

**PRESS RELEASE**

**BEFIT 2019: Crowd Funding Portal**

***Bhutan Alternatives: A success story***

***August 23, 2019***

The Royal Securities Exchange of Bhutan (RSEBL) was licensed to operate the first crowd-funding portal *“Bhutan Crowd Funding Portal”* under the Crowd Funding Rules and Regulations 2019. The license was issued by the RMA during BEFIT 2019 under the theme of catalyzing CSI to drive Bhutan’s Economic Diversification.

Crowd funding is an alternative source of raising funds (small amounts) from multiple investors through a web-based platform (**crowd funding portal**) or social networking site for specific project, business venture or social cause. The portal facilitates start-up or early-stage businesses and CSIs in Bhutan to raise money through issuance of securities (equity), donations and rewards.

Bhutan Alternative is the first project to register with the aforementioned portal. It is an e-Waste management project, which was initiated with a goal of sustainable utilization of toner cartridge in the country. The company has successfully raised fund from public to the tune of Nu.8.34 million, which accounts to 30% of the total stake of the company. The Authority congratulates Bhutan Alternatives and commends Royal Securities Exchange of Bhutan for successfully facilitating/raising the offer amount.

The Authority would like to inspire other Start-up CSI to use the portal and also encourage Bhutanese investors to explore investing capital in such startups businesses registered with the portal and support the CSIs in the country.

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