

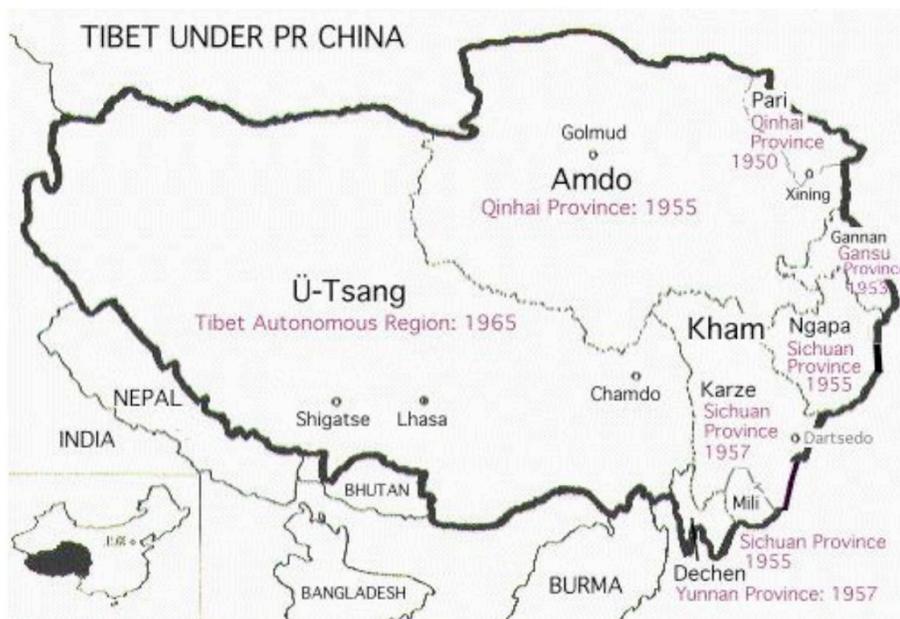
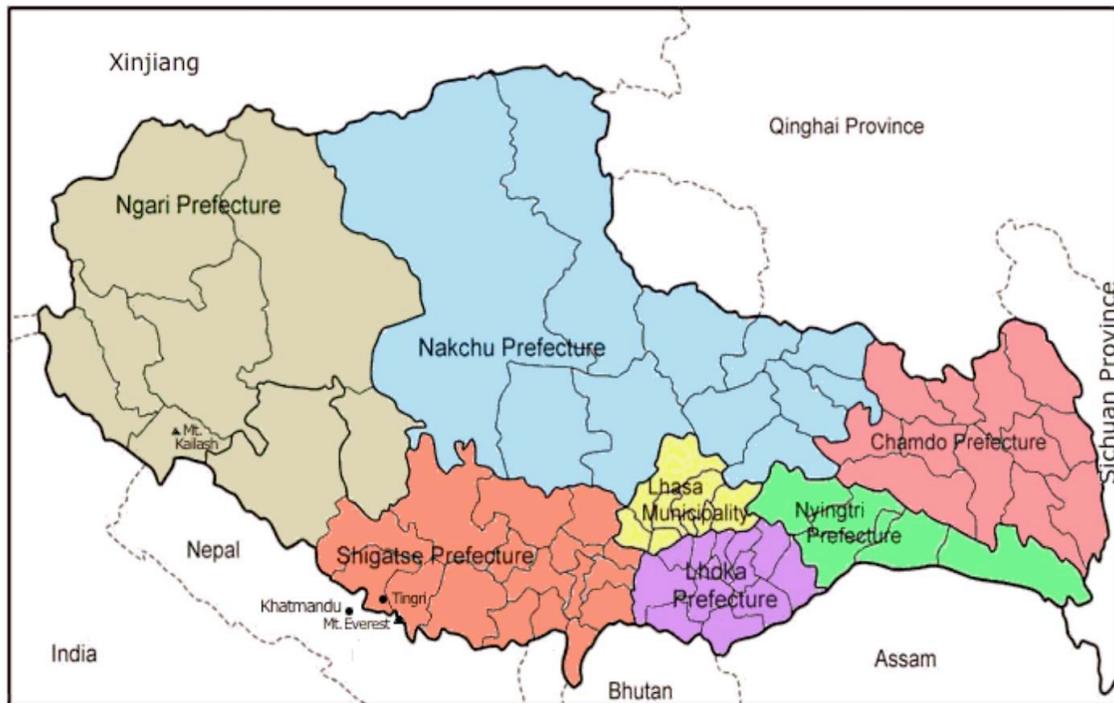


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TIBET INSIGHT, 1-15 AUGUST 2019



TAR NEWS

Executive Vice-Chairman of TAR People's Government in Lhoka

July 31, 2019

On July 29, the Member of TAR Standing Committee and Executive Vice-Chairman of TAR People's Government, Jiang Jie, went to Nakatse County of Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) to investigate the progress of the border defence village in the county. While at the site, he inspected progress of 'solar heating installation systems' and reiterated Xi Jinping's emphasis on initiating a 'people-centre approach' towards development and 'keeping old heart and remembering new mission' for a stable and harmonious society. The Executive Vice-Chairman echoed the Party's agenda of improving livelihoods of people living in the border areas and to enable them to live a 'happier life.'

A report in Tibet Daily (July 31) said migrant workers complained to the Executive Vice-Chairman of not getting paid on time and he solved the issue and asked concerned authorities to improve the efficiency of governance.

At the construction site of border defence village which is being built in Dalong Township, Jiang Jie inspected its infrastructural development progress and enquired about the 'welfare' of the resettled families. He said the "construction of well-off villages in the border areas of Tibet is part of a larger exposition of regulations on the management of border areas" and said "as per direction of the TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie and Chairman of TAR People's Government, Qi Zhala, it is important to strengthen the living conditions of people including basics such as solving water circuit network problems." The masses living in border areas, he asserted, "should not only live in good houses but also get rich."

TAR Party Secretary greets army officers on Army day

August 02, 2019

On July 31 -- a day ahead of Army Day -- the TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie attended a function where he met officers of the PLA and People's Armed Police in Lhasa as well as retired army veterans. Lobsang Gyaltsen, Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee, Chairman of TAR People's Congress; Qizhala/Chedak la, Executive Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Chairman of People's Government; Ding Yexian, Chairman of TAR PPCC; Provincial Military leaders and other TAR top Leaders like Norbu Dhondup, Jiang Jie, Penpa Tashi, He Wenhao, Liu Jiang, Tenzin Thinlay, Zhang Yongze, Thupten Thinley, Guo Wei, Dorjee etc also attended the gathering. The TAR Party Secretary greeted all troops of PLA Unit 7753 and the 16th squadron of the Second Division of the Armed Police Tibet Corps.

While meeting the troops, Wu Yingjie emphasised Xi Jinping's exposition of regulations and expectation of the troops concerning primarily improving social stability, ensuring national unity, consolidation of national frontiers, maintenance of absolute loyalty to the party, and to win hearts of people towards the party. He said this year marks the 70th founding anniversary of the CCP and "60th year of reform in Tibet" and asked officers and army troops to further strengthen "four consciousness and four self-confidences" while implementing "Socialism with Chinese characteristics in the New Era" at the same time. Specially emphasised was the need for allegiance to Xi Jinping's 'military ideology', listen to the Party at and under any circumstances, and to carry forward the new agenda of the CCP "keeping old heart but remembering new mission" campaign. He told the army officers to "resolutely ensure and consolidate border security."

Later in the day, the TAR Party Secretary met retired army officers, Zhou Zhide, former secretary of Lhoka Military Affairs Bureau and Shi Qianoju, former army officer of Ngari and other retired army officers.

Lui Yuejin on Inspection Tour to Tibet

August 09, 2019

Liu Yuejin, Vice Commissioner of China National Narcotics Control Commission and Commissioner of Counter-terrorism of the Ministry of Public Security was on an inspection tour to Tibet in early August. He was accompanied by the Head of TAR Public Security Bureau, Zhang Hongbo and Phuntsok, member of the TAR Public Security Bureau and Deputy Director of TAR's Anti-Drug Commission.

Liu Yuejin met the police forces of the TAR Drug Control Office and drug-control personnel in TAR, and enquired about the progress of anti-drug intelligence research and management of precursor chemicals. He emphasised that TAR must 'learn from the mainland in terms of integrating and carrying out anti-drug investigations to ensure maximum results.' He added, 'it is necessary to do grassroot investigations and analyse 'poisons' that deteriorate societal management.' He also went to the west side of the Potala Palace Square to inspect the 'anti-drug' theme Park.

China builds border defense village in Lhoka near Bhutan border

August 06, 2019

There are now 10 households with 23 people in Jelob Village, Lodrak County, Lhoka at the border with Bhutan. This is traditionally a porous border where people on both sides and particularly the herders cross over. A grazing site of the village of Jelo (Jelob) in Lajiao Township was established with the approval from the Civil Affairs Department of the TAR. With the support of relevant departments, the village has also built several rows of new concrete houses.

According to the report, building of this defence village is credited to a Tibetan named Kunsang Tamding (Gu Sang Dan Zeng), who has guarded the area since 1995. He was described as a "favourite" Party member who "sees guarding the border as a sacred duty". He told reporters "the area was an uninhabited for a long time due to the dangerous terrain, transportation and communication. To guard the border between the valleys and cliffs where human footprints are rare, the first task is to drive out the

livestock that do not belong to the Chinese herdsmen, and to guard and regularly patrol the key nodes”. He added that they don’t wish to seize lands and mountains of any other countries, and they will also not allow others to control a stone that belongs to the motherland.

The ten households at the upper most end of Jelo village, where there are wild animals and the area was extremely hostile, belong to either relatives or acquaintances of Kunsang Tamding. He said since “The task of keeping the border is handed over to me. If even my relatives do not support it, it is difficult to ask others to come to the mountain to keep the border safe”. The area seems quite alien even to the villagers residing at Jelo. The people came to celebrate the Losar (Tibetan New Year) in February this year and while going back they lost the way up to their new home. The local authority had to send rescue teams to ensure their safety.

There are more border defense villages in Lajiao, also in Lhodrak County. In 2017, both Jelo and Lajiao were included in the Xiaokang Demonstration Village, and these are the farthest demonstration villages in Lodrak County. The report mentions “In the past 30 years, Kunsang Tamding has insisted on being the guardian of the motherland's territory and the builder of a happy home. It is his favourite lifestyle: to patrol the mountains and guard the border with other farmers, and herdsmen”.

Nyingchi accounts for 4% of inter-ethnic marriages of the total population

August 07, 2019

According to latest information from the Nyingchi (Linzhi) government, there are ethnic inter marriages in 2,374 families, or 4% of the total number of households in Nyingchi city. The government said ‘the social foundation of national unity has been further consolidated’ with this development. This is part of Nyingchi’s effort for a mutually embedded social structure and community environment, and promotion of exchanges between various ethnic groups.

During the ecological resettlement of the Tibet Tianbao Project from 2000 to 2003, Linzhi City adopted a centralized-decentralized and cross-displacement approach to move 550 households of 3,232 farmers and herdsmen from four counties of Bayi County, Milin County, Bomi County, and Gongbu Jiangda County. This practice of relocating people has over 18 years become a major force in economic and social development while achieving the goal of moving, retaining and being able to get rich. The relocation projects begun in 2018, implements the Linzhi Municipal Party Committee and Municipal Government's the idea of people-centered development to meet the desired goal of getting rid of poverty and helping people become rich. Under this programme, they took the initiative of resettling 3,968 people in the "Sanyan area" of Changdu city. In the first half of 2019, 7 batches of 351 households comprising 2098 people were relocated of as part of winning the fight against the poverty.

On August 7, the Nyingchi Municipal Government Press Office held a press conference on the establishment of the National Unity and Progress of Linzhi City. Lan Junwei, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of the Municipal Ethnic and Religious Affairs Bureau, gave a detailed media briefing on the establishment of national unity and progress in Linzhi city. He said the government has successfully adjusted to, and promulgated, initiatives such as "Implementation Measures for the Establishment of National Unity and Progress in the Linzhi Area" and Nyingchi Municipal Party Committee's documents such as "Strengthening the National Unity Work under the New Situation" and "Nyingchi city's Work Plan for National Unity and Progress Demonstration city".

The Nyingchi government has made advances towards national unity and progress in targeted areas and organizations like enterprises, communities, villages, schools, military camps and monasteries. There is huge pressure on these sectors and individuals as each year the government recommends names of the organizations or individuals for the 'National Unity and Progress Model Award'. Since 2011, Nyingchi has won 829 national and academia progress model groups at the national, autonomous region, city and county levels, and 1,343 model individuals. It was awarded by the National Civil Affairs

Commission as part of the creation of a National Unity and Progress Demonstration Zone.

There are six "Chinese ethnic minority villages", which were named by the Autonomous Region as "the National Unity and Progress Model Village of the Tibet Autonomous Region". In 2018, Nyingchi named 10 patriotic (national unity) education bases and 10 Demonstration points for national unity and Progress.

China completes pivotal tunnel in major new Tibet railway project

August 06, 2019

China's official news agency Xinhua said (August 3) that it had made huge progress on the Lhasa-Nyingchi railway project by completing construction of a pivotal tunnel on it on August 2. The Bukamu Tunnel, located in Milin (Tibetan: Miling or Manling) County of Nyingchi (Nyingtri) City, is 9,240 metres long with an average elevation of 3,100 meters above sea level. It is the 37th tunnel to have been completed with just 10 tunnels left to be completed by the end of the year. Wang Shucheng, Director of the project, was quoted saying that over 3,000 rock bursts were counted during the construction of the tunnel, while the oxygen level inside was merely 19 percent that of the plain areas.

(Comment: The Lhasa-Nyingchi railway is 435 km long, with 75 percent of it being bridges and tunnels. It is expected to be completed in 2021.)

Nyingchi held a special televised video campaign to eliminate the evils and fight crimes

August 09, 2019

On August 8, the Public Security Bureau of Nyingchi (Linzhi) held a video conference to promote and strengthen the fight against 'black and evil'. The meeting was convened as a follow up of the 13th Steering Committee Group of the Central Committee of TAR held on August 6. This also follows up the speech of Wu Yingjie and Zhu Wei.

Zhu Jiang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee, Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee, and Secretary of the Party Committee of the Municipal Public Security Bureau presided over the meeting along with Ren Weidong, the Deputy Mayor and Director of Public Security. Zhu Jiang asked for focus on the organizational leadership, tackling the cases carefully and improving the ‘rectification’ process of cases involving black and evil. He demanded that all counties and districts and member units raise their political positions and enhance their sense of responsibility and urgency in doing ‘rectification’ work.

Former UFWD Head in TAR as part of the 13th Steering Group of Supervision

August 09, 2019

Under the direction of the CCP Central Committee’s Leading Group on ‘Special struggle against violence and Defence,’ the 13th Steering Group on the supervision of TAR headed by the former head of the CCP CC United Front Work Department, Zhu Weiqun led a special campaign against “anti-national violence” in TAR from June 10 to July 02. The Assessment Meeting was held in Lhasa where Wu Yingjie, Party Secretary of TAR Party Committee, Qi Zhala, Chairman of TAR People’s Government, Zhang Zhijie, Deputy Head of the Supervision Team, and relevant personnel of the supervision team attended the meeting.

The team headed by Zhu Weiqun carried out inspections in TAR for almost a month adhering to “the CCP CC’s strict supervision in fighting against evil-forces, and anti-secession activities.” Zhu Weiqun pointed out that the TAR Party Committee and TAR People’s Government regard that “fighting strongly against anti-separatist-forces is a testament of loyalty to the party and implementation of Xi Jinping’s exposition on border regulations.” Zhu Weiqun pointed out “during the supervision, we found that the TAR Party Committee and TAR People’s Government have achieved remarkable results in promoting special struggle against evils. However, there are still some outstanding problems, including complete elimination of evils.”

He listed the following six suggestions:

- i) it is important to improve one's political position and further deepen understanding of the Party's decision-making arrangements including Xi Jinping's "important instructions" pertaining to "special struggle against evils in the TAR." The struggle should be "comprehensive and strategic."
- ii) support for the 'Evil Sweeping Office' needs to intensify and Party branches at all levels should thoroughly eliminate evil forces and social chaos. "All officials of TAR Party Committee and TAR People's Government should support grassroot departments in performing their duties, but according to law and that the "Evil Sweeping offices" should strengthen their coordination, clarify their responsibilities and eliminate 'evils' with practical results.
- iii) strengthen village party organizations in order to build a strong and firm foundation for grassroot political power. He recommended "it is necessary to select two committees of the village and build it into a fighting fortress to crack down on the separatist forces."
- iv) "It is necessary to comprehend the special situation of Tibet through the lens of the struggle against the evil forces of the Dalai Clique."
- v) Economic and social development beginning from the grassroot organizations should be a point of importance and "eliminating evils should also begin from there." Economic and social development are important to achieve long-term stability.
- vi) TAR Party Committee and Departments should give importance to this feedback and conscientiously implement the suggestions.

TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie assured that all suggestions and opinions put forward by the Supervision Team are duly accepted and the TAR Party Committee shall formulate plans for implementation of each and every suggestion. The TAR Party Secretary further emphasized that as a special frontier 'ethnic region,' Tibet is located at the core of the 'anti-separatist forces.' Therefore, eradicating evils in Tibet is fundamental to long-term stability and consolidation of political power, he added.

Members of TAR Party Committee, TAR People's Congress, TAR People's

Government, TAR PPCC, officials of district level high-courts and concerned members of the leading groups on ‘anti-separatist forces’ attended the feedback session. The session was video-conferenced to all administrative regions across TAR.

New Director of TAR Discipline Inspection Commission convenes meeting

August 08, 2019

On August 09, the new Director of TAR Commission for Discipline Inspection Wang Weidong, called for a meeting to study the Party’s Constitution and rules. At the meeting, Wang headed a session on ‘self-criticism of the officials’ and set new criteria for political life in the party. The new Director pointed out that “party discipline and complying with Party’s rules is a fundamental yardstick for discipline inspections in TAR and that all officials must thoroughly study and implement Xi Jinping’s socialism with Chinese characteristics in the New Era.” He added, “all must learn and respect party constitution, and resolutely abide by political beliefs of the Party.” Wang Weidong emphasized the importance of TAR officials examining themselves first and correcting mistakes and then strengthening discipline inspections. Officials were told to strengthen their consciousness towards the party, their ideals and convictions and that their spirit and temperament should be in line with the Party at all times. The new Director said “cultivating absolute loyalty, strengthen political discipline, enhance resistance to evils and corruptions should be a benchmark for the officials to perform their duties.”

China has announced rewards up to \$44,000 for information on ‘online crimes’ by Fellow-Tibetans’

August 15, 2019

The Dharamsala-based Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy said (Aug 5) that the TAR authorities announced cash prizes of up to 300,000 yuan (USD 44,000) for those reporting “illegal” online contents as part of the government’s “social supervision strategy to mobilise the general public to effectively prevent and combat illegal and criminal online contents.” It said the February 28 notice bans the use of network

communication tools ‘to collect, produce, download, store, publish, disseminate, and publicize malicious attacks against the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese government, the socialist system, the regional ethnic autonomy system, and the party and the government’s policy of managing TAR.’ It also bans the “fabrication or deliberate dissemination of information that damages the image of the country, seriously jeopardises the interests of the country, and distorts the history of the party, the nation and the army.” The notice, it said, criminalizes information directed at “subverting state power, overthrowing the socialist system, and splitting the country.” It bans the use of online banking and payment methods, including electronic cheques and credit cards as well as Alipay and WeChat, to send donations to organizations and personnel related to “ethnic separatist forces, religious extremist forces, violent terrorist forces”. The blanket ban extends to “illegal sharing of information about the country’s political, economic, social, military, cultural, religious and other state secrets or intelligence information with overseas organisations, institutions and individuals.” The February 28 notice continues to criminalize online activities “challenging China’s territorial claims over Tibet”, “Participating in separatist activities”, Calling for the ‘middle way’”, “Advocacy of mother tongue”, “Using religion to interfere in grassroots-level administrative affairs or education”.

The latest notice issued by the TAR Internet Information Office, TAR Public Security Department and TAR Communications Administration trebled the maximum amount of reward for information on “illegal” online contents. The previous notice, issued in 2018 by the TAR Public Security Bureau, offered rewards of up to 100,000 yuan (USD 15,600).

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

Kardze (Sichuan) authorities detain Tibetans for possessing Dalai Lama’s portrait
July 29, 2019

The local authority in Kardze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan inspected

subsidized housing in two resettlement villages of Palyul (Baiyu) to see whether they had portraits of the Dalai Lama. The police beat villagers found with his photos and detained others who performed public prayers for his long life. The officials were accompanied by armed police dressed in black who confiscated all the portraits and beat and slapped those who had placed his pictures at their altar.

According to a source in the village quoted by Radio Free Asia, several people were taken into custody and tension remains high. Police attacked only residents of the state-subsidized homes in the Tromei and Natha resettlement communities, with Tibetans not part of the government-housing scheme spared from the searches and violence. Authorities in Kardze had earlier launched a drive against possession of photos of the Dalai Lama. A similar campaign was launched at the end of April in Serthar County.

China dispatched 2,307 cadres in Tibet and Qinghai Tibet Area

July 31, 2019

China dispatched the 9th batch of 'aid Tibet' cadres to TAR and the 4th batch to Qinghai on 29th July,. A total of 2,307 young Chinese cadres were selected to enhance the development projects in Tibet, with those from central units arriving at the capital cities of Lhasa and Xilling (Xinning). The aid cadre team was selected from 105 central units and 17 provinces and municipalities by the CCP CC Organization Department and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security. The team's stay duration in Tibet is three years.

(Comment: The total number of cadres selected this time has increased by 492, and 97 percent of the cadres have a bachelor degree or above this time. The team includes 181 people specialized in medical care and 400 specialized in education, which they say are urgent requirements for TAR and the Tibetan area in Qinghai. There is an accelerating effort to Sinicize the Tibetan language and education system.)

Sichuan promotes red culture in Tibetan areas

August 2, 2019

Sichuan launched a campaign in Tibetan area called ‘70 years of struggle and the new era’ in the ‘spirit of the Long March’. Tibetans were told that the first Tibetan red revolutionary was born in Rongdrak (Danba). To celebrate the 70 years of Long March, from July 25th to July 31st, on the theme "Magnificent 70 years: the new era of struggle, they have divided Tibetans into two groups for following the footsteps of the Red Army's Long March in Sichuan, crossing the Dadu River and crossing the Luding Bridge Climb and walking all over the mountains and grassland. The first group marched from Suinning - Chaksamkha (Luding) - Rongdrak (Danba) and the second group marched across Boaxing - Xiaojin - Markham - Hongyuan- Songpan area. It is reported that ‘it is to explore the initial heart of the revolution without fear of sacrifice’. Yu Qingsong, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of Xiaba Village said, "The red flag of every household is flying, so that we will never forget that today's happy life is hard to come by. It is because of good policy of the party, to let us live a good life”. The roof and front door of every household of eight villages hoisted the red flag. Cadres told villagers of the Red Army’s ‘Long March’ history and how they shouldn't forget the bravery and sacrifice. They also said the “Red Army's sentiments have never been forgotten, from generation to generation”. They told the Tibetans that the red flag is not just a sign, but also a revolutionary direction, and it is a belief that must win.

Nyarong County sent legal teams to the monasteries, Sichuan

August 9, 2019

Nyarong (Xinlong) County sent a large team of a lawyer’s notary legal group to the monasteries and villages for four days in the first week of August’ 2019. It comprised members of the Political and Legal Committee, the Propaganda Department, the United Front Department, the Judicial Bureau, the Religious Bureau and other departments, Sichuan Yingtexin Law Firm and the Taihetai Law Firm. They targeted four temples and five townships, including Gongmu monastery, Wuwa monastery, Jiangdui Temple, Rupu

monastery, Shadui Township, Daqi Township, Sewei Township, Jialaxi Township and Lazhima Town in the Nyarong County. This is part of Nyarong County's 2019 effort to educate and publicize 'the project of reaching out to temples and villages'.

The team screened videos screening and gave talks in these monasteries and villages. They showed videos of cases of individual criminals and illegal activities and how they were severely punished. Talks focused on criminal law, public security punishment law, road traffic law, and religious affairs regulation laws etc. They distributed more than 1,000 reading materials and books to the monasteries and emphasized that they must update themselves with the country's law and development. Temples were asked to provide legal services, establish legal learning systems, and update themselves with the rule of law bulletin and supplementary legal books and journals. Special legal consultation and legal aid will be provided for farmers and herdsmen.

Tibetan Carpet International Exhibition held in Qinghai

August 08, 2019

On August 7, the Tibetan Carpet International Exhibition and International Eco-Industry Expo opened at Qinghai International Convention and Exhibition Center, Qinghai. The exhibition was centered on the theme 'Belt and Road Bridge', building ecological civilization, and sharing green development.

According to Qinghai Provincial Department of Commerce, the Tibetan Carpet Exhibition is closely related to the construction of Qinghai as an ecological model province. It shows the achievements of Qinghai's ecological civilization construction, the ecological industry development, and exhibits the salt lake resources, and clean energy in Qinghai. Li Yalin, Director of Qinghai's Department of Commerce, said the exhibition introduced the concept of "Internet + Exhibition" and displaying green and ecological products at home and abroad in a panoramic manner. Forty-six domestic carpet enterprises and seventy-six foreign companies participated in the exhibition. This is the first year Qinghai has hosted the International Eco-industrial Expo together with the

carpet exhibition, togetherwith forums on cooperation and development of eco-industry, Tibetan medicine industry and cross-border e-commerce.

DIASPORA TIBETAN NEWS

High-level US delegation to meet with exile Tibetan leadership at Dharamshala

August 03, 2019

A US Congress delegation, possibly the largest so far, was on a two-day visit to Dharamsala from August 2. The 30-member delegation is led by Congressman David Price and Congressman Vern Buchanan from the House of Democratic Partnership along with their staffers, military escorts, and the staff of the New Delhi embassy. The delegation met the Dalai Lama on August 3, as well as all sections of the exiled Tibetan administration leadership. Before that they met CTA ministers led by President Lobsang Sangay. The CTA described the US Congressional delegation's visit to Dharmasala as the second significant high-level visit, with the earlier one being the one led by the then House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi in May 2017.

Following Pelosi's visit, a bill was introduced in the House providing for 3,000 immigrant visas for qualified Tibetans residing in India or Nepal "in the 3-fiscal-year period beginning with fiscal year 2017." It was quickly referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary and then to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security where it remains. A delegation led by Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY) visited Dharamsala in April last year.

Case No. 20 reviews procedure of Representative's dismissal

August 14, 2019

Hearing case no. 20, holding its 8th trial after the framing of issues, the Chief Justice of the Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission (TSJC) said the next hearing in the defamation case filed by the former Office of Tibet Representative Penpa Tsering against Sikyong

Lobsang Sangay led Kashag (Cabinet) of Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) will be held on August 21. It will address the 8th and last point of the issues of facts along with the concluding arguments.

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