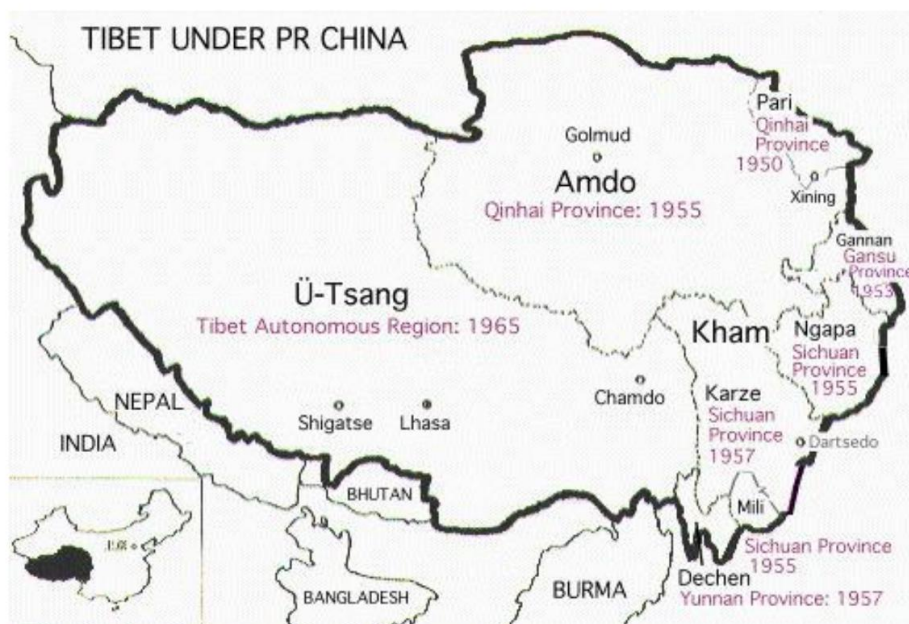
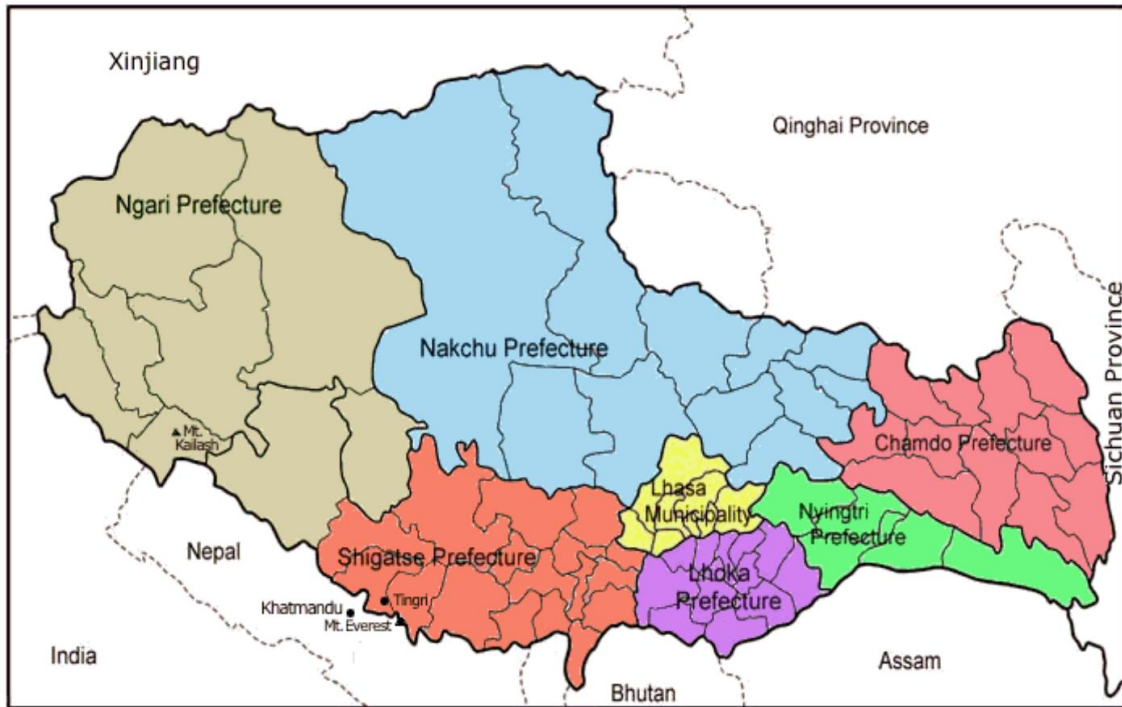




**TIBET INSIGHT, 15-31 AUGUST 2018**



## TAR NEWS

### Wang Yang's Visit to Tibet

August 28, 2018

Wang Yang made a visit to Tibet from August 24-26, in the capacity of the Chairman of the 13th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, and Member of PBSC. He visited Chamdo and Lhasa.

Wang stated that with Xi Jinping's Socialism with Chinese Characteristic in the New Era as the guiding principle, all the TAR Officials should conscientiously implement the General Secretary and the Party's strategy of managing Tibet and Tibet affairs, also to closely focus on safeguarding the 'Motherland's reunification', vanguard and oppose splittism/separatism, to strengthen national unity and to focus on improving the livelihood of people. Wang also upheld the importance of alleviating poverty; keeping the pace of building a well-off society (time frame 2020), deepen anti-separatist movements, creating innovative but effective Temple/monastic Management and fostering long-term stability.

The first place of visit for Wang's weekend trip to Tibet was Chamdo wherein he visited the home of the 'Best Poverty Alleviated Family,' spoke with the family members, cheered a glass of beer with the head of the family, and spent some time with the family. His next stop in Chamdo was a cow breeding centre and a grassland pastoral area.

On 26th August, he visited Sera Monastery, which is one of the "three great" Gelug university monasteries of Tibet, located 1.25 miles north of Lhasa and about 5 km north of the Jokhang, also happened to be one of the hotbeds of the 2008 Pan-Tibet Uprising. He met Monastery Cadres and emphasized on how important religion and religious activities are to social and long-term stability in Tibet. He further added metaphorically that the monks should always be prepared for 'menace' and 'rain' and one must uphold/follow the 'guiding principles' of the Party's religious works and promote adaption of Tibetan Buddhism to socialist society. Wang also highlighted on affiliating

and supporting the party's leadership, fighting against the forces of splittism, instilling patriotism, safeguarding unity of the motherland, and social stability. Consolidation of temple cadres, bolstering internal management and building of 'effective' teaching pedagogics in the monastery, strictly abiding by the religious laws and importance of paving ways for a healthy development of Tibetan Buddhism were his concluding remarks at the monastery. He also visited and sat in a 'Young Tulku's' Class in the monastery. Tulkus are believed to be the reincarnated lamas/monks. He was accompanied by TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie, Chairman of TAR People's Government, Qizhala/Chedak la,

Before the end of his inspection tour, Wang met veteran and current TAR leaders and officials. He met his counter-part in Tibet, Phakpa Lha Gelek Namgyal, Chairman of TAR PPCC and members like Thinley Dhargyal, Metok Dolma, Shenor, Choezin, members of TAR Party Committee, and Danke, minister of TAR United Front Work Department, also the vice-chairman of TAR PPCC.

(Note: Another high profile visit to Tibet was made by PRC Premier Li Keqiang from July 25-27, 2018)

### **Standing Committee of Lhasa People's Congress holds 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

August 30, 2018

The 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Lhasa was held on August 29, and attended by 37 members of the Standing Committee. Yonten, Party Secretary and Director of the Standing Committee of the Lhasa Municipal People's Congress attended the meeting along with other members while Dawa, Deputy Director of the Municipal's Congress Standing Committee presided.

The Work Report of the first half of the year specifically on the development of food and drug safety supervision and on the people of Lhasa was discussed. Implementation of economic and social development and work allocation for the second half of the year were discussed at the meeting. Audit report on the implementation of Lhasa budget, other

fiscal revenues and expenditures were also tabled for discussion. The meeting pointed out that the Municipal Intermediate People's Court and the Municipal People's Procuratorate must implement the decision-making arrangements of the Party Central Committee with 'Xi Jinping as the core' and as per the guidelines of the districts and municipalities, and fulfill duties stipulated by the Constitution.

### **TAR Officials caught for corruption by Discipline Inspection Commission**

August 28, 2018

The TAR Discipline Inspection Commission recently reported cases of corruption by TAR officials. Tsering Choetso, the Deputy Head of Gyama Township in Meldro Gungkar County of Lhasa and Bianjiu (Han), the Party Secretary of the Party Branch of Chikang village had accumulated 1,372,500 Yuan from funds meant for grassland and land acquisition compensation funds. Tsering Choetso was reportedly warned and punished by the Party in May 2018.

Charges of corruption were also filed against Da Yi, former Deputy Secretary of the Party Branch of Milin Village of Nyingtri and former Deputy Director of the Village Committee, for misappropriating funds totalling 16259.2, Yuan earmarked for ecological use and utilizing it for personal expenses from the period May 2017 to 2009. Da Yi was warned and fined by the Party in November 2017.

Dan Zeng, Deputy Secretary of the Party Branch of Pashoe village, in Chamdo and Head of the resident team in the village had reportedly embezzled 12, 25805 Yuan between 2014-2015 from public funds meant for electricity bills and advancement of village cadres and staff of the team. He was accused of providing false financial information and fined and punished.

### **TAR Public Security Bureau oversees issue of resident Permits to Macau, Hong Kong and Taiwan residents**

September 01, 2018

In a new regulation the State Council General Office from September 1, 2018, allowed residents of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan to apply for residential permits in the Chinese mainland. The Deputy Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee and Director of the Public Security Department of TAR, Zhang Hongbo, along with the Deputy Secretary of TAR Public Security Bureau and Deputy Director of the General Office, Lobsang Tendar inspected police stations to oversee the issue of residence permits and listen to reports on implementation of the regulation.

### **Lobsang Gyaltzen meets US House of Representatives delegation**

August 14, 2018

On August 10, the Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of the District and Director of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of the Autonomous Region, Lobsang Gyaltzen met a delegation of the US-China Working Group of the US House of Representatives in Lhasa.

Ju Jianhua, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of the Autonomous Region, attended the meeting.

On behalf of the Autonomous Region Standing Committee of the People's Congress, Lobsang Gyaltzen welcomed the delegation and favourably evaluated the exchanges between the TAR People's Congress and the United States.

Lobsang Gyaltzen stressed that Tibet affairs are China's internal affairs. He hoped that the US will fully recognize the anti-China separatist nature of the Dalai clique, earnestly respect China's core interests and major concerns, handle it cautiously and prudently, and make efforts to promote the sustained, healthy and stable development of Sino-US relations.

Lobsang Gyaltzen said that after experiencing the “cruelty and darkness of old Tibet”, the people of all ethnic groups in Tibet have always regarded the resolute opposition to splitting and safeguarding the reunification of the motherland with the highest interest.

He said they live in harmony with the people of the whole country, and work together to achieve the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. He added that the central government would continue to increase support for ethnic minority areas in the border areas. People of all ethnic groups in Tibet have confidence in a better future.

The delegation of the US-China Working Group of the US House of Representatives expressed their ‘gratitude’ for the meeting with Lobsang Gyaltsen.

### **TAR Leaders meet Indian Delegation in Lhasa**

August 10, 2018

On August 7, 2018, Jiang Jie, member of the Standing Committee of the District Party Committee and Executive Vice Chairman of the TAR People’s Government met a delegation of Indian think tanks led by T.V. Mohandas, Chairman of the Indian Securities Innovation Regulatory Commission, in Lhasa.

Jiang Jie welcomed the visit of Mohandas and his delegation to Tibet. Jiang Jie pointed out that since the “peaceful liberation of Tibet”, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, various undertakings in Tibet had undergone “earth-shaking changes”. The economic development of the whole region, social harmony, especially people’s livelihood, has undergone significant changes.

Jiang Jie added, “I hope more Indian friends visit Tibet and learn about Tibet. We will comprehensively implement the consensus and achievements reached by President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi during the exchange of visits and informal meetings in recent years, expand non-governmental exchanges, and work hard to promote good-neighborly friendship on the border between the two countries.”

Mohandas said he hopes to strengthen friendly exchanges with Tibet and expresses full confidence that China will surely realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation under the leadership of President Xi Jinping and the Communist Party of China.

(Comment: The reference is to T.V. Mohandas Pai, Chairman of Manipal Global

Education (Manipal University) and former director of Infosys. He has earlier served as a Member of the Board of Securities and Exchange Board of India.)

### **13 freight stations along the expansion and reconstruction of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway have been fully commissioned**

August 22, 2018

On August 19, the Lhasa City Supporting Railway Construction and Operation Leading Group Office disclosed that with the steady progress in construction of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, electrification of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway has entered the feasibility- study stage. The Qinghai-Tibet Railway has 13 freight stations along its route in Tibet, which have been put into use and started trial operation.

The newly built Yangbajian Station will be the second largest cargo center in Lhasa:

“After the expansion and transformation, the Lhasa West Freight Station will become the largest railway freight center in Tibet.” In addition to the West Freight Station, the newly built Yangbajian Station was dedicated for loading and unloading during the expansion.

The official in charge also explained that currently entry into Lhasa is on a single-track, and Lhasa station has a total of six pairs of trains using it daily. After expansion the number of trains using Lhasa station will increase to 12 to 14 pairs.

He added that after electrification, trains on the Qinghai-Tibet Railway would be powered by electric locomotives and travel at speeds of 120 kmph instead of 100kmph as at present. Once the Xining-Gormo section is electrified, freight trains from Xining can directly reach Lhasa. (*Comment: electrification of the railway will reduce transit time.*)

Yangbaj Chen (Chinese Yangbajing) is approximately 87 km (54 mile) north-west of Lhasa in Damxung County of Lhasa City in Tibet Autonomous Region. The town lies just south of the Nyainqêntanglha Mountains. It is the site of the Yangbajian International Cosmic Ray Observatory. The area is famous for the Yangbajain Geothermal Field,

which has been harnessed to produce electricity for the capital Lhasa. There is a thermoelectric power plant on the edge of the Yangbajain field covering 20–30 square km. The power plant was established in 1977.)

## **CHAMDO NEWS**

### **Chamdo reports Poverty Alleviation progress to State Council Poverty Alleviation Office**

August 31, 2018

An inspection team from the State Council's Poverty Alleviation Office led by Liu Fu who also happens to be the Minister of Women's Development of All-China Women's Federation, visited Drayab County of Chamdo August 26. Chen Jun, Deputy Secretary of Chamdo Municipal Party Committee, Mayor and Chief of Chamdo's Poverty Alleviation Office reported the progress of the Poverty Alleviation programs to the inspecting team. After listening to the progress report, Liu Fu maintained that Chamdo is the gateway to Tibet and hence eliminating poverty in the city becomes all the more crucial. He further added that the grassroot masses should feel the "Party's grace, listen to the party and strengthen their confidence" and that this can be achieved through new developments and changes.

Chen Jun assured that Chamdo is implementing the spirit of the 19<sup>th</sup> Party Congress, and that fighting against poverty is one of the most important targets. He reverred that Chamdo will comprehensively implement the 'guiding principles' of the CCP CC and State Council's mission of eradicating poverty in three years.' He added that Chamdo is taking into account the 'guiding spirit' of the remarks by Premier Li Keqiang and CPPCC Chairman Wang Yang when they visited Tibet. Chamdo has till now reportedly reduced poverty by 72,300.

## **NYINGTRI NEWS**

### **Zhongshan No. 2 Tunnel in Lhasa-Nyingchi Section of Sichuan-Tibet Railway**



**completed.**

August 21, 2018

The 1,629 kms Sichuan-Tibet Railway, which starts at Chengdu South Station in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, has a designed top speed of 200km/h. A Harmony CRH5 electric EMU will be put into operation on the Sichuan-Tibet Railway. After completion, it will be operated from Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi'an and Guiyang to Lhasa. The train will take only 10-13 hours to complete the distance.

The Sichuan-Tibet Railway is one of the five railways on the “Tianlu” or “Tibet Route” (the other four are the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, the Yunnan-Tibet Railway, the New Tibet Railway, and the Gansu-Tibet Railway). The speed of the railway is that of a low-grade express railway and the designed speed is mostly 160km/h except for the Chengdu-Chaoyang Lake section, which is 200km/h.

The No. 2 Tunnel in Zhongshan of the Lhasa-Nyingchi section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway was successfully completed on August 21, 2018. This is the first long tunnel of more than 8 km in the Lhasa-Nyingchi section.

The No. 2 Tunnel is located in Wolong Town, Minling County, Nyingtri City. It is 8799 meters long and is under construction by the China Railway First Bureau. It is one of the difficult projects of the Lhasa-Nyingchi section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway. Xu Hejun, commander of the Lhasa-Nyingtri Railway Command of China Railway First Bureau, said the Zhongshan Tunnel No. 2 is a high-risk tunnel. Since construction began in August 2015, more than 360 builders have worked more than 1,000 days and nights despite technical problems such as sand accumulation, fault fracture zone, water inrush and rock burst.

The Lhasa-Nyingtri Railway is an important part of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway. It starts from Lhasa City and ends in Nyingchi City. It runs along the Yarlung Zangpo River. The main line of the railway is 435 km long. It is the first electrified railway in Tibet, with a total length of 301 km. There are 14 ‘high risk tunnels’. After completion of the Sichuan-

Tibet Railway, it will become another major artery leading to the mainland after the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, which will further narrow the space and development distance between Tibet and the inner China. Construction of the Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway has made smooth progress with a total investment of 2.72 billion Yuan from January to August this year. 62.1% of the annual planned investment of 4.38 billion has been invested. The railway is an important segment of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway. The Sichuan-Tibet Highway is generally used in the large comprehensive transportation hub in the western part of Sichuan Province. There is no railway in the westward passage. There are two highways from Chengdu to Lhasa, namely National Highway 318 and National Highway 317 and the journey from Chengdu to Lhasa takes approx. 3 days. There is one passenger train to Lhasa from Chengdu. This departs from Chengdu, passes Lanzhou Railway to Lanzhou and goes via Siling (Xining), Delingha, Na Gormo (Golmud) and Nagqu till it arrives in Lhasa. It takes about 36 hours for one trip. Due to the length of the journey and low passenger traffic, the passenger train runs every other day.

Compared to the Qinghai-Tibet, Sichuan-Tibet and Gansu-Tibet railway routes, the Sichuan-Tibet Railway was temporarily put on hold in the past three years due to factors such as difficulty in construction and high investment. With the acceleration of Tibet's economic development, however, construction of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway was considered important.

Tibet's main source of materials in the past was Chengdu or the affluent Sichuan Basin and the Lhasa-Nyingchi area was the most populous area in Tibet. Economic development and exchanges needed closer access to the Yangtze River Economic Belt and Lhasa-Nyingchi belt. The Yangtze River Economic Belt, represented by Chengdu-Chongqing City, is far superior to the Northwest Economic Belt represented by Lanzhou-Xining City.

For national defense too, this line is more important. In some places it is close to 'southern Tibet'. Moreover, the Qinghai-Tibet Railway is long and time-consuming, while the Sichuan-Tibet Railway is much shorter. When it enters Chengdu, it links up

with a number of high-speed railways and can access Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou more quickly.

Construction of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway is not only for development of tourism resources, but also to promote development of the Shangri-La Eco-tourism Area. The Shangri-La Ecotourism Area covers 82 counties in 9 districts in southwestern Sichuan, northwestern Yunnan and southeastern Tibet. The priority development areas are Sichuan Ganzi Prefecture and Tibet-Changdu, all located along the Sichuan-Tibet Railway.

(Comment: The Sichuan-Tibet Railway starts at Chengdu South Station in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, and passes through Chengdu Shuangliu District—Xinjin County—Mengshan City, Pengshan District—Dongpo District—Chengdu Pujiang County—Ya’an City—Luding—Kangding—Yajiang County—Lithang County — Baiyu County—Jodha County—Chamdo—Buba County, Baju County—Basu County—Bomi County—Nyingchi City—Minling County—Nang County—Lhokha City—Gongkar County and arrives in Lhasa.)

## **LHOKA (SHANNAN) NEWS**

### **Gyaltsen Norbu, Chinese-appointed 11<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama in Lhokha for Buddhist activities**

August 16, 2018

The Vice Chairman of the CPPCC and Vice President of the Chinese Buddhist Association, Gyaltsen Norbu, the Chinese-appointed XI Panchen Lama, came to Lhokha City ‘to study and conduct Buddhist activities’ on August 15. This was his first visit to the city since 2010.

At the welcoming ceremony, he said, “during the social research and Buddhist activities in Lhokha, we cherish the good time, and learn as much as possible about the development and changes of Lhokha in the past years, the production and living conditions of the majority of farmers and herdsmen, and the implementation of the party's

ethnic and religious policies.”

He went on to add “to contribute to this blessing, we must love the party's patriotism, safeguard national unity, and promote social harmony and stability. If you do not contribute to the harmony and stability of society, you are not qualified to enjoy the fruits of stable development. All the happiness and beauty that we have enjoyed today are the result of the efforts of our ancestors. In the future, all walks of life should also jointly contribute to the development and progress of society under the leadership of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core, and build a kind seed and give their own efforts. There will be a better future.”

Xu Chengang, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of TAR and Secretary of the Shannan Municipal Party Committee attended the welcoming ceremony and said “the Panchen Lama returning to Tibet to visit and investigate Buddhist activities in Lhokha is a major event in Tibetan Buddhism and a happy event for the majority of believers and that the investigation and research of the Panchen Lama and the Buddhist activities will certainly better educate the believers, make them feel the Party's grace, listen to the party's words, and follow the party. We will certainly lead the believers to develop production, work hard and become rich, and strive to be the "sacred homeland guardian.”

### **Panchen Lama visits Gyatsa County**

August 21, 2018

From August 17 to 18, the Chinese-appointed Panchen Lama visited Gyatsa County of Lhokha City where he inspected the Zhangmu Hydropower Station, went to the Buddha Temple in Dabxia, and held a longevity ritual for the local folks. The Panchen Lama also undertook a pilgrimage to Lhamoe Lastso to worship the lake.

Zhangmu Hydropower Station is located in Zhangmu Village, Lahu Township, Gyatsa County, Lhokha City, Tibet. It is about 140 km away from Lhasa. Gyatsa is located in the middle reaches of the Yarlung Zangpo River in southeastern Tibet. Meaning “China

Salt” in Tibetan, Chinese. Princess Wencheng (who was married to King Songtsen Gampo of Tibet) is said to have left a piece of salt at this place, which is about 40 minutes from Tsethang.

At the Zangmu Hydropower Station the Panchen Lama was informed that in order to minimize the impact of the hydropower station on the survival and reproduction of fish, a 4 km long special fish facility was built. He praised this eco-friendly measure and asked in detail about its functions and the seasons for the fish.

The Panchen Lama went to Lhamoe Lastso (“lake of goddess’ soul”) to worship the lake, which has a special status for the reincarnations of Tibetan Buddhism.

### **Panchen Lama Hosts Lhokha City Religious Representatives**

August 21, 2018

Meeting representatives of religious circles in Lhokha City on August 18, Gyaltzen Norbu, said "As representatives of the religious community, we must be grounded in the process of teaching, to communicate with the religious people themselves, pay attention to methods and strive to be easy to understand." He said from the speeches of the leaders of the Lhokha Buddhist Association, and its President Dawa Tsering and the various temples and sects in Lhokha, one can understand the important role being played by Tibetan Buddhism in modern society. He emphasized that General Secretary Xi Jinping and the Party Central Committee are very concerned about religious work and national work and have issued a series of related policies. As a representative of the religious community, we must take the lead and conscientiously implement national laws and regulations and various policies.

He said that as representatives of the religious circles they must explain the Party and State’s religious policies, which must be promoted and implemented well by the vast number of religious believers. Secondly, the ideas and difficulties of the vast number of religious believers should be truly reflected to the higher authorities, and a good job needs to be done of connecting the party and religious people. "As a Tibetan Buddhist, I

want to be patriotic, love to teach, love the nation, and maintain the stability of the common home.”

At the meeting, President of the Lhokha Buddhist Association DawaTsering gave a briefing on the achievements since the first plenary session of the Lhoka (Shannan) Buddhist Association in 2016. He claimed that the Lhokha Buddhist Association had united and led the majority of religious “patriots”, educated and guided the religious people to put more energy in to poverty alleviation, development of production, and improvement of life, and actively made suggestions on economic and social development.

Through implementation of the "nine", "six-building", “six-one” policies, the temple management mechanism has been continuously improved, the temple public services have become more and more perfect, and Buddhist affairs, and temples has become the main theme. At the same time, the Lhokha Buddhist Association maximizes its advantages, interprets the teachings of Tibetan Buddhism in line with social development and progress, and constantly promotes the construction of Tibetan Buddhism and its adaptation to socialist society. The vast numbers of monks and nuns have a clear-cut banner and a firm stand. They resolutely safeguard the unity of the motherland, strengthen national unity, and actively create a good situation of harmony and stability in the religious field.

### **TAR Leader Inspects Construction Progress of the Yulmai Demonstration Township**

August 17, 2018

On August 13, TAR Standing Committee Member, Executive Vice-Chairman of the Autonomous Region and leader of the construction leading group of the Yulmai ‘Happiness and Frontier Beauty’ Demonstration Township, Jiang Jie led a working group to Yulmai Township to investigate the progress in township construction projects and promote the ‘happiness and beautiful’ border of Yulmai Township.

The working group and the team reviewed the master plan of the Yulmai Well-off village, understood progress of the project, met construction workers and studied the basic model houses and various types of houses under construction. The investigation team expressed satisfaction with progress of the project and the government affirmed use of the light steel structure assembly construction and construction quality.

Jiang Jie pointed out that under the “warm care of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core” and under the great attention of the TAR party committee and government, Yulmai is undergoing great changes. Jiang Jie and the delegates saw the construction site with the Dolkar and Yangzom sisters, township cadres and construction workers, and asked them to ensure safety, ensure quality, ensure that construction schedules were met and to truly be a "sacred land keeper, happy home builder.”

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

### **Denial of the State Benefits Due to Possession of Dalai Lama Portrait**

August 15, 2018

Under the poverty alleviation program, the local government in mid-June announced a township-wide subsidies program in Lithang, a Tibetan populated county of Sichuan Province.

However, a married couple Tsering and Lhamo, residents of Tsosang village in Lithang county’s Shungpa township, found themselves disqualified after a surprise visit to their home by Chinese officials. Radio Free Asia quoted a local source as saying "The officials came unannounced, and they saw a photo of the Dalai Lama on display in the couple's house, and when the couple went to pick up their benefits the next day, they were told their subsidy was cut off".

After this incident, apart from cutting the government benefits to the concerned family, police in Lithang now make frequent visits to Tibetan homes to search for photos of the

exiled spiritual leader. A local Tibetan is reported to have said, “These abrupt entries into their homes have caused great anxiety and become a problem in the daily lives of ordinary Tibetans.” He additionally disclosed that while “ previously, the Dalai Lama’s birthday was celebrated together with other annual religious observances in Lihang monastery, but this year in mid-June the monks were all sent away on a three-weeks' vacation". The people could not, therefore, celebrate the Dalai Lama's birthday and missed their annual debate session.

### **New Regulations on Religious Affairs: Raising Chinese Flag at Religious Venues**

August 18, 2018

Starting from August 15, the Buddhist Association Committees in many provinces and cities held meetings to implement the spirit of the Third Council Meeting of the 9th Session of the Buddhist Association Committee.

The primary purpose was to implement the spirit of the National Religious Work Conference and its new revised ‘regulations on religious affairs'. One of the new regulations is to raise the national flag at religious venues during religious activities. Another new instruction was strict governance against the commercialization of Buddhism and Taoism. The Buddhist Association Committee said that better regulations on the commercialization of Buddhism will help strengthen the Buddhist Community, carry forward ‘socialist core values’, resist the adverse effects of commercialization, adhere to the direction of Buddhism in China and help it better match with the socialist society.

On August 15, the Beijing Buddhist Association held a central meeting and conveyed a message to guide ‘the believers to patriotism and love’ and to believe in the ‘right'. The meeting asked the Buddhist community in Beijing to carry forward the ‘core values of socialism’ and safeguard the clean image of Buddhism. They were also told that their teaching materials should be in accordance with the law.

From August 16 onwards, Gansu, Yunnan, Shaanxi, Henan, Hunan, Sichuan and other



provinces held meetings to implement the new Religious Affairs Regulations as instructed by Beijing. Gansu and Sichuan held their meeting on August 16 and 17 respectively. Sichuan called the Sichuan Buddhist community to integrate the rule of law into religious activities and religious life. They also told everyone to resist the commercialization of Buddhism and resolutely oppose the notion of ‘Buddha collects money but does not hold the ring’.

### **Party Secretary of the Institute of the World Religions, CCAS Visited TASS**

August 23, 2018

Zhao Wenhong, Secretary of the Party Committee and researcher of the Institute of the World Religions, Chinese Academy of Social sciences (CASS) came to the Tibet Academy of Social Sciences (TASS) to exchange views on "Tibetan Buddhism and the Socialist Society." The Party Committee and Vice President of CASS Wang Jingqing accompanied him.

The symposium mainly discussed how to adhere to the Chinese orientation of Tibetan Buddhism in the ‘new era’ and find ways to adapt Tibetan Buddhism to the socialist society. The Tibetan Academy of Social Science reported that everyone agreed with the idea of a thorough study to understand General Secretary Xi Jinping's “important” exposition of making a significant change in Tibetan Buddhism and firmly adhering to the Marxist view of the religion and also adhering to the sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism. The report added “the principle is to constantly guide Tibetan Buddhism to adapt to socialist society”. The two institutes agreed on more such exchanges and joint efforts by think tanks for the study of Tibetan Buddhism.

### **Ngaba Prefecture organizes ‘Walking Conference’ to Carry Forward ‘Red Culture’**

August 28, 2018

‘Walking Ngaba,’ a hiking program was conducted by the People's Government of Ngaba Prefecture, the Ngaba Prefecture Sports Bureau, the Ngaba Prefecture Tourism

Commission, the People's Government of Sichuan Province, and Zoige County to carry forward the 'Red Culture'. More than 100 people from 14 cities participated in this hike to remember the Red Army's Long March, inherit the 'spirit' of the Long March and feel the Red Culture.

The walk started on August 25 from the Moon Bay Scenic Spot -- called the 'red prairie' by Zhou Enlai in 1960.

Participants saw the beautiful wetland grasslands and the tragic and touching Red Army Long March relics. A report claimed the participants experienced "the strange and colourful Amdo ethnic customs, the ancient nomadic culture where the Red Army marched once, Tibetan Buddhism and the vitality of Ngaba's development".

### **Ganzi Pays Special Attention in Cadre Team Building**

August 26, 2018

From March this year, the Ganzi County Organization Department has been working on 88 talents pools, including 57 key training students and 31 medium and long-term training students, of which 22 are for the township reserve cadres to implement the spirit of the provincial and state work conferences for strengthening the talents of cadres. This is an attempt to raise more young cadres with outstanding ability and outstanding performances, who are bold enough to face hardship, brave to take the test and be innovative. The focus will be on their ability to 'love' and 'care' for the broad masses of cadres, effectively solve actual difficulties of the team, and implement various public care policies. 1.05 million Yuan have also been invested to initiate different activities for retired veteran cadres at different branches, called 'to put love into practice'.

There are explicit instructions that if cadres fail to perform their duties they can be relieved from their positions and that there is need to create a good atmosphere for entrepreneurs of the Ganzi County.

### **Forum held for cooperative economic organizations in Tibetan-inhabited areas**

August 31, 2018

On August 25, the fifth annual "Forum for cooperative economic organizations in Tibetan-inhabited areas" opened in Luhuo County, Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province. Held from August 25 to 27, the main agenda of the Forum included discussions on economic development of ethnic areas where well-known entrepreneurs shared stories and Tibetan-featured products were displayed. About 200 experts in the related field, entrepreneurs and staff participated in the forum.

### **Sichuan-Tibet Railway is fully operational**

August 29, 2018

On August 29, China Construction Network News highlighted that the Sichuan-Tibet Railway with a total investment of 270 billion Yuan is fully operational.

The 1,742.39km Sichuan-Tibet Railway route runs from Chengdu to Ya'an, Kangding, Changdu, Nyingtri, and Lhoka to Lhasa. It is one of the most difficult projects and at an average of more than 16,000 meters.

During his recent inspection, Premier Li Keqiang said "this line will be another major artery leading to the mainland after completion of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway". He added that it will bring Tibet and the mainland closer. The Sichuan-Tibet Railway is of great significance to the development and ecological protection of Tibet and is not only the hope of the Tibetan people but also the wish of the people of the country.

There are plans in the future to build Nujiang Bridge over the Nujiang River on the Sichuan-Tibet Railway, which will be at a height of 700 meters.

### **China Opens a New Civil Airport, Qinghai**

August 28, 2018

China began operating a new civil airport in the Dola (Qilian) Mountains area in Qinghai

on August 28. It is the sixth high-altitude airport (over 2,438 metres above sea level) in Qinghai Province. The airport is located in Qilian (Tibetan: Chilen or Dola) County of Haibei (Tsojang) Tibetan Prefecture.

The opening of the new airport is significant as China has discovered Gas Hydrates in the Qilian Mountain Permafrost after digging four scientific experimental wells in 2008 and 2009 and has been actively seeking ways to extract the precious mineral resource to reduce its heavy reliance on imports.

### **Sichuan Tibet Aid Cadres completes Term of Two Years**

August 31, 2018

In September 2016, the Sichuan government dispatched its fourth Batch of 'Tibet Aid cadres' work team to start two years of work in Tibetan areas. This batch had 925 Tibet Aid cadres. In the past two years, they have been working in Tibetan areas like Tibetans, talking about Tibetan areas, and handling Tibetan areas. Their goal was to together with local cadres and masses and they have helped Tibetan areas to fight poverty and stabilize the economy and society.

The Zhangzhou Aid Tibet team was dispatched to Daocheng and responsible for various fields like medical care, education, infrastructure and other problems in the area. The aid worker's first project was to create a public collective trademark for poverty alleviation. So they worked on a potato processing plant to mainly make potato glass noodles and find ways to sell potatoes. Daocheng County's annual output of potato is more than 6,000 tons. However, they realised that the logistics cost is too high and fresh potatoes are difficult to ship. In winter, temperatures are below minus 10-25 degrees. However, with the export of potatoes from Ganzi, they opened the first 'Potato Powder Processing Plant' in the end of 2016. With the assistance of locals they managed to create a chain of productions plants in the process raising income by 500 yuan per mu of Potatoes.

There were other projects of medical assistance, infrastructure building and education assistance in areas like Batang County, Baiyu County, Chengdu etc. Since 2010, the

Organization Department of the Sichuan Provincial Party Committee has continued to carry out the “Thousands of Cadres' Aid to Tibet Campaign”. Each year a group of cadres and talents will be selected to carry out assistance services in Tibetan areas. Till now more than 4,500 people have been selected to assist intensively in Tibetan areas.

## **DIASPORA TIBETAN NEWS**

### **Chinese court’s decision to uphold Tashi Wangchuk’s prison sentence is a travesty of justice, ICT says**

August 23, 2018

The International Campaign for Tibet today said that a Chinese court’s decision to reject the appeal of Tibetan language rights advocate Tashi Wangchuk is a travesty of justice—and that Wangchuk should be released immediately.

On August 23, 2018, Wangchuk’s lawyer, Liang Xiaojun, announced via social media that the Qinghai Higher People’s Court had rejected “both the argument from Tashi Wangchuk himself and the defending statement from the lawyers.”

### **UN ask China to right its wrong Tibetan, Uyghur, and Mongol ethnic policy**

September 01, 2018

Not impressed by China’s patently false and tall claims about its treatment of Tibetans, Uyghurs and Mongols while responding to questions on its report on the implementation of the United Nations convention on the elimination of racial discrimination, concerned experts in Geneva of the world body have called on Beijing to review its policies and laws in their concluding observation delivered on Aug 30.

In its hearing last month on China’s report on its treatment of Tibetans, Uyghurs and Mongols, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination raised a number of questions on the reports submitted by Beijing as well as by accredited NGO’s. The committee issued a number of recommendations while highlighting torture and ill

treatment of ethnic groups, the use of anti-terror and anti-separatism laws to stifle dissent and the diminishing space for civil society in China. The committee has also issued detailed recommendations with regard to the human rights of Mongols, Tibetans and Uyghurs.

With regard to Tibet, the committee said it was “concerned by reports that Tibetans are subjected to significant restrictions on movement within and beyond Tibet Autonomous Region, and that the issuance of passports for foreign travel is almost entirely banned in the region. It is also concerned by reports that Tibetan language teaching in schools in the Tibet Autonomous Region has not been placed on equal footing in law, policy and practice with Chinese, and that it has been significantly restricted; that Tibetan language advocacy has been punished; and that Tibetans do not have access to Tibetan language translations during court proceedings, which are held in Mandarin.”

The committee has recommended that China “preserve the Tibetan language” by “encouraging and promoting its use in the fields of education, the judicial system and the media”.

The committee has also expressed concern on resettlement policies that adversely affect Tibetans.

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