



TIBETAN BULLETIN

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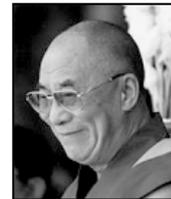
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FROM THE EDITOR



In addition to the deteriorating political situation inside Tibet, a new woe facing Tibetans in exile particularly in India is its shrinking population. Propelled by a low birth rate and a high rate of immigration to foreign countries, the Tibetan population in India is going through a rapid decline.

No exact figures are available of the Tibetan diaspora in the early years of exile, as the key focus of the Tibetan administration then was on the rehabilitation of the refugees. However, a 2009 census conducted by the Planning Commission of the Central Tibetan Administration, revealed that the Tibetan diaspora numbers just about 128,000 with major concentrations in India, Nepal and Bhutan. The number is now estimated to have reached around 150,000 since then.

Since 1959, the Tibetan community in exile have seen tremendous economic and educational growth under the visionary leadership of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

However, with the growth of modern education in exile, opportunities arose for immigration to developed nations in the west as well as ideas of compact family planning. Partly as a result of such developments, the Tibetan population in India saw a massive decline. So much so that recent reports indicated schools having just a few students

enrolled in classes. The situation in Tibetan monasteries is even more telling as monks and nuns from Buddhist Himalayan regions started outnumbering Tibetans.

The dwindling population of Tibetan students in schools and monks and nuns in monasteries could also be due to increased restrictions imposed on Tibetans inside Tibet, limiting the flow of Tibetans fleeing into exile. Newly arrived Tibetans have long been a major source of human resource for Tibetan schools and monasteries, once considered bastions of the Tibetan community in exile.

The decline in population of Tibetans in India also has another alarming implication. It threatens the sustainability of the Tibetan settlements, as land is rapidly becoming a premium asset in India.

One other reason for the decline in Tibetan birthrate in India can be attributed to inflation. Coupled with the increase in living costs and the stinging cost of college education in India, expenses became a serious deterrent to raising children.

Consequently, during the second special general meeting of Tibetans organised by the 14th Kashag in 2012, delegates identified dwindling population as

one of the pressing issues. As a result, a resolution was passed calling for measures to boost Tibetan population.

Subsequently, in efforts to combat the declining population of Tibetan exiles and its numerous underlying implications the CTA rolled out various initiatives and incentives for families with more than three children. Initiatives included free schooling and college scholarship, free healthcare, medical coverage for mother and child under both traditional and allopathic medicine, free immunization and vaccinations, awareness campaigns on healthy deliveries, financial aids, etc. The dwindling Tibetan population also found expressions of concerns by the Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama. His Holiness (albeit in jest) urges Tibetan youngsters and parents to do their bit for the Tibetan cause by increasing the Tibetan population. He made a similar remark during a private audience with a delegation of Tibetan Women's association in 2014.

It is understandable that an institutional intervention is needed to address the growing predicament facing Tibetan people and the Tibetan freedom struggle. A robust Tibetan population will not only engender the continuation of the Tibetan race but will ensure effective preservation of Tibetan culture and language, which is facing perilous destruction in occupied Tibet.

However, the success of these drives by the CTA, is contingent upon the sense of conviction and shouldering of responsibility by every individual Tibetans. As global citizens, Tibetans very much like the rest of humanity are entitled to reproductive rights, but when reproducing dons a responsible avatar and a fulfillment further the Tibetan cause, the public, as in any proper democracy, must exercise agency. Tibetans from across the spectrum must ensure that the insoluble dilemma facing the dwindling Tibetan population is solved.

Jamphel Shonu
Editor

Chinese-Appointed “Delegation” from Tibet Fails to Confirm Panchen Lama’s Whereabouts, Denies Access

In a recent hearing at the Canadian Parliamentarians’ Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs and International Development the Parliamentarians questioned the status of the Panchen Lama to a so-called delegation from Tibet Autonomous Region..

The case of Tashi Wangchuk and the resumption of the Sino-Tibet dialogue were raised during the meeting that lasted more than an hour.



On May 8, Tuesday, a “delegation from Tibet” comprising of four People’s Congress Deputies from the Chinese-segregated Tibet Autonomous Region, including Baima Wangdui (Pema Wangdu) appeared at the Canadian Parliament meeting. Baima Wangdui, who is also Secretary of Lhasa Municipal Committee of Communist Party of China spoke before the subcommittee.

In response to concerns raised by parliament member Garnett Genuis on the status of the 11th Panchen Lama, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, and international access to Tibet, Baima Wangdui who spoke on behalf of the Chinese government-appointed delegation, repeated what the government has maintained over the years and said, “[Gedhun Choekyi Nyima] has already received the modern education and he and his family members do not want to be interrupted by an external environment. I think that if there is an opportunity, you will see

that he has a very good life now”.

However, the delegation failed to confirm the whereabouts of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima who was abducted at the age of six along with his family in 1995 and has remained incommunicado since.

Canadian Parliamentarian Arif Virani, who is also the chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Tibet group, questioned the delegation on the Sino-Tibet negotiation on Middle-Way, a resolution offered by His Holiness the Dalai Lama that got stalled since 2010. Mr. Virani’s request for a Canadian delegation visit to the Panchen Lama be arranged also went unheeded as the delegation asserted that “Canadian delegation coming to Tibet to see him may interrupt his life”.

Dukthen Kyi, UN and Human Rights Officer of the Department of Information and International Relations said, “The world remembers the 11th Panchen Lama through a picture of a young boy, the only one that is available. Yet, the Chinese-appointed Tibetan delegate at the Canadian parliament meeting declares that Panchen Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, who turned 29 a few weeks ago, is leading healthy and happy life. If that is the case then why not let the world see that by allowing an independent international observers to visit?”

Next week, Tibetans and supporters around the world will mark the 23rd anniversary of the disappearance of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima.

CTA President Attends Thank You Germany Event in Frankfurt

On his first day of the five-day Germany visit, the President of the Central Tibetan Administration, Dr Lobsang Sangay took part in the Thank You Germany Event jointly organised by the Tibetan community and Tibet House on 11 May.

The Central Tibetan Administration earlier this year announced the

observation of this year as a Thank You Year in commemoration of the onset of the 60th year of His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s arrival in exile in India.



Dr Sangay shared how commemorating this year as Thank You Year was discussed two year ago. As this year is being commemorated as the Thank You Year, Dr Sangay expressed that the Tibetan community would like to thank the world for “supporting us, for being with us through the difficult journey nonetheless for the 60 years you have been with us,” he said.

Highlighting the tragic events that unfolded and strongly faced by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Dr Sangay iterated that from having lost everything to building a community, reviving our culture and religion in exile, Tibetans have survived for 60 years, he added. Hence, he said, that this year is dedicated to all supporters and friends around the globe who contributed to the Tibet cause.

Uwe Becker, City Mayor, present at event expressed his solidarity with Tibet and the Tibetans. Also present at the event Michael Brand, Member of parliament Chairman of German Human Rights Committee, who expressed his concerns over Tibet’s rich heritage and also shared the special relationship that Hessian State shares with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, who is scheduled to visit Hessian State this September.

Received with a Traditional welcome at the airport by the Tibetan community where Nadine Baumann from Tibet Initiative Duestschland (TID) and Kai Muller from ICT were also present, Dr Sangay met with the Norbert Kartmann, the President of the Hesse Parliament prior to the the Thank You Germany event.

Tibetan National Football Team Participates in CONIFA World Cup

The Tibetan National Sports Association (TNSA) held a press conference at the Kashag secretariat to announce the Tibet National Team's participation in the CONIFA world cup 2018 in London.

CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay and Passang Dorjee, President of TNSA, addressed the press conference. Others at the press conference include Health Kalon Choekyong Wangchuk who is also the chair of TNSA's governing body, and players and coach of the team.

Addressing the press conference, President Dr Lobsang Sangay wished the team a successful tournament and said just the fact that we are participating in the tournament is a huge accomplishment for Tibet and the Tibetan people.

"It's a moment of pride and happiness for all Tibetans as our national football team is going to participate in a global football tournament. If we go on to win it, it will be an even bigger achievement. Even if we can't, our team's participation will enthuse our brethren inside Tibet to see the Tibetan national team and flag among other nations of the world," he said.

"TNSA has prepared strenuously over the last one year. From selecting players to raising funds for accommodation and travel of the team, it has come a long way and now our team is finally about to leave for the tournament in London," he added.

"Our national team's participation in the tournament sends a powerful message to everyone. First, it sends a message to younger Tibetans that we have the opportunity to compete on global platforms if we play well in our local tournaments."

"Secondly, as His Holiness the Dalai Lama advised, health is important and

we have to take precautionary measures to stay fit. One of the most effective precautionary measures is exercise and there is no better exercise for the human body than sports. And through sports, our community is being strengthened," he said.



CTA President with the Tibetan men's football team. Photo/Tenzin Jigme/DIIR

President Dr Sangay also outlined the Kashag's efforts to encourage a healthy lifestyle among the youth by providing funds to build playgrounds, open-air gyms and sports clubs in the settlements.

"The Kashag has provided funds to each and every Tibetan settlement to build football grounds, basket ball grounds, open gyms, etc. Our aim is to encourage Tibetan youngsters to take part in sports and steer them away from other harmful habits like drug abuse, alcoholism, etc," he explained.

Passang Dorjee, President of Tibetan National Sports Association, thanked the Kashag for providing 15 Lakh rupees towards the team's expenses, and the office of Tibet, London and the Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Delhi for helping in processing the paper works.

He spoke about the team's audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama earlier in the morning. "We received an audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama this morning. During the audience, His Holiness advised us to preserve the unique Tibetan moral character during the matches and to maintain discipline

even after the matches. And we pledged to abide by the advice," he said.

The squad of the Tibetan National team is composed of 23 players: 15 from India and Nepal, and the rest from Europe and North America. From India and Nepal,

there are two players from Bylakuppe, two from Mundgod, two from Kollegal, two from Nepal, one from Hunsur and the rest from Dharamshala and Tibet. From Europe and North America, there are two players from the US, two from Canada, two from Europe and two from England as its the host nation.

The CONIFA World Football Cup is the biggest and best-known football tournament of national football teams that do not enjoy FIFA membership. It is organised by Confederation of Independent Football Associations (CONIFA), the international governing body for Non-FIFA affiliated Associations for football.

Teams include one from Oceania, one from North America, two each from Africa and Asia, and five from Europe. The rest are automatically qualified as host teams and reigning champions.

The Tibetan National Football Team is officially qualified for the World Football Cup 2018 through a wild card ticket granted by CONIFA.

For detailed news visit:
www.tibet.net

Five-Fifty Youth Forum: Shaping Tibet's Future

The Department of Information and International relations has finalised the



dates for the Five-Fifty Youth Forum. This forum open to Tibetan youth aged 20-40 will run for four days, from August 17-20 inclusive. The forum will kickstart on August 17 evening and culminate with an audience and an address by His Holiness the Dalai Lama on August 20.

The forum presents a unique opportunity for young Tibetans across the globe to converge in the beautiful town of Dharamsala, the headquarter of the Central Tibetan Administration. But more importantly to deliberate on CTA's Five-Fifty Vision in shaping Tibet's political future and strengthening the Tibetan freedom movement.

The forum is a confluence of young, bright minds to voice their concerns, share their ideas and learn from one another while discussing the challenges and opportunities facing the Tibetan freedom movement.

The four themes that will be discussed at the forum are:

1) Tibet and China: Historical ties, Establishing Dialogue with PRC— institutional, civil society, individual level.

2) Young Voices in the Tibetan Freedom Movement: Communications, Advocacy, and International Relations

3) Homeland and diaspora—building linkages between Tibetans inside and outside Tibet.

4) CTA's Leadership toward the Five-Fifty Vision- creating visionary leadership, and resource mobilization within and beyond CTA frontiers.

The forum will feature plenary sessions, breakout sessions, social evenings, gorshey nights, hiking and site visits.

The plenary sessions will juxtapose representatives and speakers from CTA, the private sector, government, academia and civil society with the objective of engaging a plurality of views on how to best implement the Five-Fifty vision.

The breakout sessions will delve into discussions about chalking out a strategic action plan on how to maximize the potential of Tibetan youth in shaping Tibet's political future.

We encourage young individuals from different educational and professional backgrounds and community service and leadership experience to apply. To ensure an inclusive construct of participants, we will include some young participants devoid of community leadership experience and aspiring to serve in the community.

After evaluating the current breakdown

of applicants, we have made slight changes in the selection criteria and process.

The Forum is open to youth aged 20-40 (this is based on valid feedback received from some quarters to reduce the age bar)

A selection committee reviewed the applications and short listed candidates.

CTA to Award Rs 21 Crores (210 Million) to Support Tibetan Livelihood Development

The Department of Finance, Central Tibetan Administration, organised a press conference to launch the second Tibetan Refugee Livelihood Support Program (TRLSP).

As part of the program, the finance department will provide amounts worth a total of Rs 21 Crores (210 Million) at a minimal 4% interest rate to support livelihood of the most vulnerable, needy, and unbanked members of the Tibetan community.

CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay, Finance Kalon Karma Yeshe and Chief Planning Officer Dr Kunchok Tsundue addressed the press conference, which was held at the Kashag Secretariat. Others at the press conference include Finance Secretary Trinley Gyatso and Chief Resilience Officer Kaydor Aukartsang.

President Dr Lobsang Sangay spoke about the success of the pilot program, which was provided last year to almost 900 Tibetan sweater sellers of which 42% was women. The amount was repaid 100% by February/March of this year, earning the admiration of USAID, the funding agency.

“The fact that the pilot program was repaid by 100% of the beneficiaries is a reflection of the Tibetan people’s



From Left: Chief Resilience Officer Kaydor Au-kartsang, Finance Kalon Karma Yeshe, CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay, Finance Secretary Trinley Gyatso and Chief Planning Officer Dr Kunchok Tsundue at the press conference on 22 May 2018. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR

innate respect for morality and honesty, as advised by His Holiness the Dalai Lama,” he said.

“As promised last year during the launch of the pilot program, we are increasing the amount and expanding the beneficiary groups this year as a result of the success of the pilot program,” he announced.

“The total amount for the program is increased to Rs 21 Crores this year. Moreover, three additional beneficiary groups have been included in the program which include those selling trinkets on pavements in tourist destinations, those raising horses and mules for traditional caravan services, and those running taxi services, in addition to sweater sellers,” he said.

“We hope this year too the amounts will be repaid completely and the program will be successful. This will not only help us expand the livelihood support program next year but will also help us secure more funds from aid groups,” he said.

Finance Kalon Karma Yeshe spoke about the implementation process of the program and the importance of following the rules and regulation. He particularly urged the respective settlement officers and regional sweater sellers associations to play a key role in making this program a success.

He also clarified that just because the program is announced, it doesn't mean

that it is available to everyone. He called on the applicants to abide by the eligibility criteria and emphasised the importance of repaying the amounts on time so that the program can continue without obstacles in the future.

Dr Kunchok Tsundue, the Chief Planning Officer of the Central Tibetan Administration, gave a brief introduction of the livelihood support program.

He explained that the program was rolled out last year by the finance department following a detailed market research, expert consultations and need analysis of Tibetan sweater sellers.

This year's TRLSP program will benefit 1525 beneficiaries and their families. The four main groups of beneficiaries were chosen by local Joint liability groups (JLG). The program will provide packages ranging from Rs 1 – 6 Lakhs to 1525 beneficiaries residing within the 45 Tibetan settlements in India. The program will be implemented between June–August 2018.

The program is funded by USAID and is implemented by SARD with cooperation from the Tibet Fund.

CTA President speaks on completion of 15th Kashag's second year

Tibet TV of Department of Information and International Relations interviewed President Dr Lobsang Sangay, Central Tibetan Administration on the occasion of the second anniversary of the 15th Kashag.

Following are the English transcript of Tibet TV's interview with CTA President.

Tibet TV: Mr President, though we will be conducting interviews with all the Kalons, but could you briefly give us a general overview of Kashag's initiatives and accomplishments in the past two years?



CTA President Dr. Lobsang Sangay

CTA President: The Kalons of the respective departments will be giving you a detail information on the workings of their own department in the last two years. Overall speaking, there has been no lapse in the past two years.

As per the wish and guidance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to fulfill the aspirations of the Tibetans in Tibet, I feel that in the tenure of the 14 and 15th Kashag we were fairly successful in doing so.

For instance, undertaken by the Department of Religion and Culture, the 2017 Kalachakra was held successfully. The annual program of introducing Buddhist teachings and also teaching in Language and grammar and Tibetan tradition to Tibetan youth at the Gyudmed Monastery in South of India is in continuation. Prayer services for the Long Life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama are being held accordingly.

The Home Department has been seeing out the implementation of the Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy by the related State Governments. This policy was passed by the Central Government in 2014.

The southern state of Karnataka and in the north Uttarakhand state has already implemented this policy. And recently Arunachal Pradesh state government has started implementing this policy. As of now, Ladakh and few others are yet to implement.

Improving facilities at the Old Age Homes, providing employment opportunities to the unemployed Tibetan youth and registration of Record of Tenancy Certificate in the respective

settlements are some of the undertakings of the Department of Home.

The plan to set up a bank by the Department of Finance is underway. The department is also providing loans to the Tibetans in winter sweater selling business. A total of 100 Tibetan taxi drivers would receive six lakh as a loan for the period of three years.

The improvement and development in the education sector are known to all of us and the implementation of the education policy is to be continued. One of the biggest undertakings of the Department of Education was to oversee the transfer of the CTSA schools. By this month the transfer will be completed.

One of the sole endeavour of the Department of Security is overseeing the security details of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. In this regard, the Indian government has also provided great support. Receiving the new arrivals from Tibet has been an important undertaking of the department.

Recently due to the kindness of Indian government, Department of Security was able to secure RC for 955 Tibetans without RC.

The Department of Health is currently working on a project known as Tibetan Medicare System. The participation in this medicare system has been increasing. The department is also working on projects related to prevention of diseases.

The trilingual official website of the CTA such as the bod.asia, tibet.net, xizang-zhiye and also tibetv are overseen by the Department of Information and International Relations. These sites have seen an increase in their viewership and readership.

Tibet TV: Mr President, could you tell us how and where the financial aid that CTA is receiving is allocated or used?

CTA President: These funds are for the advancement of the Tibetans in the settlements. Through the loan scheme, a

loan of Rs 1 lakh to a thousand Tibetan sweater sellers was provided. Helping small businesses and providing loans to Tibetan taxi drivers is also underway.

The amount of scholarship for Tibetan students was increased. The planning for building of football grounds, fitness centres is underway and such initiatives are taken in order to well situate the Tibetan communities in exile accordingly.

Tibet TV: One of the most important obligations is politics. Aside from the role of the president, you have also been taking the role and responsibility as the Kalon of DIIR. Therefore, where does the Tibetan issue stand in the global stage of international politics?

CTA President: The overall political standing is good. The support on the issue of Tibet from the Indian government as well as the US government has grown stronger.

Tibet TV: Last year, CTA organised a well known conference called the Five Fifty Forum. There is also the Five Fifty Youth Forum to be organised in the coming month. What projects, such as these, do you have for the future?

CTA President: His Holiness has always advised that we must hope for the best, but prepare for the worst. So in five years, we hope that genuine autonomy could be achieved.

Last year in October we held the Five Fifty Forum. This meeting was to discuss and map out what could be done internationally to garner support for the Middle Way Approach and the Sino-Tibet dialogue and the meeting concluded with 91 recommendations. Of these, we will figure out which could be implementable by the Kashag. In 2014 and 2016, the former President of the United States, Mr Obama while acknowledging the Middle Way Approach, affirmed strong support for it.

Our plan is to create more awareness about the Middle Way Approach in the public, schools, colleges, Tibetan

settlements and communities abroad.

Tibet TV: We are witnessing massive infrastructure and development in Gangchen Kyishong, what is the long term vision behind these projects?

CTA President: Dharamsala is the official seat of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Central Tibetan Administration. The Five Fifty vision of CTA seeks to make Gangchen Kyishong into 'Little Tibet' by transforming the architectural designs of CTA offices into Tibetan designs. So when visitors travel from lower Dharamshala to McLeod Ganj via the Potala Road, they will see the 'Little Tibet.'

Under the Department of Information and International Relations, the new Tibet Museum project is underway. With this new Tibet Museum, we are hoping to sensitise visitors about Tibet's past, the current situation inside Tibet and the life and achievements of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Tibet TV: What initiatives CTA is currently undertaking to engage with the Tibetan youth in diaspora?

CTA President: Tibetan people are settled in 40 countries across the world. We are successfully reaching out to them, particularly the youth through our official TV network, tri-lingual websites and social media handles. We have achieved a further milestone this year with the launch of CTA's official trilingual news App tibet.Net.

All these innovations are aimed at accomplishing the core objective to bring Tibet related news and information on an accessible digital platform and to consolidate the efforts of Central Tibetan Administration by engaging with the Tibetan diaspora. '

Also, the major events organised by CTA can now be streamed live from any part of the world through Facebook. For example, the Thank you India event held in March this year and the Kalachakra initiation at Bodh Gaya 2017 were aired live on our social media handles.

Tibetans and devotees who were unable to attend the Kalachakra expressed deep elation for being able to receive the Kalachakra through Tibet TV live telecast.

In terms of engaging with Tibetans, members of Kashag during their official visits prioritises meeting with Tibetan communities and interacting with them personally.

Tibetan monastic institutions in various Tibetan communities are doing great work in educating the Tibetan youth on Tibetan language, culture and especially in religion. I congratulate and encourage them to carry on such initiatives.

Regarding the Weekend Tibetan Schools, the Department of Education is doing an excellent job in overseeing the publication of their textbooks and teaching methodology. In July this year, the Department of Education will be organising a workshop for students and teachers of Weekend Tibetan Schools in North America. Former members of TIPA will also come and train them in traditional dance and songs.

In August, we will be organising the Five Fifty Youth Forum at Dharamshala. The forum will bring together young Tibetans across the globe to converge at the headquarters of the Central Tibetan Administration and more importantly to deliberate on how they can maximise their potential in strengthening the Tibetan freedom movement.

At CTA, Tibet Corps offers Tibetan professionals, university students, and retirees an opportunity and platform to serve the Tibetan community through voluntary service. Many of them expressed joy and satisfaction in being able to serve.

For now, we have 14 volunteers from India and abroad. We are receiving more and more youth every year. Through Tibet Corps program, we are able to bring our youth closer to the cause and towards CTA.

Tibet TV: What is your message for

Tibetans in Tibet?

CTA President: The wishes of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the paramount objective of Central Tibetan Administration is to fulfill the aspirations of Tibetans brothers and sisters in Tibet. Members of the Kashag and Offices of Tibet across the world are mobilising efforts to bring awareness to the urgent situation in Tibet.

The Freedom House Report of 2016 to 2017 listed Tibet as the second least-free country in the world, after Syria. We are employing every platform to speak up for the deteriorating situations inside Tibet.

In protest of China's repressive policies in Tibet, 152 Tibetans have self-immolated calling for the dignified return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet and for freedom of Tibetan people. While the spirit of Tibetan brethren inside Tibet remains indomitable, the unity of Tibetans inside Tibet and those in exile is ever strong. We are united in our faith and devotion towards His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

We are working to see all our Tibetan brothers and sisters reunited in the land of Tibet. All our prayers and efforts are dedicated to fulfilling the aspiration of Tibetans inside Tibet and our daily engagements are directed towards achieving this goal.

To see through this goal, it has always been our attempt to call on the members of the respective parliament and speak to international media about the situation in Tibet during our official visit to foreign nations.

During my recent official visits to various countries, I was able to meet MPs and invite many of them to visit Dharamshala. Hence in past months, we were able to receive members of parliament from US, Sweden, Swiss, Australia, England and EU at Central Tibetan Administration. During their visit here, we apprised them of the situation in Tibet and urged them to support Tibetan movement.

US Secretary of State Promises to Urge China to Engage in Dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Representatives



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said that he will publicly ask China to engage in direct dialogue with representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama without preconditions to resolve the Tibet issue. The Secretary of state made the statements in response to a set of written questions from Members of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

“I will recommend that the United States express publicly, and at the highest levels of government,” Pompeo wrote, “that Chinese authorities need to engage in meaningful and direct dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives, without preconditions, to lower tensions and resolve differences.”

Secretary Pompeo also expressed his commitment to ‘press the Chinese government to respect the legitimacy of Tibetan Buddhists’ religious practices. This includes the decisions of Tibetan Buddhists in selecting, educating, and venerating the lamas who lead the faith, such as the Dalai Lama.”

He also answered questions on topics ranging from human rights in Tibet including freedom of religion and belief, lack of regular access to Tibet for US citizens, as well as the release of Tibetan political prisoners.

He said he will commit to ensure that US journalists, civil society, legislators, and scholars have full access to China, including the Tibet Autonomous Region and Tibetan areas.

He further spoke about the implementation of the Tibetan Policy Act and added that he will “will urge China to cease restrictions on the human rights of Tibetans as well as their religious, linguistic, and cultural traditions and practices.”

I will be committed to pressing for respect for human rights, including freedom of religion and belief, in my conversations with Chinese officials, and advocating for the release of Tibetan political prisoners.”

Department of Finance Launches a New SARD Website



Social and Resource Development Fund (SARD) under Department of Finance, Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) has a new website – www.sardfund.org. The new website contains key development-oriented projects of SARD and the CTA as implemented by all the various CTA departments, settlement offices, and partner organizations in India and Nepal.

Visitors will now be able to access information on various CTA and SARD funded initiatives in areas of arts and culture; economic development; education; entrepreneurship; democracy and governance; health; institutional capacity building; leadership development; women’s empowerment;

water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); workforce development; etc.

SARD is deeply grateful to SOIR-IM for supporting the development of the website. SARD plans to develop a Tibetan version of the site as well in the near future.

“I’m pleased that SARD has a new website which for the first time captures and presents all the important development programs of the CTA on one platform. I hope the community will regularly visit the site and stay updated on various projects of the CTA and SARD,” said Mr. Karma Yeshe, Finance Kalon.

“This website is not only a portal to all development related news associated with SARD and CTA, it will more importantly and hopefully educate the community about key development issues in the Tibetan community and the effort and investment being made by the Tibetan leadership to address the needs of the community,” said Kaydor Aukatsang, SARD Director and Chief Resilience Officer.

Himachal Pradesh Grants One More MBBS Seat for Tibetan Refugee Students

The Department of Education, Central Tibetan Administration, is pleased to announce that the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has graciously granted one more MBBS reserve seat for Tibetan Refugee students effective academic year 2018.

The state government is already providing four MBBS reserve seats for Tibetan students since last year, which means the state government will provide a total of five reserve seats for Tibetans students from this year.

The five reserve seats allotted are in Indra Gandhi Medical College (IGMC) Shimla; Dr. Rajendra Prasad Govt. Medical College (RPGMC), Tanda;



Himachal Health Minister Shri Vipin Singh Parmar met His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Dharamshala.

Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar Govt Medical College (YSGMC), Nahan; Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Govt Medical College (PJLNGMC) Chamba; and Dr. Radha Krishna Govt Medical College (RKGMC), Hamirpur.

Kalon Dr Pema Yangchen, who has met Himachal Health and Family Welfare Minister Shri Vipin Singh Parmar on 19 May 2018, expressed her gratitude for the generous consideration and assured that these students will serve in Tibetan communities after their studies.

During the meeting, Kalon has briefed the new Health Minister on the positive impacts created by the scholarship in the Tibetan community as well as in the local communities till now.

The education department hopes that this additional seat will go a long way, in ameliorating the dire shortage of medical doctors serving in our hospitals and clinics in the Tibetan settlements.

Shri Vipin Singh Parmar has also met His Holiness the Dalai Lama on 30 May during a visit to Dharamshala.

For detailed news visit:
www.tibet.net



Minister of Canadian Heritage Joins Thank You Canada Celebration

The President of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) Dr Lobsang Sangay attended the Thank You Canada event in Ottawa, the capital city of Canada on June 12th. The event which is a part of the “Thank You Year”, a year-long campaign of the CTA to mark the onset of the His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s 60th year in exile.

The chief guest at the event was Melanie Joly, the Canadian Minister of Multiculturalism. Other guests include MP Arif Virani, Chair of Parliamentary Friends of Tibet (PFT), MP Garnett Genuis, Co-chair of PFT, MP Randall Garrison, Co-chair of PFT, MP David Sweet, former PFT Chair, Former Senator Consiglio DiNino, founder of PFT, MP Alexandre Boulerice, MP Gagan Sikand, MP Raj Saini, MP Rom McKinnon, MP Gary Anandasangaree, MP Robert-Falcon Ouellette, MP Mona Forteir and visiting members of the Tibetan parliament and OOT Washington Representative Ngodup Tsering.

Around 200 people attended the event including the local Tibetan community. In his address, the President referring to what His Holiness the Dalai Lama had advised, to make new friends, while remembering the old friends, thanked Canada and its people and the friends of Tibet for being with Tibet and its people throughout.

“We are here to say that you have been with us for a long time, bear with us for a little longer” he said, adding that the Tibetan journey that began non-violently 60 years ago under the leadership of His Holiness the Dalai Lama will continue, but the destination is “much nearer that what we all think.”

Referring to the narratives he encountered of Tibet issue being too weak in front of a powerful China, the President expressed that such narratives have repeatedly been proven wrong



CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay presenting Ashok Chakra to Melanie Joly, Canadian Minister of Heritage at the Thank You Canada event.

by events such as the Fall of Berlin Wall, Fall of the Soviet Union, historic journey of Nelson Mandela and Aung San Suu Kyi. “Tibetans in Tibet has gone through a lot in this 60 years” he said, adding that the resilience and the “mountain spirit” of the Tibetan people rooted in Buddhism of over 2500 years will outlast the “100 plus year-old communism.”

The address also focused on the relationship between Canada and Tibet and its support for Tibet issue cited by the recent call on China by the Minister of Foreign Affairs asking to allow United Nations’ High Commissioner and the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief to visit Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the 11th Panchen Lama and the statement issued by Canada embassy in China calling for an immediate and unconditional release of the imprisoned Tibetan language advocate, Tashi Wangchuk.

Melanie Joly, Canadian Minister of Multiculturalism, said that she is happy to be at the event and expressed that Tibetans add to the multiculturalism of Canada. She assured Canada’s continued support for the Tibetan people and the Tibet issue. Arif Virani, member of Canadian Parliament who is also the Chair of Parliamentary Friends of Tibet (PFT), said that Canada should be thanking Tibet and the Tibetan people. Tibetan Parliamentarians from North America Pema Chagzoetsang and

Tsewang Rinzin also spoke on behalf of the Tibetan parliament to thank the government and people of Canada.

Fifth Six Month Course on Tibetan Language and Buddhist Studies

The fifth six-month course on Tibetan language and Buddhist studies organised jointly by the Department of Religion and Culture, Central Tibetan Administration and Snowland school of Gyumey monastery based in Hunsur is set to begin from 1 July 2018. Although the syllabus and the class schedules are already confirmed, a few seats are still available. Therefore, graduate or about to graduate college students interested in the course can apply for the course.

The necessary documents can be submitted through email to the id: religion@tibet.net

Documents required:

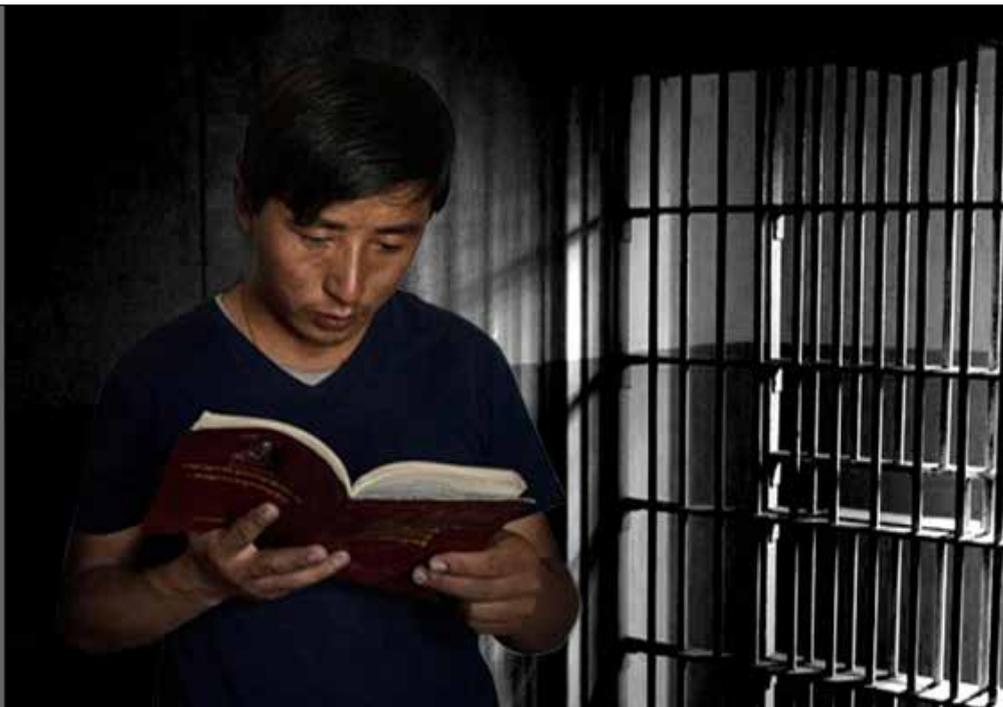
- Forms filled and signed by the applicant
- Degree certificates or marks cards
- Updated Tibetan green book

The documents required (b) and (c) need to be attested either by a CTA gazetted staff above the rank of joint secretary or the respective settlement officer or the principal of the college.

China Sentences Tibetan Language Advocate Tashi Wangchuk to 5 Years

Tibetan language rights advocate Tashi Wangchuk sentenced to five years in prison for a crime he did not commit.

#FreeTashiWangchuk
#FreedomofExpression
#Freedomoflanguage



Earlier today, China pronounced its verdict on the Tibetan linguistic rights' advocate Tashi Wangchuk's case and sentenced him to five years for "inciting separatism". Tashi Wangchuk, 32, was tried earlier this year on January 4 at Yushu Intermediate People's Court but the court adjourned without a verdict at that time.

Both of Tashi Wangchuk's lawyers, Lin Qilei and Liang Xiaojin, confirmed the sentence according to initial news reports.

New York Times reporter in China, Chris Buckley also posted on Twitter that he spoke to the lawyers who validated the same, adding that "Tashi has already said that he would appeal any guilty verdict."

Tashi Wangchuk, a Tibetan shopkeeper from Kyekundo county in Kham Yulshul (Chinese: Yushu Prefecture) was detained on 27 January, 2016 for publicly advocating Tibetan language education in schools in Tibetan populated areas. Two months before his detention,

Tashi Wangchuk appeared in a New York Times documentary in which he can be seen advocating for the rights of Tibetans to learn and study in their mother tongue.

According to sources, during the January trial which lasted for about four hours, the court said that Tashi Wangchuk defamed the government of "murdering ethnic culture" and "destroying the written and spoken language," and "controlling the Tibetan people's actual use of Tibetan ethnic culture" and "tight surveillance" and "arbitrary arrests" for any reason.

The courts pronounced that such actions "are against the Article 103 Section 2 of the Criminal Law of the PRC [... and] that he committed incitement of separatism."

International human rights organizations rejected Tashi Wangchuk prison sentence calling it "grotesquely unjust," "bogus separatism charges," and the January trial a "politically motivated trial".

Human Rights Watch's China director, Sophie Richardson said, "Tashi

Wangchuk's only 'crime' was to peacefully call for the right of minority peoples to use their own language—an act protected by China's constitution and international human rights law." In their statement on the conviction, Amnesty International's East Asia Research Director, Joshua Rosenzweig stated, "Today's verdict against Tashi Wangchuk is a gross injustice. He is being cruelly punished for peacefully drawing attention to the systematic erosion of Tibetan culture."

The United Nations experts denounced Tashi Wangchuk's imprisonment. Several foreign diplomats and parliaments raised concerns over Tashi Wangchuk's detention and probable conviction.

Following the trial, the European Parliament adopted urgency resolutions calling on China to release Tashi Wangchuk, while the Latvian Parliament and French Senate called for a "fair and transparent judgment process" for the Tibetan language advocate. German parliamentarians had also called for his release.

Chair of European Parliament’s Subcommittee on Human Rights Concerned Over China’s Harsh Sentencing of Tashi Wangchuk

Pier Antonio Panzeri, Chair of the European Parliament’s Subcommittee on Human Rights, issued a statement expressing concern over China’s harsh sentencing of Tibetan language rights activist Tashi Wangchuk. He called on China to drop the charges against Tashi Wangchuk and release him as per an official resolution passed by the European Parliament this January.

“I am gravely concerned about the verdict of a court in the Chinese city of Yushu, sentencing Mr Tashi Wangchuk to 5 years imprisonment on charges of inciting separatism.

Mr Tashi Wangchuk undertook fully legitimate work advocating for the linguistic and cultural rights of Tibetans, as it became known through

a documentary film published by the New York Times,” he said.

“The peaceful activity of promoting the use of the Tibetan language in local schools should never be punished as this is a basic human right guaranteed by the Chinese constitution and legal system. It is highly regrettable and unjust that Mr Tashi Wangchuk already had to spend two years in detention.

I call on the Chinese authorities to respect the basic principles of a fair and transparent trial and guarantee meaningful consideration of the facts during the appeal phase. I would like to draw attention to the European Parliament’s resolution of January this year which called for the release of

Mr Tashi Wangchuk and for the charges against him to be dropped”.

Tashi Wangchuk, a Tibetan language rights advocate, was sentenced to five years in prison by a Chinese court yesterday for allegedly “inciting separatism”. He was tried earlier this year on January 4 at Yushu Intermediate People’s Court but the court adjourned without a verdict at that time.

He was first detained on 27 January 2016 for publicly advocating Tibetan language education in schools in Tibetan populated areas. Two months before his detention, Tashi Wangchuk appeared in a New York Times documentary in which he can be seen advocating for the rights of Tibetans to learn and study in their mother tongue.

Sad Day for those who believe in Rule of Law: CTA President on Tashi Wangchuk



as per the provisions in the Chinese constitution and therefore his case highlights the lack of basic, fundamental rights for Tibetan people in Tibet,” said President Dr Lobsang Sangay.

President Dr Sangay believes that the sentencing makes a critical commentary and exposes the fallacy of China’s claims to follow international norms and laws.

“It’s a sad day for those who believe in rule of law, but we will continue to advocate his release,” affirmed Dr Sangay.

The President of Central Tibetan Administration, Dr Lobsang Sangay expressed sadness over the sentencing of Tashi Wangchuk, Tibetan language rights advocate .

China sentenced Tashi Wangchuk to five years in prison on charges of “inciting

separatism.” He had pleaded not guilty during his trial earlier this year in January.

“The sentencing of Tashi Wangchuk for ‘inciting secession’ is a travesty of justice. Tashi Wangchuk was advocating the language rights of the Tibetan people



US State Department Urges China to Release Jailed Tibetan Language Advocate Tashi Wangchuk immediately

The US state department issued a press statement on its official website on 22 May urging the Chinese authorities to release jailed Tibetan language rights advocate Tashi Wangchuk immediately and to protect the distinct religious, cultural, and linguistic identity of Tibetans.

“We are deeply disappointed that the Chinese government convicted Tashi Wangchuk, an advocate for Tibetan language education, on the charge of “inciting separatism” for exercising his fundamental freedom of expression in calling on the government to give greater attention and resources to teach the Tibetan

language in Tibetan areas. We urge Chinese authorities to release Tashi Wangchuk immediately, and to protect the distinct religious, cultural, and linguistic identity of Tibetan,” the press statement reads.

Tashi Wangchuk, a Tibetan language

rights advocate, was sentenced to five years in prison by a Chinese court yesterday for allegedly “inciting separatism”. He was tried earlier this year on January 4 at Yushu Intermediate People’s Court but the court adjourned without a verdict at that time.



He was first detained on 27 January 2016 for publicly advocating Tibetan language education in schools in Tibetan populated areas. Two months before his detention, Tashi Wangchuk appeared in a New York Times documentary in which he can be seen advocating for the rights of Tibetans to learn and study in their mother tongue.

Grant Tashi Wangchuk immediate release: UN Mandate Holders to China

In a press statement published on official website of Office of High Commissioner For Human Rights, a group of UN human rights experts have expressed themselves to be ‘gravely concerned’ and condemned China’s sentencing of Tibetan linguistic rights’ advocate, Tashi Wangchuk, for a five-year imprisonment,

Expressing their sadness over the news of Tashi Wangchuk’s sentence, despite repeated calls to China to release him, the experts said “It is deeply concerning that this sentencing came after we issued two joint communications calling for his immediate release and for all of the charges to be dropped”.

“Governments should under no circumstances undermine or repress legitimate human rights advocacy and action, such as in this case, using national security, public order or anti-terrorism discourses”, the experts added.

The UN mandate holders also exhorted China to provide information about China’s efforts to “promote and protect the linguistic and cultural rights of the Tibetan minority”. The experts also expressed their disappointment about

China’s failure to provide “satisfactory response” to the information asked by the experts.

“Once again, we strongly urge the Chinese authorities to comply with their international human rights commitments, to grant Mr. Wangchuk immediate release and accord him an enforceable right to compensation and other reparations.” the statements read.

Tashi Wangchuk, 32, a Tibetan shopkeeper from Kyekundo county in Kham Yulshul (Chinese: Yushu Prefecture) was detained on 27 January, 2016 for publicly advocating Tibetan language education in schools in Tibetan populated areas. Two months before his detention, Tashi Wangchuk appeared in a New York Times documentary in which he can be seen advocating for the rights of Tibetans to learn and study in their mother tongue.

On 22 May this year, China pronounced its verdict on Tashi Wangchuk’s case and sentenced him to five years for “inciting separatism”. Tashi Wangchuk was tried earlier this year on January 4 at Yushu Intermediate People’s Court

but the court adjourned without a verdict at that time.

In December 2017, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued an Opinion which found that Tashi Wangchuk’s detention was arbitrary and in contravention of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

List of UN Mandate holders who have expressed their concern on Tashi Wangchuk’s case:

Ms. E. Tendayi Achiume, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; Ms. Karima Bennouna, Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights; Mr. Fernand de Varennes, Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Mr. José Antonio Guevara Bermúdez, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Mr. Michel Forst, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; Mr. David Kaye, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

CTA President and Tibetan Parliamentary Delegation Appear before Canadian Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development

President Dr Lobsang Sangay of the Central Tibetan Administration and a delegation of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile appeared before the Canadian Parliament's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development on 12 June.

The hearing included a presentation by President Dr Lobsang Sangay followed by an extensive question and answer session with the committee members.

"This delegation truly represents Tibet," said President Dr. Sangay, referring to last week's hearing of a delegation from the so-called 'Tibet Autonomous Region' (TAR), whose remarks were received with skepticism and criticism by the same hearing committee.

The previous delegation 'served as a smoke screen for the grave human rights violations that are going on in Tibet', he added.

Dr Sangay mentioned the Freedom

House reports ranking Tibet the least free place on earth, after Syria, as well as Reporters without Borders and other official reports, when describing the situation inside Tibet.

Given the nature of the committee, the hearing dealt with the relationship China has with the international community and with Canada in particular. When dealing with China, countries have two choices, argued Dr. Sangay : 'Transform China to be more like you, or China will transform you to be more like it'.

The hearing also touched upon Canada's support in Tibet, through aid and development organizations, in spite of the lack of reciprocity when it comes to access and entry in Tibet, for Canadian officials.

The hearing discussed the recent case of Tibetan activist Tashi Wangchuk, and Canada's overt support for him and his advocacy; the question of Tibetan language and cultural assimilation was

addressed. The committee also discussed issues related to religious freedom, the demolition of Larung Gar, the Panchen Lama, and the CCP's intent to control the reincarnation process in the Tibetan monastic realm.

Another subject the committee elaborated on was Tibet's autonomy. 'What we seek is support for the Middle Way Approach', said Dr Sangay, mentioning that its implementation would only entail the implementation of the Chinese law and Constitution.

"Tibet is a litmus test for China and for Canada," Dr. Sangay concluded. It is crucial that 'money and morals go together and one is not exchanged with the other', when dealing with China, warned Dr. Sangay.

President Dr Lobsang Sangay is in Ottawa during a pan-Canadian series of events titled 'Thank you Canada'. 2018 marks 60 years in exile for the Tibetan community.

Minister of Canadian Heritage Joins Thank You Canada Celebration



CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay addressing the Thank You Canada event in Ottawa on 12 June.

The President of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) Dr Lobsang Sangay attended the Thank You Canada event in Ottawa, the capital city of Canada on June 12th. The event which is a part of the 'Year of Gratitude', a

year-long campaign of the CTA to mark the onset of the His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 60th year in exile.

In his address, the President referring to what His Holiness the Dalai Lama had advised, to make new friends, while remembering the old friends, thanked Canada and its people and the friends of Tibet for being with Tibet and its people throughout.

"We are here to say that you have been with us for a long time, bear with us for a little longer" he said, adding that the Tibetan journey that began non-violently 60 years ago under the leadership of His Holiness the Dalai Lama will continue, but the destination is "much nearer that what we all think."

Referring to the narratives he encountered of Tibet issue being too weak in front of a powerful China, the President expressed that such narratives have repeatedly been proven wrong by events such as the Fall of Berlin Wall, Fall of the Soviet Union, historic journey of Nelson Mandela and Aung San Suu Kyi.

"Tibetans in Tibet has gone through a lot in this 60 years" he said, adding that the resilience and the "mountain spirit" of the Tibetan people rooted in Buddhism of over 2500 years will outlast the "100 plus year-old communism."

The address also focused on the relationship between Canada and Tibet and its support for Tibet issue cited by

the recent call on China by the Minister of Foreign Affairs asking to allow United Nations' High Commissioner and the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief to visit Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the 11th Panchen Lama and the statement issued by Canada embassy in China calling for an immediate and unconditional release of the imprisoned Tibetan language advocate, Tashi Wangchuk.

The President thanked the guests present at the event for believing "we have a chance or we should have a chance," he added.

Present amongst the guest at the event was Melanie Joly, the Canadian Minister of Multiculturalism, MP Arif Virani, Chair of Parliamentary Friends of Tibet (PFT), MP Garnett Genuis, Co-chair of PFT, MP Randall Garrison, Co-

chair of PFT, MP David Sweet, former PFT Chair, Former Senator Consiglio DiNino, founder of PFT, MP Alexandre Boulerice, MP Gagan Sikand, MP Raj Saini, MP Rom McKinnon, MP Gary Anandasangaree, MP Robert-Falcon Ouellette, MP Mona Forteir and visiting members of the Tibetan parliament and representative Ngodup tsering.

Canadian Senate Standing Committees on Human Rights, and Foreign Affairs Host CTA President in Ottawa

The Senate Standing Committees on Human Rights, and Foreign Affairs and International Trade hosted a special meeting to hear the Central Tibetan Administration President Dr. Lobsang Sangay spoke on Tibet's geopolitical importance and aspirations of Tibetan people.

Dr. Sangay spoke on Tibet as geopolitically important, serving as buffer between India and China, and now as an area of potential conflict between two of the largest populated and military powers in Asia.

He also spoke on Tibet being one of the most environmentally strategic and sensitive regions in the world, with all the 10 major river systems of Asia originating from the Tibetan Plateau.

He added that the widespread environmental destruction in the past 50 years resulting in deforestation, soil erosion, extinction of wildlife, organizing, uncontrolled mining and nuclear waste dumping has direct ramifications that go far beyond Tibet's borders.

To explain the true aspirations of Tibetan people to seek genuine autonomy within China, Dr. Sangay highlighted reports on Tibet by Freedom House and Reporters Without Borders. According to the Freedom House, Tibet is the second least free places in the world, after Syria. However, for



CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay speaking before the Senate Standing Committees on Human Rights, and Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

nearly six decades, Tibetans continue to pursue non-violence, tolerance and compassion to preserve their language, land, religion and culture.

Dr. Sangay also spoke on Tibetan language advocate Tashi Wanchuk who was sentenced for 5 years by the Chinese government. Dr. Sangay related this harsh sentencing to the lack of actual implementation of bilanguage education policy in Tibet by China.

Resumption of Sino-Tibet Dialogue : the Senate of Canada should adopt a motion encouraging the Govt of Canada to actively support renewal of the Sino-Tibetan dialogue without preconditions and based on the Middle Way Approach which seeks genuine autonomy for

Tibet within the framework of the Chinese constitution and law.

Reciprocal Access – When Canadian Senators meet with official Tibetan delegations sent by the Peoples Republic of China, Senators should require reciprocal diplomatic access to Tibet without limitations on where they can travel, or who can be part of Canadian diplomatic delegations.



From Jerusalem, leader in exile says ‘Next year in Tibet’

Tibetan President-in-exile Lobsang Sangay knows what it is like to long for land that he has never seen.

Born in India, the soft-spoken man leads a people without a country. Like Sangay, they are inspired by the Jewish nation’s return to their homeland, as they campaign for autonomous recognition from China. “We always look for hope. If the Jewish people can do it, we Tibetans should be able to do it too,” Sangay said.

“There is a sobering lesson that it took them 2,000 years,” said Sangay, adding that he wished his people’s prayer would be “answered much more quickly.”

Sangay spoke with The Jerusalem Post at the tail-end of his five-day trip to the Jewish state organized by the Israeli Friends of the Tibetan People.

Tibetan Buddhists’ spiritual leader, the 14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso, made his third visit to Israel in 2006.

But this is Sangay’s first trip. On his itinerary was a trip to the Western Wall, where he placed a note with a private prayer for freedom for the Tibetan people within the crevices.

He recalled that the site’s alternative name is the “Wailing Wall” because of the millions of people over time who shed tears over the Jewish exile.

“Every day and every year on Passover you pray, this year in New York or London or where have you, [but] ‘Next year in Jerusalem.’ Then finally that prayer is answered,” Sangay said.

To imagine that emotion, Sangay said, “is very overwhelming.” “Then as a Tibetan you feel the same, six million Tibetans are feeling the same thing,” Sangay said.

“We want to see the Dalai Lama back in Tibet, back in the capital city of Tibet, the land of God. We want our living God to be back in the land of Gods.



“And that is the prayer. And to think how many hundreds of thousands of Tibetans have died in the last 60 years, praying, dreaming, wishing for the Dalai Lama’s return to Tibet and have not yet been fulfilled,” Sangay said.

Like the Jews, the Tibetans have also struggled to maintain their identity and culture in their diaspora, he said.

During his time in Israel, Sangay’s schedule was deliberately kept low key, with civil society meetings and visits to tourist sites and the Supreme Court. He was particularly moved by his visit to Yad Vashem and what he learned about the resilience of the Jewish people. His people too, he said, suffered from oppression at the hands of the Chinese.

“It is not to that scale, but still it is estimated that one million Tibetan died in various circumstances,” he said.

Although he spoke to the press, he deliberately did not seek any high-profile political meetings.

“Next time I will make a political visit and see how many people in the government and the Knesset will meet or not,” Sangay said.

In some sense, Tibet is a test. If you meet with Tibetans, you are actually for non-violence, democracy and human rights. We have not tested the political leadership this time, but hopefully next time,” Sangay said.

He also did not visit the Palestinian territory, because he stuck to the organized itinerary, but would be happy to respond to an invitation from the Palestinian Authority.

Sangay said he did not want to comment on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but could state that he supported human rights, non-violence and a solution through dialogue.

In the future, Sangay said, he plans to seek support from Israel for the Tibetan people for what he calls the “middle-way approach.” What this means is that Tibet seeks “genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people within China and within the framework of the Chinese constitution.”

Sangay said former US president Barack Obama met with the Dalai Lama. So it is possible to both support Tibet and have ties with China, Sangay said.

“If the American government [under Obama] could support the middle-way approach then the Israeli leadership could support the middle-way approach.” What he would like to see is dialogue between the Dalai Lama envoys and the Chinese government, he said.

During his time here, he has helped people learn more about his land, which he called “the water tower of Asia,” also known as the Tibetan Plateau that provides water for billions of people.

“The human rights situation is very desperate,” he said, pointing to the Freedom House index which gave it the same score as Syria when it comes to freedom rating.

“For journalists it is more difficult to access Tibet than North Korea,” so it is difficult to publicize the story of what is happening there, Sangay said. “If you really want to know about China, you have to know about the Tibetan narrative. If you do not understand the Tibetan story you will not understand what China is capable of.”

World needs India's culture of religious tolerance, karuna, mind training: His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Touting India's vast ancient knowledge, His Holiness the Dalai Lama said India has the potential to foster better knowledge about emotions and how to tackle destructive emotions—that could eventually contribute to world peace.

“All these knowledge coming from Nalanda is Indian tradition. The whole Buddhist world is follower of one of the Indian tradition. If India takes lead in combining its ancient knowledge of emotions and inner world with modern education, I think many Buddhist countries will follow including China,” he said today at Kangra while addressing the 3rd founding anniversary of Himachal Abhi Abhi, a local News network.

The event was attended by President Dr Lobsang Sangay, Central Tibetan Administration, Kalon Trisur Professor Samdong Rinpoche, Shri Indresh Kumar, RSS leader, Deputy Speaker Acharya Yeshe Phuntsok, Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, Director of Balaji Media Innovations, Dr Rajesh Sharma, Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Kuldip Chand Agnihotri and members of local media and organisations.

“Indian tradition offers the possibility of utilising human intelligence fully and therefore, it can make significant contribution to world peace. Firstly, we must revive this tradition, not through ritual and prayer, but through education.

“Now in this country, over three to four thousand years, different spiritual traditions developed. Regardless of whether it is Jain, Buddhist or Hindu philosophy, all have a common practice of Samadhan, single pointed meditation and Vipassana, analytical meditation; both of which involve mental training. Analytical meditation is something like a weapon to tackle destructive emotions,” he said.

“Ancient India had a highly developed



His Holiness the Dalai Lama addressing the third founding anniversary of Himachal Abhi Abhi, local News Network, Balaji Media Communications, Kangra, 2 June 2018. Photo/Tenzin Jigme/DIIR

understanding of the depth of mental consciousness. In my discussions with modern scientists, I've learned about a great deal about Quantum Physics. However, the Indian nuclear physicist Raja Ramana once told me that concept of Quantum Physics was discovered centuries ago in ancient Indian texts,” His Holiness said.

Referring to the global rise in religious conflicts and violence, he offered India as the shining example of religious tolerance, ahimsa and secular tradition of respect for all believers and non-believers.

“India's religious tolerance is remarkable. The world needs this value. India's message of tolerance, Ahimsa, Karuna and religious harmony is very relevant to today's world”.

His Holiness mentioned that one of his lifelong commitment is to revive this “ancient yet scientific” tradition in modern India by incorporating it in the education system.

“While I admire and also call myself as a messenger of ancient Indian tradition. Indians are too involved in copying

western culture. So now younger people must think about how to revive this ancient Indian knowledge in this country. Now it is the chela's responsibility to serve as much as we can to revive the ancient Indian tradition. This is not about reviving Buddhism, but revival of the science of mind and logical approach”.

“We have around 10,000 monks and few thousand nuns who have spent more than 20 years studying the texts of the ancient Indian tradition. These are the sources to help you. Hence, my fourth commitment is the revival of ancient Indian knowledge in modern India.

“Once it is successfully revived in the country, then you can serve the outside world,” His Holiness said.

His Holiness further mentioned his meeting with Principal of Dharamshala Government College and said that a training of Indian teachers in Ancient Indian logic, psychology and science of mind is in the pipeline.

Commenting on the role of media, His Holiness said, “The role of media is to objectively inform and educate people, based on truth and facts. Today when our

world is by and large highly developed and interdependent, the ancient Indian philosophy of Ahimsa and Karuna are highly relevant, which will enable people to live in a happy society”.

During the Q&A session, His Holiness commented on the Tibetan issue. “Regarding the political change, that is difficult to say. China is historically follower of Nalanda tradition. Now many Chinese university scholars describe Tibetan Buddhism as an authentic Nalanda tradition and some Chinese scholars out of interest to study Tibetan Buddhism want to learn Tibetan language. Of course those Chinese who appreciate Tibetan Buddhism are very sympathetic towards Tibetan problem. China is not democratic but totalitarian system, so we will see how much change; it is difficult to predict”.

Vice-Chancellor of the Central

University of Himachal Pradesh, Professor Kuldip Chand Agnihotri said, “I am very grateful to His Holiness the Dalai Lama for advocating around the world the rich ancient Indian tradition and its potential to promote peace and harmony. He says that India is guru and Tibet its chela, but I think, Tibet is our guru and we are the chelas. Jai Bharat, Jai Tibet, Jai Himachal”.

Shri Indresh Kumar, RSS leader said, “Today’s program is a very auspicious with the blessings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. India’s ancient tradition is called by many names: Arya tradition, Sanadhan, Hindu and some call it Indian culture. The spirit of brotherhood, love, coexistence has been possible from the land of Bharat. Over 200 intellectuals have written about the greatness of ancient India. When we had moral values, we were the super of the world, the golden example. When we lost our

tradition, we lost that status.

“The very Indian culture is indicated when we greet people by saying Namaste. It means that we salute the divinity in the other person. Similarly the Tibetan greeting, Tashi Delek accords respect, love and peace. This is the culture that His Holiness has been spreading across the length and breadth of the world”.

Expressing gratitude to His Holiness, Director of Balaji Media Innovations, Dr Rajesh Sharma said, “It was with your blessing that we started this venture. Your advice was to couple the freedom of media with duties and responsibilities that society demands form this institution. We have tried to follow your instructions and your words will further guide us as guiding light in future”.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Calls For Inclusion Of Ancient Indian Knowledge In Education System

Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama called for ancient Indian traditions to be integrated with the modern education system to usher peace, understanding and more resourceful humanity.

Speaking to a group of over 2700 foreign and Indian tourists at the courtyard of Tsuglagkhang, His Holiness the Dalai Lama heaped praises on the ancient Indian civilisation that gave rise to the Nalanda tradition of Buddhism.

“Great Indian master, Shantarikshita introduced Buddha dharma, based on the Nalanda tradition, in Tibet. The Tibetan language itself was developed and enriched in the process of translating these great works of Nalanda masters into Tibetan. Since Tibetan is probably the classical language closest to Sanskrit it remains the most accurate means available to us today for expressing Buddhist ideas.

“Although the Nalanda Tradition has been somewhat neglected in India,



it was kept alive in Tibet,” he said, reiterating his lifelong commitment to revive the ancient Indian knowledge in modern India.

He explained that while modern education brings physical comfort, the ancient Indian tradition focusses on inner wellbeing. He reasoned that reintroducing these fundamental inner values in the education system purely in secular context could bring spectacular scope for lasting peace on earth.

“As we grow up and pursue our education, we learn to disregard our basic human values. Instead, we pay

disproportionate attention to secondary differences. Entire generations have been brought up with a materialistic outlook, in a materialistic culture and way of life. These observations give rise to a lot of problems, especially in light of the fact that essentially human beings are physically, mentally and emotionally the same.

“Ofcourse materialistic life is important, with that education of science, economy and technology are also important. But at the same time, ancient Indian knowledge of how to develop peace of mind, a mind with realistic, practical and wider perspective, that’s equally important”.

His Holiness drew attention to ancient Indian traditions “Through education and training we can extend our basic human nature. This brings self-confidence, which is important and allows us to be more transparent, leading to trust, which is the foundation of firm friendship. It’s true to say that loving kindness is of value right from

birth up to the time of our death.”

The Tibetan spiritual leader further described India as the spiritual home of Tibetans. “India is our home, not just for the past 60 years but all our knowledge and tradition has come from India”.

In his closing remarks, he said that a meaningful life is living one’s day to day life in helping others, and if that’s not possible, atleast restraining from harming others.

“Don’t be a slave of anger, be a master of your own emotions not through prayers but using your reason. All of us are equipped with loving and kind nature. These are the counterforce of destructive emotions.

Through practicing reasoning you will get a conviction in this practice, then follows enthusiasm and further familiarisation with this practice, then compassion and compassionate mind will become part of life.

“I consider all of you as part of 7 billion human being. I myself consider as one of the 7 billion human beings. Future of oneself depends on each other. If we carry our lives in harming others, we will have to face negative consequences.

“So my brothers and sister, please think seriously. Each of you has the opportunity to make some contribution to a better humanity, better world,” His Holiness said.

Baltic States can and should contribute to peaceful 21st century: His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Lithuania

“The smaller nations like the Baltic States, you should make some significant contribution regarding the creation of peaceful century and a century of dialogue. I feel smaller nations can make a significant contribution rather than big nations,” His Holiness the Dalai Lama said greeting over 2000 people from the Baltic states.

His Holiness addressed a talk on “Human Values in Education” at the University of Vilnius, Lithuania.

Prof. Vytis Vidunas, Director of the House of Tibet gave a short introduction before inviting His Holiness to speak.

Speaking to a soldout crowd at the Vilnius University, His Holiness explained that promotion of a more peaceful world on the basis of the human values of loving kindness and compassion is his primary commitment.

“No one among the 7 billion human beings alive today wants to suffer. Nevertheless, despite all major religions teaching about love and tolerance, because we focus only on our own interests, exploiting and cheating others without concern, we create problems for ourselves.

He mourned the history of violence and killing in the 20th century. “The 20th century was a period of immense

violence because of the tendency to try to solve problems by use of force. In the interdependent world in which we live today, this way of thinking is completely out of date. On the basis of the oneness of humanity, we need instead to cultivate a sense of global responsibility.”



His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking to a crowd of over 2000 at the University of Vilnius in Vilnius, Lithuania on 13 June 2018. Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

His Holiness said the 21st century should eventually become a century of peace and dialogue. “In order to create peace, we should think seriously on ways to reduce the arms trade and eliminate nuclear weapons”.

He remarked that in the short term the power of the gun may seem stronger, but in the long term, as smaller nations like Lithuania have proved, what is stronger is the power of truth.

“I think, you, the Baltic states, already

experienced that the power of truth is much stronger than the power of gun. In the Tibetan issue also, we have the power of truth, the Chinese military forces have the power of gun. For the temporary, power of gun is much stronger, but in long run, the power of truth will prevail”.

Highlighting his second commitment to the promotion of inter-religious harmony, His Holiness said the world should imbibe Indian values of harmonious coexistence and religious tolerance.

“People of different faiths and points of view have lived together in peace for more than 3000 years. Now, when the population has grown to over a billion, although occasional problems arise, religious harmony continues to flourish, demonstrating to the world that it is possible.

“As a Tibetan,” he said, “I am committed to preserving Tibetan language and culture, the heritage Tibetans received from the masters of India’s Nalanda University”. His Holiness also raised concerns over Tibet’s ecology and Tibetan rivers, saying that the Tibetan plateau affects not only Tibetans but billions of people across Asia.

Iterating his fourth and final commitment, His Holiness exhorted the rich ancient

knowledge of India, particularly the Nalanda tradition. He observed that the ancient Indian understanding of the workings of the mind and emotions, as well as the techniques of mental training, such as meditation, developed by Indian traditions, are of great relevance today and of potential benefit to the world.

From the University, His Holiness drove to Tibet Square where he planted a sapling to symbolize friendship between Lithuania and Tibet in the Centenary Year of Lithuanian Independence. He then walked along a nearby canal to see an exhibition of photographs of Tibet by the late Lithuanian writer Jurga Ivanauskaitė who wrote several books on the Land of Snows.

Responding to a question on the goals of education, His Holiness explained, “I consider myself one of the 7 billion human beings. We are mentally,

emotionally and physically the same. What’s more, scientists now say they have evidence that our basic human nature is compassionate. That’s a cause for hope. We can see the truth of it in our day to day experience. When our minds are more compassionate, we feel mentally happier and physically well. If we’re constantly angry or afraid, it has the effect of undermining our immune system.

“Everybody wants to be happy—and no one wants to suffer. Yet the majority of the problems we face are of our own making. Therefore, we have to think this through more carefully. When we are young we are generally appreciative of love and affection, but as we grow older we tend to discriminate between ‘us’ and ‘them’.

“The modern education system is very much oriented towards material goals,

with little time for inner values. I suggest that just as we observe physical hygiene to maintain our physical health, we also need to cultivate a sense of emotional hygiene to keep our peace of mind. We need to incorporate training about this into our general education.”

Invited to comment on the relative roles of men and women, His Holiness explained how historically, when the criterion for leadership was physical strength, men naturally became leaders. Now, however, education has overcome such distinctions and across the world, there is a greater regard for equal rights among women and men. He remarked that where old ways of thinking discriminate against women, we should oppose them. He added that since scientists have shown that many women are more sensitive to others’ pain, they have a special role to play in promoting compassion and human values.

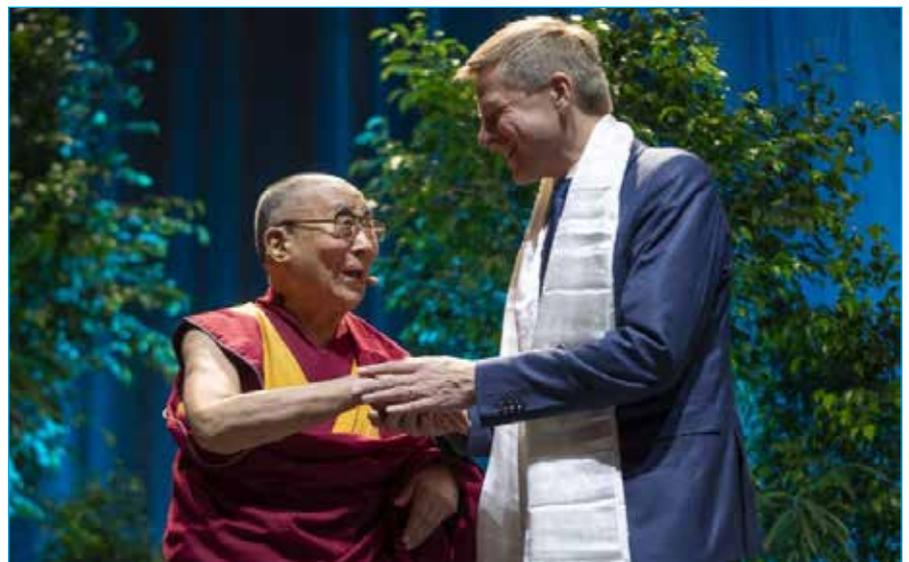
There’d be no room for violence if we saw each other as human brothers and sisters: His Holiness the Dalai Lama

“If we really thought of the rest of humanity as our brothers and sisters there’d be no room for killing, bullying and cheating one another,” His Holiness the Dalai Lama said while delivering a talk on the Art of Happiness in Lithuania.

“Of course it’s natural to want to look after your own interests, but you have to be selfish in a wise manner rather than a foolish. That means considering other’s concerns as well as your own. If the people around you are happy, obviously you’ll be happy too”.

His Holiness was welcomed by Remigijus Šimašius, Mayor of Vilnius and a crowd of 2500 people, as he arrived for the talk at Siemens Arena. The Mayor offered a framed picture of Tibet Square nameplate.

In return, His Holiness presented the Mayor with a traditional white scarf. Explaining the white scarf (Tib:Khatak), His Holiness said, “The colour



His Holiness the Dalai Lama presents traditional Tibetan scarf to Mayor of Vilnius, Remigijus Šimašius at the start of his talk in Vilnius, Lithuania on June 14, 2018. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

white represents warm-heartedness, truthfulness and honesty. The smooth texture of the scarf represents non-violent conduct—trying to help others whenever you can and refrain from

harming them. At the end here, written in Tibetan, it says ‘May whoever is given this be happy night and day’. This kind of gift was first offered in India and has been adopted in Tibet. Since the silk the

scarf is made of originated in China, the gift reflects a sense of harmony between India, Tibet and China”.

His Holiness noticed members of audience flying the Tibetan national flag and said, “I appreciate those carrying Tibetan flag. When I was in Beijing in 1954-55 I met Chairman Mao several times. We developed a close relationship—he was very kind to me, almost like a father to his son.

On one occasion he asked if we Tibetans had a national flag. Somewhat hesitantly I answered, “Yes”. He approved and told me we should fly it alongside the Red Flag.

“So if anyone criticises you for displaying this flag, you can tell them the Dalai Lama was given permission to do so by Chairman Mao himself,” he told the audience.

The Tibetan Nobel laureate said the world is in crisis and needs a greater sense of oneness and compassion. “Too much emphasis on ‘us and they’ are the source of all the problems. Yes, on secondary levels, we have differences in nationality, religious faith, family backgrounds, educated, less educated but fundamentally all 7 billion human beings want a happy life. That’s our right.

“The Chinese brothers and sisters, I consider them as my brothers and sisters. From time to time, it is our duty to criticise some of their actions but as human beings, they are our brothers and sisters.

“So that kind of attitude really brings inner peace and also inner strength. Through inner peace comes happy human being, happy human family and then happy humanity,” said the Tibetan spiritual leader.

He said inner peace is very important and should be developed through training and awareness, not just through prayers. “Such training should be part of education.”

“According to scientific findings and basic human nature, we should include in the education system, education on how to develop inner peace, not as a part of religious belief, but what I usually call as the Hygiene of Emotions,” he noted.

Responding to a remark on women’s leadership in ushering a better world, His Holiness said, “Now the time has come to make special efforts to promote loving and kindness and women should take a more active role in the promotion of these values”.

The talk was organised by House of Tibet, a non-governmental organisation based in Vilnius.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Meets 8 Lithuanian MPs and Supporters

Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama met eight Members of Lithuanian Parliamentary Tibet Group and Tibet supporters at his hotel.

“We appreciate the support of friends like you. The people in Tibet’s spirit remains strong and when you show concern it not only gives them courage, it also sends a clear message to Chinese hardliners that the Tibetan issue has to be dealt with in a realistic way. Therefore, I would like to thank you on behalf of the six million Tibetans,” His Holiness said in his address at the meeting.

His Holiness emphasised that his main concern is regarding the preservation of unique Tibetan cultural heritage. “This is rooted in the ancient Indian understanding of the workings of the mind, on the basis of which we can achieve peace of mind and tackle our destructive emotions. This is something that is very much relevant today”.

As reported by the Office of His

Holiness the Dalai Lama (dalailama.com), His Holiness further said, “Political boundaries are the creation of bureaucrats, which may or may not reflect cultural boundaries.

Historically the Chinese empire was characterized by political power, the Mongolian empire by its military prowess and the Tibetan empire by its spiritual strength.

There was a brief period when Mongolia dominated both Tibet and China by military means. On the other hand, Tibet’s preoccupation with spiritual affairs meant that its influence extended to what is now, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, and Iran in the west, to much of China in the east, to Mongolia in the north and the Himalayan Region and the border with Burma in the south. Therefore, a map reflecting the extent of Tibetan Buddhist culture would be much larger than a political map of Tibet.”

He told the supporters holding Tibetan

Chinese Communist leader Mao Zedong himself told His Holiness to hoist the Tibetan national flag alongside the Chinese flag.

“When I was in Beijing in 1954-55 I met Chairman Mao several times. We developed a close relationship—he was very kind to me, almost like a father to his son. On one occasion he asked if we Tibetans had a national flag. Somewhat hesitantly I answered, “Yes”. He approved and told me we should fly it alongside the Red Flag.

“So if anyone criticizes you for displaying this flag, you can tell them the Dalai Lama was given permission to do so by Chairman Mao himself”.

Provisional Group for Solidarity with Tibetans in the Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas) was formally established on 17 November 2017 as a result of the untiring efforts of Seimas members Mr Andrius Navickas, Mr Arūnas Gelūnas, Mrs Monika Navickienė and

Mr Vytautas Kernagis, all of whom met with His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Riga, Latvia, in September 2017, and of Tibet supporters in Lithuania.

The Provisional Group for Solidarity with Tibetans is chaired by Mr Andrius

Navickas MP with Vice Chair Mr Arūnas Gelūnas MP.

His Holiness later met with Prof Vytautas Landsbergis, who became President of Lithuania when it achieved independence following the collapse

of the Soviet Union in 1991. “How happy I was when you invited me here in 1991. I was so moved and impressed by the people’s joy, enthusiasm and determination. It was an honour to be here among you,” His Holiness said.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Gives Teaching on Tsongkhapa’s ‘Tendrel Toepa’ and Diamond Sutra at Riga



A legion of Buddhist devotees from the three Republics, Buryatia, Kalmykia and Tuva greeted His Holiness the Dalai Lama as he arrived for the first of the three-day Buddhist teachings at Skonto Hall in Riga.

The first topic of discourse, Tsongkhapa’s ‘In Praise of Dependent Origination’ is a text by the great master Je Tsongkhapa on emptiness. His collected writings comprise 18 volumes.

‘The Diamond Cutter Sutra’ (dorjee chodpa) contains the principal teachings of the Buddha on the nature of reality. His Holiness had received the transmission of the Diamond Cutter Sutra from Rinzong Rinpoche.

“You are all followers of the Nalanda tradition, and traditionally belong to Buddhist tradition. Therefore I feel it is my responsibility to do my best to introduce the teachings of Buddha,

particularly the glorious Nalanda tradition,” he said, addressing the 4000-strong gathering.

In a concise and simple explanation, he introduced the three main teachings of Buddha or the turnings of the wheel of dharma that are recognised as the foundation of all the different traditions of Buddhism that exist in the world today.

“Buddha turned the first wheel of dharma in which he taught the four noble truths, the 37 harmonies of enlightenment and Vinaya. According to Vinaya monastic discipline, there is Pali tradition. The teaching of the four noble truths is the foundation of the Pali tradition which has spread widely in Burma, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Laos.

“The Sanskrit tradition is based on the second turning of the wheel of dharma; which is the teaching of emptiness. The

heart sutra comes under the second turning of the wheel of dharma.

“Both Sanskrit and Pali have same practice of Vinaya, the monastic discipline. The Sanskrit tradition emphasises reason, while the Theravada tradition emphasises quotation of the Buddha,” he said.

He cited how the Sanskrit has become the language of scholars from many centuries. “After Master Nagarjuna and Indian masters appeared, the Nalanda monastic institutions became a centre for pursuing the Sanskrit tradition of the teaching of the Buddha. With regard to Nalanda, it seems during the time of Buddha, some scholastic institution was established there.

“The third turning of the wheel of dharma was taught in Vaishali focused on Buddha nature and particularly the Tathāgatagarbha doctrine”.

He drew attention to the Tibetan Buddhist tradition as a reservoir of the complete teachings of Buddha and based on the Sanskrit tradition of logic and reason.

“According to Quantum Physics, nothing exists objectively, which is found corresponding to Chittamatrin and Madhyamaka views, particularly Nagarjuna’s contention that things only exist by way of designation by an observer. But modern science has not yet analysed what is the observer, whereas, in Indian tradition, there is extensive analysis on who and what is the observer”.

Lending his views on religious tolerance, His Holiness observed that one can have faith and devotion in one's own religion, but one must accord respect to all the other religions and also non-believers.

"Wherever I go, I emphasise that as human beings we need to be loving and compassionate beings. The main experience of happiness for all the

7 billion human beings is same; it comes from our mental experience of happiness.

"These days I emphasise the 'Hygiene of Emotion'. Too much materialistic attitude has overcome our world. We need to pay attention both inward and outward. Physical comfort and mental comfort are both equally important.

Real world peace, he said, will prevail if each one of us focuses on achieving peace of mind.

"Even scientists say that the basic human nature is more compassionate, so there is a reason to hope. Individually and as a society, we must cultivate a sense of oneness and concern for the well-being of others".

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Thanks Canada



His Holiness the Dalai Lama Thanks Canada

Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama thanked the Canadian government and people for its continued support for Tibet and Tibetan people.

In a 4-min video message, His Holiness thanked Canadian government and people for its significant contribution towards the Tibetan exile community and supporting it to become quite successful in the past 60 years.

His Holiness' message was screened at the 'Thank You Canada' celebrations held on Wednesday at Parliament Hill, Ottawa. The event was jointly hosted by Office of Tibet, Parliamentary Friends of Tibet and Canada Tibet Committee.

Honorable Minister of Heritage Melanie Joly kindly graced the occasion. Members of Parliament from all major

parties—the Liberal Party, Conservative Party, New Democratic Party, and the Green Party—attended the event. Many old and new friends of Tibet also joined the celebrations.

Below is the complete transcript of His Holiness' message.

Dear Canadian brothers and sisters and including leaders, I just want to express my thanks. For many decades, Canada has been one of the staunch supporters of Tibet. Also, a large number of Tibetan settlements accepted. Personally, you gave me honorary citizenship of Canada.

Therefore I would like to express my deep appreciation. Then also Canada, it seems many refugees or people from the difficult area, you accepted quite easily. That also I feel is wonderful.

"I always emphasise the 7 billion human beings on this planet, we are same human being and we are social animal. Someone passing through a difficult period, then the other one has the moral responsibility to help them, to look after them. In the name of different nationality and religious faith and some other human brother and sister passing through a difficult period, but you more or less ignore, that's immoral.

"I think according all major world religious traditions, the Indian tradition, some non-theistic religion, then we consider good action, compassionate action as a source of happiness. Then theistic religion, we are all created by one god, almost like our one father. That father infinite love, so we all 7 billion human being on this planet are actually brothers and sisters; same father.

"So all major religious traditions teach us the practice of love and compassion. It is not just lip service but actually when a group of people or individual (is) really passing through difficulty then help them. That is the implementation of God's message; love.

So I just want to express these things and thank your country, your government and people. We as a refugee, homeless, stateless, however, we survived with compassionate sense of caring, we survived. Now around 60 years, quite successful, so Canadian government and people really made a significant contribution for that. Thank you".

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Concludes Teachings in Riga, Latvia

Tibetan Buddhist leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama advocated study and critical inquiry of Tibetan Buddhist tradition, asking his devotees to approach Tibetan Buddhism through reason and inquiry.

“As followers of Buddha, I urge you all to investigate and reflect on what you discover in the teachings. In this way, whatever conclusion you reach will be based on reason, not simply on blind faith,” His Holiness the Dalai Lama said, as he concluded the 3-day teachings for Russian and Baltic Buddhists in Latvia today.

He said, “It is up to an individual whether one wants to follow a particular religion or not follow any. But the Buddhist philosophy is something of benefit to everyone; irrespective of whether you are a practitioner or not.

He argued that Buddhist tradition is based on reason, nature of reality and logic. “Mere faith is not sufficient. You must pursue the study of this tradition. “Buddhist practice is to use our intelligence to the maximum and transform our emotions.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama looking towards the image of Buddha as he prepares to take his seat on the final day of the teachings, 18 June 2018. Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

The Buddha advised his followers to be sceptical, to examine what he taught in the light of reason, not to accept it merely on the basis of faith. Please keep this in mind”.

His Holiness concluded the teachings with conferment of the Avalokiteswara Empowerment, Chenrezig Jenang.

“Avalokiteshvara is the embodiment of the compassion of all the Buddhas. As Tibetans, we say that we are especially cared for by the Avalokiteshwara and that’s true. Those of us born in the land

of snow have some connection with Avalokiteshvara.

Tibetan emperors like Songtsen Gampo and others were the manifestation of Avalokiteshvara. We have the lineage of Dalai Lamas including myself.

I do not have high realisation as such, but I do have experience of Bodhicitta and wisdom realising emptiness.

“I have come to occupy the seat of Dalai Lama through the past Dalai Lama’s aspirational prayers,” he said.

He spoke about the historical relationship between Tibet and Mongolia, particularly during the third, fourth Dalai Lama and the 5th Sakya leader, Drogön Chögyal Phagpa.

This was His Holiness’ fourth teaching event in Riga, Latvia. He will leave for India on 19th morning.

The 3-day teachings was organised by Save Tibet Latvia, Save Tibet Foundation (Moscow) and Tibet Culture and Information Center (Moscow).

TED Entrepreneurship Investment Award – 2018

Tibetan Entrepreneurship Development (TED), an initiative of the Department of Finance of the Central Tibetan Administration invites applications for the “TED Entrepreneurship Investment Award – 2018”. Winners will be selected through a competitive process that distinguishes transformative entrepreneurs who are innovative, driving large-scale change, and are poised to make an even greater impact in the Tibetan community.

The TED Entrepreneurship Investment Award – 2018 is a competition to identify new entrepreneurs who have a great business plan but do not have the financial support to make it a reality. The finalists in will be awarded prizes of up to a total of INR 15, 00,000/-. The objective of the competition is to contribute to and improve the socio-economic conditions of the Tibetan diaspora through investing in Tibetan businesses.

(Details provided in the TED website: tibetanentrepreneurs.org)

China: Activist Convicted for Promoting Tibetan Language

By Human Rights Watch



The Chinese authorities' baseless prosecution of a Tibetan language rights activist demonstrates the government's contempt for the rights of minority peoples, Human Rights Watch said today. On May 22, 2018, a court in Yushu prefecture, Qinghai province, sentenced Tashi Wangchuk to 5 years for "inciting separatism."

Governments, United Nations human rights experts, and international organizations have repeatedly called for Tashi Wangchuk's release.

"Tashi Wangchuk's only 'crime' was to peacefully call for the right of minority peoples to use their own language—an act protected by China's constitution and international human rights law," said Sophie Richardson, China director. "His conviction on bogus separatism charges shows that critics of government policy on minorities have no legal protections."

Tashi Wangchuk, 31, was detained on January 27, 2016, after appearing in

a New York Times video in which he advocated for the rights of Tibetans to learn and study in their mother tongue. Although he told the newspaper explicitly that he was not calling for Tibetan independence, he was charged in March 2016 with "inciting separatism," an offense that carries up to a 15-year prison sentence. The case was brought to trial at the criminal court in Yushu on January 4, 2018, after a delay caused by the procuracy referring the case back to the police for further investigation in December 2017.

The discontinuation of Tibetan-medium education in public schools in Tibetan areas of Qinghai and Gansu since 2012, and forced closure of Tibetan-medium private schools, caused a surge of popular protest in these areas and has become an issue of prime concern in the Tibetan community.

Tashi Wangchuk traveled to Beijing in May 2015 to explore filing a formal complaint against officials in his home

area for failing to support Tibetan language education. On that visit, he met with New York Times journalists and "insisted on doing on-the-record interviews," according to the paper. In September 2015, the Times' journalists traveled to Yushu to meet him, and in November 2015, the paper published articles about his efforts in English and Chinese, together with a nine-minute video in both languages. Although this initiative violated no Chinese laws, authorities appear to have treated it as unusually sensitive given the involvement of foreign media.

China's Constitution states that "All nationalities have the freedom to use and develop their own spoken and written languages."

The prosecution of Tashi Wangchuk violates the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which China ratified in 1981. Under the convention, China is obligated to ensure that ethnic minorities

enjoy equal rights, including freedom of expression and “the right to equal participation in cultural activities.”

The UN Human Rights Committee has stated in a general comment that “individuals belonging to ... minorities should not be denied the right, in community with members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to practice their religion and speak their language.”

Tashi Wangchuk’s prosecution fell far short of international due process

standards. After being detained in January 2016, he was held in secret in a detention center in Yushu while his case was investigated by the police.

Although Chinese law requires that a detainee’s family be informed of a detention within 24 hours, such a requirement can be waived in cases involving “national security” and “terrorism” and when the police believe that such notification could “impede the investigation.”

His family was not provided such notice

until March 24. At that time, police notified his family that they intended to charge him with “inciting separatism.” He was held for nearly two years before being brought to trial, and during that time had limited access to his family and to lawyers of his choice.

“What’s really on trial, in this case, is China’s credibility in upholding its own laws and respecting peaceful criticism,” Richardson said. “It has failed miserably, but it’s Tashi Wangchuk—and Tibetans who want to study in their own language—who will pay the price.”

NDP’s Bhutla Karpoche wins Parkdale-High Park, becoming first Tibetan ever elected to public office in North America

By Brendan Kennedy Investigative Reporter, The Star.

The rookie NDP candidate looked destined to win the Parkdale-High Park riding by a wide margin, as she held a commanding lead with just a handful of polls reporting. The final vote tally was not available at press time.

Big cheers went up from a large crowd of Karpoche’s supporters at The Rhino bar on Queen St. W. when Karpoche’s win was declared. Parkdale-High Park has been in NDP hands since Cheri DiNovo won a by-election for the riding in 2006. DiNovo won three more terms before leaving politics earlier this year to become minister at Trinity-St. Paul’s Centre for Faith, Justice and the Arts. Before the election she told the Star she was “really, really happy to have passed the torch to Bhutla.”

Karpoche spent eight years working for DiNovo, first in her constituency office and more recently as her executive assistant at Queen’s Park. DiNovo had wanted to add a Tibetan speaker to her staff to better liaise with Parkdale’s large Tibetan population, so she asked organizers with Students For a Free Tibet if they knew anyone who might be interested. Karpoche arrived and quickly became indispensable, DiNovo said.

“She knows Queen’s Park and she’s way ahead of the game in terms of what I walked in there with.”



NDP’s Bhutla Karpoche celebrates her victory with supporters. (Eduardo Lima / Star Metro)

Karpoche, 34, moved to Toronto from Nepal when she was 18, settling into Parkdale, where she became a community organizer. She is fluent in four languages — English, Tibetan, Nepalese and Hindi — and is a PhD candidate at Ryerson University in public health policy.

Karpoche said the most important lesson she learned from DiNovo was how to advocate for constituents. “That’s your number-one job,” she said. “Regardless of who’s in power.”

DiNovo was highly regarded for her

bipartisan and tripartisan efforts at Queen’s Park, where she passed the most private-member’s bills and three-party bills in Ontario’s history.

Also running were Liberal Nadia Guerrera, Adam Pham for the Progressive Conservatives, Halyna Zalucky for the Green Party of Ontario, and Matthias Nunno and Jay Watts for the Libertarian and Communist parties, respectively.

For detailed news visit:
www.tibet.net

Dalai Lama hails Trump-Kim summit

By PTI



Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama welcomed the understanding reached between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un at their historic summit in Singapore.

“I welcome the initiative that the leaders of the United States and North Korea have begun in Singapore to resolve long-standing differences in the hope that it will eventually lead to the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula,” he said in a statement.

“It is my firm belief that dialogue is the only way to resolve problems, whether between individuals or nations,” the statement released by the McLeodganj-based Central Tibetan Administration said.

“As an avowed campaigner for demilitarisation throughout the world, and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, I wholeheartedly welcome this historic summit to secure lasting peace on the Korean peninsula,” he added.

“I applaud the steps these two leaders have taken,” he said.

“May their efforts encourage further endeavours to dispense with these fearsome weapons of mass destruction with the aim of bringing about genuine and lasting peace in our world,” the Tibetan leader said.

Kim on Tuesday pledged to work towards “complete denuclearisation” in return for security guarantees from the US.

If You Want to Do Business in China, Mind Your T’s: Taiwan and Tibet

By Mike Spector in New York and Wayne Ma in Hong Kong, Washington Post.

American companies have lately been quick to apologize for offending China’s geopolitical sensibilities, from listing Taiwan and Tibet as countries on their websites to inaccurately reflecting the status of Chinese-controlled Hong Kong and Macau.

The spate of incidents has business and trade consultants suggesting ways companies can avoid getting into the situation in the first place—among them, hiring China experts, understanding domestic regulations about maps and being mindful of Chinese advertising and cyberspace laws.

This week, Costco Wholesale Corp. COST -0.39% became the latest U.S. company to be pilloried on Chinese social media after images surfaced online of a 2016 letter from one of the retailer’s executives to a Washington group supporting Taiwan’s independence.

The letter said the company viewed Taiwan as a “country.” Costco, which has long operated in Taiwan and is preparing to open its first store in mainland China, hasn’t responded publicly and didn’t respond to a request for comment.

American companies such as Delta Air Lines Inc., Marriott International Inc. and Gap Inc. and some European firms have apologized and changed or removed content that China has deemed offensive. China’s recent policing of American companies, followed by those companies’ swift capitulation in most cases, adds another dimension to the intensifying trade tensions between Beijing and Washington. China’s actions also reflect a new reality in which companies seeking to tap the world’s second-largest economy must increasingly contend with officials monitoring the internet for perceived slights and political missteps.

“Because of the political system here,

there is no real leeway to lobby or argue,” said Linda Du, founder of a Shanghai-based startup that connects brand-management consultants with global companies.

China has controlled Tibet for decades despite some advocating its independence or greater autonomy. Beijing claims Taiwan as its territory even though the two sides separated in a civil war 70 years ago and the island is now a democracy. Hong Kong and Macau are both part of China, but are governed under the “one country, two systems” formula, which allows them to maintain their own legal, political and economic systems.

A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry in early May said that foreign companies operating in the country should “respect China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, abide by China’s law and respect the national feeling of the Chinese people.” The ministry didn’t respond to a request for further comment.

Disney in 2005 received angry emails from Chinese citizens for mislabeling Hong Kong and Taiwan as separate countries in an online form users were asked to fill out for updates about Hong Kong Disneyland. Above, the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort in 2017.

Disney in 2005 received angry emails from Chinese citizens for mislabeling Hong Kong and Taiwan as separate countries in an online form users were asked to fill out for updates about Hong Kong Disneyland. Above, the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort in 2017. Photo: Lui Siu Wai/Xinhua/Zuma Press

To respect these distinctions, U.S. firms could study how the State Department, as well as the United Nations and others, refers to China’s territories, said Erin Ennis, senior vice president at the U.S.-

China Business Council, a nonprofit representing American companies doing business with China. The pitfalls come about because companies often label these places “countries,” a term that suggests independent entities, Ms. Ennis said, adding that some international organizations call them economies or regions.

For Delta, the largest U.S. airline by market capitalization, its website’s listing of Tibet and Taiwan as countries was what drew the ire of Chinese aviation regulators in January. Delta apologized to Beijing and tweaked a drop-down menu on its online destinations form to read “country/region” instead of “country,” a person familiar with the matter said.

In their rush to tap China’s 1.4 billion consumers, multinational corporations sometimes forget to tune in to cultural differences, said Ted Bililies, a managing director at consulting firm AlixPartners who advises CEOs. “If you want to win at cultural globalization it’s still a game of prevention, prevention, prevention,” he said.

The rise of social media in China has enabled controversies to go viral. Daimler AG’s Mercedes-Benz

of Germany in February pulled an Instagram post quoting the Dalai Lama after Chinese state media and social-media users in the country denounced the auto maker.

China also ordered Marriott to temporarily suspend its online services in China after the hotelier circulated an online guest survey that listed Hong Kong, Taiwan, Tibet and Macau as countries. And Gap Inc. recently apologized for selling a T-shirt depicting a map of China that omitted Taiwan and other China-claimed territories after an online backlash emerged. It also destroyed the offending merchandise.

Such perceived missteps attracted less scrutiny before social-media use exploded in China. In 2005, Walt Disney Co. drew angry emails from Chinese citizens for mislabeling Hong Kong and Taiwan as separate countries in an online form that users were asked to fill out for updates about Hong Kong Disneyland, a person familiar with the matter said. Disney quickly fixed the problem and sidestepped scrutiny from Chinese authorities, the person added.

Since coming to power in 2012, President Xi Jinping has tightened his grip over the internet, establishing

China’s Cyberspace Administration and introducing laws to combat messages that undermine national sovereignty. China added a clause prohibiting advertisements from “damaging the dignity or interest of the state” when updating laws in 2015.

Some business consultants suggest hiring staff who understand local rules and conventions and can review communications before they are made public. That is especially important when companies use third-party vendors to provide some online services, said Washington-based crisis consultant Eric Dezenhall. “Even big companies have some media vendor tweeting stuff... without levels of approval.”

The responses of American companies have raised concerns among lawmakers of censorship and improper retaliation.

“As we have seen with Marriott, Delta, and now Gap, the Chinese government is increasingly extending its ‘long arm’ and economic leverage to interfere in the internal business practices of American companies,” said Sen. Marco Rubio (R., Fla.), chairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, in a statement.

Baltics know truth is more powerful than guns – Dalai Lama in Vilnius

The Baltic states know that the power of truth is stronger than that of guns, the Dalai Lama, Tibet’s spiritual leader, said in Vilnius.

Giving a lecture on human values in education at Vilnius University, the Dalai Lama underlined that the Tibetans also have an advantage over China. “I think, you, the Baltic states, already experienced that the power of truth is much stronger than the power of gun. In the Tibetan issue also, I’m always telling (...) we have the power of truth, the Chinese military forces have the power of gun.

Temporarily, the power of gun is much

stronger, but in the long run the power of truth is much stronger,” the Dalai Lama said.

Speaking about the conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan, he invited people to find peace and dialogue in the 21st century, and has no doubt that a small country, like Lithuania, can make a significant contribution to that.

“I think you should make some significant contribution regarding the creation of a peaceful world, a peaceful century, a century of dialogue. Sometimes I feel smaller nations can make a bigger contribution rather than big ones,” he said.

The Dalai Lama criticized international arms trade and emphasized the need for an arms reduction.

“Some nations, including America, are selling weapons. I think that’s outdated. You may get some jobs, some money, but actually the very purpose of bullets is killing. We cannot eat bullets. I think, that in the 21st century, in order to create a peaceful century, we firstly have to think seriously how to reduce weapons,” he said.

The Dalai Lama, who in 2011 stepped down as the political leader of Tibet’s government-in-exile, said that much damage has been done to the Tibetan

culture in the Chinese-ruled Tibetan Plateau.

“There is really some restriction on learning Tibetan. This is short-sighted. And short-sighted, politically-minded people carry this kind of policy. That’s unnecessary. I think, regarding the Tibetan problem, the more suppression, the more resistance is quite logical,” he said.

According to the Dalai Lama, the current

Tibetan political leadership represents an approach that implies not seeking independence, but demanding full realization of ethnic minorities’ rights envisaged under China’s Constitution.

“These should be implemented fully,” he said.

The Tibetan spiritual leader emphasized that love and compassion is the central message of different philosophical and religious traditions in the world.

The Dalai Lama said that modern education systems are essentially based on materialism and are lacking in emotional hygiene and inner knowledge.

Although love, compassion, tolerance and forgiveness are considered religious realities, they are also important in the educational process in that they help to get rid of anger and problems it causes, he said.

Obituary: Former Secretary Drashi Gyapon Kelsang Dadul Passes Away

Former Secretary Drashi Gyapon Kelsang Dadul passed away on 20 June 2018 around 04:00 PM in the evening at his residence near Lhagyalri in Dharamshala. To honour his service of over 40 years to the Tibet cause, the Central Tibetan Administration held a prayer service in the afternoon today and all the offices were shut from midday as a mark of respect to the deceased.

During the prayer service, Kashag Secretary Topgyal Tsering read out a brief biography of the former secretary. The prayer service was attended by Kalons, Tibetan Parliamentarians, Chief Justice Commissioners, secretary, senior officials and staff of the Central Tibetan Administration.

Brief Biography of Drashi Gyapon Kelsang Dadul:

Drashi Gyapon Kelsang Dadul was born in 1925 in Chongye in southern Tibet. In 1943 at the age of 18, he joined the Tibetan government’s Yugyal Military base in Drashi, Chongye county, for basic military training. In 1948, he achieved the rank of Dingpon (chief of 50 soldiers) and in 1951, he was



Drashi Gyapon Kelsang Dadul

appointed as the Gyapon (chief of 100 soldiers). In 1959 during the Tibetan National Uprising in Lhasa, he was among the soldiers who secured the Norbulingka palace where His Holiness the Dalai Lama was residing at the time.

After coming to India, he was appointed as a representative of the Tibetan road labourers in Gangtok. In 1960, during the Great Pledge of Unity offered by the people of the three traditional provinces of Tibet at Bodh Gaya, he was one of the representatives. After the democratic Tibetan administration was established in exile, he was elected in the 1st Tibetan parliament and was posted in the department of security. He was elected

again to the 2nd Tibetan parliament and was appointed as assistant to Kalon of the education department. In 1965, he was posted in the Department of Home.

He was elected to the 3rd and 4th Tibetan parliament respectively in 1966 and 1969 serving as the deputy speaker of the Tibetan parliament which is known as the Commission of Tibetan People’s Deputies at the time. From 1969 – 1973, he served as the Representative to Nepal. He also visited Lokhul Cholsum and Loh Drikzuk on behalf of the security department to oversee the development of the area.

From 1974 – 1977, he served as the Tibetan settlement officer of Ladakh. In 1977, he was appointed as the head of the branch security office in Dharamshala. From 1978 – 1980, he served as the settlement officer of Lugsum Tibetan settlement in Bylakuppe. In 1983, he retired from active service in the Central Tibetan Administration and since then, he has been residing near Lhagyalri in Dharamshala till his demise on 20 June 2018.



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QUOTES

“For thousands of years religious traditions have conveyed a message of love for all human beings, but with limited effect. Now, modern education is oriented towards materialistic goals instead. And yet it is our common experience to have been born and cared for by our mothers, consequently young children reveal a fresh, compassionate nature. His Holiness the Dalai Lama dialogue between Rissia and Buddhist Scholars - Understanding The World - on 3 May 2018.

“Many of the problems we face arise because we pay too much attention to secondary differences between us. The antidote to this is to cultivate a deeper understanding of the oneness of humanity. Although we Tibetans have suffered tremendously under the Chinese authorities’ tight control, we don’t use this as an excuse for stirring up hostility towards our Chinese brothers and sisters. On the contrary, a spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood is essential for our common well-being. His Holiness the Dalai Lama during interacting with Vietnamese Business Leaders, Artists and Intellectuals on 21 May 2018.

“We’ve been passing through a difficult period with extensive human rights violations in Tibet, but my main concern is for the preservation of Tibet’s unique cultural heritage. This is rooted in the ancient Indian understanding of the workings of the mind, on the basis of which we can achieve peace of mind and tackle our destructive emotions. This is something that is very much relevant today. His Holiness the Dalai Lama during Public Talk in Vilnius on 14 June 2018.

“The 20th century was a period of immense violence because of the tendency to solve problems by use of force. In the interdependent world in which we live today, this way of thinking is completely out of date. On the basis of the oneness of humanity, we need instead to cultivate a sense of global responsibility.” His Holiness the Dalai Lama during his visit to University of Vilnius on 13 June 2018.
