



# THE TIBET MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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welcomes articles, letters,  
photos and materials that  
are relevant to the Tibetan  
culture and history. Articles  
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His Holiness the Dalai Lama looking at the Photo Exhibition held at Taj Hotel, New Delhi  
*Photo Courtesy: Artem Savateev*

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama Graces the Photo Exhibition on Ngawang Dorjee

**August 7 - 8, 2017**

A photo exhibition chronicling the life of Ngawang Lobsang Dorjee (Agvan Dorjiev in Russian) was showcased in conjunction with the "Dialogues between Russian and Buddhist Scholars" conference at the Taj Hotel, New Delhi from August 7-8, 2017. The exhibition, entitled "Remembering Ngawang Lobsang Dorjee," highlighted with its rare photographs and textual descriptions the numerous contributions of Ngawang Lobsang Dorjee to the annals of Tibetan history.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama, in attendance at the conference, graced the photo exhibition on August 7 and looked attentively through the photo exhibit guided by Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, director of the Tibet Museum. The photo exhibition was a joint collaboration between the Tibet Museum of the

Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR), the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) and the Office of Tibet, Moscow, Russia.

Conference participants, consisting of Russian scientists, Buddhist scholars and monks, viewed the exhibit. A Russian observer at the conference expressed astonishment at learning that Tibet and Russia shared such a unique political and cultural relationship and that he was ignorant of it prior to witnessing this photo exhibition.

Ngawang Lobsang Dorjee (1854–1938), was a Russian-born monk of the Gelug school of Tibetan Buddhism. He was commonly referred to by his scholarly title, Tsenyi Khempo. He was one of the seven dialectical instructors (*Tsanzhabs*) to the 13<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama and was pivotal in building communications between Lhasa and the Russian czar. He is also remembered for building the Buddhist temple of St. Petersburg in 1909 with a financial contribution from the 13<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, and for signing the Tibet-Mongolia Treaty in 1913.



President Dr. Lobsang Sangay addressing the inaugural ceremony of two-day International Museum Day at the Tibet Museum

## The Tibet Museum Marks the 40<sup>th</sup> International Museum Day

**May 18 - 19, 2017**

The president of the CTA, Dr. Lobsang Sangay, inaugurated the 40<sup>th</sup> International Museum Day at the Tibet Museum on 18 May 2017. The inaugural function was attended by Mr Tashi Phuntsok, director of the Tibet Museum, and Ven. Bhagdro, former political prisoner, along with students of the Tibetan Children Village and representatives of Tibetan non-governmental organizations in Dharamshala.

The two-day event included guided tours of the museum, film screenings, and lectures on Tibetan history, culture, environment, the current situation and gender equality.

Dr. Lobsang Sangay said that the Tibet Museum remains one of the most powerful mediums in preserving the rich cultural heritage and political narrative of the Tibetan struggle and called on Tibetans, particularly those still in school and college, to call on others, including tourists, to visit the Tibet Museum to gain a deeper insight into the Tibetan political struggle and life of Tibetans in exile.

In his address, Mr. Tashi Phuntsok spoke of the Tibet Museum being a treasure trove of information and photos depicting Tibet's culture, religion, history, and the plight of Tibetans under Chinese rule.

The two-day event concluded on May 19 with Tibetan cultural performances by the students of Mewoen Tsuglag Peteon School and a closing address by Acharya Yeshe Phuntsok, deputy speaker of the 16<sup>th</sup> Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile (TPiE).

## Exhibition at "Mainpat Carnival 2017"

**February 10 - 12, 2017**

With the objective to inform the Indian public about Tibet issues and its relationship with India, the Tibet Museum showcased a three-day photo exhibition coinciding with "Mainpat Carnival 2017," from February 10 to 12, 2017. The three-day annual event is organized by the Chhattisgarh Tourism Department to promote Mainpat as a tourist hub.

Chief guest, Sh. Ujjawal Porwal, the deputy collector, Mainpat, inaugurated the exhibition in the presence of a large gathering of Tibetans and locals. Mr. Porwal, guided by the settlement officer, Mr. Dawa, and staff of the Tibet Museum, viewed each photo panel attentively.

The exhibition was comprised of two themes: "Biography of His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama," a photo exhibition consisting of 38 panels detailing with rare photographic and textual description the contribution of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to world peace and the Tibetan cause, whereas "India and Tibet - Ancient Ties, Current Bonds" elucidated the millennia-old relationship between Tibet and India.



Visitors at the Photo Exhibition in Mainpat, Chattisgarh



## Photo Exhibition on Younghusband's 1904 Mission to Lhasa

**April 14, 2017**

The Tibet Museum inaugurated a photo exhibition entitled "Capturing Tibet: Colonialism and the Camera during the Mission to Lhasa" at the Tibet Museum on April 14, 2017. The exhibition, a joint collaboration between the Tibet Museum and the National Museums of Liverpool and the University of Manchester, featured 12 panels and two photo albums of previously unseen photographs captured during the Younghusband military expedition to Lhasa in 1904. The photographs were taken by two British officers, John Claude White and Gerald Irvine Davys, and sourced from the collections of the National Museums of Liverpool.

Addressing the inaugural session, Dr. Emma Martin, lecturer in Museology at Manchester University and curator of the

exhibition, said, "In the 1980's, a German professor decided to make a journey across Europe and assess all of the Tibetan collections that European museums held. And when he got to Liverpool, he found out that Liverpool's Tibet collection was unique in terms of its breadth and number."

"The discovery of this incredible collection of photographs captured during British India's military expedition offered a fresh historical context. The collection is precious not only because of what it represents but also because it shows the way the British understood Tibet at that point of time," she added.

Secretary Sonam N. Dagpo in his address said, "To further their political influence and safeguard their colonies in Asia, Britain treated Tibet as a suzerainty of China during the intrigues of the Great Game era. The failure to influence Tibetan government through the Chinese at that time has prompted Lord Curzon, the British viceroy in India



DIIR Secretary Sonam N. Dagpo addressing the gathering

to declare that 'the so-called suzerainty of China over Tibet [is] a constitutional fiction, a political affectation which has been maintained because of its convenience to both parties.'

Secretary Tenzin Dhardon Sharling spoke about the impact of colonialism on the post-colonial world. She also shared her views on photography as a powerful tool to inform and galvanize people into action. "The rare photographs that are being exhibited here shed a light on how the British back then had an appetite for colonial photography to showcase their conquest and also to capture the ways of the natives," she said.

The exhibition was the Tibet Museum's first joint venture with any foreign institute or university. It was displayed at the Tibet Museum's temporary exhibition space from April 14 to June 6, 2017.



Dr. Emma Martin, the curator of the exhibition explaining the exhibits to DIIR Secretaries, Sonam N. Dagpo (center) and Dhardon Sharling (left)

## Photo Exhibition in Delhi on the Cultural Revolution in Tibet

**April 2 - 8, 2017**

The Tibet Museum in collaboration with the India International Centre (IIC) and the Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Delhi organized a week-long photo exhibition entitled "Revisiting the Cultural Revolution in Tibet: A Photo Exhibition," showcasing the Cultural Revolution in Tibet, its ramifications on Tibetan culture and religion, and how it is reviving in Tibet today.

Former Indian Foreign and Finance Minister Sh. Yashwant Sinha graced the inauguration of the photo exhibition as the chief guest. Other dignitaries included Archarya Yeshe Phuntsok, deputy speaker, Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile; Dongchung Ngodup Dorjee, representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Delhi and former minister of CTA; Dhardon Sharling, information secretary of DIIR; Air Marshal Sh. Naresh Verma, director of IIC; and Tsewang Gyalpo Arya, secretary of the Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Delhi.

While addressing the gathering, chief guest Sh. Yashwant Sinha said, "In the history of humanity, never has there been anything more anti-cultural than the so called Cultural Revolution."

He also expressed confidence that people of Tibet will see a new dawn and assured the steadfast support of the Indian government and people to ensure that the Tibetan struggle



Sh. Yashwant Sinha inaugurating the Photo Exhibition in India International Centre. From left: Tashi Phuntsok, director of the Tibet Museum, Dhardon Sharling, secretary, DIIR, Air Marshal Sh. Naresh Verma, director of IIC

will persist and the sacrifices of Tibetan people will not go in vain.

In his introductory remarks, Tashi Phuntsok, director of the Tibet Museum, said, "Although the Cultural Revolution is said to have ended forty years ago, China's continuing hardline policies in Tibet serve as an evidence of its attempt to erase Tibet's past, present and future."

In her address, Ms. Dhardon Sharling, information secretary of the DIIR, said the Cultural Revolution is a big blot in China's history that cannot be erased, and claimed that the Cultural Revolution continues to this day as evidenced in the case of Larung Gar.

"Today's China, while desperately trying to break away from the image of a totalitarian system, driven by a failing ideology, still sees personal choice and religious belief a threat to its own survival. This fear of people of faith follows a disturbing trend from the pervasive state control over its Muslim population during the Ramadan month, to the bulldozing of Christian

Churches and now to the ongoing destruction at Larung Gar Buddhist Academy at Serthar in Tibet," said Dhardon.

She further said that, "Though the Cultural Revolution will bring back bitter memories of an atrocious past [...] on the brighter side the cultural resilience of Tibetans inside Tibet have kept alive the hope for a peaceful resolution to the Tibet issue."

The photo exhibition brings to light some of the horrifying episodes that occurred during the ten-year-long (1966 - 76) assault on Tibetan culture and religion under the name of Cultural Revolution.



Ms. Dhardon Sharling, information secretary of DIIR addressing the gathering



# The University of Wyoming Hosts a Talk on the History of Tibet

**April 25, 2017**

Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, director of the Tibet Museum, spoke on the history of Tibet during an event at the University of Wyoming (UW) in the United States.

His public presentation was primarily focused on correcting the historical narrative that exists in China by demonstrating the long-term independent status of Tibet within its borders and in relation to the global diplomatic community. The talk was wonderfully illustrated with a helpful timeline and images of important archival materials that demonstrate the long history of Tibetan sovereignty.

Mr. Phuntsok's lecture was extremely well attended with 66 people packed into a room with an official capacity for 60. Significantly, attendees included faculty, students and a large number of Laramie community members who engaged in a robust Q&A at the conclusion of his presentation. His talk was profiled in the local newspaper, the *Laramie Boomerang*.

After the talk, Mr. Phuntsok had the opportunity to talk in some depth with Mark Jenkins, a prominent reporter for National Geographic who has extensive travel experience in Tibet and who is also a writer-in-residence at UW.

Mr. Tashi Phuntsok was invited by the Center for Global Area Studies and the UW Art Museum to give a public presentation on the history of Tibet and consult on the

renovation of the Tibet Museum with Nicole Crawford, curator of collections, UW Art Museum and Isadora Helfgott, associate history professor and curator of academic engagement, UW Art Museum. While in Laramie, Mr. Phuntsok met with faculty, students, museum and archives staff, community members and local artists. His visit resulted in substantial progress on the Tibet Museum Case Statement and extensive information gathering with regards to UW practices in museum and archive management, exhibition development and installation techniques. It also resulted in robust conversations across campus and in the community about the history and culture of Tibet and the experiences of Tibetans in exile.

At the UW Art Museum, Mr. Phuntsok had the opportunity to meet with staff across a variety of areas of expertise, including curatorial, educational, exhibition preparation and installation, collections management and community engagement. He also had the opportunity to talk about administrative matters with the director of the UW Art Museum. He observed a school group visit to the museum led by the master teacher and met with the chief preparator to discuss questions of installation strategy, building materials and lighting. He also had the opportunity to meet with the registrar and collections manager to discuss collections care procedures and to take a behind-the-scenes tour of UAM storage facilities. At the American Heritage Center, Mr. Phuntsok met with the collections manager and discussed storage and preservation practices for both archival and photographic

material as well as digitization initiatives.

Mr. Phuntsok also had an opportunity to tour the Legacy Hall at the UW Gateway Center. The exhibition in this facility makes innovative use of technology in order to present both a clean and accessible overview of the history of the university with digital access that enables visitors to go into greater depth in terms of archival and photographic materials within each topic area. Finally, Mr. Phuntsok met with the director of the Center for Global Studies (CGS), which sponsored his visit to UW. They discussed the scope of UW's internationalization efforts and its interdisciplinary emphasis, including the Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources.

Lastly, Mr. Phuntsok met with two groups of students on campus. First, he gave a presentation on his own personal and professional background and the redevelopment of the Tibet Museum to Global Studies graduate students, and then engaged them in conversation about some of the complex contemporary issues facing Tibet in its relations with China. Then, he met with a group of current and former Museum Studies students who had previously been involved in a research capacity with international museum development projects. They presented their work on researching artifacts looted from Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge period as an example of how UW students might be engaged in substantive projects in support of the Tibet Museum's redevelopment project and larger outreach goals.

## CTA President Inaugurates the Exhibition on Tsanshab Ngawang Lobsang Dorjee

**June 9, 2017**

CTA president, Dr. Lobsang Sangay, inaugurated a photo exhibition on the life of Ngawang Lobsang Dorjee, a Russian-born Buddhist scholar and an envoy of the great 13th Dalai Lama, at the Tibet Museum on June 9, 2017.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Tarba Lama, president of Agvan Dorjiev Foundation; Dashi Lama; Ms. Vllena Sanjievna, last living relative of Ngawang Dorjee; Elvira, secretary; Ms. Dhardon Sharling, DIIR information secretary; Ms. Tsering Yangkyi, DIIR additional secretary; Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, director of the Tibet Museum; and staff of the Tibet Museum.

While addressing the gathering, President Sangay said, "Ngawang Dorjee was a seminal figure in the Tibetan political history, particularly in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. His contribution as one of the authors of the Tibet-Mongolia treaty signed on January 11, 1913 and most importantly, he was one of the Tibetan representatives who signed the treaty that declared the Tibetan and Mongolian independence from the Qing government and severed all political relations with China."

Tarba Lama, president of the Agvan Dorzhiev Foundation, spoke on how Ngawang Dorjee secured support from the Czar to build Buddhist monasteries in Russia and on his boundless contribution to the rich cultural and spiritual history of Russia.

## Photo Exhibition in Tamil Nadu & Goa

**March 28 & 31, 2017**

Continuing its initiative to reach out to the Indian public and students in particular, the Tibet Museum in collaboration with the Delhi-based India-Tibet Coordination Office (ITCO) showcased a photo exhibition on Indo-Tibet relations and His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Biography, in Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu and Goa on March 28 and 31, 2017, respectively.

The daylong photo exhibition in Nagercoil was held at St. Francis Higher Secondary School and attracted more than 300 students from the host school and students from St. Joseph Higher Secondary School. The exhibition in Goa was held at Janta Vachanalaya, the public library of the Vasco Municipal Council. Hundreds of locals, including Tibetan shopkeepers, in Vasco came to see the exhibition.

## "Thank You India" Program in Chennai

**March 24 - 25, 2017**

The Tibet Museum and ITCO jointly held its fourth and last leg of the "Thank You India" program at Madras University in Chennai from March 24 to 25, 2017. The chief guests at the program were Dr. Bhumo Tsering, principal of Dalai Lama Institute of Higher Studies and Mr. Micheal Hubert, president of Indo-Tibetan Friendship Society, Chennai Chapter. Other guests included Ms. Asha Reddy, a long time Tibet supporter, Dr. Ramu Manivannan, professor of social science and Mr. Jigmey Tsultrim, coordinator of ITCO.

In addition to the photo exhibition on His Holiness the Dalai Lama

and India-Tibet Relations, the two-day event featured cultural performances by the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts, talks by eminent tibetologist Claudi Arpi, Brigadier (rtd) R. S. Vasan, Dr. Sonika, Dr. Bernard D'Sami from Loyola College, Ven Geshe Nyima Tashi, academic head of Sera Jey Monastery and Dr. Dorje Raptan from the Men-Tsee-Khang Clinic based in Bangalore.

## Exhibition at Partap World School, Indora, H.P.

**June 16 - 17, 2017**

Continuing its association with Partap World School (PWS), the Tibet Museum showcased a photo exhibition at PWS, Indora, Himachal Pradesh from June 16 - 17, 2017. Mr. Surjit Mahajan, the chancellor of PWS, inaugurated the exhibition. While addressing the inaugural ceremony, Mr. Sunny Mahajan, joint secretary of the school, thanked the Tibet Museum and added that the exhibition was very informative, particularly for students to learn about the life and messages of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and to gain a deeper knowledge about the India-Tibet relationship.

Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, director of the Tibet Museum, thanked the PWS and Mr. Sunny Mahajan for taking a keen interest on the Tibetan issue and for the invitation to showcase the exhibition at the prestigious school. In the afternoon, Mr. Phuntsok gave a presentation on the history of Tibet to a group of senior students at the school. His presentation focused on correcting the historical narrative that exists in China by demonstrating the long-term independent status of Tibet.



## 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.

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

### April 14, 2017

Dr. Emma Martin, Manchester University professor and Tibet curator for the Liverpool Museum, gave a presentation entitled *"The Mission to Lhasa: How the Objects and Images Challenge the British Narrative of the Events."*



Dr. Emma Martin giving her presentation

### May 10, 2017

Mr. Thubten Samphel, director of the Tibet Policy Institute (TPI), CTA, gave a presentation on the topic *"Tibetan Outreach to Chinese"* to an audience mostly consisting of foreign and domestic tourists.



A visitor getting her doubts cleared during the question and answer session after the presentation from Thubten Samphel, director of the TPI

### May 18, 2017

Ven. Bhagdro, a former political prisoner, author and activist gave a talk on the topic *"Enforced Disappearance of 11<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama."*

### May 18, 2017

Ms. Dechen Palmo, a researcher at the Environment and Development Desk (EDD), TPI, gave a presentation on the *"Global Significance of Tibetan Plateau."*

### May 19, 2017

Ms. Tenzin Choezin of the Tibetan Women's Association gave a presentation on *"Gender Equality in Tibetan Society."*

### May 19, 2017

Mr. Tenzing Rigdol, a Tibetan contemporary artist, gave a presentation on *"Tibetan Art: Then and Now."*

### June 21, 2017

Dr. Rinzin Dorjee, a researcher at TPI, gave a presentation entitled *"China's Urbanization in Tibet - Boon or Bane?"*

### June 26, 2017

Mr. Tenzin Jigdal, international coordinator of the International Tibet Network gave a presentation on the topic *"Natural Selection: A Tale of Tibet's Struggle in Exile."*

### July 12, 2017

Dr. Tenzin Tsultrim, a research fellow at TPI, gave a presentation on *"Chinese Military Exercises Conducted on the Tibetan Plateau: An Assessment."*

### July 26, 2017

Zamlha Tempa Gyaltsen, a researcher at the EDD, TPI, gave a presentation on *"Increasing Natural Disasters in Tibet: Looking at the Possible Causes."*

### August 9, 2017

Ms. Tenzin Choedon, headmistress of Mewoen Tsuglag Petoen School gave a talk on *"The Aim of Giving Education as per Basic Education Policy for the Tibetans in Exile."*

### August 23, 2017

Mr. Tsewang Dorji, Ph.D candidate, University of Madras, gave a talk on the *"Question of Drokham in Indo-China Geo-Strategic Relations."*

## 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. Donate Artefacts and Photographs

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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