsible for promoting International Standard Book Numbering. Allocation of Publisher Prefixes to each Publisher - Commercial, Governmental and Non-Governmental, and Private, validation of ISBNs, Maintenance of Master Files and Registers, and Provision of individual ISBNs upon request are the main functions of the Agency. Allocating of ISBNs to Bhutan's Publishers is a free service

undertaken by the Centre for Bhutan Studies to promote bibliographic standardization of Bhutan's Publishing output.

### **Group Identifier for Bhutan**

An international standard book number consists of ten digits made up of four parts: a group identifier, publisher identifier, title identifier and a check digit. The group identifier is allocated by the International ISBN Agency. A group is a national or geographical entity or one based on language or other conveniences. It varies in length from group to group according to the volume of publication of the group concerned. The publisher or producer identifier is allocated internally within the group, by the national agencies. It varies in length according to the title output of the publisher or producer concerned.

After considering the approximate volume of publication in the last ten years, Bhutan has been given the group identifier 99936. Hence, all books published in the country will have their ISBNs beginning with these five digits.

### **The Publisher Prefix Range**

In consultation with the publishing houses, the group/national agency has to decide and fix the Publisher Prefix Ranges. The fixing of the range is necessary because various computerized order fulfilment and inventory control systems in many countries are set up based on the ISBN system. These ranges are not equal in every country, because they are adapted to the local circumstances of publishing houses: a country with only a few large publishing houses needs only a few one or two digit publisher prefixes and more with three or four digits. The ranges should be fixed in a manner that there are enough publisher prefixes with ISBNs being sufficient for book numbering within a period of about 10 to 15 years. Publisher should be assigned a one-digit prefix in case the publisher publishes a lot of titles in a year,

or a prefix with more digits in case only a few titles are published in several years.

### **Publisher Prefix Range for Bhutan**

The following is the range fixed for Bhutan.

	0		
	10-59		
	600-999		
Publisher Prefix (Identifier) Range	Title Identifiers (from..to)	Number of publishers prefixes	ISBNs available to each publisher
0	000-999	1	1000
10-59	00-99	50	100
600-999	0-9	400	10
<b>Total:</b>		<b>451</b>	<b>10,000</b>

The distribution of publisher prefix ranges gives Bhutan 451 publisher prefixes. In other words, the range can accommodate 451 publishers in the country.

1 publisher prefix with 1000 ISBNs, i.e 0 has been given to the Curriculum and Professional Support Division of the Department of Education. It is assumed that in a period of ten years, the Division would publish books with 1000 different titles.

50 publisher prefixes with 100 ISBNs are 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 etc...58, 59. This prefix is given to those publishers who would publish books with hundred different titles in a period of ten years.

400 prefixes with 10 ISBNs: 600, 601, 602, 603 etc...998, 999

Based on the volume of production from 1990-1999, which approximately adds up to 628 titles, it has been assumed that a total of 10,000 different books would be published in the country. The publisher prefix range for Bhutan would therefore, accommodate 451 publishers and 10,000 titles in the next ten years.

## **Conclusion**

Modern printing began when Kuensel was first started as an internal government bulletin in 1967. The Royal Government also started developing and publishing books for schools beginning 1985. The responsibility was delegated to the Text Book Division of the Education Department. It is now taken over by the Curriculum and the Profession Support Division.

Although the government encourages printing industry by making it mandatory for all government departments to award printing works to them, the scope of such industry is still limited. Many printing presses are poorly equipped and cannot meet technical printing requirements. However, publishers in the country overcome technical limitations by having publications printed in India.

So far, 11 publishers have been issued ISBN in the publisher prefix range 600-999, five in the range 10-59 and 1 under the prefix 0. Of the 17 publishers listed with the National ISBN Agency, seven are author-publishers, two commercial, six governmental and two non-governmental publishers. Although private and commercial publishers are now taking over, the government organizations have been the major publishers in the country.

## **List of ISBNs Issued to Publishers in Bhutan Between September 1999 and August 2001**

<b>ISBN Issued within the Publishers Prefix Range 600-999</b>		
<b>Sl.#</b>	<b>ISBN</b>	<b>Publisher Title</b>
		Karma Temphe
1	ISBN 99936-601-0-8	N. Gyamtsho Bhutan-The Odiyan Development Towards
		Department of Aid and Gross National
2	ISBN 99936-602-0-5	Debt Management Happiness
3	ISBN 99936-604-0-X	Chang Dorji Druk Gi Datsed
4	ISBN 99936-605-0-7	World Wildlife Fund My Picture Dictionary
		Sales Tax, Customs
		and Exchange Act of
		Department of Revenue & The Kingdom of
5	ISBN 99936-606-0-4	Customs Bhutan, 2000
6	ISBN 99936-607-0-1	Pema Graphics Ngi Ming Tsig
7	ISBN 99936-607-1-X	Pema Graphics Dhitsu
8	ISBN 99936-607-2-8	Pema Graphics Ga Ti Dhug
9	ISBN 99936-607-3-6	Pema Graphics Dhi Ga Chi Ina
		Wild Rhododendron
10	ISBN 99936-610-0-7	Aum Rabecca Pradhan of Bhutan
		Threatened Birds In
11	ISBN 99936-610-1-5	Aum Rabecca Pradhan Bhutan
12	ISBN 99936-612-0-1	Dasho Sherub Thayer Drukgi Lozay
		Jidpai Lekshed
13	ISBN 99936-612-1-X	Dasho Sherub Thayer Dhang Lapja
		The Pesticides Act of
14	ISBN 99936-615-0-3	Ministry of Agriculture Bhutan, 2000
		The Seeds Act of
15	ISBN 99936-615-1-1	Ministry of Agriculture Bhutan 2000
		History of Drukpa
		Kagyud School in
16	ISBN 99936-616-0-0	Dr.Yonten Dargye Bhutan
		Mask Dances of
17	ISBN 99936-618-0-5	Dasho Sithey Dorji Bhutan

**ISBN Issued within the Publisher Range 10-59**

<b>Sl.#</b>	<b>ISBN</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	ISBN 99936-10-00-3	KMT Press	Drukpai Chamgi Goden Selshed
2	ISBN 99936-10-00-3	KMT Press	Drugpai Chamgi Goden Selshed
3	ISBN 99936-10-01-1	KMT Press	English-Dzongkha Tsigzed Sarp
4	ISBN 99936-10-02-X	KMT Press	Thakor Lopjong Losar
5	ISBN 99936-10-03-8	KMT Press	Thakor Lopdep Dangpa
6	ISBN 99936-10-04-6	KMT Press	Thakor Lopedep Ngipa
7	ISBN 99936-10-05-4	KMT Press	Thakor Lopdep Sumpa
8	ISBN 99936-10-06-2	KMT Press	A Dance in the Clouds
9	ISBN 99936-10-06-2	KMT Press	Tenpai Zedpa Dhordhi
10	ISBN 99936-10-07-0	KMT Press	Dzongkhai Inkur NamZhag
11	ISBN 99936-10-08-9	KMT Press	Nyerkhoei Namshed
12	ISBN 99936-11-00-5	Helvetas	Swiss-Bhutan partnership- Development cooperation in Changing world
13	ISBN 99936-12-00-6	DSB Enterprise	The Divine and the Diabolic
14	ISBN 99936-12-01-4	DSB Enterprise	Dok Sel Dren Med
15	ISBN 99936-12-02-2	DSB Enterprise	Sherub Selwai Melong
16	ISBN 99936-12-03-0	DSB Enterprise	Yangchen Juedmang
17	ISBN 99936-12-04-9	DSB Enterprise	Tog Tog Gamo
18	ISBN 99936-17-00-8	National Library	The Biography of Phajo Drugom Zhigpo
19	ISBN 99936-18-00-4	Royal Audit Authority	Report on the proceedings of the 4th Annual Conference
20	ISBN 99936-18-01-2	Royal Audit Authority	In- house Training on Professional Development in Auditing
21	ISBN 99936-18-02-0	Royal Audit Authority	Training on the Rule of Law and Auditing



**ISBN Issued to CAPSD, Department of Education-  
Publisher Prefix Range: 0**

<b>Sl.#</b>	<b>ISBN</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	ISBN 99936-0-000-8	Losar Lobdep
2	ISBN 99936-0-001-6	Lopdep Dangpa
3	ISBN 99936-0-002-4	Lopdep Zhepa
4	ISBN 99936-0-003-2	Lopdep Ngapa
5	ISBN 99936-0-004-0	Lopdep Drukpa
6	ISBN 99936-0-005-9	Lopdep Duenpa
7	ISBN 99936-0-006-7	Lopdep Gaypa
8	ISBN 99936-0-007-5	Gaysel Laglen
9	ISBN 99936-0-008-3	Ashi Nangsa
10	ISBN 99936-0-009-1	Lekshey Langdor Shinjey
11	ISBN 99936-0-010-5	Khandro Drowa Zangmo
12	ISBN 99936-0-011-3	Shetring
13	ISBN 99936-0-012-1	Chushingi Toenchoe
14	ISBN 99936-0-013-X	Chim Nangi La, Class I - X
15	ISBN 99936-0-014-8	Dechen and Dorji (Big Book)
16	ISBN 99936-0-015-6	Dechen and Dorji's Father (Big Book)
17	ISBN 99936-0-016-4	The Dog and the Monkey (Big Book)
18	ISBN 99936-0-017-2	Look for Me (Big Book)
19	ISBN 99936-0-018-0	DEDP Teacher's Manual (II)
20	ISBN 99936-0-019-9	DEDP Teacher's Manual (III)
21	ISBN 99936-0-020-2	DEDP Teacher's Manual (IV)
22	ISBN 99936-0-021-0	DEDP Teacher's Manual (V)
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24	ISBN 99936-0-023-7	ELT Handbook
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