Road Safety in Bhutan

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Location of Bhutan
Introduction

✓ Location: China and India
✓ Government: Constitutional Monarchy
✓ Population: 786,676
✓ Area: 38,394 km²
✓ Forest cover: 90% bio-diversity hot spot
✓ Altitude: 90m - 7000m asl
✓ Main engine of growth: Hydro power/tourism
✓ Bhutan recommended to graduate LDCs in 2021 United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CPD)
Roads in Bhutan

✓ Road Length: 175 km (1961) to 11,200 km (2017) source: DoR, MoWHS

✓ Todays road network: 11,177 km (express way-6.2) NH-2,560 km, District roads 1,504 km, Farm roads-5,351 km, access roads - 1,359 km and urban roads -403 km)

✓ Priority is connectivity
✓ Total number of motor vehicle: 92,719
✓ Number of D/License: 120,923
✓ Number of vehicle accident: 747 in a year
✓ Number of deaths: 86 in a year
✓ Number of injuries: 326 in a year
Challenges

✓ Steady growth in number of motorist/road users
✓ Growing number of motorist coming in conflict with law
✓ Stuck in old ways and drivers inconsiderate to other road users
✓ Inadequate budget allocated for road users education
✓ Polluting (transport sector is highest green house gas emitter)
✓ Congestion (a green traffic jam is still a traffic jam)
✓ Uneven distribution of public transport services (Rural-Urban)
✓ Road Engineering (Design/improving of existing roads/vision/placing of adequate/relevant traffic signs and symbols)
✓ No capacity to conduct road safety auditing
Objective/mandate

To provide and develop safe, reliable, efficient, cost effective, inclusive and environment friendly transport services in support of strategies for socio economic development of the country.

- RSTA was established in 1997
- RST-Act/regulation 1999 (under review)
Thank you