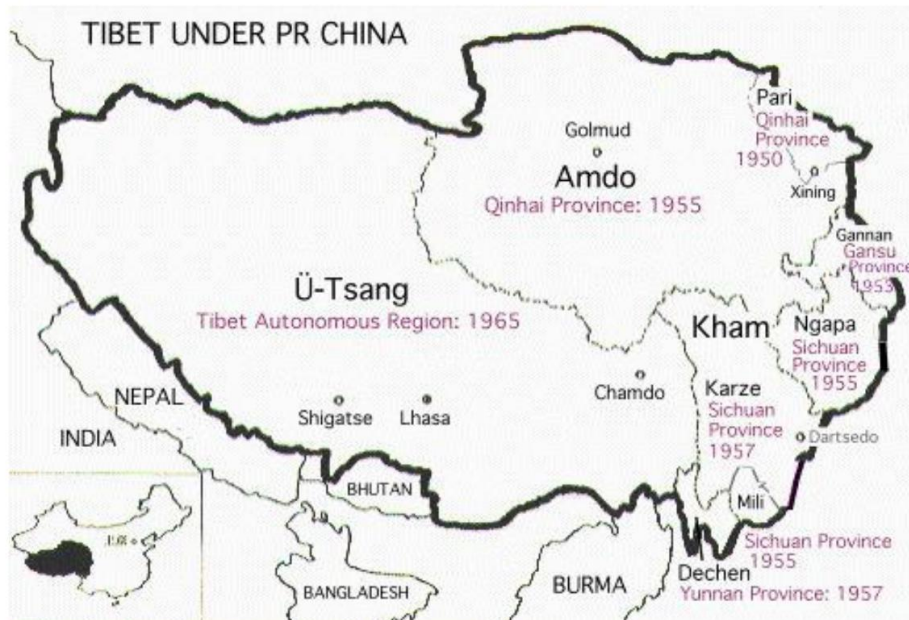
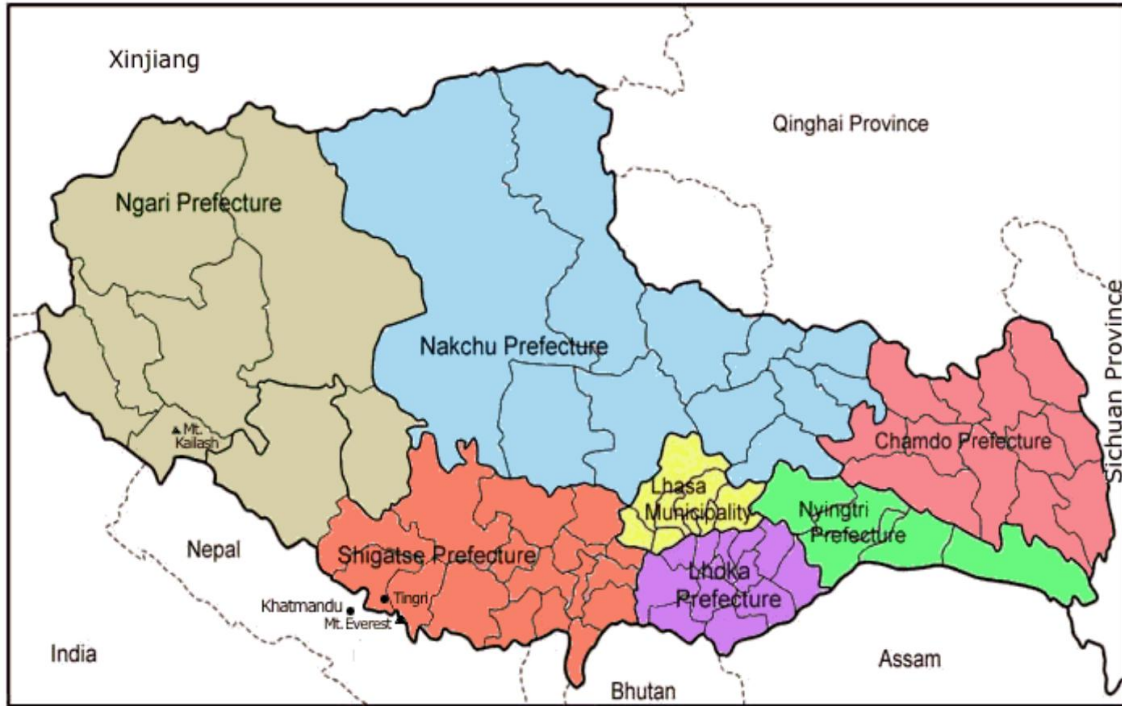




TIBET INSIGHT, 15-30 JUNE 2018



## TAR NEWS

### Late Panchen Lama's daughter in Tibet, is CCP behind the visit?

June 26, 2018

A recent blog by Claudi Arpi claimed the daughter of the late tenth Panchen Lama Rigzin Wangmo was in Tibet after her last visit on June 20, 2013 when she and her mother was welcomed warmly by a huge gathering of Tibetans. She visited two of the most important monasteries in Lhasa, Ramoche and Jokhang and also Tashilhunpo in Shigatse, the monastery of the Panchen Lamas. The blog speculated that the CCP may want to promote the tenth Panchen Lama who had been critical of China's Tibet Policies. In an interview given in 2006 to, *The Southern People Weekly*, Rinzin Wangmo, shared several personal life stories including how her father the Tenth Panchen Lama departed from the conventional ways of a lama by getting married. She further disclosed that her mother Li Jie was the granddaughter of a Kuomintang General Dong Qiwu, and how she was blessed by Deng Yingchao (wife of Zhou Enlai) and Xi Zhongxun (father of Xi Jinping) when she was a baby. She also claimed that Deng Yingchao gave her the childhood nickname "Tuantuan/Circle" meaning "wishing for an unbroken circle of solidarity and harmony between the Han and Tibetan peoples".

(Comment: Her recent visit to Tibet has prompted speculation that she is possibly working with the CCP on sensitive current religious issues.

The Tenth Panchen Lama had also submitted a 70,000-character document entitled "A Report on the Sufferings of the Masses in Tibet and Other Tibetan Regions and Suggestions for Future Work to the Central Authorities through the Respected Premier Zhou" as a petition. The Panchen Lama wrote that, "he wished only to point out some mistakes by lower level cadres that had led to deleterious results for Tibet and Tibetans and he expressed his confidence that such mistakes would be corrected." In his report he was careful to praise the doctrines and policies of the CCP and to adhere to the political line that class struggle (between classes within Tibet) rather than national conflict

(between China and Tibet) was the source of the revolt. However, he emphasized that Tibetan Buddhism and Tibetan national identity were threatened and that the loyalty of Tibetans to the Chinese Government was at stake.)

### **Tibetans Forced to Sing Party Propaganda Songs in Tibet**

June 18, 2018

Radio Free Asia reported on June 18, that China has launched a new loyalty campaign in the Tibetan Autonomous Region, which compels ordinary Tibetans to sing Party propaganda songs by giving group performances in a large crowd. Each family has to send one member and they all have to learn the songs praising the communist party. If any family fails to send a representative or refuses to sing, they are threatened with hefty fines. Fines range from 100 to 500 yuan with the Shigatse region imposing the heaviest fines.

This campaign is to test the loyalty of Tibetans to the ruling communist party and as rehearsal for the upcoming national celebration of the founding day of Communist Party of China (CCP) on July 1, 1921.

### **The Success of Tibet's Education indicates the Success of 40 years of Reform and Opening Up: China Says**

June 26, 2018

Hu Ying, the reporter of China Tibet Network, says, " In the 40 years of reform and opening up, the flower of Tibetan education is glamorous and dazzling". According to him, there is continued development in Tibetan education, education system and schooling mainly due to the 'Three Guaranteed policy'. This is part of the policy in Tibet of free and compulsory education called two exemptions and one subsidy. The Three Guarantees (Sanbao) are: guaranteed food, guaranteed clothing, and guaranteed housing. This policy applies to the primary and secondary schools in the rural pastoral Tibetan areas and was initiated in 1985.

It recalled that since the 18th Party Congress, the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) has considered education as the top priority amongst the various development projects. At present, the TAR government has a policy of 15-years of free education till high school. If the school going children are children of nomads and peasants, they enjoy ‘three guaranteed policy’. This year, in the primary school, there are 48,148 graduates in Tibet and from there 15,306 are enrolled in the middle school.

Another reason for the success of Tibetan education, the report says is due to the ‘group based education aid’. Under this aid education, they bring together teachers from different universities and support primary and secondary schools in Tibet. They said that this kind of ‘group based’ education aid in Tibet is an important measure to thoroughly implement the Sixth Tibet Work Forum. At the Sixth Tibet work Forum Symposium, Xi Jinping emphasized that if it is to change the face of Tibet, it can be done through education. Thus, the ‘13th Five Year Plan’ of education in the TAR region proposes to achieve “an overall level of development that is close to the national average by 2020”.

### **TAR Party Secretary in relocation area in Lhasa**

July 02, 2018

The TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie visits ten newly relocated households in Lhasa comprising persons from Makham and Gongjue counties of Chamdo on the 97<sup>th</sup> founding day of the CCP on July 1, 2018. Wu Yingjie also met grassroot party members. TAR Party Committee leaders Lobsang Dhondup, Pema Wangdue and Jamphel accompanied him. Most of the relocated families are former and current party members. TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie told the households to thank the CCP Central Committee and General Xi Jinping’s strategic plan to build well-off societies by 2020. He also asked them to ‘safeguard the core position of General Secretary Xi Jinping, authority of the CCP Central Committee, national unity, maintain social stability, and work towards “reunification of the motherland.”’

Wu Yingjie also inspected convenience police stations of the area, urged the concerned officials to strengthen their work quality, and reinforce the sense of “belongingness,

identity.”

At the Dickyi Khangsar Community, the Party Secretary gave a speech where he highlighted the achievements of the CCP in Tibet and urged the party members to publicise the strategic thinking of General Secretary Xi, and his ‘thoughts on Socialism with Chinese characteristics in the New Era’. He added, “As long as we firmly follow the Chinese Communist Party, a grand blueprint for a happy Tibet will become a beautiful reality.”

### **Executive Vice- Chairman of TAR in Meldro Gungkar County**

July 2, 2018

On June 28, Executive Vice- Chairman and member of the Standing Committee of the TAR Party Committee Jiang Jie led a team to Meldro Gungkar (Maizhokunggar) county to the east of the central Chengguan district of Lhasa to oversee progress in the construction of the sewage treatment plant (artificial wetland) of the Gongka Town Wastewater Treatment Plant. The County is the ‘pilot’ county for rural resettlements in entire Lhasa.

Jiang Jie pointed out that the sewage treatment plant project is a livelihood and environmental protection project that undertakes environmental protection, supervision and rectification. All departments at all levels should strengthen their responsibility and take the time to improve relevant procedures as soon as possible in accordance with the expert review opinions and construction outline. He added, “It is necessary to strengthen fund security, improve science and technology and scientifically design sewage treatment programs, ensure quality of sewage treatment, and implement feedback/inputs from central environmental protection inspectors”.

While supervising resettlement projects in the county, Jiang Jie spoke to village cadres and villagers and gave inputs and directions on the ongoing settlement projects. He told the cadres to ‘profoundly understand’ the important instructions of General Secretary Xi Jinping. The Executive Vice- Chairman further emphasised the need to accelerate

implementation of the three-year rural resettlement and rural revitalization strategy.

### **Lhasa cadres celebrates the founding anniversary of the Party**

June 29, 2018

A gathering of all the cadres of Lhasa, representatives of the six autonomous prefectures/administrative districts and provincial retired leaders who had worked in Lhasa was organized June 29, on the 97<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the founding of the Party and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ‘Reform and Opening Up.’ A Tibetan opera troupe performed to songs praising the Party’s ‘achievements’ in Tibet.

Lhasa Municipal Party Secretary Pema Wangdui was the chief guest along with Zhuang Hongxiang, Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee, Secretary-General and Minister of Organization Department, Kong Lingjun, Inspector of Lhasa City Public Security Bureau, and Yuan Xunwang Chairman of the TAR CPPCC and Party Secretary of the Lhasa Economic Development Zone.

The Opera Troupe also performed ‘patriotic love songs’ on the love of children for the ‘motherland.’ More than 500 cadres participated in the gathering.

### **Training Classes for Public Security Bureau Cadres**

June 12, 2018

The annual training class for cadres of the Public Security Bureau was held on June 11. Hong Li, Member of TAR Party Committee’s Public Security Bureau and Director of the Political Department, attended the opening function and gave a speech while Deputy Director of the Political Department under Public Security, Tashi Dickyi attended the function. In his speech Hong Li highlighted the importance of learning how to recognize an issue and respond accordingly, strengthen efficiency of the cadres through training, emphasize on the building of ‘political’ cadres, and “family police” and, finally, to ensure due completion of political tasks. Liu Xiaoshan, Police Inspector of the Political and Industrial Supervision Office of the Chamdo Public Security Bureau, and representatives



and lecturers of the Police Personal Training Department of the Political Department of TAR Public Security Bureau attended and spoke at the function. More than 110 political and economic departments from all prefectures/ADs are to undergo a seven-day intensive training on personal services such as awards, preferential treatment, education, training and political information techniques.

### **The U.S. acts as the 'Standard Setter' of Religious Freedom**

June 15, 2018

China reacted to the United State's annual report on International Religious Freedom of 2017 on China and Tibet. The Deputy Director of Institute of religion at the China Tibetology Research Centre, Dukar Tsering claimed that China's policy of freedom of religious belief makes sense not only in China but anywhere in China. According to him, China's policy on religion allows 'people to be in charge of their affairs, protect normal religious activities, and fulfil the needs of ordinary religious followers'.

He remarked that the information and data provided in the report are not reliable because they are collected from separatist forces abroad meaning Tibetans and Tibetan government in Exile. To him, there is no standard definition of religion and religious freedom, so the U.S. acting as standard setter of religious freedom is not acceptable. He says that "China should define its own standard" and be confident in their policy. He emphasized that there is no scope of religious freedom in old Tibet, which refers to as 'feudal serfdom of theocracy'.

Some of the indicators of Chinese government giving importance to religious freedom, according to him is that the government has spent enormous human resources, material resources and financial resources in formulating laws and regulations to protect and regulate religious activities. One such example he gave is the Method of Management for the Reincarnations of Tulkus in Tibetan Buddhism. Stating that China's constitution considers religious belief and affairs as a personal thing, but the indicator of having religious freedom is how well the government regulates these religious activities, he said the U.S. is always negative on any work related to Tibet done by the Party and that they

never use real data and examples.

## **Reform in the Title System in Tibet**

June 27, 2018

At a press conference on June 25, the Tibet People's Government disclosed it is completing the reform of the title system in Tibet under 'Implementing Opinions of Reform and Deepening of Professional Title System in Tibet'. The changes have been carried out over the last four years. In addition to improving the institutional system, evaluation criteria, and innovating new evaluation mechanisms, this is an attempt to make the title system uniform in the entire region.

The improved title system establishes a vertical hierarchy based on seniority in the professional categories. It takes political conduct and moral quality as a top priority and introduces peer review as part of the evaluation mechanism. The report said this would not only resolve the problem of job titles in Tibet in the framework of the national reform, but will help support a higher degree of policy integration. It suggested that given the reality of frontier ethnic areas, the ideological and political requirements of professionals are paramount in addition to their technical talent.

(Comment: The current title system for professionals and technical personnel in Tibet has been implemented since 1986.)

## **Summary of Economic and Social Development of Financial Services in TAR**

June 5, 2018

The official Tibet Daily publicised (June 5) that at the end of 2017, the loans for small, medium, and large enterprises increased by 57.60% year-on-year, which was 26.26 percentage points higher than that for large enterprises. The balance of agricultural loans stood at RMB 117.736 billion, up 37% throughout the year.

At the end of 2017, the non-performing loan ratio of the banking industry in the region



was 0.33%, which was lower than the national 1.57 percentage points. It described the financial operations as stable. At the end of March 2018, the balance of deposits in local and foreign currencies of Tibetan financial institutions was 496.614 billion yuan, an increase of 708 million yuan or 0.14% over the beginning of the year; an increase of 42.469 billion yuan or 9.35% over the same period last year.

It reported that since 2017, financial infrastructure construction in TAR has steadily stabilized and improved while the payment and settlement system has been steady. The report disclosed that anti-money laundering and anti-counterfeiting work have intensified and credit information system has improved. The financial industry of TAR reportedly contributed 27.4% to economic growth, social development and long-term stability in 2017.

At the end of February, the scale of social financing was 573.493 billion yuan, an increase of 6.02% over the beginning of the year and an increase of 24.41% over the same period last year. By the end of March, the outstanding balance of local and foreign currency loans of financial institutions in Tibet was 431.315 billion yuan (excluding the loan balance of small loan companies), an increase of 26.956 billion yuan over the beginning of the year, an increase of 99.808 billion yuan. To ensure sound operation of the payment and settlement system, the People's Bank of China branch in Lhasa established rules for Joining and withdrawal of Payment system of banking/financial institutions in TAR, by conducting field visits, joint meetings, and organization of training, assessment and evaluation methods to strengthen management and service of each participant. At present, there are reportedly 238 banking/financial institutions in TAR with 237 indirect clients, one direct client. 6,852,200 cases of large and small payment system were handled in 2017, transaction and liquidation of funds of 4,177,814 million yuan, a year-on-year increase of 37.66% and 28.68%. It is said that the establishment of credit information system has helped in combating money laundering and counterfeiting.

The report added that with the introduction of social credit system, awareness about the credit system among the Tibetans has improved and the scope of its usage has further

enhanced. The credit history of a person is an important reference for his/her social and economic activities.

In order to inspect credit history, the Tibet Branch of the People's Bank of China's credit information center, has opened channels such as help desk at the bank and online query system as well. As of the end of October 2017, a total of 23 self-checking credit report machines were deployed.

According to the data of the Lhasa Central Sub-branch, as of the end of 2017, the corporate credit information system included 8,115 enterprises and other economic organizations in the region. The personal credit information system included 1.385 million persons in TAR, in 2017, 11,385 newly added institutional credit code certificates were issued in the TAR with a total of 44,926. As of the end of 2017, a total of 465,400 small-scale credit loan files for farmers and herdsmen were established, with a 95.92% filing. In 2017, 20 key suspicious transaction reports were detected, 17 anti-money laundering investigations were conducted involving 897 units and individuals' transactions accounting to 5 billion yuan; 90 public security agencies assisted the investigation.

In 2017, counterfeit currency monitoring stations were set up in border areas such as Kyirong and Yadong ports in Shigatse, and in Lhasa, Nyingtri, Chamdo, Nagchu and Ngari.

### **China's Domestic Locomotives replace US locomotives in Golmud-Lhasa Railway**

June 25, 2018

China's locomotive technology manufacturing company CRRC Dalian made a significant advance when its train locomotive replaced the imported US locomotives that have been used on the highest-elevation railways in Tibet.

Zhao Jian, a professor at Beijing Jiaotong University, said, "American locomotives were chosen as domestic ones could not satisfy the requirements of power and resilience at

such extreme heights." CRRC Dalian's HXN3 locomotive was initially used in the Lhasa-Xigatse railway to test the adaptability of high-elevation since 2014. The Lhasa-Xigatse railway is strategically vital as this is the starting point for the 540-Kilometres Tibet-Nepal railway, "one of the key projects of the Belt and Road Initiative" .

The CRRC Dalian Co announced on June 12, that they have produced 12 pairs of locomotives that will be used to run the Golmud-Lhasa railway section. Some sections of this railway line operate through the highest elevation and most harsh weather conditions and require high-performance locomotives. The highest point of this railway line is 5,072 meters above the sea level. The report further stated that it has not only replaced the NJ2 diesel locomotive of U.S. based GE Transportation, but the new locomotive could reach a speed of 120km per hour. This was described as a significant advancement of technology and way forward for technological independence in the area of China's strategic railway lines.

## **LHOKA NEWS (Ch: Shannan)**

### **Lhokha City Authority and Capital Airport Group Corporation Group discuss Lhuntse Airport Construction**

June 11, 2018

On June 10, the Lhokha City Authority and the Capital Airport Group's Airport Construction Department Research team discussed matters relating to the construction of the Lhuntse airport.

Xu Chengcang, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of TAR and Secretary of the Lhokha Municipal Party Committee presided over the meeting. Local leaders Kalsang, Wang Youhua, Yan Yongwen and Wang Xia attended.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged information on airport site selection, design, and geological exploration work and conducted in-depth research and discussion on current difficulties and problems. Xu Chengcang said, "Capital Airport Group

Corporation responded to the call of the country and implementing the spirit of the important instructions of the General Secretary.” He added, “Lhuntse Airport construction embodies high political responsibility for its border frontier security work, and also has the Central Government involved in its decision making.” He stated that since the Party’s 18th National Congress, General Secretary Xi Jinping has attached great importance to the work of Tibet and has issued a series of important directives that aim to promote historical changes in the party and the country. The meeting expected to put forward a new position for Tibet on the “two channels and one frontier” theme. On March 9, 2013, when attending the deliberations of the Tibetan delegation to the 12th National People’s Congress, General Secretary Xi Jinping proposed the important strategic idea “to govern the country and must govern the border and to govern the border first to make a stable Tibet.” The General Secretary held a seminar on Tibet wherein he put forward the working principle of “treating the country according to law, enriching the people, building long-term Tibet, bringing people together, and consolidating the foundation”. In September 2015, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Tibet Autonomous Region, the General Secretary proposed, “strengthening unity of the nation and building a beautiful Tibet”. Shortly after the Party’s 19th National Congress, the General Secretary replied to the people of Yumei Township of Lhuntse County and wrote, “ I hope everyone will be the sacred homeland guardians and builders of a happy homeland”. The works in Tibet indicated the direction. Xu Chengcang said construction of the Lhuntse Airport is a major measure for the important strategic thinking, “of the General Secretary for governing the border and making a stable Tibet and it is a major measure to implement the overall national security concept”. It is a major measure to consolidate the national security barrier. At the same time, the construction of the airport will effectively boost the local economic and social development and promote military and civilian integration. .

Xu Chengcang concluded by stating “the two sides will increase cooperation and coordination, further accelerate the pace of construction, accelerate progress of various preparatory works, and strive to start construction as soon as possible, complete it as soon as possible, and put it into use as soon as possible. The architectural unit must further

increase its strength and speed up its progress. The relevant departments at all levels of the city must cooperate with each other to do a good job of linking, promoting, and coordinating various preparatory work, and strive to put every work ahead and take the lead. It is necessary to provide various kinds of service guarantees for the construction of Lhuntse Airport, and to do a good job in the safety and service guarantees for airport construction in transportation, medical, and other aspects. It is necessary to improve and perfect special classes for airport construction, improve coordination and promotion mechanisms for airport construction, and ensure smooth construction of airports.”

Ma Li, General Manager of the Capital Airport Group and leader of the Construction team gave a briefing on the situation of the Capital Airport Group Corporation and the preparations for the construction of Lhuntse Airport. He said that he will keep in mind the mission and political responsibility, pay close attention to the implementation of the work, strive for the airport to be completed and put into use as soon as possible, and contribute to the strategy of Tibet as the “builder of the sacred homeland and happy homeland”.

### **Laluo Water Control Project and Irrigation Supporting Area Construction**

June 09, 2018

The Laluo Water Control Project and supporting project construction, which has been underway for four years since it started in June 2014, has entered the final stage. Till now there has been a total investment of 3455.6312 million yuan, and it is expected that by the end of 2019, water will be stored at the gate and put into use by 2020.

The Laluo water conservancy project and irrigation-supporting project are located in the Sagya County and Shigatse municipalities of Shigatse City. The reservoir dam is in Laluo Township, Sagya County on Shaphu Chu, a first-level tributary of the Yarlungzangbo River. The Laluo Water Control Project will reportedly support irrigation for the four districts of Shenge Tse, Chexiu, Chumei and Nie Rixiong.

Construction of the dam grouting corridors and core wall foundations, spillways,

concrete pouring for flood discharge tunnel inlet towers, installation and commissioning of exit gates, etc. have been completed. Construction of the grouting corridors for pouring dams is nearing completion. Guo Kui, head of the dam construction site of the China Hydropower Foundation said. The next step will be to build the heart wall of the dam including the asphalt core wall, which is the retaining structure of the entire dam. He said that the Laluo power station located downstream of the dam is also under construction. At present, the civil works of the power station have reached 70%.

The Laluo Power Station is one of the two power stations of Laluo Water Conservancy Project and irrigation supporting district project. On completion the two power stations will provide nearly 100 million kilowatt-hours of high-quality electrical energy for the Tibetan-Chinese power grid each year, providing energy security for the stability of the Tibetan power grid.

The construction of the Dro tunnel is also progressing smoothly. The main trunk canals and sub-canals of the irrigation districts have been completed except for some of the connecting sections. The canal buildings have been basically completed except for some of the over-water aqueducts and metal structures. Other tunnel construction and branch channels, field and flood control works are being implemented. Up to now this year an investment of 28.3898 million yuan has been made.

Yang Jun, Director of the Laluo Water Control Project Administration, said that after the opening of the gate in 2019, it plans to supply water to the four downstream irrigation districts by 2020. After the water supply, it will provide irrigation water for the newly added 184,000 mu (30311.59 acre) of cultivated land and 241,200 mu (39 734.54 acre) of forest grassland. If the designed irrigation level is reached, the annual economic benefit of new irrigation can reach upto 240 million yuan, and it also provides water conservancy for the resettlement of ecological immigrants.

### **Lhokha completes planning of 96 Border well-off villages**

June 12, 2018

The Lhokha Municipal Development and Reform Commission has completed the planning of 96 border well-off villages and passed the expert review of TAR. Lhoka completed 40 preparatory works for the construction of the well-off villages on the border, and all the projects have been resumed, and 9 new projects have been started, with an accumulated investment of 6.56 billion yuan. The construction of the well-off Villages at the border and district level has been allocated 1.32 billion yuan.

In terms of project promotion, Lhoka's annual project operating rate and investment completion rate ranked second in the TAR. By the end of April, Lhodrak County resumed construction of six villages and started construction of two new villages, with a total investment of 89 million yuan. Lhuntse (Ch: Longzi) County has resumed building one village and started construction of four new villages, with an accumulated investment of 120 million yuan. Tsona County has resumed construction of two villages and started construction of three new villages, with an accumulated investment of 340 million yuan. Nangkar Tse County resumed construction of six villages, with an accumulated investment of 107 million yuan.

In the construction of the key project, Yumai Well-Off Demonstration Township, as of now, all the 56 residential houses in the township are under construction, with an accumulated investment of 159 million yuan and a total construction progress of 63%. Four industrial projects have completed preliminary work with total capital of 4 million yuan. At the same time, Tsona County's Qunag Village, Khadak Village, Yama Rong Village, Lhodrak County's Gongzu Village, Sangyul Village and Lhungtse County's Zhongna Village and Samba Dong Village, are the first phases of the implementation of the fabricated steel structure in the village.

### **Tibetan Autonomous Region Builds a Well-off Demonstration Village on the Border**

June 4, 2018

Yumai Township of Lhunze County is in the process of constructing a well-off demonstration village on the border region. Yumai is sparsely populated and China wants



to build it into ‘Xiaokang’, a ‘New Era’ well-off village.

According to Dawa the Party Secretary of Yumai Branch, the Hunan Construction Engineering Project is responsible for the construction in Yumai. It has plans to build 56 sets of light weight steel assembled structures that will be used to solve various problems like drainage, roads, electricity and communications. The project costs about 110 million yuan and covers a land area of 17254.24 square meters. The project is expected to be completed in October this year.

While Chinese President Xi Jinping’s reply to the two sisters of Yumei village attracted special attention, but under the supervision of the TAR Party Committee and TAR People’s Government there are many other small-scale border defence villages under construction. The authority has approved the construction plan of ‘Xiaokang’ villages in 628 border areas consisting of four cities. The Agriculture and Animal Husbandry of TAR is responsible for the overall works plan of the industrial development of these Xiaokang villages and are expected to complete it by 2020. It has selected 49 well-off border villages, which have good resource, industrial base and industrial development and will replicate ‘Xiaokang’ villages in whole districts. Other areas like Nyingtri raised 280 million Yuan to accelerate the construction of industrial projects. They also plan to construct Xiaokang villages like Yumei to be a tourist destination and Hu Xuemin, head of Yumei town said once the roads are repaired, tourists can travel by car.

### **Time Model Title to Two Sisters of Yumai County**

May 25, 2018

The Tibetan Autonomous Region’s Civilization Steering Committee awarded the ‘Time Model’ honorary title to two sisters from Yumei Township of Lhokha city. The two sisters, Yangzom and Dolker and their father have lived in Yumei of Lhunze County since their childhood. They were presented as “outstanding representatives of strengthening national unity and building a beautiful Tibet”. The authority said that the title is to recognize their firm belief and loyalty to the party and great love for their motherland.

Xi Jinping and the party acknowledged their father Sangay Choepa and the two sisters in October 2017. Xi Jinping praised them for guarding for two generations and encouraged them to make more people to be guardians of the sacred land and builder of the happy home. In guarding the border, they said, “two sisters always hold high the banner of patriotism and declare to the world that ‘we stand with China and the land of motherland cannot be lessened by even one inch’.

They said that ‘at this beginning of the new era, everyone should follow the example of two sisters and learn from them of their love for the party, their love for socialism, their loyalty to the motherland, their mission of guarding the sacred land and their spirit of building a happy home and thoroughly implement the party’s order’. The committee emphasized that they all should work to revitalise Tibet, the Chinese Dream and strive to build a well-off society and accelerate the comprehensive construction of a socialist modern Tibet. Yumei Township of Lhokha is one of the border defence villages and China has been promoting it quite often.

## **DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR**

### **Relocation of villagers in Tibet under the name of Environment Protection**

June 26, 2018

In recent months, large areas in the Haixi Mongolia Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Qinghai province have been brought under ‘eco-lizhou’, or eco-friendly sustainable development. The local nomads have been consequently affected, as there is prohibition on grazing and animal husbandry. The policy of rotational grazing in the provincial area and a total ban in other parts has been implemented to expand the region’s ‘green map’ by promoting massive afforestation.

The Qinghai government plans to promote afforestation of 0.33 million hectares and plant 2.2 million plants through artificial domestication mainly in the Tsaidam (Qaidam) Haixi-Tibet area of Qinghai. This is an attempt to build a green corridor and green photovoltaic industrial park along the Golmud-Lhasa railway and prevent wind and sand

storms. However, this has a major impact on the lives, local nomads and farmers, as they are compelled to relocate or change their livelihood. In Golmud alone, the green area coverage is already more than 20.52%, and the per capita park green area is 7.04 square meters. In recent years, the province has created some public parks, small amusement parks and forest belts along the road and railway lines.

A similar policy has been introduced in the Tibet Autonomous Region. In this relocation program for the protection of high altitude nature reserve, more than 1,100 families were forced to move from two villages located in Jangthang (Qiangthang). They are re-settled in an area 27 kilometres from Lhasa. According to Dzongga, Deputy Head of Regional Forestry, the relocation was carried out to prevent human activities that might harm the fragile environment. The TAR government has spent 226 million yuan for the relocation program and providing subsidies to the families.

## **DIASPORA TIBETAN NEWS**

### **ICT President Matteo Mecacci raises Tibet with UN and EU officials in Geneva and Brussels**

June 28, 2018

On June 26, ICT President Matteo Mecacci attended the meeting between the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Al Hussein and ICT Chairman of the Board, Richard Gere, in Geneva, where the human rights situation inside Tibet was discussed.

Following that, Matteo Mecacci was in Brussels on June 27 and 28 to meet with representatives from different national and European Institutions. He first met with the Austrian Permanent Representation to the EU, a week before the start of Austria's EU Presidency, and presented ideas and concrete recommendations for EU policy on Tibet. He then met with MEP Cristian Dan Preda, who is member of both the Foreign Affairs Committee and Human Rights Subcommittee at the European Parliament.

Matteo Mecacci then presented ICT report "Access Denied: China's enforces isolation of

Tibet, and the case of reciprocity” at the Tibet Interest Group of the European Parliament. Four Members of the European Parliament attended the meeting together with the Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for Western Europe, Tashi Phuntsok, and several staff members of the European Parliament.

He also met a representative of the Belgian Foreign Affairs Ministry and the former President of the European Economic and Social Committee, Mr. Henri Malosse. In all these meetings Matteo Mecacci raised the issues of the degradation of the human rights situation in Tibet, the problem of access to Tibet for foreign observers, and lack of reciprocity between the EU and China, and how to increase international cooperation on Tibet, in particular between the US and the EU and its Member States.

Matteo Mecacci also had a meeting with the EU Special Envoy for the freedom of religion and belief outside the EU, Mr Jan Figel, during which he focused on the lack of religious freedom in Tibet, an issue that the European Parliament has raised many times, and on how this is relevant to Tibetan Buddhists worldwide

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