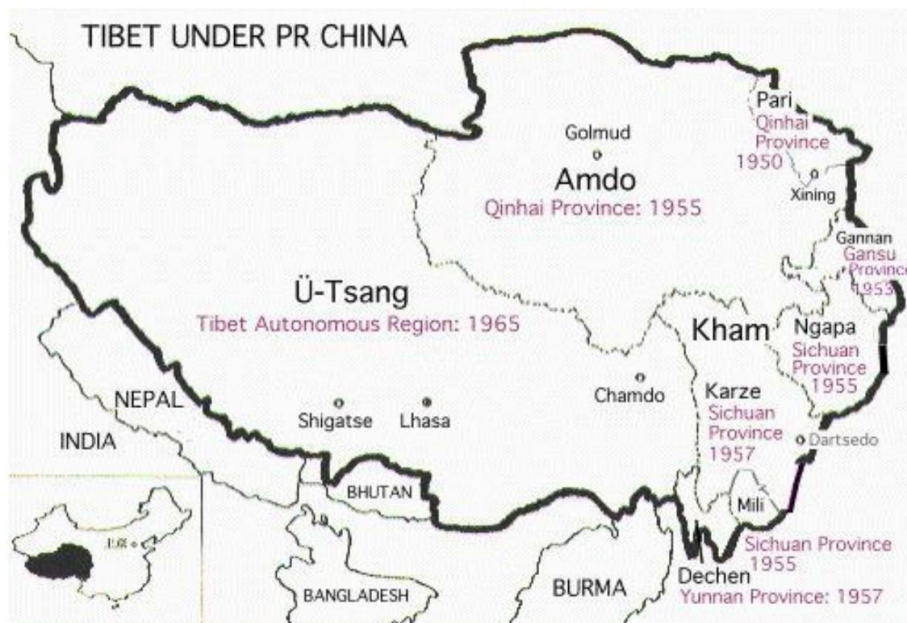
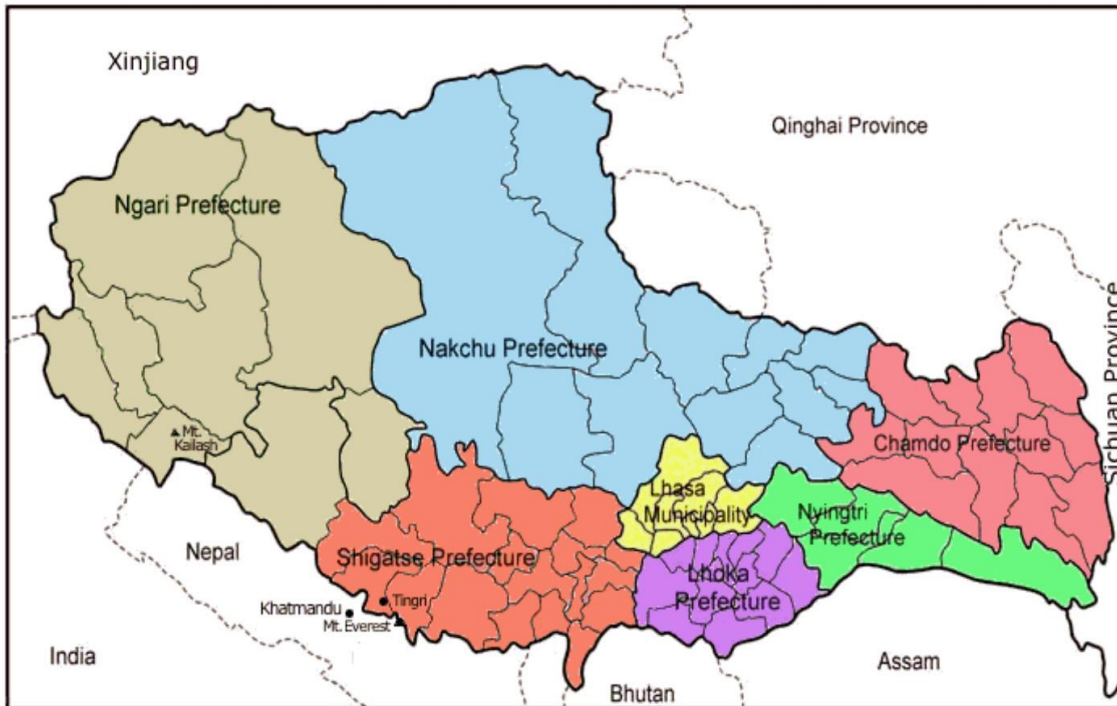




**TIBET INSIGHT, 15-31 OCTOBER 2021**



## TAR NEWS

### China appoints new Party Secretary for TAR

October 19, 2021

On October 19, a meeting of all leading officials of TAR was held to hear the announcement of Wang Junzheng as the new Party Secretary of TAR, who replaced Wu Yingjie. Zeng Yichun, Vice Minister of the CCP CC Organisation Department came from Beijing to make this “special announcement”.

Wang Junzheng, (ethnicity: Han) was born in 1963 in Linyi City, Shandong province. He graduated from Shandong University with a bachelor’s degree in 1985 and from the People’s University of China with a Master Degree in 1988. He was a student at Tsinghua University from 1998 to 2006 and earned an MBA doctorate degree from Tsinghua University in 2006.

He joined the CCP in 1987. He was Secretary of the CPC Yunnan Province Lijiang City Committee from 2009 to 2012, and served as Vice Governor of Hubei province in 2013.

He was appointed Secretary of the Changchun City Party Committee in 2016 and in 2019 was transferred to Xinjiang as Head of the Political and Legal Affairs Commission and oversaw law and order in the region. In 2020, he replaced Sun Jinlong as Political Commissar of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC) and Chairman of the China Xinjiang Group. In March 2021, he became China’s highest ranking official to be sanctioned for human rights violations during his tenure as Xinjiang’s Deputy Party Secretary and Security Chief.

In his speech at the meeting, Wang Junzheng said “I resolutely obey and fully respect the decision of the CCP Central Committee.” He thanked Xi Jinping and the CCP Central Committee for their “trust and love” and said he is very happy to “serve” the Tibetan People. Wang Junzheng added; “I deeply feel that my mission is glorious yet the responsibility is heavy”. He assured of his commitment to focus on implementing Xi Jinping’s expositions and the Party’s strategy of governing Tibet in the new era, and the four major issues i.e., stability, development, ecological protection, and strong borders.

## Ministry of Foreign Affairs holds Global Promotional Event for Tibet

October 22, 2021

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) held a 'Global Promotional Event' for Tibet on October 20. Titled *'New Development of Tibet, New Contribution of China, New Opportunities for the World'*, the event was attended by State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, newly appointed Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) Party Secretary Wang Junzheng, Acting Chairman of the TAR People's Government Yan Jinhai, Deputy Head of the CCP CC Organisation Department Qi Yu, Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng, Assistant Foreign Minister Deng Li, envoys of "different" countries and representatives of international organizations.

In his speech, Wang Yi said "Tibet was peacefully liberated 70 years ago through the unremitting efforts of the Communist Party of China, in the following 70 years, under the leadership of the Party, the Tibetan people of all ethnic groups have continued to forge a strong sense of community among the Chinese people, and have worked with one heart and soul to forge ahead, creating another miracle of development that spans a thousand years, resulting in a radical and historic change in the face of Tibet in various economic, social and livelihood areas". He added that "in the past 70 years, Tibet's gross regional product has increased by more than 300 times, the per capita disposable income of rural residents has increased by more than 400 times, and life expectancy has more than doubled from 35 years to 72 years. Together with the people of all ethnic groups across the country, the people of Tibet have achieved a happy life of overall prosperity this year as scheduled". He said "Tibet has become an important window for China's opening up and cooperation with the outside world and that from 2016 to 2020, Tibet had nearly 160 million domestic and foreign tourists. A series of international conferences such as the Tibet Expo, the China Tibet Development Forum, and the Himalayan Rim International Cooperation Forum, were organized, and these conferences had shown the great cooperation among the neighbouring countries in building the *"Belt and Road"*. Wang Yi assured that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to "support" Tibet in maintaining security, stability, and national unity, and oppose "any separatist acts" that seek to endanger Tibet's security and undermine its stability.

TAR's new Party Secretary Wang Junzheng presented "a three-dimensional and all round report encompassing Tibet's prosperity and development, harmony and happiness, cultural

prosperity, ethnic integration, fertility and beauty”. He said “Tibet has been an inseparable part of the great motherland since ancient times. In the past 70 years of peaceful liberation, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, Tibet's economy and society have undergone earth-shaking changes”. He asserted that “Xi Jinping has personally laid out Tibet related work since the 18<sup>th</sup> Party Congress and that he presided over two Tibet Work Forums, crystallised the Tibet’s strategy of governing Tibet, and provided guidance on how to resolve many long-term problems”. He said efforts had been made in the past to do away with these unresolved “problems”. Wang Junzheng also spoke about Xi Jinping’s visit to Tibet, his meetings with the party cadres and masses, and claimed that Xi Jinping’s visit symbolised the inscription “Building a Beautiful and Happy Tibet, and Realizing the Great Dream of Rejuvenation”. He stated that a more prosperous, progressive, confident, and open socialist new Tibet is unfolding before the world.

Yan Jinhai, Acting Chairman of the TAR People’s Government also spoke at the event. He said, “Tibet is walking on the golden road of long-term stability and high quality development through the guidance of Xi Jinping, and his promotion of development, emphasis on ecological protection, strengthening and consolidation of border defences”. He said TAR will welcome friends from home and abroad to “*check in*” Tibet and enjoy the beautiful, magical, and natural landscapes of the *Roof of the World*. He said, “we are willing to meet with the world, treat each other with sincerity, communicate with each other with heart, share development opportunities, create a better future, and make positive contributions to building a community with a shared future”.

Russian Ambassador to China Andrey Denisov, Nigerian Ambassador Baba Ahmad Jidda and Nepalese Ambassador Mahendra Bahadur Pandey attended the event and acknowledged in their speeches that “Tibet is an inseparable part of China”.

Others from TAR who attended were the Mayor of Dag Township in Chushul County of Lhasa, Primary School Teachers in Shentsa County of Nagchu, and a “Living Buddha (not named either) from Dalong Monastery in Lhundrub County of Lhasa. A French movie Director Jean Michel Carré also attended and gave a speech via video sharing his “experience of filming documentaries in Tibet for more than ten years, hoping that the international community will learn more about the real Tibet”.

## **Head of TAR UFWD visits Shigatse to promote “Four Standards” Propaganda Campaign**

October 22, 2021

Danke (or Tenkho in Tibetan), Head of the United Front Work Department (UFWD) of TAR inspected Shigatse on October 19 - 20 October to promote and propagate the “Four Standard” Educational Campaign in Shigatse. He was accompanied by the Vice Chairmen of TAR People’s Government Zhang Yanqing and Sonam Rinzin.

While inspecting monasteries, meeting party officials, cadres, and masses, Danke emphasised Xi Jinping’s “important guidelines and instructions” in the religious field given during his visit to Tibet in July. He pointed out that “under the strong leadership of TAR Party Committee and TAR People’s Government, departments at all levels attach great importance to ideology, provide support to party policies and have normalized the “four standards” educational practices.”

Danke said that the educational practice of the “four standards” is an essential “mandate for the Tibetan Buddhists to learn and implement the spirit of Xi Jinping’s speeches given during his visit to Tibet” and that the “Four Standards” is also related to stability and harmony in the religious field.”

## **Meeting of Veteran and Retired Cadres to discuss “forging of the Communal Consciousness of the Chinese nation”**

October 22, 2021

On October 21, the TAR Party Committee’s Veteran Cadres Bureau convened a meeting to discuss how to forge and foster the “consciousness of Chinese nationalism”. A total of 150 retired and veteran cadres from Lhasa attended the meeting. Jampa Kalden (ethnicity: Tibetan), Kelsang Tsering (ethnicity: Tibetan), and Samdup (ethnicity: Tibetan) were among the retired cadres and veterans.

Dorjee Tsering, a member of the Lecturer Group of TAR Party Committee, made a presentation on the topic “In-Depth Study of the spirit of National Work Conference, and How to forge and foster the consciousness of Chinese nation and nationalism” at the meeting.

The meeting mandated all departments concerning the veterans and retired cadres to thoroughly study and implement the spirit of General Secretary Xi Jinping's speeches, to make the veterans play an important role in "guiding the masses to listen to the party, appreciate the party's works, and follow the party". It also discussed ways and means of integrating various ethnicities , strengthening exchanges, and fostering Chinese nationalism.

### **China appointed Panchen Lama visits 11 monasteries in 11 days**

October 22, 2021

China-appointed Panchen Lama, Gyaltzen Norbu recently visited 11 monasteries of Shigatse in 11 days. The monasteries of different sects of Tibetan Buddhism that Gyaltzen Norbu visited include Narthang monastery, Gyantse Palkor Chöde Monastery, Ralung monastery, Shalu monastery and Yungdrungling Monastery among others.

Gyaltzen Norbu also went to meet agricultural and pastoral areas situated at elevations of "2840 meters to more than 4800 meters, with a distance of thousands of kilometres". Gyaltzen Norbu was reported to have been welcomed by people along the way with traditional Tibetan opera dance. Dawa, a villager of Shiga village in Lhatse County said "we learned from the village WeChat Group that Panchen was coming and we discussed how to welcome him. We rehearsed the Tibetan opera dance over and over again".

At the 400-year old Nartang Monastery, in Samdrubtse County of Shigatse about 15 kilometres from Shigatse, Gyaltzen Norbu tested young monks on their recitations and learning of Buddhist scriptures. He visited the 'seal sutra temple' also known as the 'Tibetan Library' which has a large number of classic Tibetan works including Great Tibetan Sutras like 108 Kagyur and 225 Tengyur. The first printed version of these are archived in Tashi Monastery, Shigatse and Potala Palace in Lhasa.

The China-appointed Panchen Lama also visited: Zeng Monastery (October 7), in Lhatse County; Ralung monastery in Namling County (October 9); Qiangshin Monastery (October 13) in Rinpung County; and Gepheling Monastery (October 16), in Panam County, among others. At the monasteries he enquired about their "development", practice of the monks and nuns, and urged them to "love the country, protect the country, ensure self-discipline and benefit the masses". He told them "Most people judge a religion or a sect by observing the

behaviours of monks and nuns not through scriptures, they will not respect you because of your beliefs, but because of your behaviour”.

In addition to visiting monasteries, Gyaltsen Norbu went to different villages and towns, went into the homes of farmers, met villagers, and learnt about the “developments” in agricultural and animal husbandry. He went to Nukang village in Retso township of Gyantse County. The China-appointed Panchen Lama reiterated that “loving the party, the country, and the religion is the key to Tibetan Buddhism's continued inheritance and entry into the next century”, and emphasized that “this is not what I said casually, but after careful logical reasoning and based on facts and experience”. He added that “the Communist Party of China has allowed all Chinese people to live a happy and peaceful life, and has given Asia and the world a better guarantee of peace. This is exactly what Buddhism has pursued for thousands of years, and the Chinese Communist Party has achieved it in 100 years. Without the Communist Party of China, there would be no peaceful and peaceful New China, nor would there be a happy New Tibet today.”

### **Newly appointed TAR Party Secretary inspects Lhoka**

October 29, 2021

New TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng went to Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) from October 26-28 to inspect progress in Yajiang’s ecological and environment protection work, assess industrial development and rural revitalization projects, evaluate grassroot party building work and to see the consolidation of strong borders in Lhoka. He also met border cadres and officers.

Wang Junzheng emphasised the “importance” that Xi Jinping and the CCP Central Committee attach to Tibet affairs citing the former’s visit to Tibet in July, and the “important” speech he gave to “masses of all ethnic groups” in Tibet. Wang Junzheng said the way forward is to “establish long-term stability and high quality development” in TAR and said that “we must hold high the great banner of Xi Jinping’s thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, his guidance on Tibet affairs and the party’s strategy of governing Tibet in the new year must be regarded as the “soul” of Tibet work and all tasks must be implemented in this perspective”.

At Tashi Chudeng Community and Kesong village in Changtru Town of Nyedong County, he inspected the Communist convenience centre and the exhibition hall of the “first village of

the Tibetan democratic reform”. He inspected the operation and management of enterprises such as Huji Ethnic Hand-knitting Operative in Nyedong County, Tibet-Hongnong Chicken Breeding and Tibetan Pig Breeding Base in Longzi County, and the Hydropower station in Gyatsa county. He emphasised the importance of consolidation and acceleration of major projects planned for the 14<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.

The Party Secretary also visited the Yarlung Zangpo River valley, went to Dranang Bridge, and listened to work reports on Yajiang desertification control and afforestation work and assessed economic forestry development. He stressed that “Tibet is an important national ecological and security barrier, and protecting the ecology of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau is the greatest contribution to the survival and development of the Chinese nation.”

Wang Junzheng made sure to visit Yumai County in Longzi County and met the two sisters (Dolker and Yangzom) to whom Xi Jinping responded four years ago with a letter in which he applauded their role in “guarding the border from foreign invasion”. TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng visited the Yumai Township Military school. He commended the sisters and urged others to follow suit in guarding the “motherland”, “be a guardian of the sacred land and builder of happy homes”, listen to the party, follow the party, propagate, and pass on the spirit of patriotism on the borders and in shouldering the responsibility of defending the border.

He visited the former Commander of the Tibet Military Region Zhang Guirong and visited frontline officers and soldiers defending the border. Liu Jiang, Standing member and Secretary-General of TAR Party Committee, Xu Chengcang, Deputy Director of TAR People’s Congress and Party Secretary of Lhoka Municipal Party Committee accompanied Wang Junzheng during the inspection.

### **Standing Committee of TAR People’s Congress holds its 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

October 29, 2021

The Standing Committee of TAR People’s Congress held its 34<sup>th</sup> meeting on October 28 in Lhasa. Chairman of TAR People’s Congress, Lobsang Gyaltsen chaired the meeting, which was attended by the Deputy Chairmen of the Standing Committee, Ding Yexian, Doto, Samding Dorjee Phakmo Dechen Choedon, Chime Rinzin, Nyima Tsering and Ji Guogang.



Among other matters, the meeting heard the TAR Organization Department's recommendation justifying appointment of the current Head of the Organization, Chen Yongqi as Vice Chairman of TAR People's Congress. Lobsang Gyaltzen issued him the letter of appointment and witnessed his oath. Lobsang Gyaltzen congratulated Chen Yongqi and told him that the new post has a new mission and that he hopes "comrade Chen will stick to the original mission of the party, earnestly strengthen the "four consciousness", "four self-confidences" and achieve "two maintenances."

### **China appointed Panchen Lama given "Ka-Chen" degree**

October 28, 2021

31-year-old Gyaltzen Norbu, the China-appointed Panchen Lama was given the title "Ka-Chen", literally meaning 'most difficult' in Tibetan, and equivalent to a doctorate degree on October 26. He passed the examination at Tashilhunpo Monastery in Shigatse and obtained the highest degree of "Ka-Chen" in Gelug Sect of Tibetan Buddhism. 800 representatives of monastic Teachers from various sects of Tibetan Buddhism witnessed the title awarding ceremony at the lecture hall of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery.

Sonam Phunla, Vice Chairman of TAR PPCC and the First Director of Tashi Lhunpo Monastic Management Committee, said "it usually takes 18 years for a Buddhist monk to obtain the Ka-Chen degree". He added that "Living Buddhas are intelligent by nature and compassionate, and they are our fundamental guru. I hope that the Living Buddhas will continue to practice Dharma assiduously, inherit and carry forward the traditions of the Panchen Lama's patriotism and religion, and make greater contributions to the society"

Gyaltzen Norbu is reported to be proficient in Chinese, Tibetan, English and other languages and has received novice ordination, bhikkhu ordination, and thousands of tantric initiations, and is followed by "over a million believers in total and is deeply loved by the believers". Sonam Phunla said the past Panchen Lamas loved the country and the religion, and its lineage has a history of more than 600 years.

Khenpo Ngawang Thapa of Ganden Monastery in Lhasa said the degree will have a profound impact on the inheritance and development of Tibetan Buddhism.

## **Over 20,000 Chinese apply for one postal department post in Tibet's Ngari prefecture**

October 26, 2021

More than 20,000 people in China have registered to appear for this year's civil service exam for a postal department position in Tibet's remote western prefecture of Ngari (Chinese: Ali), making it the most popular post in the country this year. With the region seeing double-digit annual growth in "domestic" tourist-visitors for decades, China has been promoting Tibet as a place to visit as well as to live and work in with apparent unprecedented success.

Some 2.02 million candidates have registered to sit for China's 2022 national civil servant exam, of whom 1.84 million passed the preliminary review and qualified to take the exam. Finally, only one out of 59 people will be admitted as a civil servant, creating fiercer competition than last year, when one in about 54.5 people were accepted.

The written exam for the annual civil servant exam will be held on November 28, followed by interviews for those who pass it to be held sometime next year. The successful candidates will fill 31,242 posts nationwide. No limitations had been set on the applicants' work experience for about 84% of the posts, with 67% being reserved for students graduating in 2022.

The reason for the rush of applicants for a position in the postal department in Tibet's Ngari prefecture was stated to be because it has no limitations on the educational background or work experience of applicants. The other reason are the offers of special incentives.

Wang Jian, Chief Tutor at *Offcn* Education and Technology Co, said "To guide young people to work in places where talent is needed, such as grassroots level government organs with backward, difficult working conditions, the country has tried to offer attractive packages." *Offcn* is a private institution that offers training for the exam, the report said.

*(Comment: The once remote eastern Tibetan prefecture of Ngari (Ali) is now full of colonies of Chinese settlers and major military complexes. China has built new towns, roads, and an airport as it is a strategic border area opposite India's Union Territory of Ladakh.)*

## **Ao Liuquan becomes the new Party Secretary of Nyingtri**

Ao Liuquan, of Han ethnicity replaced Ma Shengcheng to become the new Party Secretary of Nyingtri Prefecture. Born in 1974 in Guiyang, Guizhou, he joined the CCP in July 1996. He graduated from the Business Administration Institute of Sichuan. He started his career in the Communist Party as the Deputy Head of Nimu Township, Bianba County, TAR. He served as the Party Secretary of Nagchu from January 2020 and moved to Nyingtri in September 2021.

Ao Liuquan met Party representatives of Nyingtri after the People's Congress and told them that 'the Party Central Committee's adjustment of the main leadership of the Municipal Party Committee is to hold high the great banner of Xi Jinping's new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics and construction of socialist modernization in an all-round way in Nyingtri'.

### **The Second People's Congress of Nyingtri held under the new Party Secretary**

October 29, 2021

Nyintri (in Chinese: Linzhi) held the second People's Congress under the new Party Secretary, Ao Liuquan on October 29. He reported on Nyingtri's plan and prospects for the next five years under the title "Nyingtri's strive to become the forefront in the journey of building a socialist and modern new Tibet". He reminded all Party representatives to remember the original mission, and meet the expectations and trust of the Party and masses. The meeting primarily discussed the strategy for developing a stable and strong ecology and frontier, and the high-quality development of Nyingtri in the new era.

Ao Liuquan emphasised that the development trend, development opportunities, and development foundation of Nyingtri for the next five years would be based on holding high the great banner of Xi Jinping's new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics and fully implementing the 'four consciousnesses', 'four self-confidences', and 'two safeguards'.

Nyingtri will be focusing on building a new development pattern of "one core, three belts, and six clusters". The 'core' is the growth of Qiangbayi district; three belt includes the construction project of the Sichuan-Tibet railway, the downstream development belt of the Yajiang River, and the development belt along the border; the "six clusters" are the promotion of economic characteristic and cluster development of Milin, Gongbujiangda, Bomi, Langxian, Zayu, and Medog counties.

## **Zhu Jiang was accused of being disloyal to the Party**

October 2021

According to the TAR Discipline Inspection Committee, following an investigation from April 2021, Zhu Jiang was accused of being guilty of ‘forgetting the original mission, being disloyal to the Party and Constitution’. The report highlighted that ‘he violated the Eight Central Party regulations by taking bribes, attending luxurious bouquets and weddings, ignored his duties, kept his connections personal and secret, involved in various gambling, etc’. A probe and investigation against him began in April 2021. The TAR Discipline inspection Committee found him guilty of the charges and he has been expelled from the Party and all his positions. The amount of the penalty is not mentioned, yet all his assets are to be confiscated.

(Comment: Zhu Jiang, was a member of the Standing Committee of the Nyingchi Municipal Party Committee, Secretary of the Political and Legal Affairs Committee from September 2019 to April 2021. He was also promoted to the first-level inspector in November 2019.)

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

### **‘Construction of the National Common Language Course for Tibetan Buddhism’ seminar was held at Tibetan Buddhist College, Qinghai**

October 15, 2021

A seminar on the ‘construction’ of the national common language for Tibetan Buddhism was held at the Buddhist College of the Tibetan Language Department, Qinghai. The three-day seminar was conducted to study and implement Xi Jinping’s speech at the Tibet Work Forum and his ‘important expositions’ on forging a sense of community for the Chinese nation. It is aimed at promoting the need to understand the importance of the national common language in Tibetan Buddhism circles. The Seminar emphasised that “promoting the popularization of the national common language is an inevitable requirement to forge the consciousness of the community of the Chinese nation and an important and specific measure to promote the sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism”. All the Buddhist academies at all levels were reminded

that they should fully understand and promote the popularisation of the national common language in their circles and utilise their social resources to achieve this goal.

Rinchen Wanggyal (in Chinese: Ren Qing Anjie), Deputy Director of the Office of the Central Tibet Work Coordination Group; Quan Baiyin, Vice Chairman of the Qinghai PPCC and Dean of the Tibetan Language Department, Buddhist College, Qinghai; Liu Peng, Deputy Secretary of General of the Chinese Buddhist Association; and La Xianjia, Deputy Director of the Institute of Religious Studies of the China Tibetology Research Center, attended and spoke at the seminar. The seminar was attended by more than 50 people from the China Tibetology Research Center, China Language Resources Development and National Cultural Palace, Zhejiang University, Southwest University for Nationalities, Qinghai Academy of Social Sciences, Qinghai Normal University, and the Qinghai University for Nationalities.

### **Exhibition of the “Reincarnation of the Tibetan Living Buddhas in Buddhism” held at Dechen Museum, Yunnan**

October 26, 2021

The Tibet Culture Museum in collaboration with Dechen (in Chinese: Diqing) Museum conducted an exhibition on the reincarnation of the Tibetan Living Buddhas. The exhibition was targeted at both, cadres, and common masses. The Tibetan Cultural Museum has carried out similar exhibitions in other Tibetan areas outside TAR as part of the ‘Reincarnation of Tibetan Living Buddhas’ tour series which included the Tibet Natural History Museum, Sichuan Buddhist College, and Qinghai Buddhist College.

The Tibet Cultural Museum regards the exhibition tour as an important measure to implement the ‘spirit’ of the Seventh Tibet Work Forum of the Central Committee and ‘practicing and learning the party history’ in 2021. The purpose of the exhibition was “to fully realise the party’s basic principles of religious work, adhere to the direction of Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism, deepen their understanding of the reincarnation system of Tibetan Buddhism living Buddhas, expose the Dalai clique’s conspiracy to use the reincarnation of living Buddhas to carry out separatist activities”.

It exhibited more than 300 pictures and other historical relics related to reincarnations of Tibetan Lamas in an attempt ‘to present the historical evolution of the reincarnation system of Tibetan living Buddhas, and that it has to go through the golden vase and the approval of the Chinese government’. Ma Caihua, Deputy Director of the Dechen Prefecture Bureau of Culture and Tourism, said that he would coordinate the organization of cadres and masses throughout the prefecture to visit the exhibition in batches and strive to enlarge the audience for the exhibition.

*(Comment: The Chinese communist authorities are trying through propaganda activities, like this Exhibition, to assert that reincarnations were ‘recognised’ by Beijing through a system of drawing of lots from a golden urn. The Chinese government has actually had no substantive role in the history of the Tibetan Buddhism reincarnation system. The Chinese government is trying to create a precedence for itself and get a role in selection of the reincarnation of the Living Buddhas and the Dalai Lama in particular. )*

### **Representatives of 19 overseas Chinese media visited Ngaba, Sichuan**

October 29, 2021

Ngaba (in Chinese; Aba) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture received 19 representatives of overseas Chinese media from 17 countries and regions including the United States, Brazil, Argentina, South Africa, Venezuela, New Zealand, Hungary, Italy. They visited villages, monasteries, and national parks of Jiuzhaigou County, Songpan County, Hongyuan County, Heishui County, Wenchuan County in Ngaba Prefecture.

The visit by the overseas Chinese media was intended to allow them to experience the diversified development momentum of Western Sichuan and its diverse ethnic culture and vibrant tourism. The overseas media houses are expected to actively advertise the effort of internationalisation of tourism and promote the tourism industry of Ngaba in their respective countries. The overseas media representatives praised the changes and development in Ngaba in recent years, and its potential to become a high demand international tourist attraction.

### **The third "Tibetan Qin-Himalaya" forum held at Tibet Nationalities University,**

October 17, 2021

Tibet Qin-Himalaya forum was co-sponsored by the Research Office of the TAR People's Government, China Center for Tibetan Studies, Renmin University, Nanjing University, and Tibet Nationalities University, Shaanxi. The forum was held at the Qinhan Campus of Tibet Nationalities University in Xianyang, Shaanxi. More than 100 experts and scholars from Tsinghua University, Renmin University of China, Nanjing University, CASS, the Central Party School, and the China Tibetology Research Center etc participated. The forum focused on Tibet's stability, development, ecology, and strong frontier.

It consisted of one main forum and four sub forums. The main forum constituted ten experts and scholars focusing on "Reshaping the Trans-Himalaya Buddhism Narrative and the Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism". They discussed ways and strategies to improve external dissemination of Tibet related information, creating the 'Chinese National Community Consciousness', promotion of the long-term stability and high-quality development of Tibet in the new era, and role of Tibetan Buddhism in the new direction of religion in China. The four sub-forums focused on "innovating social governance and building a harmonious Tibet", adhering to ecological priority, building a beautiful Tibet, improving the quality of development, building a happy Tibet", and "strengthening a strong and secure border".

Professor Liu Kai, Secretary of the Party Committee and Vice President of Tibet Nationalities University, and Director of the Collaborative Innovation Center for Tibetan Cultural Inheritance and Development, delivered the opening speech and said the "Tibetan Qin Himalaya forum is based on serving the country's strategy of governing borders and stabilizing Tibet, and forging a sense of the Chinese nation's community, focusing on the four major events of Tibet's "stability, development, ecology, and strong borders".

### **A middle school Tibetan teacher was arrested in Badzong, Sichuan**

October 28, 2021

Tashi Tsering, a middle school Tibetan teacher was arrested on charges of violating the Eight Central Party Regulations. He was accused of keeping his visits outside secret and taking bribes. He is alleged to have obstructed the investigation process, and not cooperating with

the Badzong Discipline Inspection Committee. While he been put on trial, its results have not yet been made public.

## **EXILE TIBETAN NEWS**

### **Six Tibet, Hong Kong activists set for court hearings for protest at Beijing Winter Olympics torch ceremony in Athens**

October 19, 2021

Three activists were arrested on October 18 as they tried to disrupt the torch-lighting ceremony for the Games at the Temple of Hera in Ancient Olympia. Their protest was directed at the four-yearly global winter Olympic games scheduled to be held in Beijing in February 2022.

Tibetan-Canadian Chemi Lhamo, Brit Jason Leith of London-Based campaign organisation Free Tibet, and American Fern MacDougal were arrested after they crossed barriers and entered the area where the traditional Olympic flame-lighting ceremony was taking place.

### **China eliminates Boston Celtics NBA team from its cyberspace after player Enes Kanter condemned Tibet repression**

The Chinese authorities on October 20 eliminated from its cyberspace all Boston Celtics broadcasts of the NBA (National Basketball Association, a professional basketball league in North America) games after its star player Enes Kanter made a fervent call for a 'Free Tibet' on social media. In the video, Kanter said "Free Tibet", "Tibet belongs to Tibetans," and "I'm here to add my voice and speak out about what is happening in Tibet." He also said that under Chinese rule the Tibetan people's "basic rights and freedoms are not existent" and called China's leader Xi Jinping a "brutal dictator." In multiple social media posts, Kanter spoke out against "cultural genocide" in Tibet and said, "The Chinese dictatorship is erasing Tibetan identity and culture." Kanter has also posted photos of sneakers he wore to the Celtics season-opening game bearing the words "Free Tibet". They were designed by Badiucuo, a Chinese political cartoonist and activist living in exile in Australia.

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