



# THE TIBET MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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The Tibet Museum  
Newsletter is published  
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articles, letters, photos  
and related materials that  
are relevant to the Tibetan  
culture and history.

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The Tibet Museum, DIIR

## The Tibet Museum Celebrates the 39th International Museum Day

**May 18-20, 2016**

The Tibet Museum of the Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR), Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), joined 35,000 museums in 145 countries to celebrate the 39<sup>th</sup> International Museum Day on May 18 – 20, 2016, at the Tibet Museum, located near the Main Temple, McLeod Ganj, Dharamshala.

The three-day event included guided tours of the permanent exhibition, "A Long Look Homeward," a live demonstration of *thangka* (scroll) paintings and displays, a showcase of costumes from the three traditional provinces of Tibet, cultural performances by school children, talks and lectures on Tibetan history

and culture, and all-day screenings of documentary films on Tibet.

The event began with a lighting of the Tibetan butter lamp by the chief guest Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay. Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Director of the Tibet Museum, welcomed the guest and highlighted the Tibet Museum's role in addressing Tibet issues, as well as the importance of organising international events at the Tibet Museum. He called on the Tibetan public and tourists to visit the museum as often as they could to expand their knowledge of the Tibet issue and further the Tibetan political narrative.

This was followed by two releases: Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay presented the Tibet Museum's exhibition catalogue, "A Long Look Homeward," and DIIR Secretary for International Relations, Mr. Sonam N. Dagpo, launched the Tibet Museum's promotional video.



DIIR Secretary Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay, DIIR Secretary Mr. Sonam N. Dagpo and Director of Tibet Museum Mr. Tashi Phuntsok at the release of museum's new exhibition catalog "A Long Look Homeward."





Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay with a group of Tibetan school children in traditional Tibetan costumes

Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay lauded the Tibet Museum's relentless hard work in raising awareness on the Tibet issue. He also stated that museums remain one of the most powerful mediums to preserve the rich cultural heritage of Tibet and further political narrative on the Tibetan struggle. He called on Tibetans, particularly those still in schools and colleges, to visit the Tibet Museum to gain a deeper insight into the Tibetan political struggle and life of Tibetans in exile.

"It is important for students to visit the Tibet Museum because we are mostly in the third or fourth generation of Tibetan refugees. Our generations have not faced the hardships of our forefathers. The struggles of the older generation are preserved only in our memories and school textbooks. Therefore, it is imperative for us to visit the Tibet Museum to transform that imaginary struggle into reality," Sikyong said.

Later in the afternoon, three

documentaries on Tibet issues were screened and our guest speaker, Ms. Penghsuan Lee, spoke on the topic, "Tibet and Taiwan—Challenges and Opportunities."

On the second day (May 19<sup>th</sup>), Mr. Sonam Norbu Dagpo gave a talk entitled "Introduction to Middle-Way Approach," and Mr. Karma Chungtak spoke on "Education and Learning," offered exclusively in the Tibetan language. Documentary movies: "Arts in Exile," "Leaving Fear

Behind," and "History of Tibet" were screened.

On the concluding day (May 20<sup>th</sup>), Ms. Kalden Tsomo, head of the UN and EU desks of the DIIR, spoke on the "Current Human Rights Situation in Tibet," and Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Information Secretary of the DIIR, gave a presentation titled "Introduction of CTA." Documentary films on Tibet: "Stranger in My Native Land," "Tibetan Eldorado (Brown Gold of Tibet)" and "Undercover in Tibet," were also screened.

The closing address was given by Mr. Sonam Norbu Dagpo, DIIR Secretary for International Relations, and the event concluded with a traditional Tibetan dance and *Gorshey* (Circle Dance) in vibrant traditional dress performed by students of the Mewon Petoen School and Sherab Gatsel Lobling.

The festival was a resounding success. More than 4,500 people visited the Tibet Museum during the three-day event, including many first-time visitors.



School children from Mewoen Petoen school presenting a Tibetan group song



## Photo Exhibition on H.H. the Dalai Lama's Biography at the Connect Northeast Festival January 25, 2016



Chief guest Shri Indresh Kumar, RSS Think Tank; inaugurating the festival and exhibition

At the invitation of BIGNNING – the organizer of the Connect Northeast Culture and Business Fest 2016 – the Tibet Museum showcased a daylong photo exhibition on His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Biography and on Indo-Tibet Relations, at FICCI, Near Mandi House, New Delhi.

The festival and the exhibition were inaugurated by Shri Indresh Kumar, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Think Tank and Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER) and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space.

Around one thousands participants, including students and entrepreneurs, attended the daylong festival and visited the Tibet Museum's exhibition.



Visitors going through exhibition at Poh Ming Tse Temple, Singapore

## The Tibet Museum's Maiden Exhibition Tour in Singapore July 6–13, 2016

At the invitation of the Singapore based Tibetan Buddhist Centre, the Tibet Museum showcased an eight-day-long exhibition in Singapore at four different venues. The exhibition kicked off at the Tanjong Katong Complex on July 6, 2016, where more than one thousand Singaporeans, as well as some Tibetans gathered for a lunch celebrating His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama's 81<sup>st</sup> Birthday and the Tibetan Buddhist Centre's ten-year anniversary.

On July 7 and 8, the photo exhibition was showcased at the

Tibetan Buddhist Center, and on July 9 and 10, the exhibition was moved to Poh Ming Tse Temple, where more than 200 local Buddhist Singaporeans gathered for a two-day *Monlam Chenmo* (Prayer Ceremony). The exhibition then moved to the Tibetan Buddhist Centre for two days on July 11 and 12. The concluding exhibition was held at the Amitabha Buddhist Center on July 13, 2016.

Around 1,500 people, mostly Chinese, came to see the eight-day-long photo exhibition on His Holiness's life and messages at the four different venues in Singapore. The visitors commended the efforts of the organizers and the Tibet Museum for holding the exhibition—a first of its kind in Singapore.



Visitors at the Tibet Museum's exhibition at Amitabha Buddhist Center





Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Director of Tibet Museum explaining the exhibit to Chief Guest His Eminence Sakya Trizin, the head of Sakya school of Tibetan Buddhism, at the Tibet Museum's photo exhibition at Tso Pema, Rewalsar

## Tibet Museum's Exhibition at Tsechu Festival in TsoPema/Rewalsar

**February 16–18, 2016**

Coinciding with the *Tsechu* (Mahakumbh) religious festival at TsoPema/Rewalsar, the Tibet Museum, in cooperation with the Mandi Tibetan Settlement Office and the Rewalsar Indo-Tibetan Friendship Society, organised a double-themed exhibition; "The Biography of His Holiness the Dalai Lama" and "A Long Look Homeward."

The exhibition was aimed to educate Tibetans and Himalayan pilgrims about His Holiness's life and messages, and to raise awareness about Tibet's history, culture, current situation and the travails of the Tibetan people since the occupation of Tibet by the People's Republic of China in 1959.

Shri Ravi Thakur, MLA from Lahual and Spiti, H.P., along with Shri Dyan Chand, Tehsildhar of Rewalsar, inaugurated the exhibition on February 16, 2016. On February 18, 2016, His Eminence Kyabje Sakya Trizin Rinpoche blessed the exhibition on its third day. Other Indian dignitaries who visited the three-day-long exhibition included: Captain J.M. Pathania, Director of the Urban Development, Government of Himachal Pradesh; Smt. Neelam Sharma, President of the Mandi Municipal Council; Shri Labh Singh Thakur, President of the Rewalsar Nagar Panchayat and Smt. Urvashi



Shri Ravi Thakur, MLA from Lahaul Spiti, Himachal Pradesh at Tibet Museum's photo exhibition

Waila, EO-cum Secretary of the Rewalsar Nagar Panchayat.

The three-day-long exhibition saw an overwhelming response from Tibetans and Himalayan Buddhist pilgrims who were gathered at the Tso Pema to commemorate the birthday of Guru Padma Sambhava ("The lotus born" Guru), who is said to have been born on the tenth day of the first month of the Tibetan lunar calendar in the year of the monkey. The *Tsechu* (Mahakumbh) festival is held once every twelve years during the year of the monkey, which falls this year.

## The Tibet Museum Showcases an Exhibition in Hubballi

**July 23–24, 2016**

In association with the South Zone Conference of Tibet Support Groups, the Tibet Museum showcased a two-day photo exhibition in Hubballi, Karnataka, on His Holiness's life and messages and on Indo-Tibet relations.

The chief guest of the conference, Shri Pralhad Joshi, Lok Sabha Member of Parliament from Dharwad, visited the exhibition and wrote in the visitors' comment book, "this Exhibition really educates Indians about the importance of Tibet for India. I hope the dream of every Tibetan will come true very shortly."

The exhibition attracted a large number of visitors including delegates, participants and conference volunteers.





Kalon Karma Yeshe delivering the inaugural remarks of the exhibition

## Finance Kalon Inaugurates Photo Exhibition cum Contest

**June 15, 2016**

Kalon Karma Yeshe of the Finance Department inaugurated a photo exhibition/cum contest at the Tibet Museum, organised by "In Frame." In Frame is a photography project initiated by Mr Kalsang Jigme, a young Tibetan photographer, to draw the attention of Tibetan youth to the skill and art of photography.

In his inaugural remarks, Kalon Karma Yeshe lauded Kalsang Jigme's efforts to highlight the art of photography in the Tibetan community and urged the Tibetan public to support him in his endeavours.

"It is the era of photography. People don't have time to read long articles like in the past. People prefer photographs and other audio-visual mediums to gain information these days. Therefore, I appreciate this initiative," he said.

Kalsang Jigme, in his remarks, said that the In Frame project is his small contribution to the Tibetan community to promote professionalism and to preserve the rich Tibetan culture through the lens of a camera. "Through these exhibitions, we can create more awareness regarding our Tibetan issues to the world," he said.

## Tibet Museum's Exhibition in Pathankot

**July 8 – 11, 2016**

At the invitation of the Pathankot based "Partap World School" the Tibet Museum presented a four-day-long exhibition on the life and messages of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and on Indo-Tibet relations.

Mr. Surjeet Mahajan, the chairman of Partap World School, inaugurated the exhibition with a ribbon cutting followed by a lamp-lighting ceremony. Mr. Sunny Mahajan, Joint Secretary of the school expressed his gratitude towards the Tibet Museum for showcasing the

exhibition in his school. He also added that the exhibition is very informative for everyone, particularly students, to learn about the life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and to get deeper knowledge about Tibet.

Other guests who visited the exhibition includes Mr. Feroz Khan, former minister of State with the independent charge for Science and Technology and Information Technology, Jammu & Kashmir; Mr. Anil Vasudeva, the Mayor of Pathankot; Dr. Amit Mahajan, SDM of Pathankot; Dr. Dinesh Sharma, Principal of AB College and Sh. Vinod Mahajan, Deputy Governor of the Lions Clubs International.

The four-day-long exhibition saw an overwhelming response from more than 1400 school children, teachers, parents and others who visited the Partap World School in Pathankot.

The exhibition was aimed to educate the visitors, particularly students, about His Holiness's life and the age-old relationship between Tibet and India.



Mr. Anil Vasudeva, the Mayor of Pathankot with Surjeet Mahajan and Sunny Mahajan of Partap World School at the exhibition, Pathankot

## The Tibet Museum Exhibition Tour in Kerala

**March 3 – 5, 2016**

The Tibet Museum, in association with Friends of Tibet (FOT), showcased an exhibition, "A Long Look Homeward," at the Centre for Social and Political Arts, in Alappuzha, Kerala.

The three-day-long exhibition comprising of photos and artefacts brought to light Tibet's recent history featuring photographic narratives of Tibet before Chinese occupation, results of the Chinese occupation, Tibet today and the journey of the nation now in exile. The exhibition of artefacts included the Zenith Royal 1000-1 Wave Magnet Transistor Radio used by His Holiness in Tibet and in exile; coins and currencies of independent Tibet; the first Tibetan Passport used by Tsepon Shakabpa; the September 1934 edition of National Geographic magazine carrying the image of the Tibetan National Flag in the "National Flags of the World"; Chairman Mao's Little Red Book and a uniform worn by Chinese soldiers during the invasion of Tibet.

The same exhibition was later showcased at the Museum of Kerala History at Edappally in Kochi, on June 12 – 14, 2016. Mr. Tushar Gandhi, great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, inaugurated the exhibition, which was jointly organized with FoT.

While addressing a gathering of supporters, Tushar Gandhi said, "Tibet has been at the back of the mind of every freedom loving

person. Today the message Bapu sent out from Dandi, that he wanted 'world sympathy, in the battle of right against might' is represented by Tibet most emphatically. I believe that, one day, the Tibetan people will triumph against the Chinese and get their freedom."

## Photo Exhibition in Indore

**April 20 – 23, 2016**

The Tibet Museum showcased an exhibition comprising two themes: "India and Tibet: Ancient Ties, Current Bonds" and "Biography of His Holiness the Dalai Lama" at the Indore Haat, Dhakanwala Kua, Indore.

The exhibition was part of an initiative by the Bharat-Tibbat Sahyog Manch, Indore and India Tibet Co-ordination office (ITCO), Delhi, to raise awareness about Tibetan history, culture and art.

## Workshop, Training and Conference

### Workshop for Project Officers

Ms. Tenzin Tsondue attended a five-day-long workshop for Project Officers on April 4 – 8, 2016. The workshop was organised by the Social and Resources Development Fund of the Department of Finance.

The workshop design was based on the European Union grant models, and mainly focused on five major areas: project proposal and planning, concept

note, logical framework analysis, monitoring and evaluation and risk assessment.

### Workshop on Media and Public Speaking

Ms. Tenzin Tsondue attended a two-day workshop on Media and Public Speaking on May 11 – 12, 2016. The workshop was organised by the Department of Information and International Relations, CTA, for its staff members.

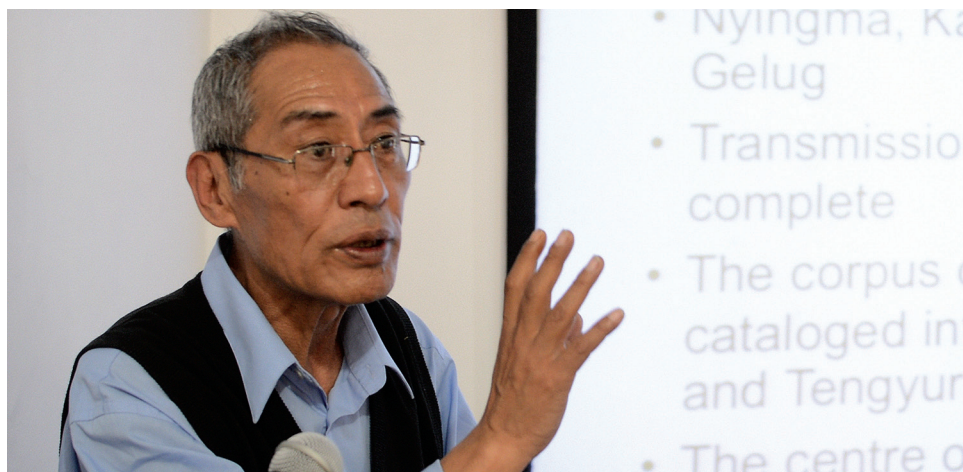
### International Diplomacy and Advocacy Training

Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Director of the Tibet Museum, attended a five-day training in International Diplomacy and Advocacy, at Heritage Village, Manesar, Gurgaon, on July 18 – 22, 2016.

The five-day training covered exhaustively several vital topics including India's role in the Sino-Tibetan issue, the United Nations, Chinese outreach diplomacy, Tibet's role in Sino-Indian security and relations vis-à-vis Tibet—all with the goal to explore the "tricks and trade" of international diplomacy and advocacy in the face of China's growing economic and political leverage in international politics.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, former Foreign Secretary Lalit Mansingh, Nirupama Rao, Shyam Saran and Shivshankar Menon were among the prominent Indian political figures who shared their expertise in international diplomacy in general, and with China in particular, with respect to the Tibetan issue.





Mr. Thubten Samphel, Director of the Tibet Policy Institute giving a presentation at the Tibet Museum

## Tibet Awareness TalkSeries

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.

All past talk series can be viewed online via [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

### April 13, 2016

Mr. Thubten Samphel, Director of the Tibet Policy Institute (TPI), gave a talk on "Behind the Myths, Tibet's Buddhist Culture."

### May 11, 2016

Mr. Tenzin Desal, Research Fellow at the TPI, gave a talk on "Troubled Narrative of Tibet's Development."

### May 18, 2016

Ms. Penghsuan Lee, East Asia Regional Coordinator of

International Tibet Network, based in Taiwan, gave a presentation on "Tibet and Taiwan: Challenges and Opportunities."

### May 19, 2016

Mr. Sonam Norbu Dagpo, International Relations Secretary of the DIIR, gave a talk on "Introduction to Middle Way Approach."

### May 19, 2016

Mr. Karma Chungtak, Director of the Sambhota Tibetan School Society, gave a talk on "Education and Learning."

### May 20, 2016

Ms. Kalden Tsomo, Head of UN and EU Desk, DIIR, gave a talk

entitled "Current Human Rights Situation in Tibet."

### May 20, 2016

Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Information Secretary of the DIIR, gave a talk and presentation on the "Introduction of Central Tibetan Administration."

### June 8, 2016

Mr. Sherab Woesser, Research Fellow of the Tibet Policy Institute, gave a talk and presentation on "Tibet and the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution."

### June 22, 2016

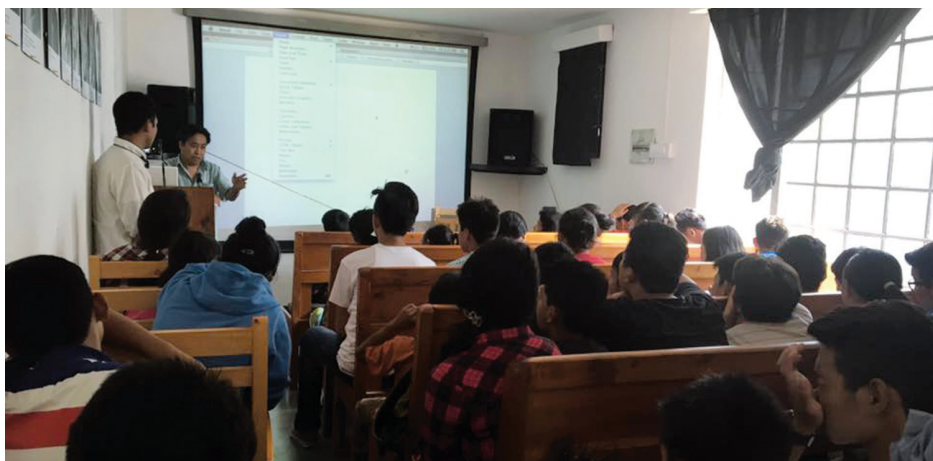
Ms. Tenzin Nyima, Program Coordinator of the Tibet Corps, CTA, made a presentation on "Tibetaness within Tibetans."

### June 29, 2016

Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Director of the Tibet Museum, gave a presentation on "Contemporary History of Tibet" and "Introduction of the Tibet Museum" to a group of students from Louisiana State University, US.

### July 20, 2016

Ms. Tenzin Pema, Researcher at the TPI, gave a talk on "Tibetan Language Policies in 'Tibet Autonomous Region'."



Mr. Karma Chungtak, Director of the Sambhota Tibetan School Society, speaking 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 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.

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