



TIBETAN BULLETIN

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FROM THE EDITOR



Since the 1990s, as China's economic might started looming large, China has adopted an aggressive foreign policy based primarily on economic ultimatums and military posturing. The world largely stood by and acquiesced, not wanting to stir the financial prospects that could be gained from a favorable relation with the world's fastest developing economy.

However, the last two months saw a spate of developments that shook the very belief and confidence of an invincible China that the country wanted to showcase to the world. China was caught in several international imbroglios that it found itself most difficult to retract from, and was left humbled, if not humiliated, from its own display of brazen bellicosity.

First, China's attempt to bully Botswana, a small African nation from preventing the visit of Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the

country was met with outright rejection. Botswana not only stood its ground but also extended another invitation to the Tibetan spiritual leader when the latter couldn't visit the country as scheduled, owing to exhaustion.

Ian Khama, the President of Botswana, refused to relent to China's intimidation and declared that Botswana is not 'China's colony' and reserved its sovereign prerogative to decide who to allow into its territory. It was a too hard a blow for China to handle.

Another regional issue that China was embroiled in was the Doklam standoff that also involved India and Bhutan. India sent its troops to stop a Chinese construction company from building a road in Doklam, a disputed tri-junction between China and Bhutan. Due to the territory's geographical proximity to the Siliguri corridor that serves as a vital link between India's mainland and its northeast region, India expressed deep concerns over the road construction. The stalemate lasted for over three months during which China resorted to diatribe, military threats and animosity even on the virtual space, while India kept its calm and pursued diplomatic channels, deciding to out-wait an adversary whose perceived invincibility has suddenly taken a knock.

The eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation was finally resolved with both countries unilaterally withdrawing their troops from the region in the end of October just days ahead of a crucial BRICS

summit hosted by Beijing. The peaceful resolution of the dispute was seen as a significant geo-strategic win for India who diligently avoided an all-out war situation with its intimidating neighbor. Moreover, India's restraint during the Doklam stalemate and the ability to stand up to China has certainly bolstered India's international standing.

Yet another country that refused to bow to China's pressures was Austria. Brigitte Oepfinger-Walchshofer, a senior Austrian diplomat while speaking to a leading English daily in India said His Holiness the Dalai Lama is welcome to visit her country and added that no country should succumb to Chinese pressure while deciding on possible visits by the Tibetan spiritual leader.

All these interesting developments point to the fact that the world is slowly waking up to China's shallow threats and standing up to its bullying and intimidation tactics. These developments are likely to be seen as proof that China's attempts to bully other nations particularly those that are smaller and economically weaker into submission can be countered by determined diplomacy. The perceived invincibility of China has certainly taken a hard knock and it will hopefully encourage China to behave more sensibly and responsibly in the future. This will ensure global stability and harmony at multiple levels.

Jamphel Shonu
Editor

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Looking Homeward: CTA President Prays at Pangong Lake bordering Tibet



President Dr Lobsang Sangay of Central Tibetan Administration at Pang gong lake, Ladakh on 5 July 2017. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR

On the eve of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 82nd birthday and coinciding with Lhakar (white Wednesday), a day celebrated as the soul day of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, President of the Central Tibetan Administration Dr Lobsang Sangay offered Sangsol and prayers at Pang gong lake for the long life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and for Tibetan people inside Tibet.

Pang gong tso is a highland lake in Ladakh bordering Tibet.

President Dr Sangay arrived at Pang gong region on 4 July. Before leaving for the lake, President Dr Lobsang Sangay received a brief audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Leh.

Following sangsol and offering of prayers in the morning of 5 July, President Dr Sangay said, "I came here today to pray for the fulfillment of the long held aspirations of the Tibetan people inside Tibet. The Tibetan people wishes to see His Holiness the Dalai Lama return to Tibet with dignity and freedom restored in Tibet."

He further said, "Physically, I may be standing just a few meters from Tibet today. However, in terms of political freedom and views, I am still far away from the situation inside Tibet."

President Dr Sangay then, in a symbolic move, poured some blessed grains that

he received from His Holiness into the lake and hoped that these grains will reach Tibet and bless Tibetans inside Tibet as well.

The prayer ceremony and Sangsol was attended by monks of Namgyal monastery and the settlement officer of Sonamling Tibetan settlement in Choglamsar, Ladakh.

After the Sangsol and prayer ceremony, President Dr Sangay returned to Shiwatsel palace in Leh to take part in the 82nd birthday celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

CTA Awarded Two Distinctive Staff for Excellence in Service

The Kashag secretariat presented two staff of the Central Tibetan Administration with an award in recognition of their distinctive service in their respective departments. The two staff selected for the award are Deputy Secretary Tenzin Nangwa, Settlement Officer, Kullu Palrabling Tibetan settlement and Mr Rabten Tsering, Office Superintendent and Settlement Officer, Phuntsokling Dalhousie Tibetan settlement.



Ms Tenzin Nangwa, Settlement Officer, Palrabling Kullu Tibetan settlement and Mr Rabten Tsering, Settlement Officer, Phuntsokling Dalhousie Tibetan Settlement.

The award was presented during the official 82nd birthday celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Tsuglagkhang on 6 July 2017.

The award is an official recognition of the the exemplary work performed by individuals in their respective portfolios

in the Central Tibetan Administration. It is also aimed at introducing these distinctive staff to the public, at the same time, to inspire passion and dedication among other staff of the Central Tibetan Administration.

Brief Biography of Tenzin Nangwa

Ms Tenzin Nangwa joined Central Tibetan Administration in 2007 and is currently serving as settlement officer at Palrabling Settlement Office, Kullu.

An outstanding exemplar of Tibetan settlement officer, Ms Nangwa is recognised for her creative achievements and exceptional service towards the welfare of Cholsum settlement in Paonta and Palrabling settlement in Kullu, Manali since 2014. While serving at Cholsum settlement, Ms Nangwa undertook the responsibility of overseeing numbers of welfare project including road renovation and maintenance, revitalising hospital, community auditorium, revamping electricity and drinking water facilities in the entire jurisdiction. She has also demonstrated excellent leadership during the election of local Tibetan assembly, local welfare bodies and the final Tibetan election.

Since 2016, Ms Nangwa has been serving as settlement officer at Palrabling settlement, Kullu, Manali and has contributed significantly towards the welfare of Tibetan settlers in Kullu, Patlikul, Manali and Palrabling. An efficient and responsible leader, Ms Nangwa has not only contributed to the welfare of Tibetan community but also strengthened relationship between the Tibetan community and locals.

Brief Biography of Rabten Tsering

Mr Rabten Tsering joined the Central Tibetan Administration in 2008 and is currently serving as settlement officer at Phuntsokling Settlement Office, Dalhousie. He has performed distinctively in the last three years as settlement officer at Miao Chompheling Settlement, then Tuting Tibetan Settlement Office in 2016 and currently at Dalhousie Settlement Office.

Mr Rabten Tsering is recognised for his massive fundraising efforts for the welfare of old aged people, education scholarship for children and revitalising housing facilities for over 271 residents of Miao settlement. In 2015, while serving at the Tuting settlement office, Rabten Tsering singlehandedly raised money to fund an ambulance for the local people, admitted over 42 children under education scholarship at Mussoorie Homes and raised fund to build 68 toilets in and around the settlement. Since 2016, Mr Rabten has been serving as settlement officer at Phuntsokling, Dalhousie Settlement Office. Over the period of one year, he has raised significant awareness on the Tibetan Medicare System and helped over 150 Tibetan families benefit from the medicare system.

Tibetans Remain Grateful to Liu Xiaobo for Supporting Tibet: CTA

The Central Tibetan Administration today organised a prayer gathering for deceased Chinese Nobel Peace Laureate, Liu Xiaobo, a prominent democracy activist and staunch supporter of Tibetan aspirations.

Addressing the prayer ceremony, President Dr Lobsang Sangay said he mourned the loss of one of the greatest champions for democracy, protection of human rights and freedom in China. “Liu Xiaobo was the first Chinese citizen to be awarded a Nobel Prize while living in China. Above all, he was among the first Chinese intellectuals to openly support genuine autonomy for Tibet.

“Liu Xiaobo is one rare Chinese intellectual who said His Holiness the Dalai Lama is the soul of Tibet and the best way for the Chinese government to show respect to Tibetans is to enable the soul of the snow-land to return to Tibet,” the President said.

“He was perhaps the first Chinese intellectual to be sentenced for speaking up for Tibet. In 1996 he was sentenced to three years in a labour camp for writing a joint letter, to China’s former President

Jiang Zemin, supporting Tibetan self-determination and dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. In March 2008, in the aftermath of the Tibetan uprising, he co-authored and signed the ‘Twelve Suggestions for Dealing with the Tibetan Situation’.

“His co-authoring of Charter 08, a manifesto advocating reform, freedom and democracy in China, is an act of unparalleled courage and sacrifice,” President Dr Sangay said, remembering China’s most prominent dissident.

“The Tibetan movement has lost a dear friend. But it is my belief that Liu Xiaobo’s ideas and unremitting efforts would continue to inspire, long after his death.”

“For us, Liu’s dream for a democratic China is still alive; his vision for a truly democratic China will be fulfilled,” President Dr Sangay concluded.

The prayer gathering joined by hundreds of Tibetans in Dharamshala, in expression of respect and gratitude to their Chinese friend.



Tibetans honour Chinese Nobel Peace laureate Liu Xiaobo. Photo/Tenzin Lekmon/DIIR

Liu Xiaobo, 61, was arrested in 2008 after writing a pro-democracy manifesto called Charter 08, in which he called for an end to one-party rule and improvements in human rights. Following a year in detention and a two-hour trial, he was sentenced to 11 years in December 2009 for inciting subversion of state power. On 26 June 2017, he was granted medical parole after being diagnosed with terminal liver cancer. He died on 13 July, becoming the second Nobel laureate to perish in custody (Carl von Ossietzky, an anti-Nazi pacifist, died in 1938).

Dokhlam is only a Symptom of China’s Expansionist Foreign Policy: CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay



CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay speaking at the 70th Founding Day celebration of his alma mater Hansraj college in New Delhi, 26 July 2017.

While addressing the Indian students at Hansraj College, the President of Central Tibetan Administration Dr Lobsang Sangay pointed to the ongoing incursion at Dokhlam as a symptom of China’s expansionist foreign policy and fully supported the position of the Indian government in the current standoff.

Emphasizing that China poses as India’s number one challenge, Dr Sangay said a reality students face is that China poses as number one challenge to India, as stated by former defense Minister George Fernandes and recently by former defence Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav in the Parliament.

Dr Sangay decried China’s nationalistic design which is increasingly becoming apparent; with the South China Sea, East China Sea, Scarborough Island and, increasing border incursions across the MacMahon line and now at Dokhlam. He said the Dokhlam situation is consistent with a troubling pattern of Chinese policy of trying to alter the basic facts on the ground. Dokhlam is only a Symptom of China’s Expansionist Foreign Policy: CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay.

“You are going to face a complex world. The current global trend is witnessing ultra-nationalism and extremism on the rise and internationalism and liberalism on the decline,” affirmed Dr. Sangay.

Dr Sangay on Wednesday was conferred with the prestigious “Mahatma Hansraj

Gaurav Samman' by his alma mater Hansraj College, University of Delhi. The theme of the honor underpinned his contribution to the Tibetan freedom struggle and in recognition of his accomplishments as an illustrious alumnus of Hansraj College.

Speaking to Republic TV on the sidelines of the Hansraj event on the current Doklham standoff, Dr Sangay recalled the 'five-finger' analogy strategized by Mao Zedong.

"In early 1950's the then Chairman of People's Republic of China termed Tibet as China's right hand palm whereas Ladakh, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh are its five fingers. Therefore, China's flexing of its military muscle is a manifestation of its decades old strategy to encircle and weaken India," said Dr Sangay.

Dr Sangay further cautioned India to stay alert on this matter. "I always tell India and the world to take heed of the Tibet narrative. We have been telling India for the last 50 years that what happened to us (Tibet) could happen to you."

"One has to understand Tibet to understand China. What is happening in Doklham now, happened to Tibet in 1959 (referring to the illegal Chinese occupation of Tibet)," affirmed Dr Sangay.

The standoff between the Chinese and Indian armies of the two countries began in mid June this year and has been officially one of the longest between both countries since the 1962 war. According to the Indian media, the Indian defense establishment is opposed to China's attempts to construct a road on the Doklam plateau on the Sikkim-Bhutan-Tibet tri-junction.

The Doklham plateau is Bhutanese territory but China, which calls it Donglang, regularly sends People's Liberation Army patrols to the area to lay claims over it. At the request of Bhutan, India came to Bhutan's defence.

CTA President's Engagements in Washington DC gathers steam

The President of Central Tibetan Administration, Dr Lobsang Sangay today discouraged self immolation protests and urged Tibetans to pursue more powerful means by honing one's educational, professional and personal competency to substantially contribute to the Tibetan cause.



Members of the 15th Kashag at the prayer service for late self-immolator Passang Dhondup.

"While we understand the intention behind the act of self-immolation, we must remember that the life of every Tibetan is precious and that we must be alive to fight for our cause. In a free country, we have the freedom to embark on all possible methods to contribute substantially to advancing our cause. The life of every six million Tibetan is precious and every life lost is a huge loss for us and for our cause," said the concerned President.

President Dr Lobsang Sangay was speaking to the press at the prayer service for Passang Dhondup, who succumbed to his burns after self-immolating on Saturday, 29 July 2017.

President further said Kashag is considering not to attend prayer meetings in the future for self immolation protests in exile.

Speaking to the press today, CTA President said, "As a Tibetan and a Buddhist, we are here to offer prayers for the deceased, but the Kashag has consistently and categorically discouraged self-immolation, especially in exile where Tibetans have the

complete freedom to pursue any meaningful means that would contribute to the Tibetan cause.

"While we understand the plight of Tibetans inside Tibet and the situation under which they have to resort to such actions, Tibetans in exile have the freedom to participate in protests in any form one chooses to do. We have had other cases of self immolation in exile; parents of the self-immolators have voiced the same concern and have urged the youth to pursue more powerful means such as education.

"We therefore discourage all Tibetans, especially the youth in exile from resorting to such drastic actions and urge them to pursue more powerful means to substantially contribute to the Tibetan cause," the President said.

"There are other numerous means to make meaningful contribution to the cause, President Dr Sangay said. "First is education; focus on achieving excellence in your educational field, become a resourceful member of the community and go on to represent Tibet in governments and parliaments around the world.

"Second, preserve Tibetan identity, language and culture. Third, be a part of various NGOs and organise activities to garner support and awareness on the Tibetan issue. Even in schools, one can organize awareness events such as panel discussion, art and literary festivals and educate people on Tibet.

"One can also write articles on Tibet or even organise a march for Tibet. There are multiple opportunities for us to contribute to the Tibetan movement, without resorting to self-immolation," the President noted.

Passang Dhondup's body was cremated this morning following the prayer service at Lhagyalri.

Representatives of Central Tibetan Administration including members of the Kashag and members of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile attended the prayer service as a mark of solidarity with

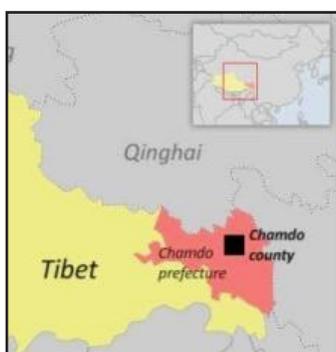
Passang Dhondup's family and friends. The prayer service and the funeral were organized by Norbulingka Institute.

Passang Dhondup, 48, was a wood painter at Norbulingka Institute. Originally from Gyaltse in Shigatse Prefecture of Tibet Autonomous Region, Passang arrived in India in 1991 and had worked from 2012 as a wood painter at Norbulingka institute.

Despite the CTA's repeated appeals to Tibetans not to resort to drastic measures such as self-immolation as a means of protest against Chinese rule, 149 Tibetans inside Tibet and 10 Tibetans in exile have set themselves on fire.

Tibetan Arrested for Contacting a Relative in India

According to reliable sources in Tibet, Jampa Choegyul, 30, from Drakyab County, Chamdo in South-Eastern Tibet was arbitrarily detained and interrogated on charges of establishing contacts with his relative in India.



Jampa was accused of communicating with his relative earlier this month. It is reported that Jampa was summoned during a prayer festival, where large numbers of local Tibetans have gathered, in Drakyab Chuwar monastery, in Nhor Township. While in detention it is also reported that he was subjected to beatings.

It is further reported that he was transferred to a facility in Drakyab County. While in custody he was subjected to series of interrogation relating to the nature of his relation with

his relative Ngawang Jampa, a Tibetan based in India who in the eyes of the Chinese authorities is a member of the "Dalai Clique."

The authorities have, reportedly, confiscated his mobile phone and searched information, contact number and photo, to corroborate his communication with Ngawang Jampa, but to no avail.

"It does come as a surprise that the Chinese authorities see a Tibetan in Tibet communicating with his relative in India as a threat to state security and an act of espionage. This attests to larger state of fear and intimidation prevalent across Tibet," said Kalden Tsomo, Head of EU, UN and Human Rights Desk, DIIR.

Chorig Kalon Attends Enthronement ceremony of 104th Gaden Tri Rinpoche

Honorable Kalon Karma Gelek Yuthok of Department of Religion and Culture, CTA attended the enthronement ceremony of 104th Gaden Tri Rinpoche Jetsun Lobsang Tenzin Rinpoche on 4 August 2017.

The function was held in the early morning around 6:00 am at Gaden Lachi. It began with a recitation of auspicious sutras by the Sharpa Choeje Rinpoche, abbots, ex abbots and monks of the monasteries. Kyabje Tri Rinpoche addressed the gathering and gave a short teaching during the ceremony. The second function was held around 10:00 am at Gaden Tri Thok Khang, the seat of Gaden Tri Rinpoche, Doeguling Tibetan Settlement, Mundgod.

The ceremony was attended by Health Kalon, Former Kalon Gyari Dolma, Chief Representative of Bangalore and representatives of the monasteries and organizations.

A long life prayer was offered to Kyabje Gaden Tri Rinpoche by Gelug tradition at Gaden Tri Thok Khang.



104th Gaden Tri Rinpoche Lobsang Tenzin Rinpoche

The tradition of the Gaden Tripas (the throne holders of the Geluk tradition) began with the great master Tsongkhapa (1357 – 1419). Before passing away, Tsongkhapa passed the leadership of the newly established Geluk tradition to Gyaltsab Je (1364-1432), who then passed it on to Khedrub Je (1385-1438). Since then the precious legacy established by Tsongkhapa has continued till today. Kaybje Jesun Lobsang Tenzin Rinpoche was appointed by H.H. the Dalai Lama as the 104th Gaden Tripa on 24 June 2017.

The Gaden Tri Rinpoche is the supreme spiritual head of the Gelug tradition.

Massive Earthquake Hits Eastern Tibet



Chinese paramilitary police in Jiuzhaigou in China's southwestern Sichuan province on 9 August 2017, the day after a 6.5-magnitude earthquake struck the region. (Xinhua)

A massive earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale hit the scenic Zhitsa-Degu County in Ngaba Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture (incorporated into China's Sichuan province) in eastern Tibet late in the night of 8 August 2017. The epicenter of the quake was reportedly 284 kilometres (176 miles) north of the provincial capital Chengdu and struck at a depth of 10 kilometers, according to US geological services.

Chinese authorities confirm at least 19 people have died and more than

200 people injured in the earthquake. However it's not clear how many of them are Tibetans, Chinese and visiting tourists. It is feared that the number of casualties would increase dramatically as the debris and rubble is cleared.

Jiuzhaigou County known in Tibetan as གཞི་རྩེ་རྒྱ་རྒྱུ་རྫོང་ is a picturesque hill area popular with both Chinese and international tourists for its large number of lake groups, waterfalls and rich variety of endangered flora and fauna. The area was awarded the status of UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve in 1997 and was declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1992.

Build the Tibet Narrative to Reinforce Its Global Relevance: CTA President tells Young Tibetan Research Scholars

President of Central Tibetan Administration, Dr Lobsang Sangay inaugurated the 3rd Young Tibetan Research Scholar's Conference organised by Tibet Policy Institute, think tank of the Central Tibetan Administration. The three-day conference themed 'Tibet and Tibetans: Prospects and Challenges' is being held at the College for Higher Tibetan Studies, Sahra near Dharamshala.

The special guests at the inaugural session was Brigadier Vinod Anand, Senior Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation and Geshe Kelsang Damdul, Director of Institute of Buddhist Dialectics, Sarah.

Speaking at the occasion, President Dr Lobsang Sangay said the current lot of Tibetan research scholars will have to take on the challenge of shaping Tibetan narrative and to tap into opportunities that reinforces Tibetan relevance in the global scenario.

"At the crux of the current political trends and issues, especially the ones that's taking place in India, lies an

opportunity for the Tibetan issue to reinstate its relevance and become an integral part of the discussions"

"We have a vast array of young researchers, now is the right time to produce relevant researches that can be used to inform public narrative and shape intelligent arguments for Tibet," The President urged the young scholars.



Participants of the third Young Tibetan Research Scholar's Conference with President Dr Lobsang Sangay, Director Thubten Samphel, Brigadier Vinod Anand, Geshe Kelsang Damdul, Principal of Sarah Tibetan College and Tenzin Lekshey, Deputy Director of TPI, 16 August 2017. Photo/Tenzin Dalha/TPI

He lamented that the current global trend is witnessing ultra-nationalism and extremism on the rise and internationalism and liberalism, compassionate diplomacy on the decline. "However, the Tibetan movement and the people must keep itself above it. Compassion, kindness and values have been Tibetan patents since ancient times. We cannot afford to lose the hallmarks of our identity.

Objectivity and critical thinking are the most cherished ideals in research community, the President reminded the young scholars and doctorals, and encouraged them to take greater responsibility in shaping correct views in the Tibetan community.

In his inaugural address, Brig Vinod Anand spoke about Tibet from a geopolitical perspective and elucidated the importance of Tibet from security point of view for India as well as for China.

"China is in throes of internal change. It cannot be said that China's Communist Party would rule in China in perpetuity, deceleration of economy, disparity and

inequality in economic growth has given rise to internal turbulence in China..it is necessary for Tibetans in India and in diaspora and especially the young scholars who are studying about Tibet and Tibetology to continue to identify with this cause," he said.

On the conference, he said the themes were well chosen and are "in line with what young and budding scholars need to research to keep the flame of their identity and cause burning so there is a need to continue to promote the Tibet narrative."

Director Thubten Samphel, Tibet Policy Institute noted that the Tibetan intelligentsia, including research scholars have an indispensable obligation to identify the prospect and challenges of Tibet issue. Through this conference, the TPI has taken the responsibility of creating a permanent avenue for young research scholars to share ideas and research findings and to build network

"The conference brings together promising scholars to present their work and receive feedback from prominent scholars. We especially hope that the conference presents an opportunity for the scholars to build new synergies and connect to a wider body of contemporary researchers on themes critical for Tibet."

Over 39 young Tibetan research scholars from across India are taking part in the three-day conference, organised by the Tibet Policy Institute from 16-18 August. The scholars, most of whom are pursuing their doctoral studies from major universities in India, will share their research findings on issues related to the broad theme, 'Tibet and Tibetans: Prospects and Challenges'.



Arunachal Pradesh Adopts the Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy Act

The Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh has officially adopted the Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy Act for Tibetans residing in the state. The Central Government of India formalised the Act in 2014.

Confirming the announcement, Shri Pema Khandu, Chief Minister of the state wrote to Dr Lobsang Sangay, the President of Central Tibetan Administration.

“I am happy to inform you that in the cabinet meeting convened by me on 12 August 2017, I along with my colleagues decided to adopt and extend the Tibetan rehabilitation policy 2014 in the state of Arunachal Pradesh,” he said.



President Dr Lobsang Sangay of Central Tibetan Administration and Shri Pema Khandu, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh.

“As you are aware, Arunachal Pradesh has the fourth largest number of Tibetans in India. We have four Tibetan settlements Tezu, Miao, Tuting and Tenzingang. Therefore, in order to provide better opportunities to Tibetan youths residing in Arunachal Pradesh, my cabinet resolved to implement the Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy 2014 as framed by the union Government of India,” he added.

President Dr Sangay thanked the State government of Arunachal Pradesh led by Shri Pema Khandu for confirming the implementation of the policy.

“I thank my dear friend Shri Pema Khandu who is an ardent follower of

His Holiness the Dalai Lama and life long friend of the Tibetan people. The state of Arunachal Pradesh shares an unshakeable and historic bond with the Tibetan people. This gesture will further strengthen this bond of friendship and affinity between the two,” Dr Sangay said.

“Taking this opportunity, I would also like to recall the late Shri Dorjee Khandu, former chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh for his significant contribution towards the welfare of the Tibetan people. One of the great Chief Ministers of the state, he was a lifelong follower of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and catered to the welfare of his people,” he added.

Since the official announcement of the Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy Act by the Union government of India in 2014, several states including Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttarakhand have also formulated the policy as requested by Kashag of the Central Tibetan Administration.

Based on the Rehabilitation Policy Act, in the presence of HH the Dalai Lama in Mundgod and recently in Hunsur, both in the Indian state of Karnataka and two of the largest Tibetan settlements have officially signed land lease agreements ensuring the sustenance of the Tibet

Education Kalon Calls on Himachal Pradesh Health Minister, Secures Additional MBBS seats

Education Kalon Ngodup Tsering visited Shimla from 3 – 6 August. He was accorded a warm welcome on his arrival at Shimla by the Settlement Officer, members of the local Assembly and leaders of local Tibetan organisations, institutes and monasteries.

On 4 August, Kalon met Mr V C Parkha, Chief Secretary of Himachal state government. Kalon thanked the chief secretary and the state Government of Himachal Pradesh for granting two



Education Kalon with Shri Kaul Singh Thakur, Health minister of Himachal Pradesh.

additional MBBS reserved seats for Tibetan Refugee students effective 2017. The state government earlier offered two reserved MBBS seats for Tibetans, which they increased to four reserved seats now. He offered a Tibetan thangka (wall hanging applique) as a token of gratitude.

After the meeting with the Chief Secretary, Kalon visited the Tibetan Sambhota infant School in Sanjauli and the old age home run by Namgyal monastery. He also visited the Jonang monastery to offer prayers and attended a luncheon organised by the monastery. Kalon then visited CST Shimla and inspected the classrooms, school campus before interacting with the students and staff. During the visit to the school, he expressed gratitude to the staff and teachers especially the Indian nationals working at the school as teachers and staff. He explained that the transfer of the school to CTSA would be completed by March 2018.

On 5 August, Kalon called on Shri Kaul Singh Thakur, Health Minister of Himachal Pradesh. He expressed the Tibetan people particularly the Education Department's gratitude to him for granting two additional MBBS reserved seats for Tibetan refugees. He offered a White Tara Thangka to the minister as a token of gratitude.

In the afternoon of the same day, Kalon visited the Thupten Dorje Drak Chokor Namgyalling monastery to offer prayers. At 04:00 pm, he presided over a general meeting of Tibetan governmental and non-governmental organisations organised by the settlement office.

Why Dr Lobsang Sangay will be a ‘far-sighted Prophet’ and not a ‘Chicken-little’

Op-ed by Tenzing Kunga, Tibet Corps intern at Tibet.net

Exactly a month ago, on Tuesday, August 8 of this year, the President of Central Tibetan Administration Dr Lobsang Sangay during his high-profile tri-city tour of Australia, spoke on the topic -“Tibet and Australia: How Can Democracies Survive a Rising China” at the prestigious National Press Club of Australia based on Canberra.

The talk was attended by top notch journalists and editors from Australian based dailies and media houses. Chris Uhlmann, seasoned writer and Journalist, was prolocutor to the talk.

In his address Dr Sangay reiterated the importance of understanding the Tibetan narrative to understand China.

“If you understand the Tibetan story, the Chinese government [before the military takeover] started building a road – our first ever highway in Tibet.”

“Now, we were promised peace and prosperity with the highway, and our parents and grandparents joined in building the road. In fact, they were paid silver coins to help them build the road...”

“So my parents told me the Chinese soldiers with guns were so polite, so nice, the kids used to taunt them and taunt them, they always smiled. They never said anything. Then they built the road. Once the road reached Lhasa – the capital city of Tibet – first trucks came, then guns came, then tanks came. Soon, Tibet was occupied. So it started with the road,” said Dr Sangay.

While comparing China’s current international infrastructure project with that road, Dr Sangay said “So that was the consequence of One Belt, One Road in Tibet.”

The similarity between the road in Tibet and Xi Jinping’s signature global



President of Central Tibetan Administration, Dr Lobsang Sangay speaking at the National Press Club

infrastructure project bears an uncanny resemblance. So far, 68 countries have signed up to the mighty vision of an interconnected system of road, rail, ports and bridges embracing most of the world’s population and connecting Europe to Asia and the Pacific through China on land and sea.

According to Dr Sangay the primordial goal of the Chinese Communists was to make Tibet into China and Tibetans into Chinese. “From the very beginning they wanted to destroy the foundations of Tibetan civilization, culture and identity”.

Dr Sangay acknowledged China’s economic rise and its efforts to lift millions out of poverty but at the same time echoed what Chris Uhlmann said - that with great power comes great responsibility and the nature of a truly great power is how it treats its people and powers that are weaker than it is.

Strong trade bonds characterize Australia-China relations. China is Australia’s largest trading partner, while Australia is a leading source of resources for China. In 2013, China and Australia agreed to establish a prime-ministerial level dialogue between the two

countries, which makes Australia one of only a handful of countries to have such a dialogue.

In recent years, there have been concerns over Chinese investment in Australia, Beijing’s establishment of an air-defence identification zone in the East China Sea, and the arrest of ethnically Chinese Australian citizens in China, among others.

The “Belt and Road” Chinese infrastructure could prove to be THE GRAND STRATEGY of China in designing its position to be the number one global player thus dwarfing other potential superpowers including Australia.

Dr Sangay is right when he says, “What happened to Tibet in 1950 could happen to you.” Far from being an alarmist or a Chicken Little, President Dr Sangay is being a far-sighted prophet, foreseeing the adverse effects of an adversarial nature of China’s expansionist policy and thereby forewarning the potential preys to China’s grand strategy.

CTA President Touches down in Australia, Speaks on Tibet at Sydney Opera House

The President of the Central Tibetan Administration Dr Lobsang Sangay, visited in Australia for a tri-city official engagement in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne from 5 - 13 August 2017.

Around 300 Tibetans in Australia led by Representative Lhakpa Tshoko and President of Australian Tibetan Community, have come to welcome the CTA's President along with Chinese supporters and Australian Tibet supporters. Adorned in their traditional attire with Khatag in their hands, Tibetans, young and old, expressed joy as they welcome Dr Lobsang Sangay at the airport.

President Dr Sangay began his official engagement with a day-long hectic schedule starting with a luncheon meeting with International commission of Jurists (ICJ) presided over by John Dowd, the president of the ICJ Australia at Grace Hotel, Sydney.



Tibetans welcoming President Dr Lobsang Sangay to Australia.

Speaking at the meeting where 30 legal experts gathered, Dr Sangay talked about Tibet's past, present and the Middle Way Approach policy of the Central Tibetan Administration as the way forward in resolving the vexed issue of Tibet with China.

Dr Sangay said people of the free world have "moral responsibility" to support



CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay speaking at Sydney Opera House,

the issue of Tibet and called the legal experts gathered during the meeting to support for the Tibet issue. The President also took questions from the audience after his speech.

Immediately following the meeting, Dr Sangay met Exodus foundation of Rev Bill Crews, a long time friend of Dalai Lama and supporter of Tibet before heading to Sydney Opera House, where he spoke on 'Tibet in the 21st century – political, environmental, economic and cultural challenges.'

Speaking of the genesis of Tibetan self-immolation protests that number into nearly a hundred and fifty, Dr Sangay said this is the "last resort Tibetans are left with, in the face of growing repression from China."

"If Tibetans continue to peacefully protest against China's misrule in Tibet, it results in imprisonment and torture which eventually leads to a slow death. Or if they continue to live under the present rule, it is unbearable. Hence, the Tibetans (who self-immolated) are left with no options but to choose such

extreme measure," the President said of the 'genesis' of the self-immolation protests by Tibetans.

The talk lasted for about an hour and a half followed by a question and answer session with the audience. The talk at the Sydney opera House was sold out.

Dr Sangay will be in Australia until next week during which he will have speaking engagements, meeting with Chinese scholars and members of the press among others. The official visit to



The audience at President Dr Lobsang Sangay's talk at the Sydney Opera House.

Australia is Dr Sangay's second in his capacity as the President of CTA since being elected for a second term.

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Bringing Tibetan and Chinese Communities Closer through dialogue and understanding, CTA President's reaches out to Chinese in Australia

Dr Lobsang Sangay, President of Central Tibetan Administration, arrived at Canberra to begin the second leg of his tri-city official tour of Australia on Monday following a series of hectic engagements in Sydney.



CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay during an interview on 'Morning with Genevieve Jacobs' at ABC Radio and TV interview at ABC Station.

Members of Tibetan community in Canberra, a tiny population in the Capital, braved the chilling winter here to welcome the President who arrived late in the evening after a 6-hour journey from Sydney along with Mr Lhakpa Tsering Tshoko, the Representative and staff of Tibet Information Office and executive members and volunteers from Sydney Tibetan Association.

President Dr Sangay began his Canberra visit by attending a Tibetan-Chinese Friendship dinner hosted at Tang Dynasty Restaurant in Canberra. Around a dozen Chinese, comprising of intellectuals, activists and students attended the informal gathering with the Tibetans in the Capital.

Addressing the gathering in his opening remarks, Mr. Kelsang Gyaltzen Bawa, the Chinese liaison officer at Tibet Information Office, Canberra, said the meeting aims to bring the two communities "closer through dialogue and understanding."

The President of CTA Dr. Lobsang Sangay spoke on the prospect of bringing democracy to China.

The meeting with the members of the Chinese community is the second in his three days here in Australia.

On Sunday, Dr. Lobsang Sangay met Chinese intellectuals and democracy activists at University of Technology, Sydney. Dr. Sangay spoke of Tibet's past, present and the way forward. Dr. Sangay also opined the prospect of bringing about democracy in China should be "seen as an exciting opportunity to bring change in China and the world." More than a hundred Chinese attended the talk by the President.

Prior to arriving at Canberra, the President halted for a lunch stopover during the ride to meet and greet a small Tibetan community at Nowra, Sydney.



CTA President at a dinner hosted by Tibetan-Chinese Friendship Association at Tang Dynasty restaurant.

Addressing the gathering comprising of former political prisoners, Dr. Sangay reminded the need to continue to work for the Tibetan cause.

"Advocating for Tibetan cause by the Tibetans (here) carry greater weight and significance since you are the very people who suffered and saw the tragic situation under the China's rule first hand," Dr. Sangay said.

Beginning the day second of his Canberra visit early in the morning on Tuesday, Dr. Sangay gave an interview for 'Mornings with Genevieve Jacobs' a Radio cum TV interview of ABC Canberra.

Tibet Gives Us Lessons In Our Dealings with China: CTA President at National Press Club, Canberra

President Dr Lobsang Sangay of the Central Tibetan Administration was at the National Press Club of Australia based in Canberra on Tuesday, 8 August, to speak on the topic "Tibet and Australia: How Can Democracies Survive a Rising China".

Eminent journalists and editors from leading Australian dailies and media houses attended the talk. Chris Uhlmann, a writer and a veteran Australian journalist known for his acerbic political observations, moderated the talk.

President Dr Lobsang Sangay, in his talk, spoke about how China occupied Tibet using tactics of carrot and stick to win the over the native population, and what Australia and the world can learn about China from it.

"To understand China, you have to understand the Tibet narrative. Without understanding the Tibet issue, you can never figure out China and their ideology," Dr Sangay began.

"China came into Tibet with the promise of peace and prosperity. They built roads, bridges, and airports in the name of development. They even co-opted a few religious leaders and aristocratic families to influence the Tibetan public. But even after all this, China has not been able to win the Tibetan people's loyalty," he said.

"More than a million Tibetans died in Tibet as a result of China's unjust policies. Some died as a direct result of military occupation, some died in famines caused by China's illogical economic policies, some died in labor camps, etc.," he added.

"98% of Tibetan monasteries and nunneries were destroyed and 99% of monks and nuns were forcibly disrobed

during the occupation. From the very beginning, Chinese government's objective was to transform Tibet into China and Tibetans into Chinese. They wanted to eradicate the very foundation of Tibetan culture and civilization," he said.

"What's terrifying now is that we are seeing this Chinese tactic of power and intimidation unfold all over the world today, albeit under different trade and development initiatives," he pointed out.

"China is one of the Australia's most important trading partners, making a strong relationship vital to Australia's national interest. But there are growing concerns about covert Chinese actions taking place on Australian soil. Every government has an interest in promoting itself abroad to extend its soft power. However, their intimidation tactics to increase control and silence dissent is a threat to the democratic principles that Australia stands for," he said.

"Therefore, as a Tibetan, I have to tell you what happened to Tibet in the early 1950s. However, it could be you tomorrow. What happened to us could easily happen to you. Given the discourse around the world, people are worried about China's intentions. And rightly so," he declared.

Chris Uhlman, in his introductory remarks, lauded China's rapid economic rise in the last thirty years particularly its marvelous achievement of lifting millions of people out of poverty. However, he said true greatness of a nation is measured in how it treats its people rather than economic or military might.

"So we should not forget Tibet and the lessons that it gives us in our dealings with China," he said.

This was Dr Sangay's second visit to the National Press Club of Australia. His last visit to the club was in June 2012. At that time, he spoke about Tibetan democracy, the current situation in Tibet and the choices Australia must make in its relationship with China.

President Dr Sangay Briefs Human Rights Sub-Committee on Ground Situation inside Tibet

President Dr Lobsang Sangay of the Central Tibetan Administration briefed the human Rights Sub Committee of the Australian Parliament on 9 August 2017.



President Dr Lobsang Sangay with members of the Human right Sub Committee in Canberra.

In his briefing, President Dr Sangay spoke about the ground situation inside Tibet particularly with regard to the environmental issues facing Tibet, genesis of the wave of self-immolation protests inside Tibet, ongoing religious repression and the violation of basic human rights such as the destruction of Larung and Yachen gar in eastern Tibet by Chinese authorities.

Dr Sangay also spoke about the forced relocation of Tibetan pastoral nomads from high grasslands into concrete buildings, destroying not only their traditional lifestyles but also the grasslands which they profess to be safeguarding. He demanded that China should make Tibetans the custodians of Tibetan environmental conservation.

"We are not against Chinese developmental projects in Tibet per se, but we propose that the real beneficiaries of any development must be Tibetans in Tibet. Any projects that China undertake must be environmentally sustainable, culturally sensitive and economically beneficial to local Tibetans.," he said.

President Dr Sangay further spoke about the Middle Way Approach, the official policy of the Central Tibetan Administration to resolve the Tibet

issue. He urged the world to support the resumption of dialogue between envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Chinese representatives and said that lasting solution to the China-Tibet issue can only come through dialogue.

The subcommittee is chaired by Hon Kevin Andrews MP. Other members of the committee include Dr Anne Aly, Senator Dean Smith, Senator Claire Moore, MS Sharon Claydon, Michael Danb, Trent Zimmerman and Sonya Fladun (INQUIRY SECRETARY).

President Dr Lobsang Sangay Arrives in Melbourne on Final Leg of Tour

President of Central Tibetan Administration, Dr Lobsang Sangay's final leg of his three-city tour was Melbourne during which he interacted with Chinese intellectuals, democracy activists and scholars and meet members of Tibetan community in Melbourne.

The President was received at the Airport by members of the Victorian Tibetan community and Tibet supporters.

On the first day of his visit, President Dr Sangay gave an interview to ABC News. "What you see now is the same Confucius-based nationalist expansionist policy with all the neighboring countries. So I am here in Australia to remind the rest of the world, including Australia, that what happened to us could happen to you; in some sense its happening to you. Be careful," the President said in his interview to ABC News.

He met members of the Victoria Tibetan community and attend a dinner hosted by the community later that day.

On 12 August, he participated in an interactive session with Chinese intellectuals, democracy activists and scholars. In the afternoon of the same day, he met with members of Tibetan community at Collingwood town hall before flying back to Delhi.

Kashag's Statement on the 82nd Birth Anniversary of His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama



Officiating President Mr Karma Yeshe, Kalon of Department of Finance

On this joyous occasion of His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama's 82nd birthday, I on behalf of the Kashag and Tibetans inside and outside Tibet, would like to bow down in deepest reverence to His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Born in the village of Taktser, Amdo (Eastern Tibet) to a peasant family on July 6, 1935, His Holiness was enthroned at the tender age of five and began his primary education at the age of six. However, the red Chinese invaded Tibet and the Tibetans turned to their only hope, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. He took the reins of Tibet's political leadership at a tender age of 16 when even his religious studies were underway. The young Dalai Lama strived for a harmonious concord between Tibetans and Chinese while also seeking to affect change and reforms through the formation of a reforms committee. Tibetans are bound to His Holiness through a lifetime of positive karma and collective merit. We are forever indebted to his 60 years of spiritual and temporal leadership.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has worked tirelessly to promote human values and religious harmony in the world and for this we are all profoundly grateful. His Holiness has committed himself to the promotion of religious harmony and has therefore met with religious leaders across different faith. In particular, His Holiness has initiated a conference of

the heads of all major religions in India. This was an unprecedented development in India's history.

Every peace loving people across the globe, including and especially us Tibetans are celebrating this joyous occasion today. Tibetans in Tibet, due to added restrictions cannot celebrate His Holiness' birthday but they are celebrating it in spirit-by remembering him in their hearts and through prayers for his long life.

His Holiness established the Central Tibetan Administration and steered the Tibetan polity through a series of legislative and administrative reforms toward what it is today- a full-fledged democratic entity admired by many across the globe. His Holiness has therefore led the Tibetan people to the right trajectory despite many trials and tribulations. His Holiness has devolved all of his administrative and political authority to a democratically elected leadership directly elected by the Tibetan people. However, as per his commitments he continues to be a free spokesperson for all Tibetans.

His Holiness' unwavering and unquestioned love for every sentient being is like that of a parent's love for a child. We owe him a debt of gratitude and this can never be paid even in a hundred eons. Our devotion and faith in him will be peerless and remain

unparalleled. Therefore it is of utmost importance for each and every Tibetan to put into practice the invaluable advice of His Holiness.

During his recent visit to the United States, His Holiness has assured us of good health. But we must remember that the upkeep of His Holiness' good health will depend much on the collective karma of the Tibetan people. We should therefore make concerted efforts in achieving the same.

The three main commitments of His Holiness are- promotion of human values, promotion of religious harmony and protection of Tibetan culture and environment. His Holiness has made consistent efforts to make the Nalanda tradition's major classic texts on psychology and dialectics available for study. He has time and again stressed the importance of realizing the benefits of studying this ancient tradition, which the Tibetans have kept alive for thousands of years. His teachings are not only significant and relevant for ardent devotees but also to people of different faith and beliefs. They engender the sharpening of psychological and analytical skills thus bringing rational and peaceful approach to solving problems. His Holiness has consistently advocated for the inclusion of secular ethics- the basic human values of love, compassion and altruism in the modern education system and the development of the head and the heart.

His Holiness has for the past 30 years met with eminent scientists to initiate significant discourses, predominantly on Buddhist philosophy. It has resulted in many scientists taking interest in the same. His Holiness has also travelled to over 70 countries championing the cause of peace and compassion. He was awarded the Nobel Peace prize in the year 1989 and has over 150 other titles and honors to his credit. He has gained the admiration and affection of people from around the world.

It is therefore deplorable that the Chinese government views His Holiness, whose sole mission in life is to promote the betterment of humanity, as a threat. The Chinese government has not succeeded in forestalling the noble efforts of His Holiness. People across the globe: all age groups, nationality, faith and all walks of life revere him. This is evident from the public reaction to his recent visits to the Northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh and to the United States.

In autumn this year, we will witness a change in Chinese leadership during the 19th Party Plenum. After March 2018, President Xi Jinping will begin the second term of his Presidency. It is clear that China cares for its global standing and image and one of the most effective ways to gain global respect is to protect the basic human rights and freedom in China and Tibet and in particular start dialogue with Tibetan representatives. The Kashag expresses concern over the deteriorating health of Chinese Nobel Peace Laureate Liu Xiaobo and urge the Chinese government to immediately grant Liu Xiaobo and his family permission on humanitarian grounds to travel abroad for medical treatment.

In Tibet, more than a million Tibetan lives have been lost for the cause of Tibet. Since 2009, the world witnessed 149 self-immolations in Tibet including four self-immolations (Pema Gyaltzen, Wangchuk Tseten, Chakdor Kyab and Jamyang Losel) since March this year. Every self-immolator have called for 'freedom inside Tibet' and 'the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet.'

It is therefore time that the Chinese government should address the legitimate

grievances of the Tibetans inside Tibet. We urge the Chinese government to clearly recognize His Holiness the Dalai Lama as the solution, the key to resolving the Tibet issue and make use of the lifetime of His Holiness as an opportunity to immediately resume dialogue with the envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The Kashag reiterates its commitment to Middle Way Approach as the mutually beneficial solution to resolving the long-standing issue of Tibet.

Tibet's just and non-violent struggle for freedom has gained the support and solidarity of peace and freedom-loving people and governments around the world. The bi-partisan congressional delegation led by leader Nancy Pelosi and the representatives of Members of European Parliament during their recent visits to Dharamshala have urged for the resumption of dialogue between the envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the representatives of the Chinese government. We express our deepest appreciation to them and seek their continued support until a resolution to the Tibet issue is achieved.

We thank the 37 members of the United States Congress for writing to President Donald Trump to immediately appoint the Special Coordinator for Tibetan issues. Similarly, we urge President Trump to meet with His Holiness the Dalai Lama as the previous Presidents of the United States have done. We also urge President Trump to support the Middle Way Approach and dialogue between the envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the representatives of the Chinese government. We thank the Secretary of State Rex Tillerson for expressing his support for dialogue.

We also thank Terry Branstad, the U.S Ambassador to China for calling on China to provide meaningful autonomy for Tibetans and cease the restrictions on Tibetan religious, linguistic, and cultural practices.

We thank the members of the newly formed Swedish Tibet Friendship Parliamentary Group. Last month Canadian lawmaker Garnett Genuis urged the Canadian government to support dialogue and endorse the Middle Way approach. Just two weeks ago, Member of the European Parliament Pier Antonio Panzeri also the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament, expressed concerns over the grave human rights situation in Tibet and called on the Chinese government to resume dialogue with the envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

On this most special occasion we extend our deepest gratitude to the citizens and Government of India for their continued hospitality and unflinching support towards the Tibetan people. We also express our sincere thanks to all the friends of Tibet and freedom loving people across the globe who support the cause of Tibet.

Finally, for the benefit of all sentient beings and particularly on behalf of all Tibetans we pray for the long life of His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet. May all his wishes be fulfilled. We hope and pray that the non-violent cause of Tibet will prevail.

KASHAG

July 6, 2017

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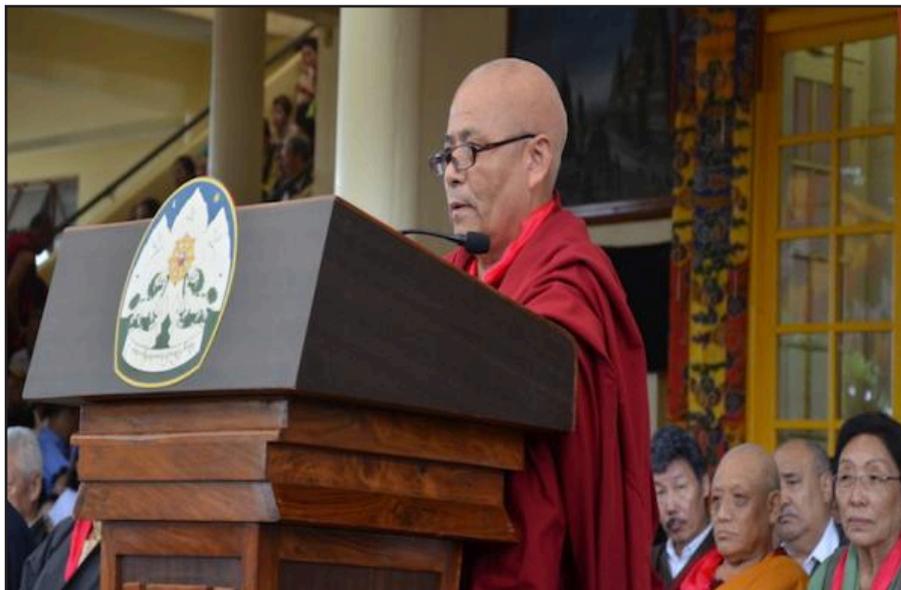


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Statement of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile on the 82nd Birth Anniversary of His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Let me preface the special occasion today with offering of obeisance to His Holiness the Great Fourteenth Dalai Lama, the supreme saviour of all sentient beings, including the gods in the heavenly realms; the master of all teachings of the Buddha on this earth; a great champion of peace in this world; the human manifestation on this globe of Chenresig, the obligated deity of Tibet and the spiritual sovereign of The Three Realms of existence; and the saviour and supreme leader of Tibet and the Tibetan people. And let me then, on behalf of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile, offer my greetings and good wishes to His Holiness with a sense which at once combines feelings of joy, faith, and optimism.

Prevailed upon by a feeling of affection and closeness towards all sentient beings in general and especially towards the spiritual subjects of the Snowland of Tibet lying exposed in a state of vulnerability, His Holiness the Dalai Lama took a deliberate decision to enter the realm of the samsara and so on the 5th day of the 5th month in the Wood-Hog Year of the 16th Tibetan Royal Sexantry, which corresponded to the 6th of July 1935, took birth at Tagtser Village in Domey Kumbum as a son to father Choekyong Tsering and Mother Dekyi Tsering. The birth was accompanied by the appearances of numerous and wondrous positive harbingers. And on this occasion today, which marks His Holiness the Dalai Lama attaining 82 years of age in accordance with the universal calendar, I offer my greetings to him, holding over my head the dust of his feet in a show of resolute body, speech and mind faith. The gratitude we owe to His Holiness the Dalai Lama for having thus far not assumed even a semblance of a miniscule amount of adverse impairment to his underlying bodily, speech and mind wellbeing and for the fact that he has been unwavering in consistently maintaining them in the prime of their state of purposiveness, is such that even a fraction of it could never be repaid even if we were to seek to do it



Deputy Speaker Acharya Yeshe Phuntsok delivering the statement of Tibetan Parliament.

by trying to make offerings of the wealth of the Three Thousand World Realms across a period of many great aeons.

All Tibetans living in countries across the world mark today as the birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama with feelings of joy, faith, and optimism. By it they memorialize the gratitude they owe to His Holiness for his deeds which have universal values and benefits. It is also a day for them to reaffirm their solemn pledge to make part of their daily practice His Holiness's counsel and guidance on the do's and don'ts of proper conduct in life to the best possible extent of their capacity. This then is the underlying purpose of marking the birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Successive reincarnations of His Holiness the Dalai Lama have continued to assume the temporal and spiritual Leadership of Tibet ever since the time of the Great Fifth. And throughout that period the Tibetan people have flourished in the spheres of both religious and political governance. In particular, His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama did, for the wellbeing of the people of Tibet, make a vigorous effort to reform the political system in order to improve the governance of the country. Unfortunately the communist Chinese government overran and took full control of the whole of Tibet in 1959.

As a result, His Holiness the Dalai Lama was left with no choice but to escape to India and seek refuge in it along with nearly a hundred thousand Tibetans who also fled their homeland. Immediately on arriving in India, His Holiness set out to establish Tibetan schools, monastic institutions, and, likewise, settlements and so on. In particular, in keeping with his resolve to set the Tibetan government on course towards a democratic system, he, in 1960, established a system of democratic election for a Tibetan parliament in exile. Through this and other subsequent measures introduced over a period of time, His Holiness the Dalai Lama gradually led the Tibetan people on the path towards a democratic system of governance. It was thus that in 2001, the Kalon Tripa, the head of the Central Tibetan Administration, was directly elected by the Tibetan people. Later on, in 2011, His Holiness devolved his entire historical political and governance powers to the leadership in exile directly elected by the Tibetan people. He took these benevolent steps and other measures in such timely manner that they left no room for any possible suggestion that he had acted late or beyond the requirement of the given circumstances. To sum up, His Holiness the Dalai Lama continues, to this day, to be fully committed, day and night, across all periods of time, to be fully immersed

in carrying out admirable deeds for the sake of both the immediate and long term wellbeing of Tibet and the Tibetan people. For all that I take the opportunity today on behalf of all Tibetans both in Tibet and in exile to express immeasurable amounts of gratitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Likewise, for his continuing kindhearted body, speech and mind deeds for the benefit of all sentient beings on this earth, for the sake of preserving the environmental health of this world, and for the purpose of ensuring the realization of a compassionate world, he is universally revered as a great champion of world peace. These have seen him being honoured with a total of more than 150 awards thus far, conferred by numerous groups and organization which belonged to both governmental and non-governmental sectors, including the most exalted award of them all – the Noble Peace Prize.

In January 2017, after he concluded his Kalachakra teachings at the most sacred Buddhist site of Bodh Gaya, the occasion being the ceremony for the long-life offering made by the Central Tibetan Administration, His Holiness the Dalai Lama very graciously reiterated his resolve to live to be more than one hundred years old. This is a gesture of especially great cause for gratitude to us Tibetan people. Likewise, after undergoing his annual medical checkup recently at the Mayo Clinic in the US state of Minnesota, His Holiness the Dalai Lama revealed that he had no trace of ailment on any vital organ of his body and that he was in great health. This came to the Tibetan people both in Tibet and in exile as a source of great reassurance, and it calmed any sense of anxiety that any among them might otherwise have had. It is extremely important, however, that all of us of the Land of Snows should, on our part, fully devote ourselves to virtuous, merit-accumulating deeds. And we should especially be mindful that all Tibetans – whether they be laypeople or belonging to any religiously ordained order – fully commit to heart all of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's instructions and carry them out in a real sense in our day-to-day conduct.

It is with great admiration that we view the continuing fortitude and sense of nationhood of the Tibetan people in Tibet and their paying of close attention to and vigorous nurturing of the Tibetan language and culture. Likewise, we are encouraged by the sense of fraternity and unity with which Tibetans living in exile pay increasing attention to the Tibetan people's struggle in general and especially to Tibet's religion, language, and culture. And of course it is an important bounden duty of all of us to continue to perpetuate and build upon the unique ethically upright personal character that in general defines a Tibetan person. We therefore urge every concerned person, both those within the Central Tibetan Administration and the general Tibetan populace, to continue to carry it all on with even greater sense of responsibility.

It is a matter of concern that even today there is no indication of any positive change in the policy of the government of China towards the issue of Tibet. In fact, its controls and restrictions on the movement of the Tibetan people in every part of Tibet have been increasing. Besides it is implementing in Tibet a policy of colonialism. This means that even over minor matters, Tibetans are being subjected to limitless beating by the Chinese police. The Tibetan people are being looked down on and bullied by the Chinese. The instances of situations in which Tibetans receive such gross ill-treatment do not bear enumerating. This shows that China does not implement in Tibet a policy of equality of nationalities and rule by law as claimed by it. Rather, it makes manifest the government of China's policy of discrimination against the Tibetan people. Given this situation, we insist that it is imperative that China implement in Tibet a policy of equality of nationalities. It is due to the absence of freedom and happiness in any sphere of life under the brutal policy of the government of China that from the year 2009 till the 18th of May this year there have been cases in which a total of some 149 Tibetans – including men and women, whether laypeople or monks and nuns – carried out peaceful protests by means of self-immolation. With shouting of calls such as “Let His Holiness the

Dalai Lama be invited back to Tibet! Let there be freedom in Tibet!” and so on, these Tibetan people sacrificed their very life. It is impossible that the sacrifice these Tibetan people have made of their life could ever be forgotten. And it is important that the Tibetan people both in Tibet and in exile persevere more than ever before with the aim to realize the aspirations voiced by those Tibetans.

Recently, as a part of its international initiative towards what it called the pursuit of a common global economic development, the government of China organized in capital Beijing a major two-day meeting called Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation beginning May 14, 2017. Prominent public figures from many countries took part in that forum. And it was suggested that the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative would be implemented in a total of 65 countries. It was also explained that through the projects under the OBOR initiative, opportunities would be created to benefit some 60 percent of the global population on account of the Chinese government-backed funding for the building of large numbers of new projects such as railroads, highways, ports, and industrial parks. It was further explained that under the OBOR initiative, plans were underway for the trade routes in the Southeast Asian countries to be routed through Tibet with building of new railroads and so on. It is beyond doubt that such kinds of projects will lead to catastrophic damage to the natural environment of Tibet. Given this grim reality, we urge the international community to raise objections and exert pressure on China against the implementation of these kinds of risky projects.

In May this year, a high level, bipartisan delegation led by former House Speaker and Democratic Party Leader Ms. Nancy Pelosi from the US Congress especially visited Dharamshala and met with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The delegation also met with members of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile and the Kashag, and attended a special gathering of the Tibetan public. Such show of utterly selfless and unwavering support for the issue of Tibet sent a clear signal to the government of

China that the Tibetan people are not alone in their struggle for the settlement of the Tibet issue. The delegation's visit also had the effect of rejuvenating the Tibetan people's struggle, gave hope to it, and also, tellingly, buoyed the spirit of the Tibetan people in Tibet whose hopes and fortitude were thereby enhanced. We take this opportunity to once again express our gratitude to that high level US congressional delegation.

Recently, the European Union and the government of China held their 35th bilateral human rights dialogue. During that dialogue, the members of the European Union delegation made it clear to their Chinese counterparts that they were strongly concerned about the serious violations of the fundamental human rights and other freedoms of the Tibetan people. They also called on the government of China to make efforts to resume its dialogue with representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. In this connection the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament also issued a press statement.

It will not be long before the 19th Plenary Congress of the Communist Party of China will be held in Beijing. The international community remains hopeful that the Congress's review of the political situation facing the government of China in general and especially the

political issues concerned with Tibet and the outcome of those reviews will lead to changes in a positive direction.

The mutually beneficial Middle Way Policy enunciated by His Holiness the Dalai Lama for achieving a peaceful negotiated solution is based on a realistic appraisal of the actual situation concerning the Sino-Tibetan dispute. This approach is designed to be capable of fulfilling the basis aspiration of the Tibetan people and at the same time to be beneficial to China too as it will help to preserve without any harm the integrity and harmony of the country. This being the indisputable case, we reiterate our call on the leaders of the government of China to set aside their hardline posture, grab the momentous opportunity offered by this proposal, and make greater efforts to resume the dialogue so that talks between representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the government of China may take place again.

Some days ago, members of the US Congress, members of the European Parliament and a number of other prominent public figures took part in grand celebrations on different dates to mark the anniversary of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's birth and in other related events. We take the opportunity offered by this occasion to offer to all of them and those who organized them our praise

and gratitude.

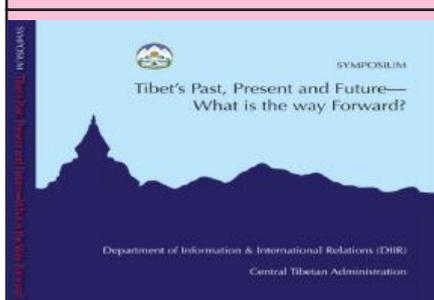
It has now been 58 years since the Tibetan people first arrived in exile and later spread out to live as refugees in India and numerous other foreign countries. It is especially heartening that both the people and government of India have extended to the Tibetan people extensive help and friendly support. With a sense of having a remembrance of gratitude for all these gestures at all times, we also take this opportunity to once again express our immense gratitude to both the people and government of India. Likewise, we also take the opportunity offered by this particularly auspicious day to express our thanks to the people in governments and non-governmental sectors in the international community who have extended help and cooperation to the Tibetan people and the Tibetan cause.

Finally to conclude this speech, we offer prayers that His Holiness the Dalai Lama may continue to live for a hundred aeons, that all his wishes may be seen fulfilled with spontaneity, and that the just cause of the Tibetan people may be seen accomplished in all speediness.

By the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile

6 July 2017

Tibet's Past, Present and Future – What is the Way Forward?



Central Tibetan Administration has launched a book on in depth perspective of its stance on Tibet.

China claims to have made great progress in human rights conditions and education in Tibet. They also claim democratic

reforms were implemented and the ecology of the Tibetan plateau continues to be in pristine condition. They further claim there is religious freedom in Tibet. However, they maintain that the Chinese government has the final authority over recognition of the reincarnations His Holiness the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan lamas and the real goal of the Middle Way Policy is to split China.

The Central Tibetan Administration has already refuted China's claims on these issues time and again and it is also noteworthy that according to the official Chinese figures, Tibetan areas virtually stand at the lowest rung of the

overall development index of China, in all spheres of education, literacy, health or living standards.

In short, it is clear that issues such as the reincarnation of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the degradation of Tibet's ecosystem, the rapid urbanization of Tibetan rural areas do have a direct impact on the world at large. In order to share Central Tibetan Administration's position on these issues and to canvass international attention, support and discourse, the DIIR is organizing a symposium titled 'Tibet's Past, Present and Future- What is the Way Forward?'

Your Affection for me should be translated into Action of Good Deeds: His Holiness the Dalai Lama on his 82nd birthday

Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama celebrated his 82nd birthday in Leh, Ladakh with a long life prayer offering led by former Gaden Tripa Rizong Rinpoche, President of CTA, Speaker of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, local dignitaries and members of Tibetan and Ladhaki community and well wishers from around the world.

More than ten thousand joyous Tibetans and local Ladhaki people and foreigners joined the 82nd birthday celebration at Shiwatsel Phodrang, official seat of His Holiness in Leh, Ladakh. His Holiness expressed his gratitude to all his well wishers and long life prayer service offered to him on his 82nd birthday.

His Holiness remembered the Tibetans inside Tibet and said they are all celebrating his birthday in secrecy, in their hearts and spirits.

“I feel young seeing the young school children. At the same time, when I see the elderly lots, I feel who it might be to go first,” His Holiness opened his birthday remarks on a light note.

Calling the students gathered at the event “guardians of the future,” His Holiness said they can play a pivotal role to shape the future of the world into one that is peaceful and harmonious and that this can be achieved through education.

“The students are future seeds and you have a big responsibility to make this world a better place for all to live and I am hopeful of the positive change you will bring in the future,” His Holiness said adding that his generation has not much to do other than offer prayers.

While acknowledging the love and affection he received from well wishers, His Holiness said, “I am grateful to everyone who wished me and the dignitaries who spoke highly of me on my birthday celebration here and to some extent, it is flattering. However, the love and affection you hold for me should translate into actions of good deeds,” His Holiness noted sharply.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama cutting a cake presented in honour of his 82nd birth anniversary during the celebration marked at Shiwatsel Phodrang, official seat of His Holiness in Leh, Ladakh, 6 July 2017. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR

His Holiness reiterated his three main commitments: “I being one of the 7 billion human being, try to inculcate compassion every time. Every living being wants happiness. It is my prime commitment to spread message of love and compassion to the world. Scientists proved that every human being are born with the basic nature of love and compassion.”

Secondly, being a Buddhist monk, it is important to have religious harmony. Even though every major religion might have different view and path but they preach love, compassion and peace as ultimate goal. Whether you are believer or non-believer, it is must to have compassion.”

“Tibetans in exile are few, as majority are still in Tibet. In past thousand years politically we have not yet succeeded, but religiously we have kept purest form of Nalanda tradition. We had numerous debates with renowned scientists all over the world. Tibetan language is must to learn Nalanda Buddhism.” He said.

The President of CTA Dr. Lobsang Sangay and Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile Khenpo Sonam Tenphel participated in the life-long prayer ceremony for His Holiness and read the statements of Kashag and Parliament. Both expressed wishes and hope for a long life of His Holiness.

President Dr. Sangay said “A child born in Kumbum in Tibet became the most indomitable leader of Tibet.” He expressed gratitude to His Holiness for

empowering Tibetan people with his farsighted vision for Tibet.

Khenpo Sonam Tenphel, Speaker of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile said, “All Tibetans living in countries across the world mark today as the birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama with feelings of joy, faith, and optimism. By it they memorialize the gratitude they owe to His Holiness for his deeds which have universal values and benefits. It is also a day for them to reaffirm their solemn pledge to make part of their daily practice His Holiness’s counsel and guidance on the proper conduct in life to the best possible extent of their capacity.”

Tibetans and local Ladakhi people later presented cultural performances.

His Holiness released Chinese translation of the Compendium of Buddhist Science and Philosophy (Tsenrig Kuntu).

Mr Thinles Tsewang, President of Ladakh Buddhist Association gave a welcome remark. Dr Sonam Dawa Lhunpo, Chief Executive Councilor of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, in his speech, requested His Holiness the Dalai Lama to celebrate his 83rd birthday in Ladakh next year.

Ladakh Buddhist Association and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council presented mementos on His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s birth anniversary.

Chief Representative Officer of Sonamling Tibetan Settlement gave the vote of thanks.



“Our future rests in your hands”: His Holiness the Dalai lama at Ladakh Public School

“My generation is nearing its end, but you belong to the 21st century, the start of your lives. You have the chance to bring about change. Change in building a more peaceful world, a world consisting of happier humanity. Widen your thinking. Don’t just keep Ladakh in view. Think about bringing that change in India and the world,” His Holiness the revered 14th Dalai Lama addressed over 1600 students of Ladakh Public School on Saturday, 8 July 2017.

Founder and Chairman of the Ladakh Public School board, Mr. Noney P Wangchuk, welcomed His Holiness the Dalai Lama on his arrival and escorted him to the school auditorium, where thousand students eagerly awaited their honoured guest.

In his address, His Holiness mentioned the significance of education in development and from his perspective Ladakh developed to a great extent in the past fifty years. “The world today seems to be plagued with so many problems and the youth belonging to this generation today will be responsible for resolving and preventing most of such problems. Our future rests in your hands.”



His Holiness the Dalai Lama with students of Ladakh Public School after the conclusion of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, 8 July 2017.

He asked the students if they would prefer people smiling at them or frowning in anger, to which the students in unison replied, “smiling”. “It’s a reflection of our nature, our natural appreciation of love and compassion. As social animals we need affection. Although anger is part of our varying divergent emotions, it’s very destructive. Love and affection



Students of Ladakh Public School reaching out for a handshake with His Holiness the Dalai Lama as he leaves the school compound, 8 July 2017. His Holiness the Dalai Lama addressing over 1600 students of Ladakh Public School, Leh, Ladakh, 8 July 2017. Photo/ OHHDL/ Lobsang Tsering

help in creating happier individuals, families and communities”, His Holiness further added.

“In the long run, I believe India can make a contribution to the well-being of the whole of humanity on the basis of ahimsa and karuna. This is why I am encouraging the revival based on the understanding and workings of the mind and emotions derived from ancient Indian knowledge,” His Holiness added.

His Holiness in his address mentioned that we are not only physical beings, we have a mind that could be further nurtured through education. He told the students that the Tibetan that they just started learning would later help them in reading the works of Nalanda Masters, works that have attracted the interests of even scientists today.

“Whenever I have the opportunity I encourage other religious leaders to make clear to their followers that the caste system is out of date. We are all the same, when it comes to being human and whenever I have the chance, I say so. Caste distinctions seems inappropriate to the more democratic era in which we live.”

He concluded by reminding the students once again that their generation has both the opportunity and responsibility to build a happier, more peaceful world by taking account of the oneness of humanity and thanked the two groups of student for the fervent and energetic presentation of their debate.

Principal of the school, Mr. P. C. Belwal, welcomed His Holiness and introduced him to the audience. The principal talked in brief about the history and background of the school and the recent inclusion of the study of Tibetan, Dialectics and debate, and environmental studies. Two groups of student then engaged in a lively demonstration of their dialectical abilities through debate.



His Holiness Teaching ‘Stages of Meditation’ and ‘Thirty-seven Practices of Bodhisattvas’ at Disket



His Holiness the Dalai Lama addressing the public during the teaching on Thirty Seven Practices of Bodhisattva and the Middle Volume of the Stages of Meditation at Gaden Tashi Choeling teaching ground, Disket, Nubra, J&K. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR

His Holiness the Dalai Lama is staying at the Disket Monastery Phodrang. This morning on his way to the teaching ground he stopped to perform a short consecration in the new assembly hall. Reaching the teaching ground he received and returned people’s greetings as he made his way to the throne. Before taking his seat he waved to the crowd to the left, right and front. A recitation of the Sutra Recollecting the Three Jewels was followed by the Heart Sutra and the Praise to the Seventeen Masters of Nalanda.

“Today, you’re going to listen to a Dharma discourse,” His Holiness began. “In Tibet and across the Himalayan region, people tend to think of Dharma in terms of reciting mantras or performing rituals. Gelukpas may think about the ‘Stages of the Path’. I’m 82 years old, I’ve seen a lot and I feel we’ve been too accustomed to focussing on teachings that were intended for specific groups or individuals rather than on the general structure of the teachings. Here and now in the 21st century, when everyone’s so busy, I prefer to introduce people to Buddhism by summarizing the contents of our 300 volumes of classic Buddhist literature.

“The Four Noble Truths were given in an open public context, but the Perfection of Wisdom teachings were not. Consequently there are those who assert that the Mahayana is not the teaching of the Buddha, just as there are others who claim that tantra is

not the Buddha’s teaching either. It’s because of such qualms that we need to pay more attention to the general structure of the teachings. Whether we follow the Nyingma and their Kama and Terma teachings or the Geluk and the Sergyu, Ensa and Shungpa lineages, our attention to specialist teachings becomes ground for differentiation.

“The Pali tradition teaches that the Buddha only turned the wheel of Dharma once. The Sanskrit tradition on the other hand speaks of three turnings of the wheel. The first turning dealt with philosophical views up to the Vaibhashika School and monastic discipline, the second dealt with the perfection of wisdom, including the Madhyamaka view and the third was the source for the Mind Only School. Another way of looking at this is to see the Two Truths as the basis, method and wisdom as the path and the two bodies of the Buddha as the result. This accords with the logical approach of the Madhyamakas. When you understand this you’ll be able to fend off challenges about the teachings of the Buddha.

“Starting with the Two Truths and going on to the Four Noble Truths, a disciple can come to understand true cessation and the true path and that can be achieved because we have Buddha nature.”

His Holiness remarked that it is because the Buddha’s teachings can be presented in terms of logic and reasoning that aspects of them dealing with the mind and so forth are of interest to scientists. Logic and reason also have a role in relation to the three objects of knowledge—phenomena that are manifest and obvious; others that are slightly hidden and yet others that are very hidden. To understand extremely hidden phenomena it’s necessary to rely on textual authority or an experienced person.

His Holiness clarified that teachings about topics like emptiness can be verified by experience and declared that he has chosen to reject the existence of

Mount Meru explicitly because neither he nor anyone else has any experience of it. He suggested that if it existed we should be able to see it as we travel around the world—and we do not. He added that the reason the Buddha appeared in the world was to teach the Four Noble Truths, not the measurements of the world or other aspects of cosmology.

“Generally speaking, the Dharma is something we need. There is a tendency to think that wealth, property, name and fame are sufficient. If they provided us with peace of mind and mental development, that would be good, but in the face of natural disasters like flooding, drought and earthquakes they are not of much help. Many of the other problems we face are of our own making. We can change them and how they affect us by transforming our minds.

“There may be sentient beings in other parts of the universe, but we can’t do much to help them. There is not even very much we can do to help the birds, animals and insects we see in this world. Those we can help belong to the 7 billion human beings alive today. They all want happiness rather than suffering and we can help them understand the value of peace of mind. There is value in understanding the advantages of love and compassion and the shortcomings of anger and fear.”

Reiterating that all major religions have the potential to promote and enhance the practice of love and compassion, harmony and respect among them is not only important but is feasible.

“We are gathered here to listen to teachings that began with the Buddha. After his enlightenment he is said to have thought—

“Profound and peaceful, free from complexity, uncompounded luminosity—I have found a nectar-like Dharma.

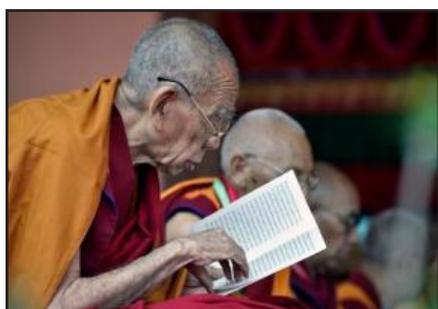
Yet if I were to teach it, no-one would understand,

So I shall remain silent here in the forest.

“Eventually he turned the wheel of

Dharma by teaching the Four Noble Truths. In that first turning of the wheel he referred to selflessness. In the second turning, he elaborated on that, explaining that not only is the person empty of inherent existence, so are the psycho-physical aggregates. In the third turning, he went on to teach the emptiness of Buddha nature. I find it useful to personalize the fourfold reasoning we find in the Heart Sutra by reflecting, ‘I am empty, emptiness is me; Emptiness is not other than me and I am not other than emptiness’. Now let’s look at the ‘Stages of Meditation’.”

His Holiness remarked that ‘Stages of



Former Gaden Tripa, Rizong Rinpoche at His Holiness’ teaching on Thirty Seven Practices of Bodhisattva and the Middle Volume of the Stages of Meditation at Gaden Tashi Choeling teaching ground, Disket, Nubra, J&K. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR

Meditation’ has a special significance for Tibetans. It was requested and composed in Tibet at a time when Tibet was a powerful empire. Shantarakshita had ordained the first monks and established Samye as the first monastery. Within that were departments of translation, celibacy, meditation and so forth. Chinese monks in the department of meditation began to teach that study was unnecessary and meditation alone was sufficient to attain Buddhahood. Shantarakshita’s distinguished disciple Kamalashila was invited to challenge this. He took the Chinese monks on in debate and won. The three volumes of ‘Stages of Meditation’ were written as a consequence.

After reporting that he had received an explanation of the entire work from Sakya Abbot Sangye Tenzin, who in turn had heard it from a Khampa Lama at Samye, His Holiness began to read the text, covering the initial sections - What is mind? Training the mind,

Compassion, Developing equanimity, the root of loving-kindness and began to read Identifying the nature of suffering.

After lunch, His Holiness met with about 300 students from schools in Nubra and 200 monks and nuns who had taken part in the Great Summer Debate. He greeted them all and expressed the hope that the 21st century would be different from the century that had gone before, marked as it was by tremendous violence. He encouraged the young people to understand that with determination and a clear vision it would be possible to create a more peaceful, happier era, but it would require people to think not just of their own well-being, but the welfare of humanity as a whole.

A number of schoolgirls asked questions. The first was about how much merit was entailed in achieving the path of preparation. She clarified that what prompted her to ask was a verse in ‘Guide to the Bodhisattva’s Way of Life’ that mentions that merit collected over 1000 aeons could be destroyed by one moment of anger. His Holiness made plain that the verse in question refers to a lower bodhisattva’s anger with a higher bodhisattva. An ordinary person’s anger is negative, but not so destructive.

Another student’s question about observing the five precepts of a layperson as a student prompted His Holiness to point out that, barring the last, which concerns wrong view and is to be interpreted by each faith according to their own tradition, all religions observe avoidance of the ten unwholesome deeds.

A question about coarse and subtle impermanence elicited a reply that to be born, to live and eventually to die is an example of the first. Subtle impermanence involves momentary change. It is implicit in the cause of the thing rather than being the result of any additional intervention. His Holiness remarked that you can see momentary change taking place through a microscope. Another student wanted to know the Buddhist interpretation of the ‘big bang’. His Holiness’s answer mentioned periods of arising, abiding

and destruction and observed that scientists are only concerned with the most recent ‘big bang’, but it’s not unreasonable to believe that others have taken place before it.

A monk raised the issue of the existence or otherwise of Mount Meru. His Holiness asked him if he would agree that there was no elephant in front of him. The monk agreed that he couldn’t see one, but suggested that sometimes we say that not being able to see something doesn’t mean it doesn’t exist. Gaden Trisur, Rizong Rinpoche pointed out that Mt Meru’s non-existence has implications for other locations such as the celestial realm of Tushita.

Noting that it is usual to say that there is no place for caste discrimination in Buddhism, a nun sought His Holiness’s reaction to a question in the ordination procedures that asks - “Are you the son or daughter of a blacksmith?” His Holiness responded that he had never seen it, so had nothing to say, but recalled that the Buddha had advised a king to disregard Upali’s origins in a barber’s family and to pay him respect on grounds of his knowledge and practice.

As the meeting came to a close, His Holiness thanked the students for their meaningful questions and encouraged them to pay more attention to the classic texts of Indian masters such as the pandits of Nalanda. He added that Muslims could also benefit from learning more about logic and epistemology. Both areas of study can best be done in the Tibetan language, which Ladakhis are able to read despite having their own spoken dialect.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Three Days in Zanskar

His Holiness return by road from the Nubra Valley, Sunday, 16th July, His Holiness the Dalai Lama flew by helicopter from Leh to Padam, capital of Zanskar. He was welcomed on arrival by local officials and members of the committee that had organized his visit.

At the Zanskar Health Care & Sowa Rigpa Research Institute, which has received funding support from the Dalai Lama Trust, His Holiness unveiled a plaque marking the Institute's inauguration and said auspicious prayers. Tea and sweet rice were served. The Chairman, Ven Chosphel Zodpa, introduced the occasion. In addressing the 3000 people in attendance, His Holiness paid tribute to the volunteers from abroad, mostly doctors and nurses from the USA and dentists from Italy, who have been treating the local people. He expressed appreciation of their dedication to providing health care where it was most needed in this remote and under-developed region.

At the Old Phodrang, the Zanskar Representative of the Ladakh Buddhist Association offered the mandala and the threefold representation of the Buddha's body, speech and mind. Traditional tea and sweet rice were again served. His Holiness remarked, "Wherever I go in the world, over and again, I talk about the importance of religious harmony. All our religions convey a common message of love and compassion. So it saddens me to hear reports of discord between the members of different faith communities. Social harmony and friendship are crucial. Try to think about the broader community and how we all participate in the oneness of humanity."

Speaking to an estimated 10,000 people who came to attend his teachings on Monday, 17th July, His Holiness again raised the importance of putting effort into cultivating religious harmony. He added that there is also no place in Buddhist practice for discriminating on the basis of caste. He stressed that the



His Holiness the Dalai Lama inaugurating Zanskar Health Care & Sowa Rigpa Research Institute, Padum, Zanskar, Ladakh on 16 July 2017. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR

Buddha had been clear that caste and family background were of no relevance when it came to upholding the Dharma. "People should take the opportunity to study—just relying on blind faith is no longer enough," he said. "For more than forty years I have been encouraging monasteries that used to concentrate mostly on performing rituals and nunneries to develop programs of study. One clear result is that last year we were able to award the first twenty nuns the Geshe-ma degree in recognition of their educational accomplishments. When I first urged nuns to become learned, some voices were raised in resistance and I retorted that if the Buddha bestowed full Bhikshuni ordination on women, why shouldn't they also gain an education?"

When it came to serving tea, efforts were made to ensure that representatives of the whole community took part and that from among those who had previously felt excluded some had the opportunity to serve His Holiness.

"Tibetans and Ladakhis are people with a special link to Chenrezig," His Holiness told the audience, "so I thought it might be good this time to give the Avalokiteshvara empowerment and explain 'Mitrayogi's Three Essential Points', which deal with how to practise in this life, as you approach death and in the intermediate state in relation to Chenrezig."

As part of the empowerment process His Holiness gave the Bodhisattva vows—

explaining that it was an opportunity to take them afresh or restore any lapse in observing the precepts.

To begin his teachings on Tuesday, 18th July, His Holiness first gave a transmission of the 'Praise to Manjushri', known in Tibetan as 'Gangloma', to school-children in particular. He told them that in his experience reciting this prayer three times a day as effective in sharpening the mind.

"Yesterday, you received the Chenrezig blessing which is related to the practice of compassion and today this Praise to Manjushri is related to the practice of wisdom. You need both of them, wisdom and compassion together, to reach Buddhahood."

In giving a Medicine Buddha permission, His Holiness spoke of the importance of good health and the decisive role in that of cultivating peace of mind. He completed his reading of 'Mitrayogi's Three Essential Points' and before a Long-Life Ceremony was offered to him explained that the purpose of the Guru and disciple meeting like this was for the teacher to have a real sense of helping his or her followers understand how essential it is to cultivate both wisdom and a warm heart. "This is what I try to do, and I want to share it with you. Your job now is to pay heed to what I have said and keep up the practice—that's how you too will gain experience."

In the afternoon, His Holiness was the guest of the Anjuman Moen-Ul-Islam at the local Muslim school. In his remarks His Holiness reiterated the importance of maintaining religious harmony and told his friends that he had also said as much to the Buddhist community. He encouraged both communities to be friendly and to continue to invite each other to their various festivals and celebrations. With a twinkle in his eye, His Holiness told his hosts how much he enjoyed their delicious snacks.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Explains the Art of Happiness at Siri Fort Auditorium, Delhi

His Holiness the Dalai Lama was received by the welcoming committee of the Association of British Scholars (ABS), as he arrived at the Siri Fort Auditorium this morning and escorted to the stage. The ABS is a national forum to facilitate the networking of Indians who have studied or trained in the UK. It aims to strengthen Indo-UK relations by sharing information and hosting social, cultural and intellectual activities.

The event was introduced with authority and aplomb by Rini Khanna, a well-known news anchor, whose voice also provides reassurance to travellers on the Delhi Metro. She described several aspects of His Holiness's life, stating that a spirit of kindness and compassion emanates from him, although he persists in describing himself as a simple Buddhist monk. The welcoming committee offered an outsized garland of flowers that encircled all of them and His Holiness. Quoting His Holiness as asserting that achieving happiness is the purpose of life, ABS President Vipin Chopra formally introduced him to the capacity audience of 2000 and invited him to address them.

His Holiness began by explaining that while he generally prefers to stand when speaking to a crowd, he is beginning to acknowledge that at the age of 82 he finds it increasingly tiring. Consequently, he sought permission to speak sitting down.

“Brothers and sisters—this is how I always like to begin—I’d like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to talk to you. As human beings all 7 billion of us are born the same way and die the same way. Physically, mentally and emotionally we are the same. We all want to live a happy life and wish to avoid problems. We grow up in the shelter of our mother’s love and affection. Some scientists even say that at a certain stage a mother’s physical touch is crucial for the proper formation of the brain.

“On the one hand, scientists have

concluded that basic human nature is compassionate—which I regard as a sign of hope. On the other, they point out that constant fear, anger and stress undermine our immune system. The reality is we are social animals for whom love and affection are key factors contributing to our happiness. We need to remember this because we live in a materialistic culture that doesn’t pay much attention to inner values.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama arriving at the auditorium to speak on ‘The Art of Happiness’ at Siri Fort, New Delhi. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR

“A lot of problems we face, from violence to the gap between rich and poor and routine bullying and exploitation, are of our own making. They arise due to a lack of real concern for others and a lack of respect for their rights. Self-centredness, which is the basis for competitiveness and jealousy, provokes fear, irritation and anger, which in turn can give rise to violence. If we carry on the way we’re going, there’s a risk that the 21st century will end up like the 20th century before it—an era of violence and bloodshed. During that time, historians estimate, 200 million died violently. So what can we do? Say more prayers and perform more rituals? We Tibetans did that from the early ‘50s onwards to little effect. We need to take action on the basis of vision and sincere motivation.

“Our existing education system, oriented towards material goals with little time for inner values, is inadequate when it comes to bringing about a happier more peaceful world. We used to rely on religion for inner values, but today 1 billion people show no interest in

religion anymore and even among the remaining 6 billion the faith of many is shallow.

“Having examined what actually destroys our peace of mind, we need a new approach to education, from kindergarten right through to university, which can guide us in tackling our disturbing emotions. Just as we protect our health by observing physical hygiene, we must take steps to adopt emotional hygiene. By employing our intelligence and common sense, we can tackle our destructive emotions. It’s not difficult to see how irritation leads to anger. Common sense also tells us that anger is bad for our health.

“Women like to make up their face to look more attractive, but if your face is contorted in anger, no one will want to look at it. Common sense again tells us that inner beauty, warm-heartedness and compassion, is what brings about peace of mind. Love and affection are the basis of trust which underlies genuine friendship.”

His Holiness explained how the 8th century Tibetan Emperor Trisong Detsen invited the preeminent Nalanda master Shantarakshita to Tibet. He established the Nalanda Tradition of Buddhism which involved philosophy, psychology and logic rather than prayers and rituals. This tradition has been preserved for more than a thousand years as succeeding generations have engaged in rigorous study. His Holiness made clear that ancient Indian knowledge of the workings of the mind and emotions, assessment of reality and use of logic are of utmost relevance today. He stressed his view that India is the one country with the potential to pursue modern education and economic development, while combining it with knowledge from ancient India.

It was followed by question and answer session from the public to His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Fostering Critical Thinking and An Inquiring Mind, His Holiness the Dalai Lama Inaugurates Course on Secular Ethics

He was welcomed on arrival by chairperson of the TISS governing board S Ramadorai and TISS Director Prof S Parasuraman. They escorted him to the auditorium where proceedings got off to a start with everyone standing for the Institute song.

The course has already been run once as a pilot program with 60 students, who reported it excellent. It is value based and rests on three pillars drawing on people's deepest assets. It is result oriented, not merely theoretical. It seeks to ensure gender equality. It focuses on transformation by embodying universal values individually and collectively.

The course draws on our ability to think creatively, which is driven by a sense of humanity, rather than just innovation, which tends to be driven by technology. It's a system designed by human beings. Dr Sharma also likened the course to a fractal because it incorporates patterns that repeat themselves, much as we see in nature. She mentioned three patterns of learning—inquiry, generating insight and putting into practice.

The course also deals with discernment, a quality of judgement enabling us to grow within human values and to see from that perspective. Such discerning also involves not being attached to a point of view.

Dr Sharma referred to the course's potential usefulness in a business context, envisaging the possibility of business grounded in ethical values. She concluded that she hopes it will be a compass for life, showing the way to ethical values and leadership.

His Holiness took part in the formal launch of the course in Secular Ethics with the release of the course primer. He was then invited to address the gathering that included Vice-Chancellors from allied institutions, business people and staff and students of TISS.

"Good morning," His Holiness began,

"I can speak standing at the podium because I feel fresh in the morning. It's only as the day wears on that tiredness gets the better of me.

"Respected elder and younger brothers and sisters—I always start with words like these because on a fundamental level we are all the same as human beings. We focus on differences like family background, nationality, faith and so forth, but these are only secondary and should not be a cause of suffering. I always consider myself to be just another human being and when I meet others I see them as fellow human beings. This brings me inner strength and enables me to make friends easily. There is direct benefit. If, instead, you get bogged down in secondary differences it just creates distance between you and others.

"I want to congratulate you on completing this book. It's really wonderful that you've reached this point.

"As a Buddhist monk I get up early every day and I start by offering prayers for the welfare of all sentient beings. But whatever beings there are elsewhere in the universe, there's little we can do for them. And even when I look at the animals, birds, insects and fish on this planet there's not a lot we can do for them either. Those we can help are among the 7 billion human beings with whom we can communicate.

"In the past when communities were more self-sufficient and isolated it might have been appropriate to think of other people in terms of 'us' and 'them'. In today's global economy, however, and in a world where climate change threatens us all, we have to learn to live side by side with a sense of the oneness of humanity.

"Many educationists and scientists are of the view that our present education system is not adequate. In the past people looked at religious tradition for ethical guidance, but today more than 1 billion people declare they have no interest in



His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the inauguration of the course on secular ethics by Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai, 14 August 2017. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR

religion. We need something to fill the gap, to show that warm-heartedness leads to improved well-being. We need something to indicate that what destroys our inner peace is anger. We may feel it's a natural part of the mind, but anger and compassion cannot co-exist. If we ask what use anger is to us, we find that it destroys our peace of mind and upsets family life, so it's of no use."

"In modern India, ahimsa is still part of public consciousness, as is secularism. Ahimsa or non-violence is the expression in conduct of karuna or compassion. I congratulate you on your work so far. It will also serve as a basis for further development."

His Holiness offered to take questions once he had sat down. The first asked how relevant compassion is in today's world. He answered, "Very relevant. This relates to understanding how the whole system of our emotion works. For example anger is not reduced by anger—just as violence doesn't reduce violence."

Since women have been shown to be more sensitive to others' suffering, their leadership may be more effective. His Holiness suggested it's time for men to withdraw and for women to step forward.

As His Holiness left the TISS building on his way to his car, students who had gathered to see him let out a friendly cheer. He smiled and waved before driving to Mumbai airport to fly to Delhi.

How Mao and Khrushchev Fought over China-India Border Dispute

South China Morning Post

Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev visited China at the end of September 1959 to hold a summit with the Chinese leadership. A little over a month earlier, several Indian guards had been killed by the Chinese military along their disputed border.

Khrushchev, who was about to visit the United States on a peace mission when the killings happened, released an announcement through the Russian news agency, TASS, calling on both sides to reach a negotiated settlement. The Chinese were greatly offended, seeing it as more evidence of the Soviets breaking ranks with their communist partners.

Khrushchev's visit to China also came just months after the Dalai Lama had fled to India.

Following is a transcript of a meeting attended by Khrushchev, Mao Zedong (毛澤東), M.A. Suslov, A.A. Gromyko, Liu Shaoqi (劉少奇), Zhou Enlai (周恩來), Lin Biao (林彪), Peng Zhen (彭真), Chen Yi and Wan Xia Sang.

The testy exchanges, much of which centred on differences over India, foretold the Sino-Soviet rift that would ensue. They offer a rare glimpse of how the events leading up to the 1962 China-India war, usually seen as a localised border clash, had far wider implications than generally understood.

Nikita Khrushchev: *You have had good relations with India for many years. Suddenly, here is a bloody incident, as a result of which [Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal] Nehru found himself in a very difficult position...If you let me, I will tell you what a guest should not say: the events in Tibet are your fault. You ruled in Tibet (西藏), you should have had your intelligence [agencies] there and should have known about the plans and intentions of the Dalai Lama.*

Mao Zedong: *Nehru also says that the events in Tibet [were] our fault. Besides,*

in the Soviet Union they published a TASS declaration on the issue of conflict with India [supporting India].

Khrushchev: *Do you really want us to approve of your conflict with India? It would be stupid on our part. The TASS declaration was necessary...*

More on the China-India border dispute

Mao Zedong: *Our mistake was that we did not disarm the Dalai Lama right away. But at that time we had no contact with the popular masses of Tibet.*

Khrushchev: *You have no contact even now with the population of Tibet.*

Mao: *We have a different understanding of this issue.*

....

Khrushchev: *You were wrong to let the Dalai Lama go. If you allow him an opportunity to flee to India, then what has Nehru to do with it? We believe that the events in Tibet are the fault of the Communist Party of China, not Nehru's.*

Mao: *No, this is Nehru's fault.*

Mao: *We also support Nehru, but in the question of Tibet we should crush him.*

Khrushchev: *Why did you have to kill people on the border with India?*

Mao: *They attacked us first, crossed the border and continued firing for 12 hours.*

Zhou: *What information do you trust more – India's or ours?*

Khrushchev: *Although the Indians attacked first, nobody was killed among the Chinese, and only among the Indians.*

Zhou: *But what we are supposed to do if they attack us first? We cannot fire in the air. The Indians even crossed the McMahon line.*



Chinese leader Mao Zedong with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev in August 1958. Photo 1958

Chen Yi: *I am outraged by your declaration that the aggravation of relationship with India was our fault.*

Khrushchev: *I am also outraged by your declaration that we are time-servers. We should support [Jawaharlal] Nehru, to help him stay in power.*

Mao: *The events in Tibet and the border conflict – these are temporary developments...*

Khrushchev: *Take back your accusations; otherwise we spoil relations between our parties. We are your friends and speak the truth. We never acted as time-servers with regard to anybody.*

Chen: *But you also lay two political accusations at our door, by saying that both the aggravations of relations with India and the escape of the Dalai Lama were our fault. I believe that you are still acting as time-servers.*

Khrushchev: *If you consider us time-servers, comrade Chen Yi, then do not offer me your hand. I will not accept it.*

Chen: *Neither will I. I must tell you I am not afraid of your fury.*

Khrushchev: *You should not spit from the height of your Marshal title. You do not have enough spit. We cannot be intimidated...*

Source: Cold War International History Project, Wilson Centre

Tibet's Fragile Ecosystem is in Danger. China Must Change its Flawed Environmental Policy

By Dr Lobsang Sangay, Published on The Gurdian

s Australia continues to battle a water crisis and the challenges facing the world's driest inhabited continent, Tibet on the other hand is Asia's water tower, its principal rainmaker and the largest source of fresh water, feeding over a billion lives in Asia including China.



'In the age of climate change the future of Asia and by extension that of our planet Earth hinges on the developments in Tibet, the roof of the world.'
Photograph: Adrian Bradshaw/EPA

At an average elevation of 4,000 meters above sea level and with an area of 2.5m sq km, Tibet is the world's highest and largest plateau. It's nearly two-third the size of the European continent. If Tibet were still a sovereign nation it would be the world's tenth largest. It has the largest concentration of the world's tallest mountains and is called the earth's third pole because it has the largest reservoir of glacial ice after the two poles. Tibet is also a treasure trove of minerals, oil and natural gas reserves and a leading producer of lithium in China.

The Chinese scientists have over the years been proposing an increase in nature reserves across Tibet considering the fragile ecosystem on the plateau. In April this year China unveiled its grand plans on turning the entire stretch of Tibet into a national park.

The Chinese government has been declaring more and more national parks and nature reserves across Tibet in recent years, and this is a welcome gesture. The Chinese government must take into consideration the fragility and delicate nature of Tibet's environment and reign in the factors that contribute

to environmental crises in Tibet: rapid urbanisation, transfer of Chinese population into Tibet, unchecked mining on Tibet's sacred mountains, and damming of Tibet's rivers to facilitate hydro power projects.

In light of such robust projects, Tibetans are not only deprived of their traditional way of living, but are made peripheral beneficiaries of the projects.

The real beneficiaries are the Chinese officials who pocket their share of the gain, the Chinese companies and the Chinese employers benefitting from the economic opportunities.

We are not against Chinese developmental projects in Tibet per se, but we propose that the real beneficiaries of any development must be Tibetans in Tibet. Any projects that China undertake must be environmentally sustainable, culturally sensitive and economically beneficially to local Tibetans.

China's rolling of its strategic and economic imperatives in Tibet has greater implications on the larger environmental consequences caused by climate change.

Today, the Chinese government's flawed environmental and developmental policies have turned this resource-rich plateau and fragile ecosystem into a hub of its mining and dam building activities. This not only changes the water map of Asia for the worse but also contributes to an environmental crisis, which in turn contributes to climate change across Asia. The rising temperatures on the roof of the world make Tibet both a driver and amplifier of global warming.

2016 has been a year of natural disasters: a glacial avalanche in Aru in the Ngari region (Western Tibet), and mud floods and a landslide in Amdo (eastern Tibet). Between June and July 2017 alone, four distinct cases of floods were reported in

Kham (south east region of Tibet). These are the cumulative effect of climate change.

More cases of natural disasters are imminent. The Chinese government must consider these impending threats and accordingly orient its urban development project towards mitigating the increasing threats posed by climate change.

China has escalated military control over Tibetan borders, expanded mining based on the rich resources of the Tibetan plateau in order to fuel China's economic development and has dramatically expanded infrastructure with a strategic road and rail network. It seeks to raise the productivity of the industrial cities of Xi'an, Chongqing and Chengdu at the foot of the Tibetan plateau and to address the progressive scarcity of water resources in the North and North-East of China with water sourced in Tibet.

Tibet is facing two critical issues: Its political and environmental future. Of the two, the latter is a bigger issue given the implications for Asia and the rest of the world.

Dalai Lama says strong action on climate change is a human responsibility.

Tibet symbolises the three crises that confront Asia today; a natural resources crisis, an environmental and a climate crisis. These three are interlinked and potentially pose a threat to the ecological wellbeing and climate security not just of Asia but even of Europe, North America and Australia. According to leading scientists, the recent heat waves in Europe are linked to loss of ice on the Tibetan plateau. A team led by Hai Lin, an atmospheric scientist at Environment Canada in Quebec found that the greater snow-cover in Tibet, the warmer the winter in Canada.

Such formidable scenarios demand greater global attention and a forward-looking leadership to assuage the larger affects of an environmental crisis befalling Tibet. The world leaders must act prudently and not allow political constrains to dwarf redressal mechanism at institutional level to an impending global environmental crisis.

Veerabhadran Ramanathan from the Center for Atmospheric Sciences at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego has rightly said that “our understanding of global climate change would be incomplete without taking into consideration what’s happening to the Tibetan plateau.”

Tibet’s environment impinges on regional and global security. The global efforts to reign in China’s policies in Tibet underpinning an oversight of the importance of Tibet’s environment and sensitivity over its fragile ecosystem, must be robust. In the age of climate change the future of Asia and by extension that of our planet Earth hinges on the developments in Tibet, the roof of the world.

When you are discontent, you always want more, more, more. Your desire can never be satisfied. But when you practice contentment, you can say to yourself, 'Oh yes - I already have everything that I really need.'
 Dalai Lama

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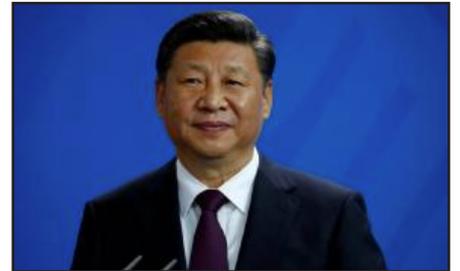
China’s Desperate Desire to Keep its People in the Dark

The Editorial Board, The Washington Post

THE CAMBRIDGE University Press has rightly abandoned its plan to censor the prestigious China Quarterly journal at the behest of the Chinese authorities. It was indefensible for the journal to remove some 300 sensitive articles and book reviews from its website for a Chinese audience, and it realized the error quickly. But the Chinese request will probably not be the last.

The state-run Global Times newspaper asserted that “Western institutions have the freedom to choose” whether they want to do business in China. “If they don’t like the Chinese way, they can stop engaging with us. If they think China’s Internet market is so important that they can’t miss out, they need to respect Chinese law and adapt to the Chinese way.” This will sound familiar to U.S. companies that have been instructed that they must obey Chinese cybersecurity laws that could be used for repression, under threat of criminal penalty, and have complied. Cambridge also acted with an eye on the market; the press has enjoyed double-digit year-on-year growth in China for the past five years, and its most popular title, an English-language course book, sold more than 3 million copies over the past eight years, according to the Financial Times.

For years, an argument has been made that engagement with China would change China, that contact with the West would influence China toward openness, rule of law and democracy. We have often agreed with this notion, and we still think engagement beats isolation. But the presidency of Xi Jinping is making it harder to defend this proposition. China is actively resisting Western influences and pushing back on digital



Chinese President Xi Jinping. (Fabrizio Bensch/Reuters)

battlefields. The “China way” means that a paternalistic state, run by a party with a monopoly on power, will decide what people can know and what they can say. Mr. Xi has been making this plain for some years now, as was the case with the detained Hong Kong booksellers, or the crackdown on professors who don’t toe the line, or the roundup over the past two years of human rights lawyers, or the visit Mr. Xi made to leading Chinese news outlets in 2016 to insist that they must serve the Communist Party with absolute loyalty and must “have the party as their family name.”

In this case, the list of articles and book reviews targeted for censorship included topics sensitive to the ruling party, such as the Tiananmen Square massacre of 1989, policies toward Tibetan and Uighur ethnic minorities, Taiwan and the 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution. China’s General Administration of Press and Publication warned that it would block all articles from the China Quarterly site if these sensitive topics were not removed from the site for a Chinese audience. Should it foolishly follow through on this threat, the impact on China’s people would be, once again, to keep them in the dark about their own history and their government’s policy. This is the real “China way.”

For detailed news visit:
www.tibet.net

For detailed news visit:
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China's Global Ambitions: Are There Lessons to be Learnt From Tibet?

By Peter Hartcher, Published on Sydney Morning Herald

The man who replaced the Dalai Lama as the head of Tibet's government-in-exile has brought a troubling message to Australia. The Chinese military forcibly annexed Tibet in the 1950s, sending the Dalai Lama into hasty exile in India. The Dalai Lama retains his role as spiritual leader. But the Tibetan diaspora elected Lobsang Sangay as their political leader six years ago. He spoke at the National Press Club in Canberra earlier this month. The Harvard-educated lawyer's message to Australia: "It happened to Tibet - you could be next."



This is a disturbing idea, but surely a fanciful one? As president of the Tibetan government-in-exile, Sangay's main agenda is to stir international empathy for Tibet. Encouraging us to identify with Tibet, putting us in Tibet's shoes, is surely a clever technique for achieving his aim.

Does he have anything to support his assertion? His case: "If you understand the Tibetan story, the Chinese government [before the military takeover] started building a road – our first ever highway in Tibet.

"Now, we were promised peace and prosperity with the highway, and our parents and grandparents joined in building the road. In fact, they were paid silver coins to help them build the road...

"So my parents told me the Chinese soldiers with guns were so polite, so nice, the kids used to taunt them and taunt them, they always smiled. They never said anything. Then they built the road. Once the road reached Lhasa – the capital city of Tibet – first trucks came, then guns came, then tanks came. Soon,

Tibet was occupied. So it started with the road.

"Then another strategy that they deployed was divide and rule, co-opting our ruling elite... They were paid, I think, in Australian context, huge consultation fees." This brought knowing guffaws from the Australian audience.

"So," Sangay concluded, "what you see in Australia and around the world – co-optation of ruling elites, getting high consultation fees, business leaders supporting the Chinese line of argument, and even the religious figures – we have seen all that in Tibet. So it started with the road."

And he compared China's current international infrastructure project with that road: "So that was the consequence of One Belt, One Road in Tibet."

One Belt, One Road is President Xi Jinping's signature foreign policy project. So far, 68 countries have signed up to the mighty vision of an interconnected system of road, rail, ports and bridges embracing most of the world's population and connecting Europe to Asia and the Pacific through China on land and at sea.

However, this is just a beginning; One Belt, One Road was only launched formally in May. Beijing's plan ultimately encompasses more than 100 countries and at an estimated total cost of between \$US1 trillion (\$1.26 trillion) and \$US4 trillion or more. China has offered to link it with Australia's Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund, although the Turnbull government has so far declined.

In the weekend edict from Beijing clamping down on Chinese foreign investment for fear of excess capital flight, Xi's government nonetheless encouraged Chinese firms to redirect their money into projects in the One Belt, One Road plan.

Could Chinese infrastructure be a

Trojan horse for Chinese takeover of foreign countries? In May, Pakistan's English-language newspaper Dawn exposed a detailed, 231-page Chinese plan for its 15-year infrastructure rollout in Pakistan. The newspaper's Khurram Husain described it as "a deep and broad-based penetration of most sectors of Pakistan's economy as well as its society by Chinese enterprises and culture".

In Australia, some of China's proposed infrastructure investments have been prohibited on national security grounds. Last year the Turnbull government blocked a \$10 billion Chinese plan to buy into NSW power distribution company Ausgrid. China's Huawei communications firm has been barred from any investment in Australia's National Broadband Network. And, as Fairfax's David Wroe reported on the weekend, the federal intelligence agencies are troubled by Huawei's buy-in to the proposed 4500 kilometre fibre optic cable connecting the Solomon Islands to Sydney. They fear it is a Chinese state-sponsored effort to find a backdoor into Australia's critical infrastructure.



A poster promoting China's One Belt One Road initiative in Hong Kong. Photo: supplied

A Chinese firm's purchase of the Port of Darwin raised deep concerns in Washington. Ructions over the decision moved the federal government to change the way the Foreign Investment Review Board reviews proposals - the board is now chaired by a former head of ASIO.

Is Sangay right? Geremie Barme, former head of ANU's Centre for China in the World, is both deeply knowledgeable about China and highly sceptical of

its party-state apparatus. He says that Sangay is wrong on two counts. First, says Barme, it's a "false comparison" to put Tibet with Australia and other countries in the Chinese worldview. "China went into Tibet to extract resources and for military reasons, it was not a big market for China," says Barme, now an independent scholar and publisher of chinaheritage.net. "China as an economic and political entity is deeply implicated with global economics and politics and it needs not only resources, it needs markets." Tibet was about resources, in other words, while it sees most of the rest of the world as markets.

Second, the Chinese ruling class has not yet decided the scope of their global ambitions, according to Barme. "There is a debate in China at the moment - what responsibilities will they take in the world, and what can they afford?"

"They have been studying the US imperium closely for 70 years, and studying why the Soviet Union collapsed. They do know that imperial expansion comes at a very heavy price, and are they prepared to pay that price? They don't know yet. They do debate it."

Depending on China's choice, Lobsang Sangay will turn out to be either a far-seeing prophet or Chicken Little.

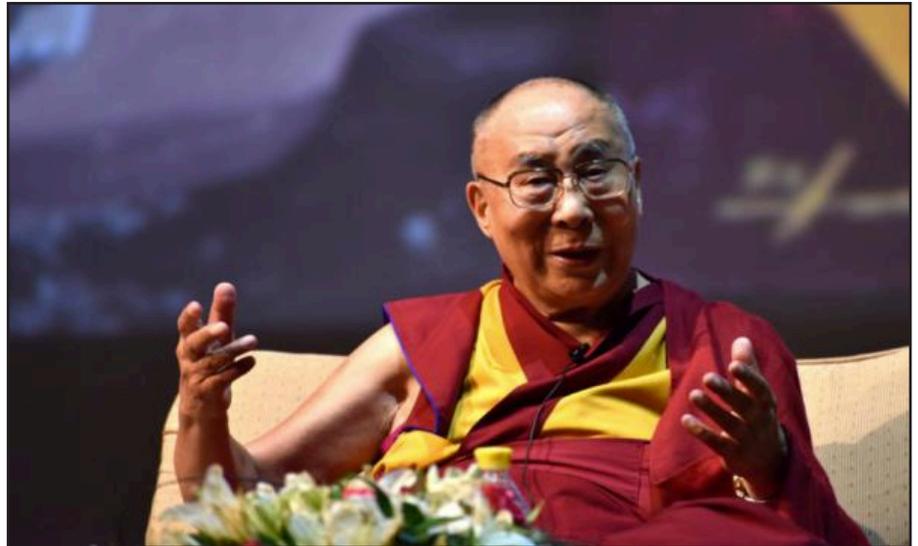
When we meet real tragedy in life, we can react in two ways - either by losing hope and falling into self-destructive habits, or by using the challenge to find our inner strength. Thanks to the teachings of Buddha, I have been able to take this second way.

Dalai Lama

For detailed news visit:
www.tibet.net

Spirit of Hindi-Chini bhai bhai Way Forward says Dalai Lama on the Ongoing Doklam Standoff

By Shubhajit Roy published on Indian Express,



His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking on the Art of Happiness at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR

More than 50 days since the border stand-off began at Doklam, the Dalai Lama on Wednesday said that it is "not a very serious issue", and that the two countries have to live as neighbours. The Tibetan spiritual leader said there are periods when the countries use "harsh words", but the spirit of "Hindi-Chini bhai bhai (India-China brotherhood)" is the only way forward. "I do not think it (Doklam standoff) is very serious. India and China have to live side by side.... Even in 1962, Chinese forces had reached Bomdilla, (and) eventually withdrew. India and China have to live side by side," he said.

There has been a widespread speculation that the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh in April this year may have been a trigger for China's aggressive posture in Doklam. There has not been any concrete evidence to support that claim, however. Beijing had then warned New Delhi of adverse consequences. Speaking at the Rajendra Mathur Memorial Lecture organised by the Editors Guild of India, the Tibetan spiritual leader on Wednesday said that "propaganda makes things complicated", and that the media is to blame for the sharp rhetoric.

This is the first time the Dalai Lama has spoken publicly on the Doklam standoff. On Wednesday, the Dalai Lama said, "Our small Tibetan community fully practices democracy and I am an admirer of democracy.... Eventually, as per wishes of the Chinese people, the Communist Party of China may follow our practice (democracy)." He also said that he enjoys the freedom in India. "There is freedom in this country—I can do more and have more opportunity to share. Where there is no freedom, I don't like," he said. Beijing regards the Dalai Lama as a "separatist".

In April, following his visit to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang had said, "For some time, due to reasons known to all, the political foundation for China-India relations has been damaged, casting a shadow over bilateral relations and the boundary negotiations." He had said, "What is imperative now is for the Indian side to take concrete actions to honour its solemn promises on Tibet-related issues as well as the important consensus reached by the two sides on settling the boundary issue, in particular never again using the 14th Dalai Lama to undermine China's core interests..."

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QUOTES

“Our existing education system, oriented towards material goals with little time for inner values, is inadequate when it comes to bringing about a happier more peaceful world. We used to rely on religion for inner values, but today 1 billion people show no interest in religion anymore and even among the remaining 6 billion the faith of many is shallow.” His Holiness the Dalai Lama during his address at Siri fort auditorium on 10 August 2017

“The students are future seeds and you have a big responsibility to make this world a better place for all to live and I am hopeful of the positive change you will bring in the future,” His Holiness the Dalai Lama during 82nd birthday at Shewatsel Phodrang, Ladakh on 6 July 2017.

“It is therefore deplorable that the Chinese government views His Holiness, whose sole mission in life is to promote the betterment of humanity, as a threat. The Chinese government has not succeeded in forestalling the noble efforts of His Holiness. People across the globe: all age groups, nationality, faith and all walks of life revere him. This is evident from the public reaction to his recent visits to the Northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh and to the United States.” Kashag’s statement during the 82nd birthday celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Tsuglagkhang on 6 July 2017.

“It is due to the absence of freedom and happiness in any sphere of life under the brutal policy of the government of China that from the year 2009 till the 18th of May this year there have been cases in which a total of some 149 Tibetans – including men and women, whether laypeople or monks and nuns – carried out peaceful protests by means of self-immolation. ” Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile statement during 82nd birthday celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Tsuglagkhang on 6 July 2017.
