



# THE TIBET MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

## IN THIS ISSUE

Sikyong Inaugurates  
New Redesigned Tibet  
Museum

Page 01

Exhibition at Dhakpo  
Shedrupling Monastery

Page 02

Exhibitions to mark  
"2014 - Year of H.H the  
Dalai Lama"

Page 03

Exhibition at  
Woodstock School

Page 04

Exhibition in Nanital

Page 04

Photo Exhibition in  
Four Indian Cities

Page 04

Photo Exhibition at  
Himalayan Festival

Page 06

Photo Exhibition in  
Mandi

Page 06

Tibet Awareness  
Talk Series

Page 07

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](mailto:tibetmuseum@tibet.net).

Edited by: Eva Cirnu &  
Tashi Phuntsok Barling

Published by:  
The Tibet Museum, DIIR

## Sikyong Inaugurates New Redesigned Tibet Museum

**30 April 2015**

Coinciding with the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tibet Museum, Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay inaugurated the new re-designed and updated permanent exhibition of the Tibet Museum, located in the premise of Tsuglagkhang (main Temple) in McLeod Ganj, Dharamshala.

The museum is redesigned with new modern technologies including touch screen panels, enlarged photos with higher resolutions, and a completely new section dedicated solely to the wave of self-immolations inside Tibet and human rights in Tibet. Pictures of the Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama inaugurating the Tibet Museum in 2000 and visit of many well-known people to the Museum was also put on display as a part of temporary exhibition section.

Speaking at the inauguration, Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay lauded Tibet

Museum's tireless efforts towards the preservation of Tibetan history and culture in the form of pictures. "The Tibet Museum is one of the most visible platforms where we exhibit the photographs, artifacts and videos of Chinese occupation and oppression in Tibet. Over the years, the Tibet Museum has also undertaken various traveling exhibitions, which have helped create more awareness on the Tibet issue," Sikyong said.

Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, DIIR Secretary for Information, gave the concluding remarks of the inaugural ceremony. He said the redesign of the Tibet Museum is an innovative step taken by the department to connect with the public, Tibet supporters and others interested in the Tibet issue.

Director of Tibet Museum, Mr. Tashi Phuntsok read out a brief report of Tibet Museum.

"We have tried our best to compile all the relevant information on Tibetan history, Tibetan culture, exile Tibetan community, and the critical situation



Tashi Phuntsok, Director of Tibet Museum, explaining new designs of the exhibition to Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay

inside Tibet including the wave of self-immolations, in our new re-designed museum," he said.

"We have also made entry to the Tibet Museum free of cost from March 2013 onwards, to attract more visitors, as per the direction from Kashag. On an average, over 50,000 tourists and Tibet supporters visit the museum annually. The traffic is slated to increase even more after this re-design," Tashi Phuntsok added, enthusiastically.

Dignitaries present at the inauguration include Health Kalon Dr. Tsering Wangchuk, Kashag Secretary Ven. Yuthok Karma Gelek, DIIR Secretaries Mr. Sonam Norbu Dagpo and Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Finance Secretary Mr. Trinley Gyatso, Health Secretary Mr. Tsegyal Dranyi, Audit Secretary Mr. Rigzin Choephel and DIIR Additional Secretary Ms. Yeshe Wangmo.

The Tibet Museum, an undertaking of the DIIR, was established in 1998, to serve as a remembrance of the loss of Tibetan culture and lives and present the hopes and aspirations of the Tibetan people through collected photographs and life histories.

Tibet Museum comprises of a permanent exhibition, traveling exhibition, photographic archive and an online exhibition on the history of Tibet, the Tibetan community in exile and various Tibet related issues.

The Tibet Museum's redesign project is funded by Central Tibetan Administration, National Endowment for Democracy and Rowell Fund for Tibet.



H.E Dagpo Rinpoche inaugurating the exhibition of the Tibet Museum at Dhakpo Shedrupling Monastery in Kias, Kullu

## **Exhibition on Tibet at Dhakpo Shedrupling Monastery**

**30 Aug – 1 Sept 2014**

At the invitation of the Dhakpo Shedrupling Monastery based in Kullu, the Tibet Museum staff travelled to Kias Village, Kullu, H.P and presented two of its traveling exhibits. The event took place during the teaching of His Eminence Dagpo Rinpoche, attended by hundreds of people, local monks and foreigners from various parts of the world.

The exhibitions were inaugurated by H.E Dagpo Rinpoche. Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Director of the Tibet Museum, gave a brief introduction about the exhibitions. He spoke about the current situation prevailing inside Tibet and the Central Tibetan Administration's efforts to resolve the issue through the Middle Way Approach.

The first exhibit, titled 'The Burning Question: Why are Tibetans

turning to self-immolation?' features extensive photographic and textual information on the causes of the self-immolation inside Tibet, as well as some of the self-immolators' last words. The second exhibition – 'India and Tibet: Ancient Ties, Current Bonds' – focused on Indo-Tibet relations throughout history and leading up to the present day.

During the 3-day exhibition, several documentary films were screened to hundreds of people, in order to add to their understanding of the two exhibitions.

'The event was a success, and visitors gave us very positive feedback. We hope that, beyond informing them on Tibet's current situation and the CTA position, the exhibitions will lead them to concrete actions in support of Tibet', said Mr. Tashi Puntsok, Director of the Tibet Museum.

'I feel very sad after visiting the exhibition. For the moment I just want to ask myself what I can do, as a citizen of the world', said a French tourist after her visit of the exhibitions.

## Exhibitions to mark "2014 - Year of His Holiness the Dalai Lama"

October 2014

As a part of the "2014 – Year of His Holiness the Dalai Lama" programme, the Tibet Museum organized a series of exhibitions during the month of October, at the Rajpur Tibetan Homes School, Dekyiling Tibetan Settlement, Selakui Tibetan Children's Village as well as Sambhota Tibetan Schools (STS) in Paonta Sahib and Central School for Tibetans (CST) in Herbertpur.

The month-long exhibition was kicked off from Rajpur Tibetan Homes School near Dehradun, on 13 October 2014. Three different exhibitions featuring His Holiness the Dalai Lama's three main commitments in life, life of Tibetans in exile over the last fifty years and the background information about the self-immolations protests in Tibet. Around 500 students, teachers and staff of the school enthusiastically watched the exhibition and later in the evening watched documentary films on Tibet and Tibet related issues.

Before the inauguration of the exhibition, Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Director of Tibet Museum, gave a brief introduction of the CTA and the Tibet Museum, as well of of the reasons behind this year's exhibitions.

The programme continued at Dekyiling Tibetan Settlement, on 15 - 16 October, 2014 and was inaugurated by Mr. Jampa

Phuntsok, Settlement Officer of Dekyiling Tibetan Settlement. More than 700 people, including students from STS school, Touchwood School and Noenga School, nuns from Sakya Nunnery, former CTA officials and laypeople came in large numbers to watch the two-day exhibition. The exhibition was followed by a documentary movie screening. The visitors were very appreciative and touched by the exhibition. They requested that such exhibition programmes be frequently organized, in order to remind and inform younger generation about Tibet's history, culture and struggle.

In Selakui, more than 800 students and teachers from the Tibetan Children Village (TCV) and Vocational Training Centre came to visit the Tibet Museum's rare photo exhibition. In his introductory speech, Mr. Duke Tsering, Principal of TCV Selakui, thanked the CTA for organizing the exhibition.

Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Director of the Tibet Museum gave a

brief introduction on the three exhibitions and presented H.H the Dalai Lama's major contribution towards Tibet and the Tibetan people, including the establishment of settlements and schools and the democratization of the Tibetan community in exile. He urged the students to study hard and become competent enough to assume responsible roles in the Tibetan exile administration and community. The exhibition was followed by documentary screenings on Tibet.

The program continued with exhibitions organized in the STS Paonta Sahib and CST Herbertpur, where an enthusiastic and receptive school children and laypeople attended the events. The organizers were thanked for their initiative, deemed interesting and very informative.

The interest and positive feedback received from the audience as well as from the various organizing partners lay the ground for future similar exhibitions.



School children of Sambhota Tibetan School, Poanta Sahib, watching the exhibition on H.H the Dalai Lama's three main commitments in life



Woodstock students taking notes from the Tibet Museum's exhibition

## The Tibet Museum holds an exhibition at Woodstock International School

**30 - 31 October 2014**

The Tibet Museum showcased a two-day photo exhibition on Tibet and His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the Woodstock International School in Mussoorie.

The exhibition was held at the invitation of the school's Chaplain and Head of Religious Education Mr. Brian Dunn.

More than 400 students and teachers from 60 different countries visited the exhibition, which was followed by a documentary movie screening on Tibet.

Students learnt about Tibet's current situation, its history and culture, and the Tibetan people's life in exile. DIIR publications including booklets, newsletters and the Tibetan Bulletin were distributed to visitors.

Inspired by the exhibition, several students posted their notes from the exhibition on their personal blogs.

## Photo Exhibition on Tibet Attracts Thousands of Visitors at the Autumn Festival in Nanital

**11 - 14 November 2014**

Thousands of local residents and tourists visited the Tibet Museum's photo exhibition during the four-day long Autumn Festival also known as *Shardotsav*, in Nanital, Uttarkhand. The exhibition was also visited by the small Nanital Tibetan refugee community.

The rare photo exhibition was organized by the Tibet Museum as a part of its "2014 – Year of His Holiness the Dalai Lama" programme. It was facilitated by the Nanital Tibetan Refugee Foundation and its president Mr. Pema Sithar. The photo panels (more than 70) featured three themes: His Holiness the Dalai Lama's three commitments in life, the Indo - Tibet Relations and an extensive photographic and textual information on the causes of the self-immolations inside Tibet.



The exhibition was inaugurated by Ms. Sarita Arya, Member of the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Secretary of Uttarkhand. Ms. Sarita Arya was very appreciative of the photo exhibition and the Central Tibetan Administration's initiative to educate and inform the Indian people about Tibet's history, culture and present situation. She was in favor of organizing similar exhibitions in other cities in Uttarkhand.

The exhibition was covered by several national dailies like Amar Ujala, Dianik Jagran, Rashtriya Sahara and Hindustan.

During the last day of the festival, the Tibetan refugee community of Nanital presented traditional Tibetan dances.

*Shardotsav* (Autumn Festival) is celebrated every year in the months of October and November and provides a perfect opportunity to witness the beautiful culture of Nanital. Various cultural programs, folk art and folk dances are showcased during the festival.

Visitors at the Tibet Museum exhibition

## The Tibet Museum tours four major Indian cities

January 2015

In the month of January 2015, the Tibet Museum has organized a month-long exhibition tour of four major Indian cities. The tour was aimed to create awareness about the ongoing self-immolation protests and human rights violations in Tibet; highlight the Indo-Tibetan relationships; inform Indian youths and the general public about His Holiness the Dalai Lama's three main commitments in Life.



Baroda University: Student sharing their experience about exhibition through visitor comment book

The tour started at the Maharaja Sayajirao University (MSU) of Baroda on the 6-7 January. Sh. K.S Agarwal, Syndicate Member and Union President of MS University inaugurated the exhibition.

Hundreds of students, staff and local residents came to see the exhibit and documentary film screening held in the Arts Faculty of MS University.

The event was followed by a two-day photo exhibition at the University of Madras, from 12 - 13 January, at the university's Department of Politics and



Visitors at the Tibet Museum's exhibition in Chennai

Public Administration. Dr. R. Manivannan, Professor and head of the Department of Politics and Public Administration and a long-time supporter of the Tibetan cause, addressed the gathering on the first day of the exhibition. Around 500 students and university staff members visited the exhibition. Documentary films on the self-immolation protests inside Tibet and other films on the Tibet history and culture were screened during the exhibition.

The tour continued in Karnataka, with exhibitions organized

in two colleges in Bengaluru. C.M.R. College was the venue for the exhibition on the 16 January, and V.E.T. First Grade College hosted the second exhibition on the 17 January. Students and staff from both colleges attended the exhibition and documentary screening, in large numbers.

Shri. Ramchandra Gowda, former Minister and Member of Legislative Council was invited as the Chief guest to inaugurate the exhibition in V.E.T First Grade college. Shri. P.G.R. Sindhia, former Home Minister of Karnataka and Sh. Asif Iqbal, honorary consul of Surinam to South India also attended the program.

The last exhibition was held at Tibet House, New Delhi on 23-26 January, 2015. A very welcoming and interested audience attended the exhibition, making the overall tour a success, and a much needed and appreciated initiative.



Visitors watching exhibition on Indo-Tibet Relations in Bengaluru



Shri Sudhir Sharma (center), Minister of Urban Development and Tourism, Himachal Pradesh, inaugurating the exhibition

## The Tibet Museum participates in the International Himalayan Festival 10 - 11 December 2014

The Tibet Museum showcased a rare photo exhibition on the Indo-Tibet Relations titled "India and Tibet – Ancient Ties, Current Bonds" during the two-day International Himalayan Festival, held in Dharamshala, at the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts.

The festival celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the Dalai Lama on 10 December, 1989.

Mr. Sudhir Sharma, Minister of Urban Development and Tourism, Himachal Pradesh government, inaugurated the exhibition.

More than one thousand visitors visited the exhibition. The exhibition highlighted the historical relations between Tibet and India, since Tibet's 33<sup>rd</sup> King Songtsen Gampo until present

days, stressing the importance of the two countries' relations.

The Himalayan Festival was started in the early 90's to commemorate the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The Festival resumed this year under the financial support of the State government and the Central Tibetan Administration.

## The Tibet Museum holds exhibition in Mandi

4 - 6 March 2015

At the invitation of Tibetan Settlement Office in Mandi, the Tibet Museum organized an exhibition to celebrate His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama's 80<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary this year.

The two-part exhibition featured the exhibit themes: 'India and Tibet- Ancient Ties, Current Bonds' and 'The Burning Questions - Why are Tibetans turning to Self-immolation?'

The two-day event was co-hosted by the Indo-Tibetan Friendship Association of Mandi. It was inaugurated by Mr. Pawan Kumar Meena, Additional Superintendent of Police, Mandi.

Around two thousands Indians and Tibetans visited the exhibition and applauded the effort of the organizers for hosting the first ever exhibition of its kind in Mandi. The exhibition received wide coverage in the local TV channels and newspapers.

Local Indian dignitaries including P.L. Thakur, Inspector General of Police and Mr Gopal Chand, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mandi, graced the exhibition. Ven. Ringu Tulku Rinpoche, of the sacred pilgrimage site of Tso Pema, near Mandi, also visited the exhibition.



Museum staff Kunga Phuntsok (left) describing the exhibition to P.L. Thakur, Inspector General of Police



Visitors at the exhibition in Mandi



Thinley Wangtop, Researcher of the TPI, speaking at the Tibet Museum

## Tibet Awareness TalkSeries

### Held twice a month

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.

### 12 September, 2014

Mr. Tempa Gyaltzen Zamlha, Researcher at the Tibet Policy Institute (TPI), Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), gave a talk on "Global Significance of Tibetan Plateau".

### 19 December, 2014

Mr. Thinley Wangtop, Researcher at the TPI, CTA, gave a talk on "Resettlement of Tibetan Nomads"

### 9 January, 2015

Mr. Jampa Tenzin, Researcher & Translator at the TPI, CTA, gave a talk on "Questions Related to the Tibetan Self-immolation Protests"

### 17 February, 2014

Mr. Michael Buckley, a filmmaker and author of the newly published book – *Meltdown in Tibet*, gave a talk on topic "Plundering Tibet - How much can an ecosystem take before it collapses?"



Tenzin Norgay, Researcher of the TPI, giving a presentation at the Tibet Museum

A short documentary on the devastating impact of mining in Tibet was also screened after the talk.

### 18 March, 2015

Mr. Rinzin Dorjee, Visiting Fellow at the TPI, CTA, spoke on topic "Impact of Infrastructure Development in Tibet"



Tenzin Nyima speaking on topic "Tibetan Serving Tibet"

### 25 March, 2015

Ms. Tenzin Nyima, Coordinator of the Tibet Corps, gave a talk on topic "Tibetan Serving Tibet".

### 6 April, 2015

Mr. Tenzin Norgay, Researcher at the TPI, CTA, gave a talk on "Middle Way Policy: A Tibetan Approach to Conflict Resolution".

## 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 Museum's core projects: the Tibet awareness program, the digitization of our 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 mentioned in our next newsletter. In addition, they will be subscribed to our future newsletters.

### 2. Artefacts and Photographs 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 and display 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.

## PRINTED MATTER - AIR MAIL

### Mailing address:

### If undelivered, please return to:

#### 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:

[www.tibetmuseum.org](http://www.tibetmuseum.org)

### Follow us on:



/thetibetmuseum



/tibetmuseum



/thetibetmuseum



/TibetMuseum



tibetmuseum.blogspot.in



/thetibetmuseum