

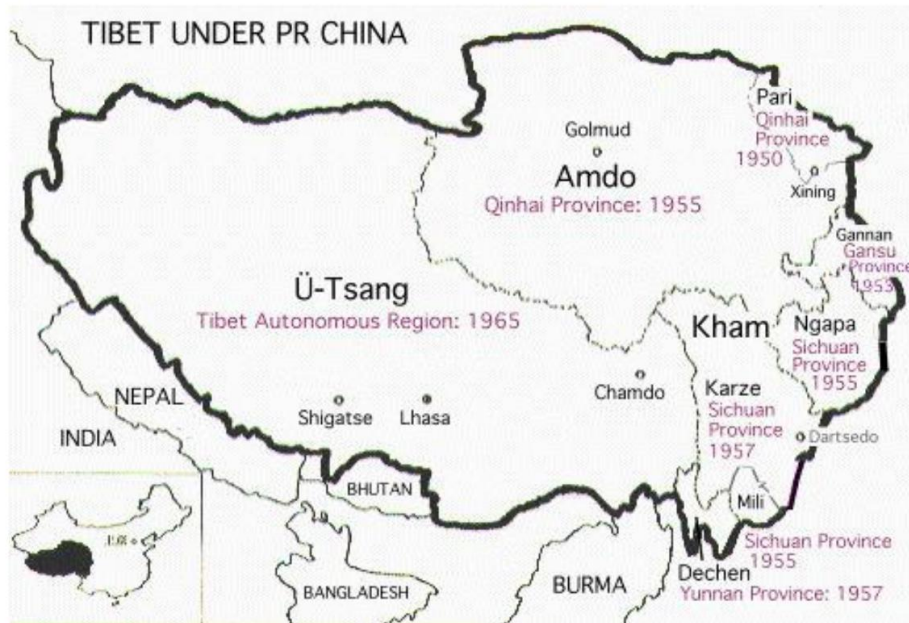
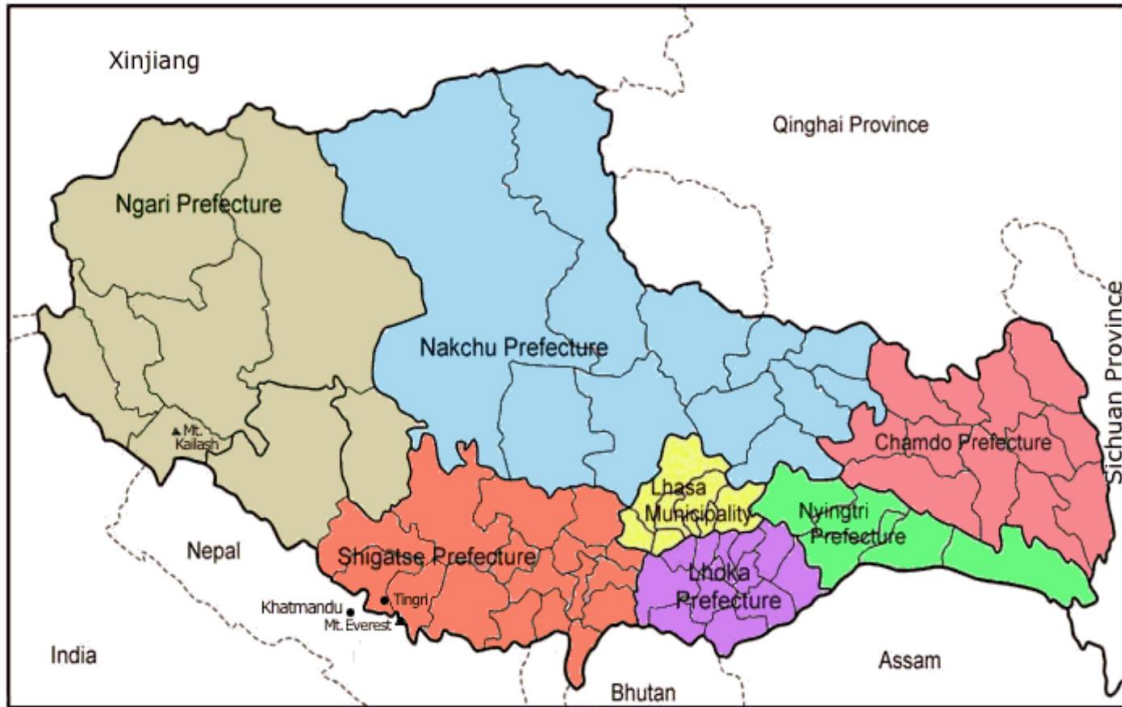


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TIBET INSIGHT, 1-15 MARCH 2018



TAR NEWS

Tibet University Inspection Trip

March 07, 2018

Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Secretary of TAR CPPCC Ding Yexian, TAR People's Government Vice Chairman Shi Moujun, TAR CPPCC Vice Chairman Gao Yang, TAR Education Department and other relevant department leaders went on an inspection trip to Tibet University in Lhasa on March 7, 2018.

Secretary of Tibet University and Deputy Director of TAR People's Congress NimaTsering, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of Tibet University, Ji Jianzhou, Vice President of Tibet University and Secretary of Disciplinary Committee Pema Wangdue accompanied the inspection team.

Ding Yexian was briefed about the stability maintenance work and conducted on-site inspection of the Party Building and National Unity Education of the Technical Defense Centre and the School of Economics and Management at Tibet University. He stressed that the schools must adhere to the principles of the Party, strengthen party organizations in college and universities, and highlighted the importance of implementing socialist core values, national unity as a standing course, strengthening students' moral education and building a team of teachers with the needs of 'qualified socialist builders'.

Journal of Tibet University

March 07, 2018

The State Administration of Press, Publication Radio, Film and Television officially announced the third national "Top 100 News Paper and Periodicals" and named the "Journal of Tibet University" as one of the top 100 Social Science Journals out of 726 shortlisted newspapers and periodicals. The Journal of Tibet University first published in 1986, and has Tibetan and Chinese Versions.

CPPCC delegates from Tibet continue to participate in panel discussion

March 11, 2018

TAR delegates to the first session of the 13th CPPCC session participated in plenary meetings in Beijing

on March 10 and “discussed” development, stability and reforms in Tibet.

The delegates reportedly put forward opinions and suggestions and stated that Tibet is currently in the best period of economic development and national unity. They echoed that the unity among all ethnic groups has been strengthened and that ethnic relations are harmonious and cited “cohabitation and networking of different ethnicities” in Nyingtri Province as an example of a successful model.

Increasing the market for traditional Tibetan medicines was also discussed at the meeting. It was suggested that relevant laws and regulations concerning the protection of Tibetan medicine be issued from the national level and the name “Tibetan medicine” should be listed in the Chinese medicine law to reflect its legal status and promote Tibetan medicine as China’s to the world.

TAR Public Security convenes Special Meeting

March 11, 2018

A special meeting was convened by the TAR Public Security Bureau on March 11, 2018 to review security maintenance works in Tibet and to study the ‘spirit’ of the Ministry of Public Security. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Deputy Director of TAR Public Security Bureau and attended by all officials of the Security Bureau including the Director Liu Jian.

The special meeting discussed the importance of assuring security during the two national sessions i.e CPPCC and NPC, to continue to strengthen stability maintenance measures and mechanisms, to focus on internal security inspections and to supervise disciplinary measures in TAR.

(Comment: According to an analysis by Jamestown Foundation, domestic security spending across all provinces and regions rose by 215 percent between 2007 and 2016. Xinjiang’s grew by 411 percent, the TAR’s by 404 percent, and Qinghai Province’s by 316 percent (Qinghai’s population is 25 percent Tibetan). Spending in Sichuan Province increased by 234 percent, but spending in Sichuan’s two Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures, Ganzi and Aba, which have seen numerous self-immolations since 2008, grew by 295 percent.)

Chinese official calls Xi Jinping ‘living Buddhist deity’

March 08, 2018

Wang Guosheng, Party Secretary of Henan Province and till last year of the Qinghai Province Party Congress, speaking on the sidelines of the NPC meeting in Beijing on March 6, 2018 called Chinese President Xi Jinping a ‘living Buddha’. According to him, some ethnic Tibetans living in Qinghai (Tib: Amdo) said they view Xi Jinping as a deity.

Wang Guosheng claimed Qinghai had been following Mao Zedong’s advice about inspiring the masses to love the party and its leader, distributing “images of the leader” to people in poverty-stricken areas being moved into new homes. He said, “The ordinary people in the herder areas say, only General Secretary Xi is a living Bodhisattva. This is a really vivid thing to say.”

Kyirong and Purang Trading Posts Approved for import of Cross-Border Medicinal products

March 03, 2018

On January 25, 2018, the China State Food and Drug Regulatory Authority and the General Customs Office jointly issued an announcement saying that to implement the "Belt and Road" national development strategy, TAR’s Kyirong and Purang transit posts had been approved for the import of medicinal herbs from cross-border regions thereby allowing production of medicinal herbs produced by neighbouring countries (regions) to be imported through these transit posts.

According to the Director of the TAR Traditional Medicine Regulatory Office, Tsering Norbu, field investigations were conducted last June and ‘guidance’ given on the establishment of two posts at the Kuala Lumpur (Lhodrak to Bhutan pass) and Purang for the importation of medicinal materials. An inspection report was submitted in July to the China State Food and Drug Regulatory Authority and the General Customs Office. The central authority dispatched a joint assessment team to Tibet to carry out on-site acceptance inspections at the two ports, and systematically assessed its regulatory capabilities, inspection capabilities, and information construction and post facilities. On January 25, 2018, with the approval of the State Council, it was agreed that the Kyirong post and Purang post be designated as border posts for imports of medicinal materials.

Tsering said that approval of imports via the two posts has not only effectively solved the problem of shortage of imported medicinal herbs in the region, but also has important significance for improving the production capacity of Tibetan medicine and promoting the development of special industries. At the same time, it has laid the foundation for the construction of an international Tibetan medicine trading market.

TAR Party Secretary elected head of TAR's delegation to NPC

March 03, 2018

Delegates from TAR attending the first session (March 5-20, 2018) of the Thirteenth National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing had a plenary meeting on March 3.

Wu Yingjie, a Deputy to the NPC and Party Secretary of TAR, chaired the meeting in which he was "elected" as head of the Tibetan delegation while Lobsang Gyaltsen, Chairman of the TAR People's Congress and Qi Zhala aka Chedak la were "elected" as Deputy Heads.

The meeting discussed and reviewed the 13th NPC's list of Presidents, Secretary-Generals and agenda of the session. TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie reiterated the importance of upholding the "great banner of Xi Jinping's Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the new era" and stressed the need to 'safeguard central authority and unity of the Party', to ingrain the "core values" of the Party in the hearts and minds of all ethnic groups in Tibet

Certification in Balanced Development of Compulsory Education

March 01, 2018

Based on the China's country wide applications submitted for assessment in 2017, the Office of the Education Supervising Committee of China under the State Council launched a supervisors and experts' inspection Committee in 560 counties (cities, districts) including 15 in TAR. 51 counties have balanced development of compulsory education.

Some objectives of promoting "balanced development of compulsory education" reportedly are to meet higher standards of schooling, to have a reasonable ratio of students and teachers, to improve the overall

“standard of teachers” and to narrow gaps between schools in counties and districts.

There are two such committees in Lhasa, including Taktse county and Dhamxiong county; three in Shigatse, namely Gyangtse county, Xie Tongmon county and Dingkyi county; two in Chamdo, Pashoe county and Markham county; two in Nyingtri, namely Zayul county and Nangzong county; three in Lhokha, namely, Tsomei county, Tsona county and Nangkar Zi county; two in Nagchu county, Shenza county, Drachen county; and one in Ngari namely Ruthok county.

According to recent statistics, the investment in education and finance in TAR has increased by an average of 22.9% per annum.

The enrolment rate of children and adolescents in rural areas reportedly reached 75.4%. The report added that there had been a significant improvement in narrowing the gap between urban and rural areas, regions and inter-school education. At the same time, the achievements of "two basics" of "basic universal nine-year compulsory education and basically eliminating illiteracy among young and middle-aged people" in TAR continued to be consolidated. The compulsory education consolidation rate increased to 91.42% in nine years. The net enrolment rate for primary education and the gross enrolment rate for primary and high schools reached 99.16 % and 96.59% respectively.

Not all Tibetans are “separatist” tells an army Soprano

March 06, 2018

54-year old Gyamo Kyi, veteran Singer and member of CPPCC, while speaking during a panel session at the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said the discrimination shown by the authorities against people from her ethnic group was “detrimental to national unity”. “I don’t think they should impose measures intended to deter separatists on the whole Tibetan race.” She added, “It’s like there’s an order from above [for all] to follow.”

She said the prejudice was born out of the incidents of March 2008, when a series of riots and clashes broke out in Lhasa and quickly spread across the autonomous region.

Gyamo, who has performed at numerous events for high-ranking officials, said she clearly remembered the prejudice she experienced in the aftermath of the unrest. She said “One time I led a group of

performers to Beijing, everyone checked in to their hotels, but I wasn't allowed to, because I was Tibetan.”

Despite her military rank and status as a member of the CPPCC, the hotel staff simply refused to let her in. “I showed them my CPPCC membership ID and my military ID but still wasn't allowed to check in. I had to stay at a friend's place,” she said.

She said the incident was not an isolated one, adding that in the years that followed she witnessed numerous examples of prejudice against Tibetan cadres, especially in Han-dominated areas.

Even in everyday matters, such as telecommunications, there was evidence of an uneven playing field. “The mainland has a 4G network already, but in many parts of Tibet and Xinjiang the network is still only 2G.” She said, “Of course, it might be deliberate that the networks there are not so strong.”

Gyamo added that “One way to help ease tensions in the region would be to increase the number of people from minority groups in positions of authority,” Guowa said “Native cadres will stay here forever,” she said. “But cadres sent from the mainland only stay for two or three years before they are promoted to higher office.”

Having more local people in power would help the party to win hearts and minds, she said.

“Local herders and farmers listen to the monks at their temples, and they would also listen to officials if they could relate to them better.”

New appointments of PLAAF Base Commanders in Lhasa and Lanzhou

March 07, 2018

According to “Tibet Daily” (March 5, 2018) Zhuang Yan, Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Executive Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government, presided over a special meeting of the ‘Military and Civil Integration Development Committee’ of the District Party Committee. The Commander of the newly established Air Force Lhasa Base, Cai Zihua, attended the meeting. Cai Zihua previously served as Commander of the PLA Air Force's former Lhasa Command and at that time held the rank of PLA Air Force Colonel.

Gansu Daily published a report in February 2018 revealing that the former Deputy Chief of staff of the

PLA Western Theatre Command Major General Wang Qilin, has earlier served as Commander of the Air Force Lanzhou Base.

The reports explained that in the “below the neck” stage of deepening the reform of national defence and the armed forces, the PLA has carried out readjustments and established 84 military-grade units, and the main combat units have also implemented a new ‘brigade-camping system’. After deepening reforms, the PLAAF will also implement the new ‘base-brigade command system’ and the base will serve as the Air Force Synthesis Command structure for campaigns.

Since the establishment of 84 military-level units in the military in April 2017, the Commanders of the newly adjusted Air Force bases in Lanzhou, Fuzhou, Wuhan, Jinan, Lhasa, and Nanning have successively made public appearances.

CHAMDO NEWS (CH: QAMDO/CHANGDU)

Meeting ahead of 10th March commemoration

March 05, 2018

Chamdo Party Secretary Abu called on a meeting of all major departments to discuss stability, unity, and integration of thoughts, ideas and actions in sync with the “strategic ideology of General Secretary Xi Jinping’. He also talked on the overall national security agenda, the importance of maintaining overall stability in Tibet, improving the political situation, and ensuring maximum security vigilance and social grid style management especially during the CPPCC, NPC sessions and for March which is a politically sensitive time.

Officials and cadres at all levels were told to unify thinking, understanding and loyalty to the Party. “Public Opinion supervision on internet, crackdown on anti-separatist struggle, and strengthening of security deployment” were emphasised at the meeting. Chamdo Municipal Government, military sub-district, the Intermediate People's Court, the Procuratorate, Chamdo Armed Forces, Chamdo Detachment of the Armed Police Force, Municipal (division) level leaders of Monastery Administrative Committee, and the heads of various units/ departments attended the meeting.

NGACHU NEWS (Ch:Nagqu)

Stability supervision tour to Nagqu

March 11, 2018

Jiang Jie, member of the Standing Committee of TAR Party Committee, Deputy Secretary of TAR People's Government and leader of the Nagqu Stability Supervision Group, Woesser, Deputy Director of the TAR People's Congress and Jiang Zhi, Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government went to Nagqu to inspect stability maintenance in the region. The team inspected police check points, gas stations, municipal government agencies, county, villages and township offices, met troops, the People's Liberation Army, armed police officers, Temple/Monastic Management Cadres and demanded "absolute loyalty" to the CCP CC under Xi Jinping. Jiang Jie appreciated officials and volunteers who have studied about Lei Feng and encouraged them to study and learn from him. Lei Feng (December 18, 1940 – August 15, 1962), originally called Lei Zhengxing, has been hailed as a 'model' soldier of the PLA and a selfless and modest person devoted to the Communist Party. In the posthumous "Learn from Comrade Lei Feng" campaign, initiated by Mao in 1963, Lei Feng became the symbol of nationwide propaganda and the country's youth were encouraged to follow his example.

Relocation of Herdsmen in Nagchu

March 08, 2018

On March 5, Sherab Gyatso, Party Secretary of the Nagqu District Poverty Alleviation and Deputy Director, told reporters it has been decided to relocate 714 households and 3,018 pastoralists in Tsohnyi County, 1, Gatso township, Yachu township, and Tsozha Changma township to Senbu Ri village in Gonggar County of Lhokha Prefecture. Relocation work is expected to be carried out within one year. After the relocation, the original 3 townships will be integrated into a town and 3 villages.

Located in the northwest of the Tibetan Plateau, Tsonyi County is the core area of the state-level Jangtang Nature Reserve. Justification for the relocation was that it was "historically uninhabited" and once known as the "No Man's Land." The 3,018 people to be relocated are herdsmen.

Sherab Gyatso said after the relocation, the production and life of the relocated people will be guaranteed. In order to protect the production and life of relocated households, it will develop agricultural facilities at the relocation site and hand over 300 cattle farms to the relocated herders for aquaculture operations. The Lhokha Municipal Government has reserved industrial land for development purposes for re-locating herders. In the meantime, Sherab Gyatso hoped that teaching institutions in Tsonyi County will be moved to the relocation site, which is of great urgency to guarantee the quality of teaching, enhance the development potential of students and guarantee the resources of teachers.

Gyatso also stated that herdsman's livestock will be sold, escrowed, staked in cooperatives, and other forms to solve the problems of "people left behind without control." Herdsmen relocated to more liveable places, but their original means of production remained at Tsohnyi. Shareholding cooperatives do not pay dividends until the end of the year, and beef and mutton can also protect the family's food supply. This is good for the relocating herders.

Naqu Region organized an inspection team composed of representatives from local, county, township and relocating villages to visit high-altitude areas of Shannan City and Dangxiong County.

NYINGTRI NEWS (Ch:Linzi)

All Counties in Nyingchi expected to get “out of poverty”

March 05, 2018

According to official report of Nyingtri Prefecture, it is learnt that poverty alleviation projects amounts to 1.151 billion yuan. Gyaljig District of Nyingtri Prefecture has reportedly achieved poverty alleviation while poverty in Minling County, Gonpo Gyamda County, Pomei county has fallen below 3 % which is the standard for poverty reeducation.

Remaining three counties are expected to complete poverty reduction this year as planned, which means that Linzhi is expected to achieve full poverty relief this year. Nyingtri Mayor Wangdue stated in 2017, that Nyingtri implemented 141 poverty alleviation industrial projects with an investment of 779 million yuan. It completed relocation of 513 households with 2273 persons in poverty alleviation and reached

83%. The number of “poverty-stricken people in the poverty-stricken areas dropped from 7.9% to 3.85%.

He further added that last year, Nyingtri natural forest protection, closing hillsides, afforestation, key area afforestation, economic forest construction and other ecological projects have achieved remarkable results. Projects such as both sides of the Yalung Tsangpo concentrated green beautification project, network of the Tsangzhong-and-Camdo Power Station, the power supply project of Lasa to Nyingtri Railway, and new round of upgrading rural power grids and completed rural power supply networks in the seven counties.

Wangdue assured that in 2018, Nyingtri will complete the tasks of poverty alleviation and removal of caps in three counties of Zayual, Metok, and Nangzong’s 1500 households and 5,000 people’s relocation to towns.

In addition he added, this year, Nyingtri City will continue to strengthen infrastructure construction, accelerate the construction of five hydropower projects such as the Nyingtri Power Station, Zala Power Station, and build an important “West-to-East Electricity Transmission”, a clean energy base, which will help to accelerate the development of Nyingtri.

LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

- Zhu Qiang (Ethnicity: Han) – Secretary General of TAR People’s Government
- Phurbu Tsering (Ethnicity: Tibetan) - Director of the TAR Development and Reform Commission
- Du Jiangong (Ethnicity: Han) Director of the Education Department of TAR
- Chime Wangchen (Ethnicity: Tibetan) is Director of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the TAR
- Xu Fei (Ethnicity: Han) is Director of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of TAR
- Thinley Dorje (Ethnicity: Tibetan) is the Director of the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Committee of the TAR
- Karma Tsetan (Ethnicity: Tibetan), Director of the Civil Affairs Department of TAR
- Xiao Chuanjiang (Ethnicity: Han), Head of the Justice Department of TAR
- Lang Fukuan (Ethnicity: Han) Director of the Ministry of Finance of the TAR
- Li Fuzhong (Ethnicity: Han) is the Director of the Human Resources and Social Security

Department of TAR

- Liang Jianping (Ethnicity: Han) Director of the Department of Land and Resources of TAR
- Luo Jie (Ethnicity: Han) Director of the Department of Environmental Protection TAR
- Sonam Nyima (Ethnicity: Tibetan) Director of the Department of Housing and Urban-Rural

Development of TAR

- Yangkyi (Ethnicity: Tibetan) Director of the Ministry of Transport of TAR
- Sun Xianzhong (Ethnicity: Han) Director of the Department of Water Resources of TAR
- Du Jie (Ethnicity: Han), Director of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry of TAR
- Yun Dan (Ethnicity: Han), Director of the Forestry Department of TAR
- Penpa (Ethnicity: Tibetan), Director of the Department of Commerce of TAR
- Gang Qing (Ethnicity: Han) is the Director of the Cultural Affairs Department of TAR
- Wang Yunting (Ethnicity: Han) Director of the Tibet Autonomous Region Health and Family

Planning Commission;

- Wang Songping (Ethnicity: Han), Director of TAR Tourism Development Committee;
- Sun Xiuchun (Ethnicity: Han), Director of Audit Office of TAR
- Pema Yangzom, (Ethnicity: Tibetan) Director of the Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the Tibet Autonomous Region

TAR Supervision Committee Deputy Directors:

- Tang Mingying (Han)
- Lhakpa Tsering (Tibetan)
- Gong Huicai (Han)
- Wang Ruitian (Han)

Members of TAR Supervision Committee:

- Reko (Tibetan)
- Wang Zhuoxing (Han)
- Peng Yutao (Han)
- Gao Hongsheng (Han)
- Tsering Wangdue (Tibetan)

Nagchu (CH: Nagqu) Supervision Committee

- Zhuang Cunwei, (Han) Director
- Gao Juntao (Han) Deputy Director

- Tashi Tsering (Tibetan) Deputy Director

Members of Nagchu Supervision Committee:

- Liu Zhijie (Han)
- Awang Tsering (Tibetan)
- Li Yu (Han)

Nagri (Ch: Ali) Supervision Committee:

- Sherab Gyatso (Tibetan) Director
- Wang Wei (Han) Deputy Director
- Tashi Yangzom (Tibetan) Deputy Director
- Liu Denghong (Han) Deputy director

Member of Ngari Supervision Committee:

- Su Zhensheng (Han)
- Awang Samten (Tibetan)
- Han Shengbin (Han)