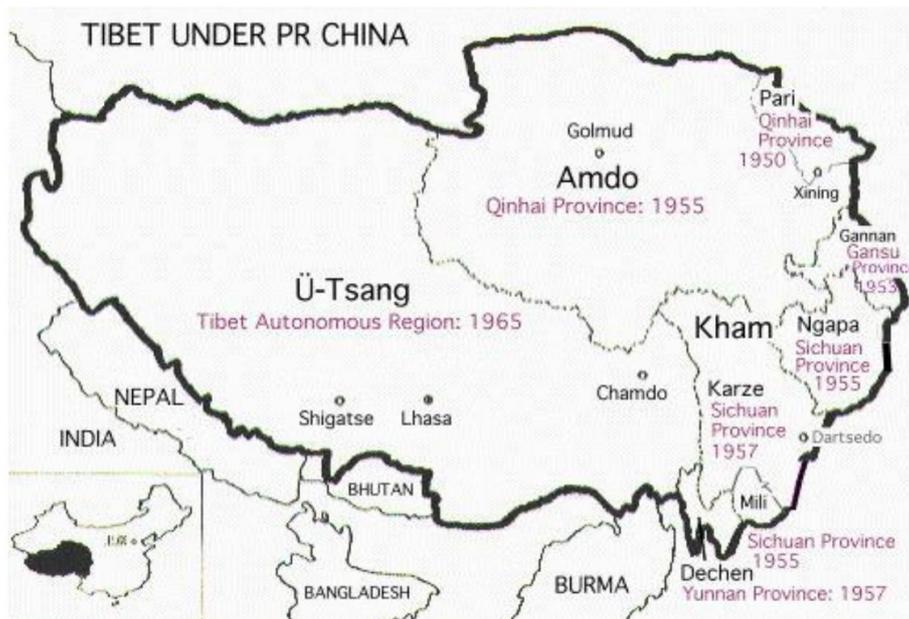
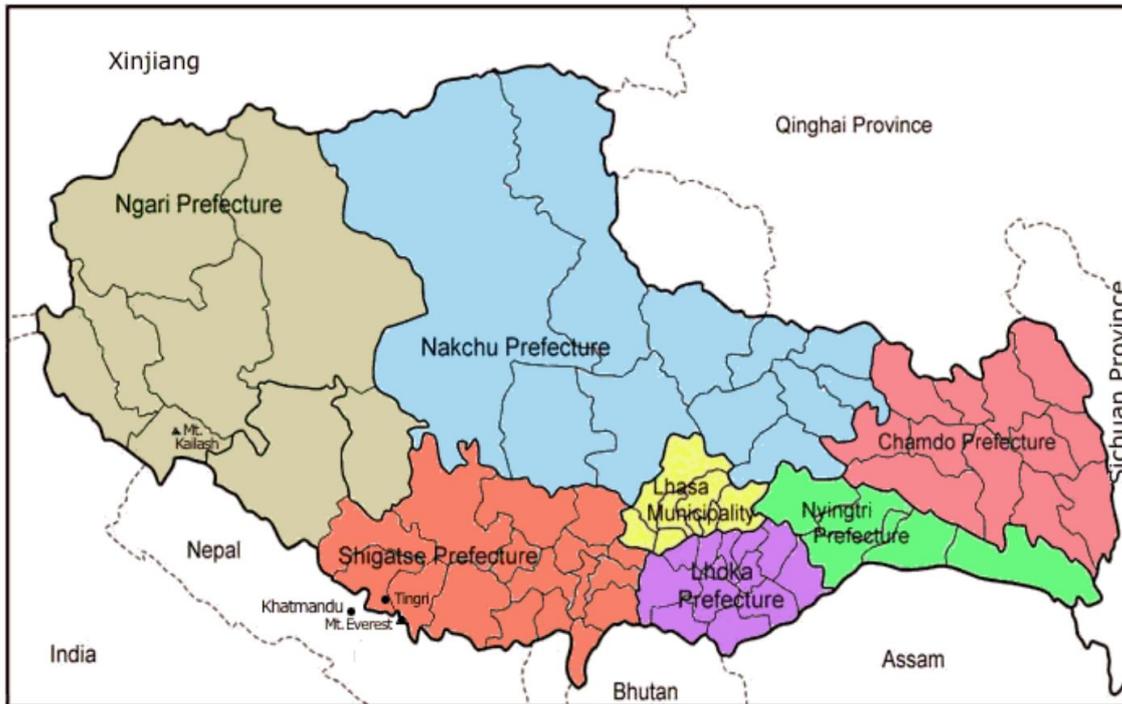




TIBET INSIGHT, 15-30 NOVEMBER, 2021



## TAR NEWS

### **TAR Religious Affairs Bureau held a training course for Islamic clerics and religious officials in Nyingtri**

November 19, 2021

The Religious Affairs Bureau of TAR organized a training course for Islamic clerics and religious officials in Nyingtri on November 16. Raba Tsering, Vice Chairman of the Lhasa Political Consultative Conference, Head of the Great Mosque Yagu, and Director of Religious Affairs Bureau of TAR attended the opening ceremony. A total of 42 cadres in charge of Islamic work in various prefectures participated in the training courses. They included the faculty of the four mosques and temple management committees.

The training focused on “Party’s religious theories and policies, especially Xi Jinping’s expositions on religious work, the spirit of the Seventh Tibet Work Forum, and the spirit of the Sixth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Party”. After the training, they are expected to carry forward the ‘tradition of patriotism, exert their influence in Islamic circles, and earnestly adhere to the direction of Sinicization of Islam and actively resist religious extremism.’ It also warned all cadres in charge of Islamic affairs to improve their ideological understanding and guide their religious circles ‘to protect the law, stop the illegal activities and curb the extremism.’

### **Chusum County PSB tells masses to be loyal to the Party, Nyingtri**

November 23, 2021

Chusum (in Chinese: Qusong) County PSB held a campaign for ‘Party history learning’ on November 21. It was conducted by Tsering Dunphel (in Chinese: Ciren Dunpei), Director of the County PSB and Secretary of the County Political and Legal Committee. They reminded the masses to earnestly learn the Party history, including the Constitution of China and the history of the CCP. He told the masses to be ‘loyal to the party, and all department heads to be strict in discipline’. He stressed the need to effectively enhance the ‘four consciousness, ‘four self-confidence,’ and ‘two maintenances’.

## **Head of TAR UFWD convenes second meeting of Theoretical Research Association to discuss long-term stability**

November 25, 2021

Danke (Tib: Tenkho), Head of TAR United Front Work Department (UFWD), convened the second meeting of the UFWD's Theoretical Research Association. The meeting listened to the work report of the Association, "discussed appointment of a new board of Directors' and also passed/approved revised "Articles of the TAR UFWD Theoretical Research Association and the General Assembly Election Methods."

Danke congratulated the newly appointed members of the Board of Directors. He said, "General Secretary Xi Jinping's thoughts on strengthening and improving the work of the UFWD must be taken as the ideological guide, and are fundamental to the working of the Theoretical Research Association." It should be viewed as the party's efforts to manage, stabilize, develop, and prosper Tibet. Danke asked officials attending the meeting to "absorb wisdom and power from history, improve theoretical capacity and strive for long-term stability with outstanding results." He reiterated the need for a continuous fight against "separatism", correct political direction and the need to maintain a "clear-headed, clear-cut attitude and direction and forge the communal consciousness of the Chinese nation." Danke proposed forming a 'Joint Research Force' in order to improve research capabilities and improve the "unification process" and wisdom of "war."

Sonam Rinzin (Tib) Vice Chairman of TAR PPCC was among those attending the meeting.

*(Comment: The Theoretical Research Association was initially approved and registered by the TAR Civil Affairs Department in 1994. It is ostensibly a "non-profit social academic organization" managed by the United Front Work Department of TAR to do "research" and promote work of the Department.)*

## **TAR Party Secretary publishes article in 'Study Times'**

November 26, 2021

Wang Junzheng, the new Party Secretary of TAR, published an article entitled "Drawing Wisdom from a hundred glorious years of history to write a new chapter for long-term security

and quality Development” on November 26 in the ‘Study Times’. The nearly 4000-character article discussed a number of issues, including the importance of studying and implementation of Xi Jinping’s important speeches, party’s ‘historical achievements’, importance of unifying thinking, the party’s grand vision, Xi Jinping as a ‘global-minded’ leader, his thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new Era, the party’s strategy of governing Tibet, maintaining social stability in Tibet, and strengthening border frontiers. There was marked focus on strengthening border defence, social stability maintenance, and coordinating development with security.

On maintaining social stability in Tibet, Wang Junzheng said, “History is the text book” and that Tibet has embarked on a new journey of building a comprehensive new, socialist, and modern Tibet. Stressing the need to “unswervingly implement the decisions and deployments of the CCP Central Committee and General Secretary Xi Jinping especially the instructions and experiences since the 18<sup>th</sup> Party Congress”, he said the major task is “to ensure national security and long-term stability, which encompasses improving people’s living standards, consolidating border defence and security, and making new contributions towards realizing the rejuvenation of the Chinese dream”.

Wang Junzheng asserted that maintaining stability is the first task towards national security, Wang suggested measures to maintain social stability in Tibet and enumerated these as: to be always vigilant; increase awareness about and the ability to recognize risks; to fight against separatism, self-immolation, and terrorism; campaigns against ‘social order’; and keeping “key personnel”, risk areas and sensitive areas under constant surveillance.

Wang Junzheng spoke at length about forging the sense of community of the Chinese nation, integration of ethnic groups, implementing the party’s policy on religious affairs including adhering to the direction of the sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism.

On strengthening defence of frontiers and consolidating borders, Wang Junzheng reiterated Xi Jinping’s instruction that “To govern the country well we must first govern the frontiers well, and to govern the frontiers well we must first ensure stability in Tibet.” He emphasised garrisoning troops, strengthening, and making borders prosperous, making overall plans for economic and social development in the borders, deepening civil-military integration, improving construction of well-off border villages, increasing subsidies for border residents,

and establishing “advantageous industries appropriate for local conditions” to make people in the borders rich, and patriotic at the same time.

### **TAR Party meets the Tibetan Representatives of National Emergency Management System and Firefighting Guards**

November 26, 2021

TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng met the Tibetan Representatives and Firefighting Guards to the National Emergency Management System Conference on November 25, 2021, in Lhasa. CCP CC General Secretary Xi Jinping met the representatives of the National Emergency Management System Advanced Model and Fire Fighting Loyal Guards at a Commendation Conference in Beijing on November 5. Three Teams and six individuals from TAR were awarded for their “good spirit and work.”

Wang Junzheng commended these Teams and Individuals for their “contribution in maintaining social stability, dissolving major risks, and their readiness to sacrifice anything for the party spirit.”

Pema Wangui, Standing Member of the TAR Party Committee and Executive Vice Chairman of TAR Party Committee, Liu Jiang, Standing Member of the TAR Party Committee and Secretary-General of TAR Party Committee, and Wang Haizhou, Standing Member of the TAR Party Committee and Minister of the TAR Propaganda Department, joined Wang Junzheng.

*(Comment: Following implementation in 2012 of the ‘grid social stability maintenance’, which added a new sub-local layer to the administrative system in urban and rural areas, firefighting guards are also located at a distance of every 400 metres.)*

### **TAR Party Secretary meets Lhoka Delegation to the tenth TAR Party Congress Session**

November 28, 2021

TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng met the delegation from Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) to the Tenth TAR Party Congress held recently in Lhasa on November 27. While meeting Tsering Phuntsok, Zhang Wei, Kunchok Tsering, Tsering Dawa, Zhao Jinpeng, Zeng Long, Pema

Yangchen, Tsering Wangdue, Zhao Tianwu, Bhuthok and others, Wang Junzheng emphasised the need to implement General Secretary Xi Jinping’s “important expositions on Tibet Work and the Party’s Strategy of Governing Tibet in the new era” and “to strive for long term stability in Tibet.”

The Delegation agreed to “hold high the banner of the party and socialism with Chinese characteristics, demonstrate responsibility for ensuring stability in Lhoka and cooperate in building a socialist, modern and beautiful new Tibet that is united, prosperous, civilized, and harmonious.”

After the Party Congress, Wang Junzheng urged the delegation to go “deep into the grassroot levels, on the front line, use the language of the masses, alter according to the way the masses would like to hear and spread the spirit of the Sixth plenary session of the 19<sup>th</sup> CCP Central Committee and the tenth TAR Party Congress.”

### **Updates from TAR People’s Congress on infrastructure development**

November 28, 2021

The 10th Party Congress of TAR was held on November 27, 2021. In the next five years, TAR plans to invest 393.7 billion yuan in per capita disposable income of farmers and nomads to maintain double-digit growth. The meeting also reported completion of projects in the previous five-year plan. These include;

- All sections of the Sichuan-Tibet railway have been started, and the Lalin section was completed and put into operation
- Fuxing train runs across snow-covered Tibetan plateau
- Lhasa-Lhoka, Lhasa-Nyingtri, and Lhasa-Nagchu highways are open to traffic, and counties are connected to oil roads
- The T3 terminal of Gongga airport is completed and put into operation; the ground was divided into three branch airports
- The Tibet-China power interconnection and the Alibaba and Tibet-China power grid were achieved and put into operation
- The per capita disposable income of the farmers and nomads reached 14,598 yuan

- 74 counties in TAR were alleviated from poverty, 266,000 people were moved from higher altitudes to river valleys
- TAR's per capita housing area is nearly 40 square meters

### **Riwoche sets new upsurge in learning the Mandarin, Chamdo**

November 29, 2021

In order to promote the popularization of the national common spoken and written language in an all-round way, a village work team of Riwoche County, Chamdo (in Chinese: Leiwuqi County, Changdu) set up "Four Studies" classroom among party members in farming and pastoral areas. They also opened 'night schools' study class for the party members. There will be pairing up of 'one to one' and 'one to many' for language training of the village cadres and masses. The main idea is to promote a common national spoken and written language, but it could also be both ways to learn and teach Tibetan and Chinese. More than 84 villages have started the night school projects, and 252 'pairs' have been formed. Bilingual Tibetan students who return for winter break are also encouraged to teach the Chinese language to their family and relatives at home.

### **TAR Party Committee concludes its tenth Party Congress**

November 30, 2021

The TAR Party Committee concluded its tenth Party Congress on November 30. Newly (re)appointed members of the TAR Party Committee including Party Secretary Wang Junzheng, four Vice Secretaries, Lobsang Gyaltsen (Tibetan), Yan Jinhai (Tibetan), Zhuan Yan and Chen Yongqi; and ten Standing Members: Zhang Xuejie, Liu Jiang, Wang Weidong, Wang Haizhou, Lia Jiao, Ren Wei, Phurbu Dhondup (Tibetan), Karma Tsetan (Tibetan), Dawa Tsering (Tibetan) and Xiao Youcai (Tibetan) attended the Congress along with another 569 'invited' representatives. There were a total of 595 delegates, out of which 24 were absentees.

The Party Congress approved and passed the 'Resolution of the Work Report of the ninth TAR Party Congress, and the Work Report of the ninth TAR Disciplinary Inspection Committee'.

Speaking at the Party Congress, TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng said, “this is a Congress to hold high the banner of and safeguard the core, to adhere to the guidance of Xi Jinping’s thoughts on socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the new era, to fully implement General Secretary Xi Jinping’s important expositions on Tibet work, the party’s strategy of governing Tibet, to implement ‘two maintenance’ with practical actions and plans with broad perspective.” He added that “all development must be endowed with aims for fostering and maintaining national unity, opposing divisions, improving peoples’ livelihood and win peoples’ hearts”. Wang Junzheng stressed the need to keep in mind that all work in Tibet must always follow the principle of ‘Xi Jinping as the core’ and the directions of the CCP Central Committee. He reiterated the importance of maintaining social stability, managing religious affairs as per law, promoting Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism, persevering, and persisting in fostering the communal consciousness of the Chinese nation, and building a “united, prosperous, civilized, harmonious and beautiful the powerful synergy of the socialist modernized new Tibet.”

*(Comment:* On December 1 morning the newly appointed members of the TAR Party Committee visited the History Museum of the Tibet Working Committee, the Representatives Building of the CCP Central Committee’s People’s Government in Tibet, to pay their tribute to predecessors such as Zhang Jingwu and repeated the Party’s oath. The Party’s oath is: “I volunteer to join the Communist Party of China, support the party’s policies, abide by the party’s constitution, fulfil the obligations as party member, implement the party’s decisions, and strictly abide by the party’s discipline, maintain the party’s secrets, will be loyal to the party, work actively, strive for communism life, ready to sacrifice everything for the party, for the people and will never rebel.”)

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

### **Reconstruction and Expansion of National Highway 318 on the Sichuan-Tibet railway line was approved**

November 26, 2021

The Sichuan Provincial Development and Reform Commission has approved reconstruction and expansion of two sections of the National Highway 318. The projects are located in Ganzi Prefecture and Ya'an city. The first section starts from Haizishan Pass of National Highway

318, passes through Deda Township, ends at the entrance of the Lana Mountain Tunnel, and intersects with the Baiyu-Batang section of National Highway 215. The total length of the route is about 50 kilometres. It is going to be renovated to the third level of the highway standards.

The other section passes on Highway 318's mountainous Heizhu (Chengdu boundary) to Duoying section of Yucheng District. It was approved to improve regional traffic conditions, enhance the traffic capacity of Ya'an City, and support the construction of Ya'an's high-level construction of a comprehensive transportation hub in the western Sichuan. National Highway 318 starts in Shanghai and ends in Tibet. The Sichuan-Tibet Line, also known as the 'Southern Sichuan-Tibet Line' was part of the earliest road built by the Chinese right before Tibet's occupation.

### **Haba Snow Mountain Tunnel on Yunnan-Tibet Railway is to be completed**

November 28, 2021

According to the China Railway Bureau, a major breakthrough was made in the construction of the Lijiang-Shangri-La section of the Yunnan Tibet Railway. The Haba Snow Mountain Tunnel using multiple technologies for over six years contracted flat conduction of 5774 meters. The Haba Snow Mountain Tunnel is located in the Dechen (in Chinese: Diqing) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Yunnan Province, with a total length of 9,523 meters and a maximum buried depth of 1,155 meters.

The tunnel construction caused the maximum horizontal tectonic stress of fragmented basalt. It reached 29.4MPa, and steel frame protective pressure (also known as the "second lining contact pressure") exceeds 2MPa, which is the maximum value of Chinese railway tunnels. In the course of construction there was a constant debris flow, landslide, larger deformation of soft rocks, and mud inrush.

The impact of the construction resulted in debris flow, landslide, large deformation of soft rock, the collapse of fault fracture zone, water inrush, mud inrush, and karst. In particular, the tunnel steel frame protective pressure (also known as the "second lining contact pressure") exceeds 2MPa, which is the maximum value of Chinese railway tunnels. The deformation of the sidewall of the tunnel during excavation is severe, which is apparently rare in the construction of Chinese tunnels.

The Lijiang-Shangri-La section of the Yunnan-Tibet Railway is about 140 kilometres long and is an integral part of China's mid-and long-term railway network planning. After completion and opening to traffic, it is the first railway line in the Dechen Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. Journey time between Kunming and Shangri-La will be reduced to 4 hours after completion of this railway line.

### **Ngaba Branch of Sichuan-Tibet Buddhist College was inaugurated**

November 27, 2021

The inauguration and opening ceremony of the Ngaba (in Chinese: Aba) Branch of the Sichuan Tibetan Buddhist College was held in Li County on November 27. Tian Xiangli, member of the Standing Committee of the Sichuan Provincial Party Committee and Minister of the UWFD, inaugurated the opening of the college where the Chinese national anthem was sung and Chinese flag raised at the ceremony.

Nearly 120 guests attended the inaugural and all were asked to participate in the training about the 'Living Buddha'. The construction of a new branch of Sichuan Tibetan Buddhist College is described as the "concrete implementation of the spirit of the 7th Tibet Work Forum, and Party's governing strategy of Tibet in the new era". Reports said the new college would become an important agency for strengthening the sense of community of the Chinese nation and promoting the adaptation of Tibetan Buddhism to socialism.

The report also highlighted that the Party 'sees the need to have practical training for the religious representatives, and Tibetan Buddhist circles'. The college is expected to shoulder the responsibility of guiding Tibetan Buddhism to adapt to socialism, and educate and train monks and Buddhist representatives, and cultivate patriotism and pragmatism as they strive to become outstanding monks.

The Ngaba Branch of Sichuan Tibetan Buddhism is the second regular religious college approved by the UWFD and State Administration of Religious Affairs. Dazha Garang Topden the first Dean of the college. He is a member of the CPPCC, Vice Chairman of the Sichuan Buddhist Association, and Vice Chairman of Ngaba PPCC. The college will be expanded in

future as the National Development and Reform Commission approved its incorporation in the 14th Five Year Plan.

### **17 families were awarded the title of ‘model family’ in Qinghai**

November 29, 2021

The Central Propaganda Department, the Central Civilisation Office, and the National Women's Federation held a ceremony to award 999 'Most beautiful family in the country', and 17 of them are from Qinghai province. The ceremony was held in Zhejiang. Qinghai province focuses on implementing the construction of ‘the most beautiful home’ or ‘model home’ under rural revitalisation and reconstruction of civilisations. In 2021, Qinghai recognised more than 10,000 families as the 'most beautiful family in the province', 13 were recognised as the 'national civilised family', 128 were acknowledged as the ‘most beautiful family’ in the country.

Construction of the 'most beautiful home' is done under the supervision of the Provincial Women's Federation. The report highlighted that for the '14th Five Year Plan', special focus would be given to family re-education by promoting the 'core socialist values' in the family. A 'civilised' or the ‘most beautiful family’ are those ‘who appreciate the party’s favour, follow the party, work towards national unity and social harmony, participate in voluntary services, and maintain friendly relations with neighbours’.

### **EXILE TIBETAN NEWS**

### **Permanent Strategy Committee Holds First Meeting**

November 16, 2021

Following dissolution of the previous Task Force on Sino-Tibetan Negotiations by the 16th Kashag, a new Permanent Strategy Committee has been established. The new Permanent Strategy Committee held its first meeting from 16 -18 November at Imperial Heights Inn, Dharamshala.

The principal agenda of the meeting was to deliberate on the programs and objectives of the new committee. The meeting was attended by all the members of the committee including

advisors Kasur Tempa Tsering, Kasur Dongchung Ngodup, and former special envoy Kelsang Gyaltzen. The Secretaries of the Department of Security, Department of Information, and International Relations (DIIR), Tibet Policy Institute (TPI), and the political secretary of the Kashag Secretariat were also in attendance. Ngawa Tsegyam, Secretary from the Gaden Phodrang office, also attended the meeting on special invitation.

(Comment: Although an internal meeting of the Permanent Strategy Committee was held earlier, this is the first meeting of the committee in which all the members and advisors are in attendance. The meeting was presided by Sikyong Penpa Tsering.)

### **New Tibetan bilingual website to ‘decode CCP, explain Chinese govt’s hidden agenda’**

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) launched a new bilingual (English and Tibetan) website — ‘Decoding CCP’ — which aims to explain and decipher the meaning and connotations of key official jargon and slogans used by the Chinese Communist Party in present-day China.

The website claims an “inside track” on what Chinese interlocutors mean and explains the alleged “hidden” meaning of phrases like ‘Visit the People, Benefit the People, and Bring Together the Hearts of the People’, as well as terms like ‘Strike Hard Campaign’.

(Comment: The TCHRD is an India-based non-governmental organisation that works towards advancing human rights and democracy in Tibet, and among the Tibetan community in exile.)

### **New envoy of the Dalai Lama to North America**

November 22, 2021

One of the most important overseas postings of the exile Tibetan government, the Office of Tibet in Washington, will be headed by Dr. Namgyal Choedup from the beginning of December, according to a circular issued by the Kashag Secretariat on November 19.

He will take over from the current representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in North America Ngodup Tsering. The out-going representative, who served in the post for over four

years since December 2017, was also the former education minister of the Central Tibetan Administration.

Dr. Choedup, an academician previously served the CTA as a head researcher at the Environment and Development Desk from 2000 to 2005. He completed his anthropological PhD degree from Washington University in St. Louis. In 2000, he obtained a Master's degree on Sustainable International Development at Brandeis University in Massachusetts. He earned his Bachelors in BSc and MBA in Mysore, India. His doctoral thesis titled, 'From Tibetan Refugees to Transmigrants' studied migration of the Tibetan people to different nations and the way a displaced generation coped with the geopolitics of the host nations.

