

# Profile of Mr. Sonam Wangchuk



Name: Sonam Wangchuk  
Personal: Male, Age: 52 years (DOB: 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. 1966),  
Nationality: Indian  
Contact Address: SECMOL Campus, PO Box 4, Leh 194101, Ladakh India

## Education

Post Masters' Specialisation in Earth Architecture from CRATerre, National School of Architecture, Grenoble, France, 2010.  
BE, Mechanical Engineering from the National Institute of Technology, Srinagar Kashmir, 1987.

## Jobs and Assignments:

Chief Coordinator and Founding member of the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh, an Alternative Mountain University.

Took overall leadership of the Ice Stupa artificial glacier project, starting with prototyping in 2012, fund raising through crowd funding in 2014, to final implementation this past winter.

Teacher, guide and innovation advisor at the SECMOL Alternative School Campus in Phey, Ladakh. August 2010 to date.

Worked as Advisor for MS Denmark in Nepal, on a bilateral project of the Danish Government to support the Nepalese Ministry of Education in education reforms. April 2007 to July 2010.

Co-founded and headed SECMOL, the Students Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh, based in Leh, as its Founding Director. June 1988 till March 2007.

Founded and worked as the editor of Ladakh's only print magazine Ladags Melong based in Leh. June 1993 till August 2005.

Founded and helped as the Principal Designer engineer for Shesyon Solar Earth Buildings (A Social Venture that designs and builds passive solar buildings and ploughs back the profits into education reform, entrepreneurship development etc.). June 2003 till March 2007.

## Boards served:

In 2014, appointed to the Expert panel for framing the J&K State's Education Policy and Vision Document.

In 2013, appointed to the Jammu & Kashmir State Education Advisory Committee.

In 2009, invited by the Prime Minister of Bhutan to be on the international advisory group to support the Bhutanese Government in introduction of Gross National Happiness into Education.

In 2008 Invited to be advisor for Denmark- Nepal project under Education For All programme.

In 2005, appointed as a member in the National Governing Council for Elementary Education (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

In 2004, appointed to the Drafting Committee of the Ladakh Hill Council Government's Vision Document—'Ladakh-2025' and entrusted with the formulation of the policy on Education and Tourism. The document was formally launched by Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India in 2005.

In 2002, together with other NGO heads, founded Ladakh Voluntary Network (LVN), A network of Ladakhi NGOs, and served on its Executive committee as the Secretary till 2005.

In 2001, appointed to be advisor for education in the Leh Hill Council Government.

### **Awards and Recognition:**

Rolex Award for Enterprise, for Ice Stupa project, Los Angeles USA.

International Terra Award 2016 at the 12<sup>th</sup> World Earth Congress, Lyon France,

UNESCO Chair Earthen Architecture, by CRATerre France, 2014

CNN IBN India Real Heroes Award by CNN IBN TV, 2008

Participated in Asia 21 Young Leaders' Summit in Seoul, Korea, 2006

The Green Teacher Award by the 'Sanctuary Asia' magazine, 2004

Ashoka Fellowship for Social Entrepreneurship, by Ashoka USA, 2002

'Man of the Year' Cover Story by 'The Week' (India's third largest magazine), in 2001.

Awarded Governor's Medal for educational reform in Jammu & Kashmir, 1996.

### **Languages Spoken**

<b>Language</b>	<b>Speak</b>	<b>Fluent</b>	<b>Read &amp; Write</b>
Ladakhi	Y	Y	Y
English	Y	Y	Y
Hindi	Y	Y	Y
Urdu	Y	Y	
Nepali	Y	Y	Y
Tibetan	Y		Y
Balti	Y	Y	
French	Y	Y	Y