

PRESS RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL CANCER SYMPOSIUM “September 2023- Cervical Cancer Elimination”

September 10th & 11th 2023

Venue: Royal University of Bhutan

Thimphu, 9 September, 2023

The Ministry of Health is set to host a groundbreaking event, the International Cancer Symposium on the elimination of cervical cancer, at the Royal University of Bhutan in Thimphu. Scheduled for September 10-11, 2023, this momentous occasion will be graced by the presence of Her Majesty The Queen Mother Gyalum Tseyring Pem Wangchuck.

Cervical cancer remains a pressing global health issue, disproportionately affecting women in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). In Bhutan, it stands as the most prevalent cancer among women, raising significant concerns. The incidence and mortality rate of cervical cancer is alarmingly high, which is further exacerbated by the fact that it is often diagnosed when women are at the peak of their social and economic productivity.

In response to the concerns, Bhutan made a bold commitment to eliminate cervical cancer at the 144th WHO Executive board meeting in **January, 2019** which was tabled by Health Minister, Dasho Dechen Wangmo. As Bhutan embarks on this mission to **eliminate cervical cancer by 2030**, it encompasses the implementation of comprehensive strategies, including nationwide screening initiatives, HPV vaccination, and robust treatment follow-ups with protocols.

The International Cancer Symposium here in the country seeks to galvanize these efforts by bringing together experts, healthcare professionals, policymakers, researchers, community leaders, and patients. Together, they will engage in open dialogue, share invaluable knowledge, and ignite collaborative actions.

The symposium will cast a spotlight on crucial areas, including advocacy for cervical cancer elimination, preventive measures, enhanced accessibility to screening and diagnostics, and the delivery of patient-centric services. This event will serve as a powerful platform for exchange of innovative ideas, enabling attendees to gain insights into evidence-based interventions that

have yielded success not only in Bhutan but also in countries worldwide. The Ministry of Health is working with partners to achieve the goal of eliminating cervical cancer in Bhutan and ensuring the well-being of Bhutanese women.

Media houses are cordially invited for the event. Should you have queries to kindly contact the person below:

For media inquiries, please contact:

(Tsheddar)

tsheddar@health.gov.bt

(17674052)