



# THE TIBET MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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The Tibet Museum  
Newsletter is published  
bi-annually and  
welcomes articles,  
letters, photos and  
related materials that  
are relevant to the  
Tibetan culture and  
history. Articles may be  
submitted by e-mail to  
tibetmuseum@tibet.net.

Funding for publication  
of this newsletter  
is provided by the  
National Endowment for  
Democracy

Edited by:  
Tashi Phuntsok Barling

Published by:  
The Tibet Museum, DIIR

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama opens Tibet Expo in Mumbai 30 May – 2 June 2014

His Holiness the Dalai Lama inaugurated the Tibet Museum's photo exhibition on Indo-Tibet Relations titled "India and Tibet – Ancient Ties, Current Bonds", as well as the Museum's exhibition titled "The Burning Question – Why are Tibetans Turning into Self-immolations?". The exhibition was part of the four-day Tibet Festival held at Somaiya Vidyavihar in Ghatkopar, Mumbai. The Festival was held along with His Holiness the Dalai Lama's teaching at the Somaiya Vidyavihar, and aimed to create awareness among the general public, especially Indian people, about Tibet's rich culture, history and current situation.

The exhibition on Indo-Tibet Relations is a pictorial presentation of the historical relations between Tibet and India, since Tibet's 33<sup>rd</sup> King Songtsen Gampo till present day. It highlights the importance of these relations for the Tibetan and Indian peoples. The exhibition on self-immolations provides background information about the recent wave of self-immolation inside Tibet.

Along with the photo exhibitions, the Tibet Museum also screened documentary films on Tibet.



Tashi Phuntsok presenting the photo exhibition to His Holiness the Dalai Lama

The four-day Tibet Festival also featured a free medical camp by the Tibetan Medical and Astrological Institute where visitors availed free consultation and medicines. Other highlights of the Festival included Sand Mandalas, Butter Sculptures, Exhibition cum Sale of Books, Word Carving and Thangka Painting.

The Tibet Festival was organised by Somaiya Vidyavihar under the guidance of Samir S Somaiya, trustee and President of the Institute. It was coordinated by two members of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile, Mr. Karma Yeshe and Ms. Yangchen Dolkar.



Mr. Karma Yeshe (R) and Ms. Yangchen Dolkar (L) guiding His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the exhibition

# DIIR Kalon inaugurates Tibet Museum's new Exhibition on Self-Immolation Protests

4 April 2014

Kalon Dicki Chhoyang of the Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR), Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) inaugurated the Tibet Museum's new exhibition on self-immolations inside Tibet. The new exhibition consists of 27 panels in Tibetan, English and Hindi, documenting reasons, aspirations and the last words that lead Tibetans to self-immolate.

"This exhibit is an effort by the CTA to ensure that the international community is clear about what self-immolation is, why Tibetans are self-immolating and what is leading them (until now, 129 Tibetans) to self-immolate", said Kalon Dicki Chhoyang.

"Ever since the self-immolations began, we have urged the



Kalon Dicki Chhoyang inaugurating Tibet Museum's new exhibition on Self-immolations in Tibet

Tibetans inside Tibet not to resort to drastic forms of action. While the self-immolations continue, we have a moral responsibility to make sure that the international community understands the background" she added.

"The Tibetans self-immolating are not politicians. They are common Tibetan people including farmers, nomads, students, monks and nuns. We have also documented how the Chinese government has responded to the self-immolation protests. While we can appeal to

Speaking to media members after the inauguration, Mr Tashi Phuntsok, Director of the Tibet Museum said: "We have travelled across India, particularly South and North-East India, showcasing the exhibition. Lots of people have turned up and expressed their solidarity with the Tibet issue after visiting the exhibition. Therefore, we are showcasing our new exhibition at our permanent base in McLeod Ganj, so that foreigners as well as our Indian friends can understand what is really happening inside Tibet."



Tibet Museum's Director Tashi Phuntsok presenting the exhibit to Kalon Dicki Chhoyang

Tibetans inside Tibet not to self-immolate, the policies that are leading them to self-immolate are not in our control. It is in the hands of the Chinese government. So, through this exhibit, we hope that more and more people would understand the sad events taking place inside Tibet", Kalon added.

"We will also travel to various parts of India to showcase the exhibition, in order to create more awareness about the Tibet issue. Tibet supporters and friends of Tibet based outside India can download our panels from our website ([www.tibetmuseum.org](http://www.tibetmuseum.org)) or contact our office directly if they are interested to view the exhibit or organise similar exhibitions in their respective countries," he added.



Chief guest Mr. Thupstan Chhewang, Member of Parliament, Ladakh, inaugurating the exhibition

## The Tibet Museum Showcases Tibet Photo Expo in Leh, Ladakh

5-13 July 2014

The Tibet Museum organised photo exhibitions on Tibet's history, culture, religion, Tibetans' life in exile and current situation inside Tibet during the 33rd Kalachakra Initiation, in Leh, Ladakh.

Mr. Thupstan Chhewang, Member of Parliament, Ladakh, inaugurated the exhibition on 5 July 2014. The exhibition was held for 9 days.

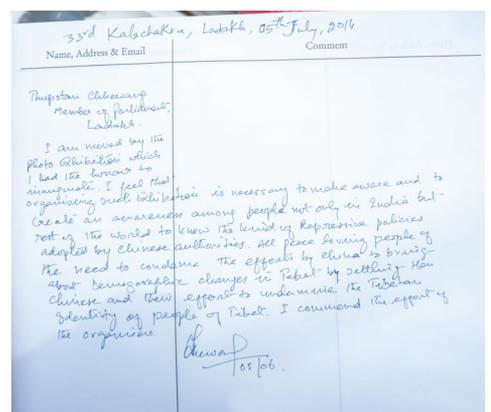
The exhibition "The Burning Question: Why are Tibetans Turning to Self-immolations", explains the reasons and circumstances that have led ordinary Tibetans from all walks of life to resort to self-immolation.

The second showcased exhibition "Glimpses on the History of Tibet", focuses on Tibet's history, culture and religion. The third exhibition "Tibet's Journey in Exile" features photographic narratives of the Tibetan life in exile for more than fifty years and the efforts made to revive the Tibetan culture, identity, as well as build a sustainable community and establish a robust democracy in exile.

The exhibition aimed to raise awareness among Tibetans and non-Tibetans about Tibet's history and culture, current situation and the travails of the Tibetan people for the last fifty years, following the occupation of Tibet by the People's Republic of China in 1959.



Tashi Phuntsok, Director of Tibet Museum describing the exhibition to Thupstan Chhewang, MP, Ladakh



Comment by Mr. Thupstan Chhewang



Monks from local monastery visiting the photo exhibition



More than 30,000 people from diverse backgrounds visited the Tibet Museum exhibition in Leh, Ladakh

## Tibet Museum joins International Museum Day

18 May 2014

The Tibet Museum joined the 37th International Museum Day celebrated by over 35,000 museums in 120 countries, under the theme "Museum collections make connections".

A new website of the Museum, [www.tibetmuseum.org](http://www.tibetmuseum.org), was also launched on the occasion.

Kalon Pema Chhinjor of the Department of Religion and Culture graced the occasion. He praised the Tibet Museum for its collection of photos documenting the detailed story of Tibet's history and the Tibetan people's plight and non-violent struggle for freedom and justice. "It is a very opportune time for the Tibet Museum to reach out to a wider audience by joining the International Museum Day", he said, adding, "It will raise greater awareness and a clearer understanding of the history, culture and the suffering of Tibetans under the China's repressive rule."

He said the media has the responsibility and plays a vital role in disseminating information on the Tibet issue, truthfully and objectively.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Tashi Phuntsok, Secretary of the DIIR, stated "Since its inception in 1998, the Tibet Museum has become a repository of information which tells the story of Tibet's history, culture, religion



Kalon Pema Chhinjor speaking during the celebration of the International Museum Day at Tibet Museum in Dharamshala, India

and the plight of Tibetans under the Chinese rule. Its collections have been collated in an institutionalized and scientific way. It engages the international community on the issue of Tibet, it connects the the younger generation of Tibetans to their roots, and sustains our struggle for freedom and justice."

The director of the Tibet Museum, Mr Tashi Phuntsok, said that over 50,000 people visit the museum every year. "The new website of the museum would help people who cannot visit the Tibet Museum in Dharamshala to learn and understand the issue of Tibet. Its collections of photos and documents would also facilitate the Tibetan communities across the world to organise similar photo exhibitions in their locality."

Special programmes being organised at the Tibet Museum on the occasion include guided tours of the exhibition "A Long Look Homeward", talks by former Tibetan political prisoners, live demonstration of thangka (scroll) painting and showcase of costumes of the three traditional provinces of Tibet.

Schoolchildren from TCV Suja and TCV Chauntara, Sambhota school Chauntara, Mewoen Peton school, and Indian government school participated in the event.

"People have responded enthusiastically to this event. We have witnessed the highest number of people (over 1,400) visiting the museum in a single day till date," Mr. Tashi Phuntsok later told [www.tibet.net](http://www.tibet.net).



Visitors during the International Museum Day at Tibet Museum



DIIR Secretary Tashi Phuntsok speaking during the celebration of International Museum Day



Kalon Pema Chhinjor (c) and DIIR Secretary Tashi Phuntsok look at collections of traditional paintings



The Tibet Museum Director Tashi Phuntsok giving an introduction about the International Museum Day



Tibetan school children from Mewon Pateon School showcasing Tibet's traditional dresses



Former political prisoners Dawa Tsering (L) and Ven. Bhagdro talk about their prison life in Tibet



Choephel playing the *Dramnyen* during the International Museum Day celebration



School children at the talk by two former political prisoners



Group photo with school children from schools in Chauitra

## The Tibet Museum attends sixth MuseumNext Conference in Newcastle, UK

18 - 20 June 2014

Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Director of the Tibet Museum attended the three-days MuseumNext conference in Newcastle, United Kingdom. MuseumNext is Europe's big conference on innovation and technology in the museum sector.

Around 200 delegates from more than 25 countries attended the three-day conference to exchange on innovative apps, challenging exhibitions and ways museum professionals are using the digital media to connect with their audiences. The conference participants also discussed the ways that technologies are changing the expectations of museum audiences and how they could engage audiences beyond the museum premises.

The theme of this year MuseumNext conference was **"Be Brave, Take Risks"**. The four key trends of the conference were Happiness, Access anywhere,



Mr. Tashi Phuntsok in discussion with delegates from Amsterdam, Netherlands and Istanbul, Turkey during the MuseumNext conference

Data shaped and Personalization. All the presentations, projects and shared stories gave the delegates new ideas for their current and future projects.

The conference also offered the Tibet Museum a unique chance to network with museum professionals who are shaping the future of museum sector around the world.

Following the conference, Mr. Tashi Phuntsok visited various museums in Newcastle and Liverpool including the National Museum in Liverpool, which possesses a large collection on Tibet dating back to the thirteenth Dalai Lama period.

## Workshop on Digital Photography and Image Editing

14 - 15 April 2014

The Tibet Museum and the Himalayan Art Centre jointly organized a two-day workshop on digital photography and image editing at the Lhakpa Tsering Hall, DIIR. Over 14 participants - from the DIIR and other Tibetan organisations - took part in the workshop.

The workshop was conducted by Mr. David Zimmerman, a reputed photographer based in New York City and founder of the Himalayan Art Centre in Dharamshala.

"We hope to encourage and develop the capability of our staff

to do all kinds of jobs required by them in a professional manner," said Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Secretary of the Department of Information and International Relations, at the inaugural session of the workshop.

"We have participants from various sections of our department, particularly the media sections, whose job description include photography, image editing and designing page layout of the various magazines that we publish" he said.

"We hope they make best use of Mr. Zimmerman's expertise in the field to develop their capabilities through this workshop", he added.

## Training on Digitisation

27 - 28 February 2014

Mr. Tenzing Ramjam, archivist and Mr. Kunga Phuntsok, assistant archivist attended a two-day training on digitization at Punjab Digital Library in Chandigarh.

With the help of practical demonstration, the staff of the host institute imparted them the basic ideas of scanning photographs, slides and negatives. They were also instructed about the various components of the scanning process.

Mr. Davinder Pal Singh, the head of the Punjab Digital Library also briefed the staff about the various aspects of digitization and scanning.

## Tibet Awareness Talk Series

In order to enhance awareness of Tibet and its overall situation, the Tibet Museum conducts a talk series every month inviting researchers, scholars, and others. The target audience is comprised of Tibetan and Indian participants, as well as tourists from different parts of the world. The audience gets the opportunity to participate in question and answer sessions and other post-talk activities.



Thubten Samphel, Director of TPI, CTA, giving a presentation at the Tibet Museum

### 14 March, 2014

Mr. Tenzin Tseten, researcher at the Tibet Policy Institute (TPI), CTA, gave a talk on "Sino Tibet relations - Post 1949".

### 28 March, 2014

Mr. Tenzin Losel, freelance researcher, gave a talk on the topic "Propaganda Deconstructed- the Working of China's Indoctrination Explained".

### 2 April, 2014

Mr. Jigme Yeshe, Phd student from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, spoke about "China's Institutional and Structural Dominance in Tibet".

### 16 April, 2014

Mr Thubten Samphel, Director of TPI, CTA, gave a talk on "The Causes of Self-immolation in Tibet and Reaction by Chinese Citizens". He also addressed Tibet's contemporary history.

### 25 April, 2014

Ms. Kalden Tsomo of the United Nation, European Union and Human Rights Desk of DIIR, spoke on the topic "Tibet: Human Rights and the Missing 11th Panchen Lama". She covered the human rights situation inside Tibet in relation with the 11th Panchen Lama's disappearance.

### 15 May, 2014

Ms. Tenzin Pema, researcher of the TPI, CTA, gave a talk on the "Status of Tibetan Language in Tibet".

### 29 May, 2014

Ms. Namgyal Dolkar, Vice President of Gu-Chu-Sum, gave a talk on "The Life of Political Prisoners in Tibet". She narrated the tragedy they endured in prison and talked about their sense of patriotism toward Tibet.

### 11 June, 2014

Mr. Dhundup Gyalpo, senior researcher of the TPI of CTA, gave a talk on the "1914 Shimla Agreement - A Tibetan Perspective".

### 8 August, 2014

Ms. Tsering Chozom of the Environment and Development Desk, TPI, spoke about "Impact of the Tourism Boom in Tibet".



Visitors attending a talk at the Tibet Museum

## How to support the Tibet Museum

### 1. Donate Funds to the Tibet Museum

The Tibet Museum project was made possible through the kind support of our donors, both individuals and organisations. Your financial contribution can help us keep history alive through exhibitions on Tibet's history, culture and traditions.

If you are interested in contributing to the Tibet Museum you can do it by sending us a cheque or bank draft in favor of "SARD" (Social and Resource Development Fund). We cannot accept cash donations.

Your support will benefit the core programs of the Museum: the Tibet awareness program, the digitization of our huge collections, capacity building programs for the Museum staff, the photo identification project, traveling exhibitions, and others.

Supporters will receive a letter of acknowledgment and will be acknowledged in our next newsletter. In addition, they will be subscribed to our future newsletters.

### 2. Artefacts and Photographic Donation

The Tibet Museum is collecting contemporary and historical objects and photographs related to Tibet and Tibetans from around the world. We have always greatly

benefited from donations from friends and supporters. If you have an object, photograph or collection that would be pertinent to the Tibet Museum, we would be happy to receive it.

### 3. Donate time

The Tibet Museum greatly benefits from volunteers from different communities, and it is always in need of graphic designers, archivists and museum specialists.

### 3. Host our exhibition in your community

You can also support the Tibet Museum by hosting the Museum's traveling exhibition in your community by sponsoring traveling and other expenses.

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#### The Tibet Museum

Department of Information and International Relations  
Central Tibetan Administration  
Gangchen Kyishong  
Dharamsala 176215  
H.P. INDIA

E-mail: [tibetmuseum@tibet.net](mailto:tibetmuseum@tibet.net)

#### Find out more about us at:

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