



# 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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### Education Kalon Visits Peteon School and Lower TCV to Observe Classroom Reading Corner

The Education Kalon of Central Tibetan Administration, Mr. Ngodup Tsering la paid a visit to Lower Tibetan Children's Village School and Sambhota Mewoen Tsuglag Peteon School on 1st October 2015 at 2 pm to observe the Classroom Reading Corner (CRC) and to interact with the schools' students. As a part of the Department of Education's effort to improve Primary Education, the department is planning to set up Classroom Reading Corner to about 54 Tibetan schools across India by facilitating them with any financial assistance, story books and other necessary requirements.

So far, DoE has established CRC for Lower Tibetan Children's Village School and Sambhota Mewoen Peteon School with the minimum of 400 Children's story books for both of the schools. Following the successful setting up of CRC in the aforementioned two pilot schools, the department endeavors to set up the same in the rest of the Tibetan schools very soon.

In order to foster reading habits among the Tibetan children, the department has already provided Early Grade Reading Workshop to 257 Teachers in the past two years and will continue to provide the same to 119 Primary Teachers in the coming years to cover the entire Primary teachers in Tibetan Schools.

The above program has been funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Tibet Fund.



*Kungoe Ngodup Tsering observing the displayed books for Classroom Reading Corner with Mr. Samdup Tsering la, the Head of Traditional Section along with the Principals of Peteon School and Lower TCV respectively.*

### Education Kalon Visits Thailand

At the invitation from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), the Education Kalon, Mr. Ngodup Tsering paid a short visit to the esteemed Institute, followed by a meeting with Regional Adviser of UNICEF from 29th October to 1st November 2015.

During the visit at the AIT, which is situated at the heart of Thailand, Bangkok, Kalon was received by the President Worsack-Kanok Nukulchai and the senior members of the staff and faculty. Kalon explored every possibility for future collaboration and support from AIT in terms of student a and capacity building of Tibetan exile through higher learning, training and

research. The president, in response, assured all the possible help. Kalon also met with the graduate students from 22 nationalities, along with Vice President of Research and the Director of AIT Extension.

Kalon had a fruitful discussion with UNICEF Regional Office and informed the Regional Adviser about the status of Tibetan education in and outside Tibet. In addition, he met with various senior staff of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific.



*Kalon Ngodup Tsering having discussion with the AIT President and the senior members of the staff and faculty.*

### DoE Secretary Attends Central Level Tibetan Cultural Meet and Exhibition

The Central Level Tibetan Cultural Meet and Exhibition, 2015 was held at the Central School for Tibetans, Shimla on 3rd and 4th November 2015. The total number of 137 participants, who have secured the first position in different events from their respective schools, along with 22 escorts from the three zones namely North, South, and East participated in the aforementioned meet.

The chief guest for the occasion was Mr. Nawang Rabyal la, the Secretary of the Department of Education, CTA. After inaugurating the ceremony with a lighting of the lamp by the chief guest, the students recited Manglacharan in Tibetan; followed by a welcome song, a welcome speech by the Principal, Lion dance, Bihu dance, and a speech by the chief guest.

The events organized at the meet were poem recitation, debate, Tibetan folk dance, duet, and group song in both Junior and senior category. The two additional events for the senior category are declamation and one act play. The exhibitions in all the three subjects: Mathematics, Science, and Social Sciences were also held.

The chief guest for the closing ceremony was Professor A.D.N. Bajpai, the Vice Chancellor of Shimla University, HP. The Principal of the school, Sh. V.K. Singh, gave the welcome remarks. The overall 1st position in the senior category is Mundgod School, and the 1st position of the junior category is Dholanji School. The meet ended on 4th November 2015 in the evening with the vote of thanks by the Rector.



A Group of CST School's Tibetan Traditional Dancers with Dr. Nawang Rabgyal la and Other Dignitaries at CST Shimla.

**Sambhota Tibetan Schools Society Awarded by the Indian Solidarity Council, New Delhi**

Indian Solidarity Council, a national body comprising eminent social leaders, bureaucrats and entrepreneurs honoured Mr. Karma Chungdak, Director of Sambhota Tibetan Schools Society with its 'Jewel of India Award' in recognition of his meritorious services in the field of education at a function held in New Delhi on 18 December 2015.

He was also felicitated with 'Vijay Rattan Gold Medal Award' by the International Institute of Education and Management, a government registered voluntary and Non-Profit institution with its members from all over the country.

The objectives of the institute are to promote educational, scientific, social, cultural and technological development.

The awards were presented by Dr. Bishma Narain Singh, former Governor of Tamil Nadu and Dr. Virendra Kataria, former Lt. Governor of Pondicherry.



The Director of Sambhota Tibetan Schools Society honoured with 'Jewel of India Award' by Dr. Bishma Narain Singh, former Governor of Tamil Nadu and Dr. Virendra Kataria, former Lt. Governor of Pondicherry.

**EDUCATION COUNCIL NEWS**

**A Six-day Meeting to Formalize Science Textbook for Class III**

The participants of the Meeting on Science Textbook for Class III at DIIR Lhakpa Tsering Hall.

In compliance with the Basic Education Policy of the Department of Education, a six-day meeting was held from 16th to 21st November 2015 to formalize science textbook in Tibetan language for Class III after series of deliberation and review of its draft.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Tsering Samdup, the Head of the Academic Section of the Education Department. Others who took part in the meeting include Mr. Dhondup Gyalpo who is the Headmaster of TCV, Mr. Nyima Tsering from TCV Suja, Mr. Penpa Topgyal from STS Manali and Mr. Phurbu Dhondup from THF Mussoorie. The officials from DoE who attended the meeting are Mr. Sonam Sangpo, Ms. Passang Chokpa, Mr. Budha Kyab and Mr. Trinley Wangdue.

**A 2-day Workshop on New Tibetan Textbook for Tibetan Primary Schools**

DoE introduced a new Tibetan textbook for Tibetan primary schools

during a 2-day workshop held at Sakya monastery in Bylakuppe Tibetan settlement from 26th to 28th October 2015.

The workshop, facilitated by editors of the textbook, was attended by over 20 Tibetan teachers from CST Kollegal, CST Hunsur, CST Bylakuppe, CVP Bylakuppe, and TCV Bylakuppe School, STS Kalaishpura, STS Gulledhala, STS Chowkur, and STS Arlikumari at Bylakuppe.

The event primarily focused on introducing the new textbook and imparting various teaching methods for the primary students. The same workshop was also held at Mundgod for 11 Tibetan teachers from 2nd to 4th November 2015.

**A Meeting Resolved on Class III to V Tibetan Textbooks for North America's Tibetan Community Weekend Schools**



The Participants of the Roundtable Meeting on Tibetan Textbook for North America's Tibetan Weekend Schools.

The Department of Education arranged a 4-day long meeting from 1st to 4th December 2015 to discuss on class III to V Tibetan textbooks for North America's Tibetan Community Weekend Schools at Gangkyi Nyatri Hall. Taking the sole responsibility of drafting Class III to V Tibetan textbooks by the Office of Tibet in DC, DoE held this meeting to review the received draft.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Tsering Samdup la (Education Council Head), Acharya Karma Monlam la (Publication Head), Dr. Chok Tenzin Monlam (Translation and Research Section of Library of Tibetan Works and Archives), Mr. Samdup la (Tibetan teacher at STSS Peteon), and Mr. Gendun Dhonyon la & Mr. Tashi Dorjee la (Tibetan Textbook Editors at DoE).

A similar meeting was also held in September 2015 to decide on the Tibetan textbooks from Pre-primary to Class II. The department is also planning to hold a meeting to finalize the Tibetan textbooks from Class VI to Class VIII very soon.

**ACADEMIC NEWS**

**Traditional Section**

**A 25-Day Training for Tibetan Dance and Music Teachers**

The Department of Education has organized a 25-day training for the Tibetan music and dance teachers on Piwang (traditional Tibetan Violin) and Bashey Piwang (different type of Tibetan Violin) from 16th October to 9th November 2015 at the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA) in Dharamsala, North India. The objective of the training is to train Tibetan music and dance teachers on the basics of Piwang and Bashey Piwang for a period of 25 days.

The inaugural ceremony of the training was held on 16th October at 10:00 am. Dr. Ngawang Rabgyal la, the Secretary of Academic Section of DoE attended as the chief guest along with other dignitaries. In his inaugural address, he urged the participants to make optimum utilization of the Resource Persons and facilities provided during the training. The training was participated by a total of 31 Tibetan music and dance teachers: 17 males and 14 females from 17 different schools of Sambhota Tibetan School, TCV Schools, THF Mussoorie and TIPA.

Mr Ngodup Tsering, the Education Minister, graced the closing event of workshop. He addressed the participants on the importance of consistent practice in their skills. He also mentioned that the Tibetan music and dance teachers have the responsibilities of imparting significance of Tibetan culture and customs apart from

simply teaching musical instruments and dances.

The workshop was funded by the Dept. of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), Canada.

#### Workshop on Ways to Improve Tibetan Language

The total number of 15 participants including 8 females and 7 males, who are graduates in Bachelor of Education from Bhuntar University, were given a short term workshop on ways to improve Tibetan language. On 10th December 2015, the Traditional Academic Section Head, the Education Officer of DoE, the Principal of Sherab Gatsel School, and the staff and teachers of the aforementioned school attended the opening ceremony. The Academic Section Head encouraged the participants to make the best use of the opportunity to improve their Tibetan language in his inaugural speech.

#### Leadership Workshop for Class X Students



*The chief guest Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay, Education Kalon Mr. Ngodup Tsering, Education Secretaries Mr. Topgyal Tsering and Mr. Ngawang Rabgyal, Section heads of the Department of Education and dealing staff at the inaugural ceremony of the Leadership workshop at Lower TCV, 26 December 2015.*

The eight-day Leadership workshop was organised by the Department of Education, CTA. Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay inaugurated the third leadership workshop for class X students from across India and Nepal at Lower TCV school, Dharamshala on 26th December, 2015. Education Kalon Mr. Ngodup Tsering, Education Secretaries Mr. Topgyal Tsering and Mr. Ngawang Rabgyal, Section heads of the Department of Education and the dealing staff were also present at the inauguration.

Over 300 students and 31 teachers from 31 Tibetan schools in India and Nepal participated in the workshop.

Addressing the workshop, Sikyong spoke on the role of education in society and self-growth. He also highlighted the 7Cs to achieving good leadership skills. Talking about setting ambitions and goals, Sikyong said, "At this point, all of you must have a well thought-out ambitions of what you want to become and how you can contribute to the community. Your thoughts and motives should transmute to ambitions and later to actions," said Sikyong.

The chief guest at the closing ceremony was Education Kalon Mr Ngodup Tsering. He emphasised the role of Tibetan students in preserving the relationship between Indian and Tibetan communities and urged the students to engage with Indian students in schools and colleges in the future.

Dr. Ngawang Rabgyal, the Secretary of the DoE, also remarked that the leadership skills and education the students received in the workshop will go a long way to develop the inspiring students into responsible members of the community.

The workshop concluded with a scarf ceremony and presentation of certificates to the teachers and students of the workshop.

The workshop is jointly funded by Bureau of Population Refugee Migration (PRM) United States, Friedrich Naumann Stiftung (FNS) Germany, and the Tibet Fund.

#### Modern Section

##### Coordinators' Meeting for Tibetan Librarians

The Department of Education organised a Coordinators' meeting for six Librarians from Tibetan schools in India from 7-9 October at

the Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at New Delhi.

The three-day meeting was aimed to assist the School Librarians in strengthening their perspectives on books, improving library environment and assigning planning and mentoring in the field. It was inaugurated by the Secretary of the Bureau Mr. Tsewang Gyalpo Arya and Education Officer Ms. Tenzin Legzey.

The Resource Persons nominated coordinators, which comprises three cluster librarians, to represent different managements of the Tibetan school administration: 2 from Sambhota Schools, 3 from TCV schools, and 1 from the Tibetan Home Foundation Schools. The participants visited the public Library of American Center situated at Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi. They were briefed about the American Library Center's working procedure with a video presentation. The participants were also given a one-year free access to its e-library (online library). The participants also visited the American Embassy School situated at Chanakya Puri, New Delhi and had discussions on topics such as the book choice, mode of accessing books, book care and maintenance, activities in the library, etc.

The Resource Persons of the meeting were Dr. Usha Mukunda and Dr. Sujata Norohna. The meeting was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Tibet fund.

##### Early Grade Reading Workshop at Bengaluru

The Department of Education, has organized its 11th workshop on Early Grade Reading from 10th to 14th November, 2015 at the Dalai Lama Institute of Higher Education, Bengaluru. It was attended by 23 primary teachers under the school administration of Sambhota Tibetan Schools Society (STSS), Central Tibetan School Administration (CTSA), and Tibetan Children's Villages (TCV). The main purpose of this workshop is to make the primary teachers familiar with progressive pedagogy of Early Grade Reading. DoE has developed strategies to improve reading culture in Tibetan schools with a special focus on primary grades to develop children's reading skills and habits.

All the EGR trainees have expressed deep satisfaction with the workshop. The participants also opined that the workshop enabled them to reflect seriously on their teaching experience and brought a significant change in their approach in cultivating a reading habit among their students.

The resource person for the workshop is Dr. Latika Gupta from Central Institute of Education, Delhi University. This project is being funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Tibet Fund.

#### COUNSELING NEWS

##### DoE Assistant Counselor Visits North East Schools

DoE assistant counselor visited C.S.T Darjeeling, C.S.T Sonada, C.S.T Kalimpong and C.S.T Ravangla located in north east India from 8th October to 8th November 2015. The counselor held a total of 15-20 sessions to the students ranging from class VI to XII in all the above mentioned schools, which took about a week at each school. The topics which were covered during the classroom guidance are how to face and overcome bullies, the effects and outcome of substance abuse, good and bad touch, study skills, note taking skills, learning styles, types of learning styles, Psychological test, time management, peer pressure, DoE scholarships, career education, career planning, and the difference between career and job.

In addition to the above topics, a session was held on Lamton website. Moreover, a separate individual counseling was also held for the students who wanted to have personal counseling with the counselor.

The list of the schools and the number of the students who attended the sessions are mentioned below in the chart.

The session was funded by the Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief (SOIR-IM), Sweden.

## DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFS

| s.no.                    | School           | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------------------|------------------|------|--------|-------|
| 1.                       | C.S.T Darjeeling | 110  | 100    | 210   |
| 2.                       | C.S.T Sonada     | 31   | 30     | 61    |
| 3.                       | C.S.T Kalimpong  | 91   | 141    | 232   |
| 4.                       | C.S.T Ravangla   | 06   | 22     | 28    |
| Total number of students |                  |      |        | 531   |

Parental Workshop in Darjeeling, Sonada, Kalimpong and Ravangla Parental Guidance was held in Northeast India Tibetan Settlement at Darjeeling, Sonada, Kalimpong and Ravangla. During the workshop, the parents were given a list of questionnaire to assess their level of knowledge on some of the targeted areas. The participants also filled up the post-test questionnaire to check the outcome of the workshop.

The three-hour Parental Guidance workshop mainly focused on child sexual abuse, stages of child development, DoE scholarship, capital saving, corporal punishment, peer pressure, and Tibetan Universities and Institutes in exiles.

The session was funded by the Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief (SOIR-IM), Sweden.

The list of the settlements and total number of participants are mentioned in the chart below.

| s.no                         | Name of the settlement | Male | Female | Total |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| 1.                           | Darjeeling             | 17   | 18     | 35    |
| 2.                           | Sonada                 | 17   | 22     | 39    |
| 3.                           | Kalimpong              | 10   | 14     | 24    |
| 4.                           | Ravangla               | 24   | 44     | 68    |
| Total number of participants |                        |      |        | 166   |

### DoE Counselor Visits South-Zone Tibetan Schools

South Zone resident counselor Mr. Jamyang Wangyal conducted a classroom guidance and counseling to class VI to XII from 16th November to 3rd December 2015 at C.S.T Gurupura, C.S.T Bylakuppe, C.S.T CVP and C.S.T Kollegal. The sum of 422 students from the four mentioned schools attended the counseling session.

The counselor held a total of 15-20 sessions in each school while focusing on topics, for instance, importance of having a purpose in life, self-understanding, self-disciplining, communication skills, awareness on substance abuse and goal setting. Apart from these topics, he also discussed with students on choosing specific area of studies after class X, dealing with peer pressure and bully. The program was funded by Bureau of Population Refugee Migration (PRM) United States.

### Motivational cum Counseling Session at ISTL, Nelamangala, Bangalore

A motivational cum counseling session was conducted by the Counselor Mr. Jamyang Wangyal at ISTL, Nelamangala from 9th-10th December 2015. During the two-day program, the counselor briefed upon various themes: role and responsibility of Tibetan youth, importance of team work and communication skills, how to manage negative anger, and how to face interviews,

A total of 23 trainees attended the two-day workshop (15 from hair-dressing and 8 from beautician) and found highly beneficial.

The counseling session was funded by Bureau of Population Refugee Migration (PRM) United States.

### Art and Craft Workshop

The Department of Education organised school-based art and crafts workshop at 14 Tibetan schools located in India and Nepal. The schools learned different Tibetan traditional crafts such as wood carving, traditional hat and prayer flags etc.

Ms. Tenzin Paldon, Education officer, DoE visited STS Gangkyi, STS

Poanta, STS Dekyiling, STS Meweon Peteon and STS Puruwala to strengthen the school-based art and craft workshop and also to conduct a follow-up survey on the special needs children in different Tibetan schools.

The workshop was funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), Canada.

### SCHOLARSHIP NEWS:

- Five students were nominated by the DoE for the prestigious Global Leadership Incubator Scholarship, US to study for four-year undergraduate program. The final selection is expected to decide soon.

- Mr. Shawo Choeten, a student from Delhi University was selected to study Korean language for one year followed by four-year undergraduate program under Korean Scholarship from Dongguk University.

- The Department of Education also announces Jai Mukhi Scholarship to study under the Oxford faculty at Oxford University, UK which is reserved for the teachers and CTA staff.

- Mr. Kalsang Rinchen, Deputy Secretary, Scholarship Section, participated in the discussion on the selection of 15 meritorious degrees and 5 diploma scholarship for Central Tibetan School Administration (CTSA), New Delhi at MHRD, Govt. of India.

### Tibetan Scholarship Program 2017

The US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), is pleased to announce the opening of the 2017 Tibetan Scholarship Program (TSP). The TSP, sponsored by ECA, is administered through a Cooperative Agreement with The Tibet Fund, in collaboration with the Central Tibetan Administration's (CTA) Department of Education (DOE). Applications will be accepted from eligible Tibetan refugees residing in India and Nepal for two-year Master's Degree programs in the United States, pending the availability of funds.

Applicants should be born on or after 1 January 1981.

Last date of submission of applications is March 31, 2016 at 5:00 pm. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered after the deadline at all.

### School Inspection/Visits

- A group of Education Officers from DoE: Mr. Ngodup Tenpa (Academic Section), Ms. Tenzin Legzey and Ms. Passang Chokpa (Modern Section) visited STS Manali, STS Bir, STS Chauntra, STS Paonta, STS Puruwala and STS Dekyiling for the schools' annual inspection in the month of August 2015.

- \* DoE Education Officer Mr. Tsering Dhondup visited STS and CST Schools in South India from September 10 - 14 as a part of Annual Inspection 2015.

- DoE Education Officers: Mr. Ngodup Tenpa and Ms. Tenzin Yangchen paid a visit to CST Ravangla, CST Kalimpong, CST Darjeeling, CST Sonada, STS Pokhriabong and STS Shillong for the annual inspection from 26th September to 10th October 2015.

- DoE Education Officer Ms. Passang Chokpa visited CST Dholanji for the Annual Inspection of the schools with CTSA Education Officer Mr. Pritam Singh on 16th October 2015

- DoE Education Officer Ms. Tenzin Legzey and CTSA Education Officer Dr. Renu Pant went on Annual Academic Inspection to CST Darjeeling, CST Ravangla, and CST Kalimpong, from 27-31 October 2015.

- DoE Education Officer Ms. Tenzin Yangchen visited CST Herbertpur and Mussoorie with CTSA Education Officer Mr. Pritam Singh as a part of the panel of the annual academic inspection from 17th-20th November 2015. Ms. Tenzin Yangchen also paid a visit to STS Paonta and STS Dekyiling during the month.