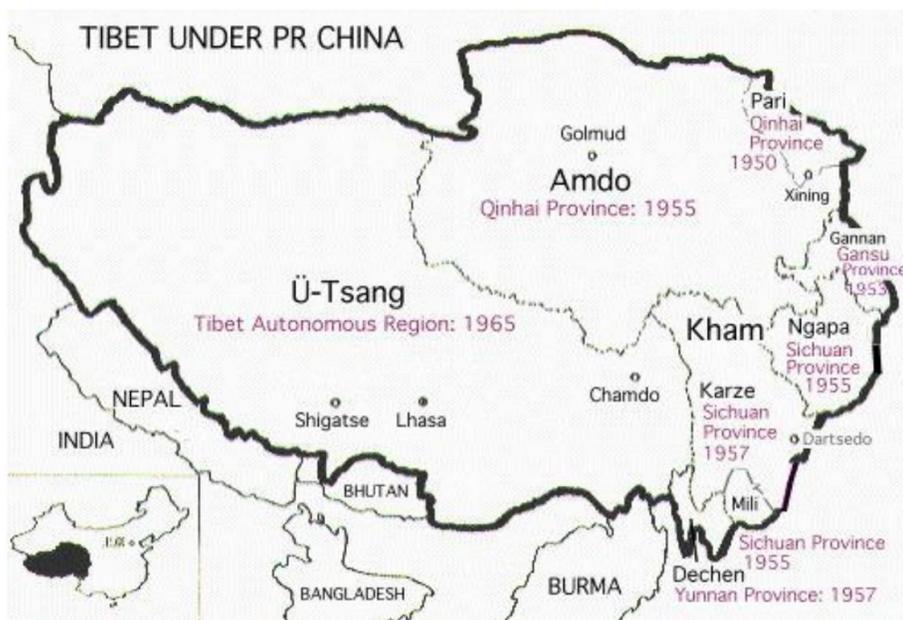
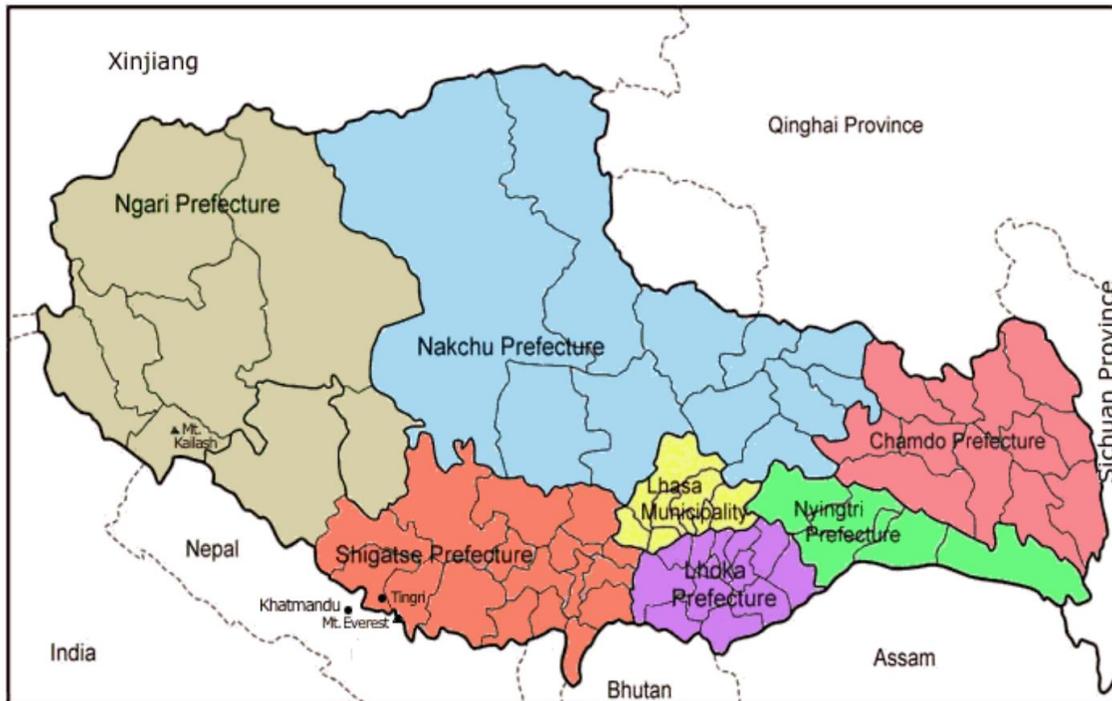




TIBET INSIGHT, 1-30 NOVEMBER 2019



TAR NEWS

Head of TAR People's Government meets NDRC Vice Chairman He Lifeng

November 22, 2019

Directed by TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie, the Chairman of TAR People's Government and Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee, Qi Zhala went to Beijing and met He Lifeng, Vice-Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). Qi Zhala was tasked to report on Tibet's economic and social development and request for more assistance and guidance for development in Tibet.

The Chairman of TAR People's Government Qi Zhala, thanked He Lifeng, and the NDRC for their 'long-term attention and support' to Tibet and said it is "because of General Xi Jinping, the CCP Central Committee, the State Council, and the support of the central ministries, and commissions including the National Development and Reform Commission that Tibet has witnessed high-quality development and stability". He added that "people in Tibet feel the warmth of the great motherland and the superiority of the socialism system." He urged the NDRC to continue its support through project investments and help Tibet formulate the 14th Five Year Plan and assured in return that "Tibet will adhere to the spirit of Xi Jinping's socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the new Era and his 'important exposition' on the regulation of borders."

Qi Zhala in Lhoka to 'convey' the spirit of the Fourth Plenary Session

November 18, 2019

Chairman of the TAR People's Government and Deputy Secretary of the TAR Party Committee, Qi Zhala went to Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) to convey the spirit of the Fourth Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the 19th Party Congress. Deputy Director of TAR People's Congress and Party Secretary of Lhoka Municipal Party Committee, Xu Chengang arranged a meeting for the

Chairman. Qi Zhala gave a presentation on the Fourth Plenary Session and narrated his own experience of the session. He emphasized the need to study the spirit of the Fourth Plenary session as an important political task and said each individual should maintain a high degree of consistency with the CCP CC under Xi Jinping while safeguarding the CCP and the core position of the Party at the same time. He added that “had it not been for the CCP, the Tibetan people wouldn’t have achieved economic and social development as it has today, and that a prosperous and progressive Tibet would not be possible without adherence to Socialism with Chinese characteristics.”

After the meeting, Qi Zhala visited Sangri Country of Lhoka and met grassroot party members and cadres and conveyed the spirit of the fourth Plenary Session through ‘easy-to-understand’ language in a ‘a warm interactive atmosphere.’ The party members told Qi Zhala that “there is no good policy without the CCP and thanked Xi Jinping. They added “we firmly believe that as long as we follow the party unswervingly, follow Xi Jinping and rely on his hard-working hands, our days will be more rewarding.” Qi Zhala distributed study materials about the Fourth plenary session both in Tibetan and Chinese to the party members.

“Self-Correction Study” session for Lhasa Meteorological Bureau staff

November 21, 2019

The 20th “Self-Correction Study” session for officials of Lhasa Municipal’s Meteorological Bureau was held in mid-November with the theme ‘old heart with new mission.’ A report on the meeting mentioned that officials of the bureau need to hone their skills, analysed current problems and measures on how to solve those, and expounded on honesty and self-discipline. Officials of the Meteorological Bureau were tasked with expositions on ‘how to do well in party-building, to build a corruption-free government, and to conduct themselves with honesty and diligence.’ The officials were made to watch a video on ‘The Great achievements and celebration of the 70th Founding Anniversary of the PRC.’

Meeting held to commemorate Founding Anniversary of CPPCC

November 12, 2019

To commemorate the 60th founding anniversary of the TAR PPCC and the 70th Founding anniversary of the CPPCC, a function was held on November 11 at Lhasa in the presence of all top TAR leaders including TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie, Chairman of TAR People's Government Qi Zhala, Chairman of TAR People's Congress Lobsang Gyaltsen, and the Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Chairman of TAR PPCC Ding Ye. After reading out a congratulatory letter from the Central CPPCC, TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie expressed his gratitude to CPPCC organization branches, workers and cadres for adhering to the path of "socialism with Chinese characteristics and for promoting the principles of the CPPCC." He recalled his memories of the 'peaceful liberation' and how the 'patriotic upper-class Tibetans' have always adhered to the leadership of the Party and have united around and with the party. He emphasized the role the TAR PPCC plays in promoting development and long-term stability in Tibet. Wu Yingjie added that "Tibet is at a critical juncture of history, a period of long-term development and reform, and in such a scenario, the TAR PPCC's role of strengthening 'four consciousness,' improving political responsibility and unity of the people is of utmost important, he further added."

Phakpa Lha Gelek Namgyal, the former head of TAR PPCC who attended the function delivered a speech. He pointed out that TAR PPCC branches at all levels should take Xi Jinping's socialism with Chinese characteristics as the guide and should conscientiously implement the spirit of the fourth plenary session of the CCP CC. He further added "concerned officials should abide by the constitutional laws and charter of the CPPCC, uphold the party's overall leadership, and must have clear-cut political position." We must always strengthen our ideological and political consensus, unite and lead the people while exposing the "reactionary nature" of the 14th Dalai Lama, he said.

The function was attended by cadres and officials of the TAR People's Congress, TAR People's Government, TAR PPCC, TAR People's Procuratorate, retired TAR PPCC leaders, and officials of the TAR United Front Work Department.

Tibet Yumai Township Primary School starts school

November 21, 2019

The one and only primary school in Yumai Town in Longzi Country of Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) reopened on November 20, after hoisting of the Chinese flag and singing of the Chinese anthem. The school was closed for 10 years since 2009 due to lack of students and started again after more families from other parts of Tibet were relocated. Principal Kelsang Yangchen said the six students who used to study in the primary school and were sent to study outside Yumai, will be coming back. Yumai came into being in 1960 and was the least populated Township in Tibet with only three inhabitants: a father, Sangay and his two daughters Dolker and Yangzom and was known as the 'three-people-Township'. After the father's letter to Xi Jinping on October 28, 2017 stating; "his family has been guarding the motherland's territory from foreign occupation," the Township came to the notice of the CCP CC and TAR Party Committee. Yume has now become a 'model town' for 'well-off' Xiaokang villages to 'protect and safeguard' national borders. Yumai Township has been teamed up with Hunan Province for any development-related support including attracting more residents to move to the Township to graze their animals and 'safeguard' the border. According to Dawa, Party Secretary of Yumai Township, Yumai currently has more than 50 households with 195 people including 23 preschool children (4-6 years) and 14 primary school children (7-12 years old). The school has 7 primary school teachers and kindergarten teachers and 23 kindergarten children.

Nepal and China to speed up feasibility study of cross-border railway

Xinhua, November 23, 2019

During their fifth formal meeting Nepal and China agreed to prepare a feasibility study of the proposed Cross-Border Railway between the two countries by specifying the roles and responsibilities for both sides, a senior official of Nepal's Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport said. During the meeting between senior Nepali officials and a high-level delegation from China's National Railway Administration held on November 21, the two sides signed a minute detailing each other's tasks as a part of the feasibility study of the proposed railway that will connect Kathmandu with Kyirong of Shigatse. Devendra Karki, Secretary at Nepal's

Physical Infrastructure Ministry, said "As per the signed minute, the Chinese side will carry out all necessary technical works such as aerial mapping, surveying, geological testing as a part of the feasibility study" and "The Nepali side will conduct Environment Impact Assessment and prepare resettlement plan for the people to be affected by the proposed railway project." He said another technical team from China's National Railway Administration will soon visit Nepal to carry out the activities as defined in the minute. He said, "We have agreed to complete the feasibility study as soon as possible". The meeting was attended by TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie, Standing Committee Member of TAR Party Committee Liu Jiang, and Vice-Chairman of TAR People's Government and Party Secretary of Shigatse Municipal Party Committee, Zhang Yangqing.

From November 20 - 22, china's NDRC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Railway Administration, China National Railway Group Co., Ltd., State Grid Corporation and other concerned parties conducted on-the-spot investigations on the prospective railway along the Shigatse to Kyirong section.

Last May, a Chinese company, China Railway First Survey & Design Institute -- conducted a pre-feasibility study of the proposed cross-border railway. The Chinese have also agreed to extend assistance for training Nepali technical human resources in the field of railway. The proposed railway is a part of a Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network that the two sides agreed to develop under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

'Cultural relics' donation for Tashi Lhundup Monastery

November 13, 2019

A donation function was held at Xinhuang Temple in Beijing in November when several 'cultural relics' were donated to the Tashi Lhundup Monastery in Shigatse, Tibet. The donation was given by the Beijing Guangan Art Museum and received by the Chinese-appointed Panchen Lama, Gyaltzen Norbu, Standing Committee Member of CPPCC and Vice-President of the Chinese Buddhist Association. The Office of the Central Tibet Work Coordination Group facilitated this donation. Donations included a Bronze statue of the 4th Panchen Lama who

according to the Chinese “made great contributions to the development of the Gelug sect of the Tibetan Buddhism, safeguarded the reunification of the motherland, promoted unity between Han, Manchu, Mongolian and Tibetan Communities.” The donations will be on public exhibition from December 8-February 29, 2020 organised by the Palace Museum, TAR Cultural Relics Bureau and Tashi Lhunpo Monastery at the Forbidden City. It is the first exhibition of the National Palace Museum since its establishment in 1925. The exhibition of the first to ninth Panchen Lama and of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery of Shigatse was displayed during the 70th Anniversary of the People’s Republic of China. The donation function was attended by ‘experts’ and ‘scholars’ from the Palace Museum and delegations from Shigatse, Tashi Lhunpo Monastery and the Guanguan Art Museum.

TAR Propaganda Department convenes meetings to convey ‘spirit’ of the Fourth Plenary Session

November 14, 2019

According to a report, more than 900 party members, cadres and masses, representatives from schools and military units gathered on November 13 at Tibetan Hall to listen to reports of the recently concluded Fourth Plenary Sessions of CCP CC. Zhang Chengfu, member of the CCP Central Propaganda Department and Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Civil Affairs presented the reports with ‘historical materials, fresh outlooks, and detailed data to signify the importance of the plenary session and explain socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era.’ He said, “the Tibetan people are most qualified to speak about the system’s self-confidence, and that under the leadership of CCP, the Tibetan society has progressed from a feudal system to socialist system.” He added “as long as Tibetans follow the guidelines of the fourth plenary session, Tibet will have a better tomorrow.”

Penpa, Director of the Denchenling Community in the Chengguan District of Lhasa, described as one of many grassroots leaders in party building said, “without the leadership of the party and without socialism with Chinese characteristics, there will be no new Tibet today, no happy life. The fact that Dechenling Community lives in spacious and comfortable houses are due to the party’s leadership”. He added “I will go back to Tibet and preach the contents of the plenary

session to the masses in the Dechenling Community and guide everyone to firmly listen to the party and go with the party." Zhang Ping, a teacher at the Tibetan Vocational and Technical College, said the presentation by Zhang Chengfu will enhance teachers' understanding of the session and broaden their thinking as many teachers are engaged in ideological and political training of students as well. Lhasa Municipal Public Security Bureau's traffic police detachment Deputy Director Pema said she was immersed into Chengfu's presentation about the Plenary session and believes "if we follow the path of the Fourth Plenary Session of the CCP CC, Tibet will be even better." Xie Wenguang, Director of the Policy Research Office of the United Front Work Department of the TAR Party Committee said: "We must twist masses of non-party elements, all ethnic groups and the party into a rope, unify our thinking into the spirit of the Fourth Plenary Session, and further promote the reform and perfection of the united front and to do a good job in Tibet."

Tibetan Medicine University trained over 7,000 'talents' over 30 years

November 22, 2019

The Traditional Tibetan Medicine University of Tibet held its 30th anniversary on November 16, in Lhasa. Nyima Tsering, President of Traditional Tibetan Medicine University of Tibet, said "Tibetan medicine is a crucial part of outstanding traditional Chinese cultural heritage, with a long history, systematic theoretical system, rich clinical experience, complete diverse disciplines, unique diagnosis and treatment methods." Zhang Xinxia, Deputy Director of the Personnel and Education Department of the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine of China believes "Tibetan medicine not only plays a critical role in Tibet, in recent years, it has also made an impact in inland China and the rest of the world. A comprehensive and effective Tibetan medicine service system has been established in Tibet and Tibetan-inhabited areas." Dondrup who is Director of the Science and Research Department at the Traditional Tibetan Medicine University of Tibet said, "he has experienced the changes over the past 30 years at the university as a student first and then as a teacher now." After graduating in 1990, he stayed to teach. In the early phase of the university, there were less than 500 students in the technical secondary and undergraduate sections. Today, the university has trained over 7,000 students.

The former name of the Traditional Tibetan Medicine University of Tibet was Tibetan Medicine School of Tibet University. Founded in 1989, it became independent in 1993 as the Tibetan Medicine College. In 2001, the college's name was changed to Tibetan Medicine College of Tibet, and in 2018, it was formally renamed Traditional Tibetan Medicine University of Tibet..

Bayu section of the Lhasa-Nyingchi railway completed

November 5, 2019

Construction of the Bayu section of the Lhasa-Nyingchi railway was completed on November 6, 2019. China's official media said, "we now achieved a big step to strengthen connections between Tibet region, and South Asia with the completion of the construction of the Bayu Tunnel". The report stated that "when completed this railway project will not only promote the economic development of the border area with India and Nepal but also enhance the security of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) by logistics from Sichuan". It said the new railway will also be connected to Yadong Port and Nielamu Port in TAR, China's two important land gates to India and Nepal, respectively. According to the People's Daily, construction of the 13,073-meter Bayu Tunnel, which faced a lot of difficulties given its complex geographical conditions was successfully completed. In June, China announced it would start work on the 1,700-kilometer Sichuan-Tibet Railway, a project anticipated to take seven years and cost 216.6 billion yuan (\$30.78 billion). Tian Yun the Director of China Society of Macroeconomics Research Centre said, "The market size of Sichuan compared with the border area is much bigger. The new rail service will shorten the distance and travel time between Sichuan and the border area, and it will have a huge lifting impact on the border trade."

Lhoka held three-day training for law enforcement personnels'

November 7, 2019

On November 6, Lhoka (in Chinese: Shannan) held a three-day training for administrative law enforcement personnel. The training was to raise awareness, enhance their sense of responsibility in administrative law enforcement under new forms, improve theoretical and legal standards, enhance political standings and improve their skill in finding and solving the real issues and risks.

Trainees were asked to serve the overall situation of the construction of the rule of law, grasp the key points in administrative laws and law enforcement for the people, and carefully analyse and record each case for future reference. They were told it is necessary to standardize law enforcement and effectively improve usage of legal provisions to resolve contradictions.

Tibetan monks imprisoned for calling for independence in Tibet

November 22, 2019

Four monks from Dza Wonpo Village, Zachkha, Kardze, Sichuan were arrested on November 7, for distributing flyovers for 'Tibet Independence' written with red ink in support of the Tibetan freedom movement. The monks are Kunsel (20 years) and Tamey, Tsultrim and Soeta all aged 18 years old. Their teacher Gen Sergyam was also arrested and interrogated but later released. Two weeks later, another two monks from the same place shouted slogans for Tibetan independence and scattered leaflets into air calling for an end to China's rule in Tibet in front of a Chinese police station. Just prior to their protest, they also posted a statement on WeChat stating "those who have laid their lives for the sake of Tibetans, for those brave hearts who are fighting for the cause of Tibet's independence, I have heard about the pain and the suffering you have undergone". Each of them also made a short video of 15-seconds set to music with their photos and portrait of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. In their messages, Lhagyal and Yonten expressed solidarity with the four young monks detained on November 7. They were severely beaten and arrested immediately. The local authorities were reported to have deployed paramilitary troops in uniform and plainclothes. The area was said to have high security presence and be heavily guarded.

Wangchuk, 45, from Zurtso Township, southwest Tibet has been detained since March 8, 2019 reportedly because he shared some information on books related to the Dalai Lama's teachings and the Tibetan translation of 'The Noodle maker of Kalimpong', a book by Gyalo Thundup, who is an elder brother of the Dalai Lama online.

A statement released by the Free Tibet organization and obtained by a monk from a Tibetan monastery in South Chinese, said these protests followed a series of Chinese propaganda

campaigns in the area, which created resentment among local Tibetans. Chinese officials have been touring the region encouraging locals to praise the CCP and defend China's human rights record in the region, while interviews have been recorded with locals for use in state media broadcasts.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

Chinese Panchen visits 22nd China-Korea-Japan Buddhist Exchange Conference

October 31, 2019

On October 30, representatives from the Buddhist institutes of China, South Korea and Japan met for the 22nd China-South Korea-Japan Buddhist Friendship Exchange Conference at Zhuhai, Guangdong, China. It was attended by more than 300 delegates including the Chinese-appointed 11th Panchen Lama, Gyaltzen Norbu. The theme of the conference was “the construction of a Buddhism community and world”.

Wang Zuo'an, Deputy Director of the Central United Front Work Department and Director of the State Administration of Religious Affairs attended the meeting. Wang Zuo'an hopes that the Buddhist circles of the Three Kingdoms uphold the spirit of compassion, equality and harmony, and continue to advance along the path of wisdom pioneered by Jianzhe, Jin Qiaojue and Songhai to create "golden ties" as was jointly created by the predecessors of the three countries. He pointed out that “President Xi Jinping looked at the world as his own responsibility and proposed the idea of building a world community of common destiny”, and promoted lasting peace with common prosperity, opened and tolerance. At the conference, Gyaltzen Norbu, Vice President of the Chinese Buddhist Association and President of the Tibet Branch of the Chinese Buddhist Association said, "The true followers of the Buddha must pursue the truth and advocate compassion and peace, explore the natural law of life and death'. He wished the Buddhist circles of the three countries to use their "golden ties" to ignite the light of hope to all the sentient beings and spread the seeds of peace”. He further said “the "golden ties" of the Chinese, Korean and Japanese Buddhism that have been passed down for thousands of years are still an important factor for maintaining and developing the traditional friendship of the three peoples. It can also

play a special role in consolidating normalcy in diplomatic relations, promoting friendship between generations, and maintaining peace and stability in East Asia”. However, the Chief representative from Chinese side was Ming Sheng, the Vice Chairman of the Chinese Buddhist Association. He also delivered the keynote speech of the conference. In the opening ceremony and various other events, Panchen Lama was spotted seated in the center.

The "Golden Tie" is a metaphor of the intimate relationship between the three presidents of the Three Kingdoms. The idea was put forwarded by Zhao Puchu, the late president of the Chinese Buddhist Association 25 years ago which was unanimously recognized and positively responded to by the Buddhist circles of the three countries. The first Buddhist conference of these three countries was initiated in 1995.

Wang Qinghua, grassroots Party secretary of Aba Prefecture died

November 5, 2019

Wang Qinghua, a grassroots party secretary of Ngaba (in Chinese: Aba) Prefecture passed away on October 24, 2019. He worked in Tibetan areas for 22 years and became the party secretary of Jinchuan County, Aba prefecture in December 2014. The state party committee held a memorial service for him and said “He has always motivated the majority of party members and cadres to remember their original hearts, keep their mission in mind, and serve as a clerk. His dedication to the people, and good reputation in the masses have become the most authentic portrayal of his life”. All party cadres were asked to be like Wang Qinghua. Apart from his contribution in development of the region, he is said to have worked for national unity and progress and led the township through the activities of association, demonstration creation, advanced driving of the National Unity and Progressive Alliance, and created a harmonious atmosphere of national unity and progress in the township and with neighbours.

It is reported that after a brain haemorrhage, he was sent to Chengdu for the operation, and even on his death bed, he was asking about the progress of the constructions and its completion. Through Wechat, he tried to see it by himself and directly talked to the village cadres.

Publicising his selfless dedication could imply pressure on the cadres to meet the deadline for a well-off society in Tibet and across China by 2021.

Gesar protection meeting held at Kuming, Yunnan

November 7, 2019

The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences held the National Gesar inheritance and coordination meeting at Kuming on November 6. It was attended by experts and scholars from these two institutions and other branches to discuss coordination in protection of Gesar epic heritage. Norbu Wangdan, Director of the National Office of the Leading Group of “Gesar, said that "Gesar" is not only a melting pot of ethnic cultural diversity, but also a witness to the sustainable development of multi-ethnic folk culture. Since the 1950s, Yunnan has made remarkable achievements in the rescue and protection of the “Gesar epic”. It is important to coordinate and discuss how to better protect and inherit the epic tradition of "Gesar" in the new situation, how to better protect the cohesiveness of the Chinese nation and the diversity and integrity of Chinese culture by protecting this epic tradition. They said, ‘Yunnan is an important area for Gesar epic compared to other Tibetan areas in the country as Yunnan has the characteristics of multi-ethnic and multi-cultural integration’. Most scholars expressed concern that most of the Gesar experts had passed away and if they don’t seize the opportunity to collect and record now, it will be difficult in the future.

Ling Gesar is the longest and most extensive living epic tradition owned by Tibet and the Himalaya region. This epic was reportedly jointly created by Chinese, Tibetans and Mongols. The Gesar epic has no associations with China though. In 2009, the epic “Gesar" was included in the UNESCO’s "List of Representatives of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Mankind".

Ngaba Prefecture introduces re-education training courses for young and middle-aged monks

November 15, 2019

Ngaba (in Chinese: Aba) Tibetan and Qiang Prefecture, Sichuan Province conducted training classes for Tibetans and Tibetan monks. The participants included representatives of monasteries,

Tibetan Youth Associations etc. The Secretary of the State Party Committee, Liu Ping presided and preached on the spirit of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th Party and stressed that Tibetan Buddhism should do better in the future. He said, “We must always adhere to the direction of religion with Chinese characteristics, carry forward the fine tradition of patriotism, rule of law, and socialist society with Chinese characteristics”. He reminded all the representatives of Tibetan Buddhism that ‘there is no conflict between the party’s ideology and religious belief, and they should understand that the prosperity of Tibetan Buddhism is inseparable from the prosperity of motherland, national unity and progress’. Those attending were also told to ‘love the party, follow the party and always obey the rule of law’. The meeting was also attended by Lei Weiguo, Deputy Party Secretary of the State Party Committee and a minister of UWFD. All those attending were instructed to affirm their responsibility to follow the party’s words, feel the party’s grace and work towards building a consensus. This re-education training was part of the party’s ethnic and religious policies, the Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee and management of Tibetan Buddhism according to law. All participants were to be taken to Shanghai and Zhejiang to promote ‘Red education’ and study advancement management of the temples.

The U.S. Congress Resolution Commends Dalai Lama for His Commitment to Global Peace

November 15, 2019

A draft resolution introduced on November 14 in the United States House of Representatives asked to recognize “the significance of the genuine autonomy of Tibet and the Tibetan people and the work His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has done to promote global peace, harmony, and understanding.” It was introduced by Representatives Ted Yoho along with Rep. Michael McCaul, Chris Smith and Jim McGovern. The resolution “recognizes the cultural and religious significance of a genuinely autonomous Tibet and the deep bond between the American and Tibetan people.” It also “commends the 14th Dalai Lama for his commitment to global peace and nonviolence”.

Qinghai awarded National Ecological Honour

November 18, 2019

After Huangyuan county in 2017, Gui'de county, Qinghai is the second county to receive the national ecological honour and was listed among the third group of China's demonstration cities and counties for ecological civilization construction by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment on November 13. Gui'de county, located in eastern Qinghai under the Hainan Tibetan autonomous prefecture, began ecological civilization construction work in 2015. Through four years of efforts, the county has met the 37 major targets required by the environmental authority concerning environment quality, space layout, green economy, living environment, system construction and environmental awareness. Till date, the water flowing in the Gui'de section of Yellow river has been kept at Grade II, the second-highest level in China's five-tier water quality system, which can be used as drinking water sources. In the first half of 2019, the county saw fairly or very good air quality for 97.7 percent of days. To achieve these results, great efforts were made to control and manage pollution sources. A number of high-energy-consuming and high-polluting companies such as sand plants, cement plants and carpet factories were improved or closed. Green agriculture and green tourism gathered momentum. 58 sewage treatment stations were built in 25 villages and disposable plastic bags and tableware are banned across the county. Another 83 cities and counties across the country were included in the list at the awards ceremony held on Saturday in Shiyan, Hubei province. In the effort to make Qinghai an ecological demonstration zone and for the demonstration parks, a number of rivers and sacred mountains have been banned for the local people and villagers were forced to shift.

A Seminar on Collection and Compilation of Tibetan Local Records from Dukang Tibetan History held at Xilling, Qinghai

November 18, 2019

On November 14, a major bidding project for 'collecting and collating of Tibetan local history from Dukang Tibetan History' was held by the National Social Science Fund of Qinghai Universities for Nationalities. This is the mid-term inspection seminar of the project where more than 30 experts from within and outside gathered.

The subject is one of the only four major national social science fund bidding projects in Qinghai Province, and the only project on history. It consists of two sections: collection, and compilation of Tibetan local historical data in the Dokang Tibetan area; and the compilation of a three-volume "Dukang Tibetan History which includes collection and collation of Tibetan local history data in Kham and Tibetan area, Volcano History of Duokang Volume 2 of Duokang Tibetan History, Volume III of Dukang Tibetan History.

The collection and compilation of Tibetan local historical data and the compilation of the three-volume of "Dukang Tibetan History" are going on simultaneously. The research team spent two years collecting various Tibetan local chronicles in Gan-Qian-Chuan-Dian-Tibetan settlements. More than 40 books including the history of local tribal regimes, temples, sacred places, geography, pedigree history, law, regional history of teaching methods, and biographies have been collected. Most manuscripts and woodcut documents have been scanned and reprinted.

The content of some of these volume includes the spread and development of different denominations in the Dakang Tibetan area and their relationship with the local state and religion, the relationship between the Dalai Lama 'Living Buddha' system and the Dakang Tibetan area, the Panchen Lama 'Living Buddha' system and the Dakang Tibetan area, the relationship between the Karmapa 'Living Buddha' system and the Dokang Tibetan area and the history and culture of the Dakang Tibetan area in Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim. According to them, Tibetan historical data and documents provide strong support and supplementary information on the aforementioned topics particularly on Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim.

Experts from Qinghai and Nepal discuss 'Belt and Road'

November 21, 2019

The expert forum of Qinghai Province and Nepal on the theme of "Belt and Road", was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on November 20. The meeting was to discuss the specific areas of cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) between the two sides. It was hosted by the Nepal Tianli Publishing Culture Company and the Nepal-China Kailash Cultural Promotion

Association. Sun Faping, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) of Qinghai Province with four others including Jin Xiaodong, President of the Overseas Chinese Association of Nepal and scholars from Nepal attended. Sun Faping said that Qinghai and Nepal have a lot to learn from each other and Qinghai is second nearest to Nepal after TAR. So, he stressed that under BRI there is solid potential to build a realistic foundation for cooperation between Qinghai Province and Nepal. Guatam, President of Nepal Contemporary Publishing House said, “Nepal always needed large imports of salt, and Qinghai being one of the important salt producing areas, there is scope for cooperation between the two places”. Some other scholars mentioned that they intend to produce more China-English bilingual books so that students and scholars could learn more about China.

UFWD of Qinghai held consultation meeting for the non-party members

November 23, 2019

On November 21, the UFWD of the Qinghai Provincial Party held a non-party consultation meeting to discuss the responsibilities of the religious representatives and industrial and commercial federations in Qinghai. Liu Tonged, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress and Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee, and Du Dhezhi, Vice Chairman of Provincial CPPCC attended the meeting. Discussions centered on the importance of religious representatives in building and expanding the United Front Work Department. For this they stressed that it is important to train a group of patriotic religious representatives comprising old, middle-aged and the young who play active roles in the construction of a harmonious society. The meeting emphasized that the religious representatives are the bridge and link between the party and government to the religious circles and people. They are important for building non-party representatives. Li Tongde said “we must actively guide and support the representatives of the religious community to closely associate themselves with religious believers and actively participate in the construction of new Qinghai. It is hoped that the democratic parties, the Federation of Industry and Commerce and non-partisans will continue to pay attention to the construction of the religious representative team in our province, strengthen the investigation, and actively provide advice and suggestions for the party and the government to do a good job in the construction of religious representatives”.

24 years old Tibetan man resorts to self-immolation in Ngaba

November 26, 2019

24-year old ex-monk of Kirti monastery Yonten, self-immolated on 26th November in Ngaba (in Chinese: Aba) County, Sichuan, protesting against Chinese rule in Tibet. He is the 156th recorded Tibetan to self-immolate in Tibet since 2009. He is from Meruma village not far from Kriti Monastery. Yonten's protest follows the December 2018 self-immolation by DrukKho, also in Ngaba. Two Kirti monks living in exile, Kanyag Tsering and Lobsang Yeshe, said Yonten joined Kirti monastery when he was very young and later returned to lay life. Ngaba's main town and nearby Kirti monastery have been the scene of repeated self-immolations and other protests in recent years by monks, former monks, and other Tibetans calling for Tibetan freedom and the Dalai Lama's return to Tibet.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

The U.S. Congress Resolution Commends Dalai Lama for His Commitment to Global Peace

November 15, 2019

A group of the U.S. lawmakers has introduced a resolution in Congress commending the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama for his commitment to global peace and non-violence. The draft resolution introduced on November 14 in the United States House of Representatives recognised “the significance of the genuine autonomy of Tibet and the Tibetan people and the work His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has done to promote global peace, harmony, and understanding.” It also “commends the 14th Dalai Lama for his commitment to global peace and nonviolence”.

8th International Tibet Support Group Meeting held at Dharamsala

November 5, 2019

The 8th International Tibet Support group meeting commenced in Dharamsala on November 3. The meeting was attended by delegates from 42 different countries and presided over by President of Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) Dr. Lobsang Sangay. The delegates were given a special audience by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama on November 4. The delegates include over 180 political leaders, Members of Parliament, policy makers, scholars including some Chinese scholars. In the meeting, the Dalai Lama emphasised that “Sikyong is the supreme leader in the matters relating to political issue” and his devolution of the power since 2011. The three-day conference demonstrated the deep concern of TSG members over the worsening situation of Tibet under the PRC and the lack of Chinese counterparts in forging a plausible dialogue based on the Middle Way Approach with the representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama or the CTA. They appealed to the UN and members of the international community to prompt the Chinese government to enter into negotiations with Tibet for a mutually beneficial solution. Many of the participants shared their concern over China’s lack of political will in resolving the Tibetan issue through negotiation and questioned the viability of the negotiation. The Sikyong, however, reaffirmed that dialogue remains the only viable channel and that they remain optimistic of Beijing rekindling contacts citing China’s quest to seek legitimacy and power in the global diplomacy.

A central discussion was on the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama, and it was emphasized that “all the decisions regarding the reincarnation of the 14th Dalai Lama are the exclusive responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and his Gaden Phodrang Trust. “Interference of any form by the PRC will be deemed illegitimate and further be subjected to sanctions by the international community,” they said, adding that they fully support the resolutions passed at the 3rd Special General Meeting of the Tibetans on the reincarnation.

Tibet's top religious leaders declare Chinese 15th Dalai Lama will be persona non grata

November 29, 2019

The heads of the different religious branches of Tibet, who all live in exile, made it clear on November 27 that there will be a 15th Dalai Lama and he will be one recognized and enthroned in strict conformity with the over 800-year-old Tibetan tradition with the primacy of the Dalai Lama's own wishes. The religious leaders made clear their resolve at the three-day, 14th Tibetan Religious Conference which began at Dharamsala, India, on November 27. In particular, the top religious leaders of Tibet made it clear that Tibetans will not recognize and respect any other 15th Dalai Lama imposed by China. The conference of 100 religious leaders, representatives, and delegates was organized by the Department of Religion and Culture of the Central Tibetan Administration, although the Karmapa missed it reportedly because he was denied visa for traveling to India.

The conference adopted the following resolution:

The Karmic bond between the Dalai Lamas and the Tibetan people have been inseparable and the present status of the Tibetan people being extremely critical, all Tibetans genuinely wish for the continuation of the Institution and Reincarnation of the Dalai Lama in the future. We therefore strongly supplicate to His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama for the same.

The authority of decision concerning the way and the manner in which the next reincarnation of the XIV Dalai Lama should appear solely rests with His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama himself. No government or otherwise will have such authority. If the Government of the People's Republic of China for political ends chooses a candidate for the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan people will not recognize and respect that candidate.

Regarding the method of recognizing the future reincarnations of the Dalai Lama, the same unique Tibetan traditional method, which has been continuously used until now, will be followed. This method conforms to the basic philosophy and tenets of the Buddhadharma and originated in Tibet over 800 years ago.

Those who attended the conference included the Sakya Trizin, the Gaden Tri Rinpoche, the Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche, the Kyabje Menri Trizin Rinpoche, the Kyabje Tsurphu Gorshe Gyaltzab Rinpoche (Representative of Gyalwang Karmapa), the Taklung Matrul Rinpoche (Representative of the Taklung Shabdrung Rinpoche), the Namdroling Tulku Choedhar Rinpoche, Khenpo Ngedhon Tenzin (Representative of the Gyalwang Drukchen), and the Jonang Gyaltzab Rinpoche. Also attending were other eminent Tibetan rinpoches and tulkus, representatives and lamas from the Himalayan regions, the Khen Rinpoches of major Tibetan Buddhist institutes in exile, heads and members of Tibetan monastic institutes and representatives of Tibetan nunneries.

Top leaders of the Central Tibetan Administration also attended the conference's inaugural meeting.

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