



# SHERIG NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
CENTRAL TIBETAN ADMINISTRATION

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### About us...

Sherig News is the official newsletter of the Department of Education, one of the seven departments of the Central Tibetan Administration based in Dharamsala since 1960. DoE is the apex body responsible for providing support for the educational and welfare needs of over 22,000 Tibetan refugee children in India and Nepal.

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## Meeting on Safety and Security in Tibetan Schools



Sikyong/Education Kalon Dr. Lobsang Sangay at the centre speaking to Tibetan School Administrators on safety and security of Tibetan schools with two DOE Secretaries: Mr. Ngodup Tsering (left) and Mr. Topgyal Tsering (right)

A day-long meeting of Tibetan school administrators was held on June 25, in Dharamsala to discuss the safety and security of students, especially girls, in Tibetan schools. Administrators from four major Tibetan schools including the Tibetan Children's Village (TCV), Tibetan Homes Foundation (THF), Snow Lion Foundation, Nepal and Sambhota Tibetan Schools Society (STSS), along with officials from the Department of Education took part in the meeting.

Sikyong/Education Kalon Dr. Lobsang Sangay, in his inaugural address, underlined the immense importance the Kashag places on gender equality and women empowerment in Tibetan society particularly the safety and security of the girl-child in Tibetan schools. The meeting deliberated on the incidents of sexual assault, substance abuse and preventive measures in Tibetan schools. The Kashag's noble policy towards families with more than three children was also discussed.

### Leadership Workshop for School Prefects

An experiential leadership workshop for Tibetan school prefects was held at the College for Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarah, Dharamsala from 7 – 11 April. Over 34 school prefects from 17 Tibetan schools across India and Nepal attended the workshop. The 5-day workshop was organized by the Department of Education, CTA to bolster leadership qualities in Tibetan children. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Sanjay Upendram, CEO of Amarthi Consulting based in Hyderabad. It focused on strategic thinking, team work and conflict management, emotional intelligence, communication and leadership styles. The Sikyong/Education Kalon Dr. Lobsang

Sangay and the speaker of the Parliament in exile, Mr. Penpa Tsering also talked to the participants on various topics.

### Class XII Board Result 2014

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) declared class XII board examination results on May 29, 2014. The performance of Tibetan students in Class XII has made a comparatively remarkable progress this year. Out of the 1535 Tibetan students who appeared in the All India Secondary School Certificate Examination (AISSCE) conducted by CBSE, 1331 have passed, 40 students failed and 162 students were placed under compartment category (failed in one subject). The overall pass percentage of Tibetan schools is 86.71. The Tibetan schools who have achieved 100% percent result for this year are TCV Selakui and CST Bylakuppe.

Among the toppers, this year's Gaden Phodrang Award recipients from Science Stream are: Sonam Sangmo (93.2%), Chemi Dorjee (90.8%), Tenzin Dadon (90.6%) - all from TCV School Selakui. Recipients from Commerce Stream are: Tsering Dolma (93.2%), Lhamo Choedon (93%), Tamdin Dolma (91.8%)- all from TCV Bylakuppe. And, recipients from Arts Stream are: Kalsang Dolma (93%) & Lharong (90.6%), both from THF Mussoorie and Tenzin Tseyang (90.4%) from CST Bylakuppe.

### DOE to Publish Tibetan Medium Textbooks

A joint meeting of the Department of Education, CTA and TCV Head Office was held on May 22, 2014 at Nyatri Hall, Gangkyi, Dharamsala. In the meeting, it was decided that the Department of Education, CTA takes full responsibility in preparation and publication of all Tibetan Medium Textbooks for Primary Classes. Earlier, the Educational Development & Resource Centre of TCV publishes all primary school textbooks whereas, DOE publishes all Tibetan language textbooks (Pre-Primary-XII) & Tibetan medium Mathematics textbooks (Classes III-V). The meeting was attended by Mr. Ngodup Tsering, Education Secretary, Mr Topgyal Tsering, Secretary (Adm.), Mr. Thupten Dorjee, General Secretary and Mrs Sonam Dolker, Education Director from TCV Head Office and officials from DoE and TCV.

## DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFS

### VISITS/INSPECTIONS

**Fourth Dialectic Meet:** The fourth dialectic meet was held for six days on May 2-7 at Sonada Tibetan Settlement Hall where 59 participants from schools in the North-East region, viz. 5 schools from CTSA and 6 Tibetan schools in Nepal including students and spiritual teachers took part. Honorable Kalon Pema Chhinjor, Department of Religion, CTA was the chief guest and Deputy Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel was the guest of honor at the inaugural function. During the meet, the participants exchanged their views and experience regarding study through logic. This dialectic meet has immensely benefited the participants. The main purpose of this dialectic meet was to enable our students to thoroughly understand different subjects through independent investigation and research by themselves. Mr. Topgyal Tsering, Secretary, DOE was the chief guest at the closing function of the dialectic meet and Mr. Ngodup Tenpa, Education Officer, DOE also attended the function. The dialectic meet was funded by PRM, USA.

**Secretary Visits Schools:** Mr. Topgyal Tsering, Secretary, DoE accompanied by Education Officer Mr. Ngodup Tenpa visited CST Darjeeling on May 8, morning, STS Pokriabong on May 8, afternoon, CST Kalimpong on May 9, and CST Ravangla on May 12, consecutively. During the visit, Secretary Topgyal Tsering talked to the students and teachers. He also gave a public address highlighting current status of Tibetan education in exile and DOE's various educational programmes followed by question-answer session.

### WORKSHOP

#### English Language Acquisition Workshop

The Department of Education in collaboration with Tibetan Children's Education Foundation (TCEF), USA organized a four-day workshop on "English Language Acquisition" from April 15-18, at the College for Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarah, Dharamsala. Twenty six Trained Graduate Teachers of 15 Tibetan Schools under the school administration of STSS, TCV, and THF and TNMF School participated in the workshop.

The main purpose of this workshop is to enhance the better teaching learning pedagogy of English language in Tibetan schools. Ms. Sara Buckerfield, an expert in the field, from California, USA was the resource person for the workshop. The English Language Acquisition Workshop was fully funded by TCEF with funding initiatives from Mr. Karma Tensum, Executive Director of TCEF.

#### Workshop for School Librarians

A first ever three-day workshop for Tibetan school librarians was conducted by the Education Department at the House of Peace and Dialogue, Upper TCV School, Dharamshala from April 17-19. The participants include twenty-two school librarians from 10 Tibetan schools across India attended the workshop. Earlier under the Early Grade Reading (EGR) Project, they attended a two-day workshop at the World Book Fair, New Delhi. Ms. Usha Mukunda and Ms. Sujota Noronha were invited as the resources for the workshop. The purpose of this workshop was to develop more reading-related activities that could be carried out in school libraries especially in early grade reading. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Ngodup Tsering, Secretary, Department of Education and funded by the USAID through The Tibet Fund

#### Workshop on Teachers' Professional Development

The Department of Education conducted a one-day Intensive Teacher Professional Development workshop on April 10, at STS, Chauntra with Mr. Kalsang Wangdu, Teachers Professional Development and Curriculum Officer of TCV, Dharamsala as the resource person, elaborately spoke on Teacher Professional Development, the collaborative practices & professional growth plan. There were 24 teachers including the Headmaster and the Principal who gave full participation throughout the workshop session. The purpose of workshop was to bring a new change in the education system in various Tibetan schools by practicing professional development by the teachers with initiatives at the school level. It was funded by USAID through Tibet Fund and it was being implemented in 11 Pilot schools. Tsering Dhondup, Education Officer (Science) and Tenzin Dhargyal, Advisor, Tibetan Education Project, the Tibet Fund also spoke to the participants.

#### Early Grade Reading Workshop for Primary Teachers

A ten-day workshop on 'Early Grade Reading' for Primary Teachers in two batches from June 3-7 & 9-13, were conducted by Education Department at Nyatri Hall, Gangkyi, Dharamsala. Fifty primary teachers from 27 Tibetan Schools under the school administration of Sambhota Tibetan Schools Society (STSS), Tibetan Children's Villages (TCV), Tibetan Homes Foundation (THF) and Snow Lion Foundation, Nepal (SLF) participated in the workshop. The main purpose of this workshop was to enhance the Early Grade Reading in Tibetan schools to improve child's learning as per recommendations of the Education Advisory Committee Meeting held last year. The Department of Education has developed a strategy to improve general reading culture in schools with special focus on early grade reading to improve children's academic learning. The resource persons for the workshop are Prof. Krishna Kumar, Dr. Latika Gupta from Central Institute of Education, Delhi University and Mr. Gyaltsen Jamyang, Ex-Education Officer, DoE.

The workshop was funded by the USAID through the Tibet Fund.

#### Workshop for Pre-primary teachers

The Department of Education conducted in Dharamsala, a seven-day workshop for 34 pre-primary teachers of schools transferred by CTSA to STSS from June 6-12. The topics covered in the workshop include introduction of Montessori system of teaching, teaching of Tibetan and Mathematics. All the participants were provided a complete set of teaching aids. The workshop was funded by the USAID through the Tibet Fund.

#### Summer Science Teaching Program-2014

A two-day orientation programme for participants under the 'Summer Science Teaching Program' was conducted by the Education Department at the College for Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarah from June 25-26. It was an opportunity for our college to experience the joy of classroom teaching. This year, 8 students from various colleges/universities attended the orientation programme. The main aim of this program is to inspire the students to take teaching as their career as science/mathematics teachers. Thirteen Science undergraduates volunteered to teach one month in July and were

assigned teaching in 13 CTSA schools. This is the third year being funded by SOIR-IM, Sweden.

## **GUIDANCE & COUNSELING**

### **Orientation for Class XII Passed out students**

DoE Counselors held Orientation for Class XII passed outs on May 2 at Nyatri Hall, Dharamsala which was inaugurated by Mr. Ngodup Tsering, Secretary, DoE. Ms. Donkar Wangmo, Chief Counselor welcomed the participants and spoke on the admission procedure of colleges & its deadlines. The speakers at the orientation program include Mr Kalsang Wangdu, curriculum and teacher development officer at TCV, Dr Tsering Yangkey, monitoring and evaluation director, Tibet Fund, Mr Tenzin Namgyal, a Tibetan advocate, Mr Dawa, a reporter with Voice of Tibet radio service and Mr Sherap Tharchin, deputy project director at Tibet Fund & Ms. Chemi Tseyang, Joint Secretary, Department of Education.

South Zone resident counselors also held similar Orientation in the six Tibetan Settlements in Southern India in the month of April, 2014. Students attending the Orientation received 800 booklets of DOE Scholarship scheme. A total of 313 students graduated from four different school bodies viz. CTSA, TCV, THF& STSS had been benefited from the orientation. Students found the session very informative and useful. The north activity is funded by SOIR-IM, Sweden and south zone activity by PRM, USA.

### **Counseling Students**

DoE Counselors have visited CST Tenzingang, CST Dalhousie, CST Dholanji & STS Chauntra in the month of April and May, 2014. During this period the counselors took class room guidance of 15 - 20 periods covering topics on Self Understanding, Career Planning, Career Exploration, relating to Adolescence Growth, Career Options after class XII, Effective Study Strategies, Goal Setting & Life skills etc. In the evening they met with students in groups and discussed on problems concerning boys and girls separately. Counselors conducted and interpreted Multiple Intelligence Test & Career Interest Inventory to students of classes IX & X. They have done individual counseling to 6 students referred by the teachers of STS Chauntra. Total of 680 students were benefited from the program. This is funded by SOIR-IM, Sweden.

### **Parental Counseling**

DoE Counselors held counseling session with parents of Tibetan community at Dalhousie, Dholanji and Chauntra & DoE South Zone resident counselors held similar sessions at the six Tibetan settlements at Mundgod, Bylakuppe, CVP Bylakuppe, Kollegal, Gurupura, Chandragiri & Gothangaon. The counselors spoke on importance of parent's involvement in child's education, inculcating positive environment at home, DoE Scholarships & its procedures, parent's role in school set up & educating stages of child development etc. This was followed by question & answer session. Total of 435 parents were benefited from this program. This is funded by SOIR-IM, Sweden.

### **Career Exhibition**

Career Exhibition was held in the school hall at CST Dholanji and CST Dalhousie under the guidance of Department's Counselors on May 22 & 31 respectively. The students of classes X & XII volunteered to prepare the materials for the

exhibition. On the exhibition day, the group representatives presented their work to the students and the visiting students asked questions to them. The project was on career options after the three streams viz. Science, Commerce & Arts, Vocational scope, Scholarship & Collection of Tibetan websites addresses etc. Apart from the students' work, there was display of career books, entrance test books, self-help books etc for dissemination of information. The students strongly expressed to provide more such opportunities in the schools. Total of 491 students were benefited from this activity. This is funded by SOIR-IM, Sweden.

### **Career & Motivational Talk by Career Professionals/College Student**

This is an activity initiated by the DoE Guidance & Counseling cell for the first time to the schools in the north. The primary goal of this activity is to provide more awareness on different careers by meeting people in the field and interacting with them as well as making use of the local resources available in the vicinity of the schools. In this quarter, STS Chauntra, Mewoen Petoen school, TCV Suja, TCV Selakui & other five schools organized this activity. These schools invited professionals from Tibetan Sowa Rigpa doctor, Tibetan Language Expert, Freelance Writer/author, Lawyer, Counselor, two Tibetan Scholarship Recipients (TSP), A college student (alumni of the school) etc. The students found it very helpful and such interactive sessions cleared many of their doubts about the concerned profession. The talks motivated the students to be a life-long learner. This is funded by SOIR-IM, Sweden.

### **Printing of Career Charts**

The Guidance & Counseling Section of the Department of Education printed 27 Career Charts and 6 Motivational Charts. A set of 33 charts were distributed to 7 schools viz. CST Mussoorie, Mewoen Petoen School, Dharamsala, CST Darjeeling, STS Chauntra, STS Dickyiling, CST Dholanji & STS Poanta Sahib. This is funded by SOIR-IM, Sweden.

### **School Cell Development**

The Guidance & Counseling section, DoE provided 5 sets of 75 books on different careers, entrance test guide & college directories to CST Dalhousie for building the career resources for the students of the school. This is funded by SOIR-IM, Sweden.

### **Subscription of magazines and children's newspaper**

The Guidance & Counseling Section, DoE subscribed two magazines viz. Teenager Today & Career 360 as well as a children's weekly newspaper titled "Robin Age" to 13 schools namely CST Dalhousie, CST Mussoorie, CST Dholanji, CST Shimla, CST Darjeeling, CST Kalimpong, STS Paonta, STS Chauntra, Petoen School, STS Dickyiling & CST Chandragiri. The objective is to inculcate reading habits and also learn more about careers. This is funded by USAID through the Tibet Fund.

## **PUBLICATION NEWS**

### **Second Workshop for the Writers and Illustrators**

The second workshop for the writers and illustrators of the 'Early Graded Reading Series' was conducted by the Department of Education, in Dharamsala for three days from April 18-20. 14 participants took part in the workshop. The work-

## DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFS

shop was about how to write and illustrate story books for early grade readers. The workshop was funded by USAID through the Tibet Fund.

**Tibetan Terminology Project Meeting:** The High Level Standardizing Board meeting of 'Tibetan Terminology Project' was held from May 2014 for 6 days in Dharamsala. During the meeting, a bunch of final draft of new terms was standardized by the Board members. The project is funded by DANIDA.

### Third Workshop for the Writers and Illustrators

The third workshop for the writers and illustrators of the 'Early Graded Reading Series' was held in Dharamsala for three days from June 5-7. 14 participants took part in the workshop. The workshop was organized by the DoE in continuation to the second EGR workshop conducted earlier. The workshop was funded by USAID through the Tibet Fund.

## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

### A) Scholarship Announcement

1) The Department of Education has made public announcements of oversea scholarship i.e. Pestalozzi Scholarship, UK 2015 Entry and Global Leadership Incubator, US scholarship 2014.

2) The Department of Education announced the New Scholarship Scheme 2014.

### B) Other Scholarship News

1. The Committee meeting of the Dalai Lama Getsa Scholarship-2014 was held on June 18. The committee selected 50 candidates for the scholarship and kept 20 waitlist candidates as per the rules and regulations of this Scholarship which was meant for the economically most disadvantaged & orphan candidates.

2. A meeting of Scholarship Committee of DoE was held on June 19. Among the members, Dr. Renu Pant, Education Officer, CTSA, Delhi attended the meeting as representative of CTSA. During the meeting, it took decision on the nomination of candidates for the reserved seats (MBBS, Engineering, Diploma Courses, B. Sc. B.Ed. & Bachelor of Pharmacy) allotted by the Government of India (GoI) for Tibetan students and allocation of CTSA Scholarships for 15 Degree and 5 Diploma/Vocational courses for the year 2014-2015. The Committee also disbursed a total of 203 DoE scholarships to the Tibetan students for undergraduate courses.

3. The preliminary selection process for Tibetan Scholarship Program (TSP)-2015, was conducted from May 3-10. There were 80 eligible applicants who took part in this interview selection and top 15 candidates were nominated to register for TOEFL iBT. An orientation program on application and admission process of universities in the United States was also organized by the Department of Education in Dharamsala for the top 15 candidates. The final selection of the candidates will be done on the basis of the points they have scored in GWTT, academic achievement and TOEFL iBT.

4. Department of Education organized in Dharamsala, a two-day Pre-departure Orientation from May 12-13 for TSP candidates of 2014 Batch leaving for the US in August 2014. The Orientation Program was funded by The Tibet Fund, New York. It mainly focused on the issue likes Human Rights Violation,

Present Condition of Tibet in International Scenario, Present Environmental Conditions, How to interact with Chinese students, Introduction of TSP Alumni Association (TSPAA), American Education System and Social life.

5. Ms. Tenzin Chemi, student of CST Mundgod has been awarded with the Nandita Das University Scholarship for undergraduate program at Rai University, Ahmedabad.

6. Master. Tenzin Thinley, TCV Selakui has been selected for UWC Atlantic Scholarship, UK to study International Baccalaureate (IB) for two years.

### Another Tibetan Girl Bags Gold Medal in Top Indian College

A Tibetan girl named Sonam Dolma has bagged the gold medal in one of India's top colleges for her outstanding academic performance. Sonam Dolma secured 1st position in M.A Political Science at Madras Christian College (MCC). The gold medal was awarded to her during the recent convocation of MCC in March. Sonam Dolma is currently pursuing M.Phil in the same department. She aims to go into the teaching line after completing her studies. She is an alumna of TCV Suja and TCV Gopalpur.



## OBITUARY

### 1. Choephel Lungtok, DoE Staff



The Department of Education deeply mourns the sudden demise of Choephel Lungtok, a contractual staff serving at the Department of Education, CTA, who passed away suddenly on 19 April at the age of 33. He joined the Central Tibetan Administration on 1 August 2010 as an Under-Secretary on contractual basis. He served as a member of the Text Book Editorial Section, DOE as well as the web-master of www.sherig.org, the official website of the Department of Education at the time of his demise.

### 2. Mr. Lobsang Delek, former Principal of Namgyal Middle School

The Department of Education, CTA mourns the sad demise of Mr. Lobsang Delek, former Principal of Namgyal Middle School, Nepal who was 78 years old. He passed away on 11th May after dedicating more than 42 years of his life towards education of Tibetan children in exile. The Staff of the Department of Education offer prayers for the departed soul and convey condolence to the family members.

