



SHERIG NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CENTRAL TIBETAN ADMINISTRATION

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This page plus...

Academic News -----3
Scholarship News-----4

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.

For suggestions & comments, do contact us at:

Department of Education
Central Tibetan
Administration
Gangchen Kyishong
Dharamsala 176215
District Kangra
Himachal Pradesh, INDIA
Email: education@tibet.net
Tel: (01892) 222572, 222721
Fax: (01892) 223481

Advisors:
Ngodup Tsering
(Kalon for Education)

Karma Singey
(Education Secretary)

Editor
Tenzin Yangchen
(Education Officer)

Mailing Coordinator
Tsering Yangkyi

Education Kalon Visits Ottawa, Canada



Kalon Ngodup Tsering and Kaydor Aukatsang with MP Arif Virani (Chairman of the Parliamentary Friends of Tibet), MP James Maloney, MP Garnett Genius and Paul Degiacomo of AgriTeam in the Parliamentary Dining Hall, Ottawa.

Education Kalon, Mr. Ngodup Tsering, completed a successful three-day visit to Ottawa, the capital city of Canada from March 5-8, 2017. He was accompanied by Kaydor Aukatsang, Chief Resilience Officer of CTA.

The purpose of the visit was to brief government donors, Parliamentarians and supporters on the progress and accomplishments of the two-year CA\$2 million Canadian government-funded Improving Education Quality and Learning for Tibetan Children in India and Nepal (IQEL) project. The project started on April 1, 2015 and is expected to be completed by June 2017. IEQL implemented by CTA's Department of Education (DoE) in partnership with AgriTeam, CTA's Canadian partner, provided training to over 1000 teachers and school principals in modern pedagogy and Tibetan language. The program enabled DoE to increase professional development opportunities; improve curricula, teaching and learning materials; support activities that strengthen science education; increase parental involvement in schools; improve test preparation skills and invest in critical facility improvement and basic operations support for vulnerable Tibetan schools in India and Nepal.

Kungo Kalon and Kaydor la met with members of the Canadian Parliament, members of the government program staff overseeing the program, other officials, and staff and management of AgriTeam. A major objective of the visit was to help build a case for continued support and investment in the education of Tibetan children and schools in India and Nepal. The visit was hosted by AgriTeam.

Education Kalon Presides Over First International Conference on Ka Kha Ga Nga at Bodhgaya

On the sidelines of Kalachakra Initiation, Education Kalon, Mr. Ngodup Tsering attended "The First International Conference on Ka Kha Ga Nga" organised by All India Tibetan College Students' Organization at Bodh Gaya on 10th January 2017 as the chief guest.

The scholars from Tibet, Ladakh and Mon in India, Bhutan and Nepal participated in the conference. Kalon Ngodup Tsering spoke on the importance of Tibetan language and explained briefly on how CTA is revamping efforts to preserve it. He added that the survival of any language depends chiefly on how it is transferred to and accepted by younger generation. Kalon also expressed deep appreciation for the initiative of the students and encouraged them to continue with their efforts.

The scholars, while recounting state of affairs of Ka Kha Ga Nga in their respective countries, expressed the need of preserving the Tibetan language through various efforts. Many Tibetan college students and guests attended the event. The meeting concluded with short speech by the secretary of Himalayan Buddhist Association and offering of Tibetan scarves to the student volunteers by the chief guest and special guests.

Education Council

Education officers meeting was held on 22nd February 2017 at Nyatri hall to discuss on curriculum for primary schools. They also

DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFS

discussed on the action plan which were laid down during the 4th Education Council conference. Attendees in the meeting include Education Kalon, Education Council Director and respective education officers from different Tibetan school administrations.

A Three days' workshop was convened at Sakya Hall, Bylakuppe from 18th to 20th February 2017 on the introduction of the new Primary Science textbook for the primary teachers. 10 teachers from the southern Tibetan schools participated in the workshop.

The same workshop was organized at STS Chauntra from 26th to 28th March 2017. 19 primary teachers participated in the workshop. Mr. Tenzin Ngodup, Upper TCV science teacher, Mr. Migmar Tsering and DOE editor Trinley Wangdue mentored the workshop.

Geshe Lhakdor, Chairman of Education council and Director of LTWA gave a talk on secular ethics as per the vision of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the departmental senior staffs, Director STSS, heads and religious teachers of the nearby Dharamsala schools on 9th March'2017 at Nyatri hall, followed by question and answer.

Danish Support to Education for Tibetans in Exile

Mr. Leo H. Knudsen, Chairman of (CICED) and senior consultant for the BEP Projects funded by Danish People is on a short visit to Dharamsala from 6-15 March 2017 to carry out individual and group meetings with the DoE officials and to monitor various ongoing BEP projects in India. He met with the Education Kalon, Secretaries and section heads of the Department and discussed about the projects and its impact in Tibetan society in the long run.

The first phase of the project was started in 2006-2010 for four years and then it continued for 2nd phase (2010-2014); 3rd Phase (2014-2018). The ongoing 3rd phase of the project is going to be completed in March 2018.

The Department of Education (DoE), Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) has implemented number of programs under the financial support from Denmark viz. In-Service & Pre-Service Teachers Trainings, Dialectic Meets, BEP Curriculum & Teaching Learning Materials, School Building Renovation, Reading Materials, Terminology Standardization, CTE Bhuntar teacher training, Support to vulnerable Tibetan schools, Scholarship for undergraduate students, CET and AIMPT Coaching program, use of technology in teaching-learning process & school management, DoE Database Project etc. Denmark will be asked to continue to support the DoE educational development program for 4th Phase since Mr. Leo believes in the objectives of BEP as he quotes "the main objective of the Basic Education Policy is developing a system of education having Tibetan traditional education as the core, and modern education as its essential co-partner". The Secretary, Ms. Nangsa Chodon, while thanking Mr. Leo and people of Denmark said that "funding for various educational projects have been very

beneficial to meet departmental goal and we are very grateful". The Acting Secretary Mr. Karma Singey, while thanking Mr. Leo said that "Education being the top priority of CTA, your support will certainly help our children to become future leaders, therefore DoE is looking forward for your continued support".



Picture description L-R: Karma Singey, Leo Knudsen, Nangsa Chodon, Ngawang Yonten, Tenzin Dorjee & Tenzin Gelek

Education Kalon Flags off Bi-annual Meeting to Standardize Tibetan Terminology



Education Kalon Ngodup Tsering speaking at the fifth High Level Standardizing Board's meeting at Nyatri hall, 13 March 2017.

Dharamshala: Kalon Ngodup Tsering of Department of Education inaugurated the bi-annual meeting of the High Level Standardizing Board at Nyatri hall today on 13 March 2017.

The meeting chaired by Education Kalon Ngodup Tsering was attended by Acharya Karma Monlam, Chair of the High level Standardizing Board, vice-chair Ugyen Tenzin, Director of the Education Council Tsering Samdup, along with two Tibetan medical officers, researchers and staff of the terminology section of the Education Department.

In his inaugural remarks, Kalon Ngodup Tsering congratulated the new members to the 5th standardizing board and spoke on the significance of the efforts being made towards revitalising Tibetan terminology.

"Tibetan language is heading towards a threatening state of decline and this is a growing concern as the majority of the Tibetans are habitually estranged from our own language and speech. We are getting more and more accustomed to using a hodge-podge of mixed Tibetan-English speech. I think, this is an area where this board and the terminology section of Education department play a crucial role," Kalon said.

Reflecting the causes for the decline, Kalon pointed towards the lack of appreciation for one's language in people's attitude. He added that it could also be due to lack of linguistic tools and terminology for modern sciences, devices, technology and inventions which compels us to borrow terms from other languages.

He also called for the need of collaborations with Tibetan literary societies, Tibetan youth and schools across the world; to drive a collective effort inspired by shared concern to preserve and revitalise Tibetan language.

The fifth High Level Standardizing Board will meet for five days to discuss and standardize Tibetan terminology for modern science and technical terms.

This is the 16th meeting of the board. The first high-level meeting was convened in 2008. Under the chairmanship of Acharya Karma Monlam, the board including the former members has finalised and produced seven volumes of Glossary of Tibetan Standardised Terms. More than 5000 copies of the standardized glossary have been distributed in Tibetan schools, monastic institutions and organisations in exile.

ACADEMIC SECTION

Early Grade Reading Workshop for Primary Teachers at Tashiling, Sonada



The Department of Education, CTA kicked off the Early Grade Reading Workshop for Primary Teachers in Tashiling, Sonada from 11th to 15th March, 2017 for the duration of five days. It was attended by 17 participants from north east schools under different administrations such as STSS & CST schools. The first day of the workshop began with heavy rainfall and the place was covered with thick fog. Despite nature's fury the teachers have shown

full enthusiasm by reading the resource materials, various articles and responded flawlessly to the question proposed by the resource person. Our motive is to train all the primary teachers teaching all the subjects in Tibetan Schools in India. Till date, we have trained around 420 teachers including of this batch and hopefully we will wind up the EGR Workshop after one batch, which will be soon conducted in the month of May, 2017 at Dharamsala.

We are focused and emphasizing on how to inculcate the free reading habit among the early graders and adaption of reading culture in and out of the school especially, in the Tibetan Language. The teachers realized the mistake they have been making unconsciously in the classroom and they made a promise that they will implement what they had learnt from the workshop and will try their best efforts to improve the four basic skills of language in Tibetan. Teachers voluntarily shared their experience in relating to the workshop topics and asked some suggestion to the resource person how to solve the problems which they are facing while tackling with specific children. This workshop gives priorities to story-telling to the early graders. All the teachers told their stories and the observer commented on the stories and gave suggestion to improve according to the ability of the children.

As part of the follow up visit of this project, the resource person and DoE, Education officer for Humanities will be visiting the north-east schools of CST Darjeeling on 16/3/2107 and CST, Kalimpong on 17/3/2017 to observe the classes of English and Tibetan teachers those who have already attended the EGR workshop earlier in 2016. This is a monitoring visit aimed at providing on-site guidance and support to the teachers if they are facing difficulties to implement the workshop strategies and measure the impact of the EGR workshop.

Mrs. Tenzin Legzey, Education Officer for Humanities will be monitoring the effectiveness of the program. Dr. Latika Gupta is the resource person of the workshop. This workshop is being funded by USAID through THE TIBET FUND.

Reading Horizon Project:

Reading Horizon Project is being implemented from March 2017 at Mewoen Tsuglag Petoen School as a pilot project. The target group constitutes 39 students from Class VI to VIII. The Reading Horizon software has been installed in March 2017 and the actual lesson has already started. This will continue till the end of academic session in December 2017.

This project aims to raise the level of the English language phonological awareness, reading fluency and comprehension. This project is funded by PRM.

Non-Formal Researcher Viva

DoE places particular importance on promoting young researcher to encourage better understanding of the rising issues through extensive readings and systematic investigations. Taking that into account, a 2-day Non-

DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFS

Formal Researcher viva was conducted at Central University of Tibetan Studies in Varanasi from 20 – 21 March, 2017 by the department.

Mr. Tsewang Topla, Mr. Mensher Lodoe and Mr. Kalsang Nyima, who were selected in 2011, gave presentations on their selected topics of their research followed by viva from the panel evaluators. Based on the researcher's performance in presentation and viva, the researchers will be awarded certificates accordingly.

School Systems Head Meeting:

A 2-day 'School Systems Heads Meeting' was organized by The Department of Education at Nyatri hall, Gangchen Kyishong from 27-28 March 2017. The meeting was called to discuss effective ways of improving students' education and enhancing the efficiency of Tibetan schools administration. Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay graced the inaugural function of the Meeting. The 2-day meeting was attended by Education Kalon Mr. Ngodup Tsering, 2 Secretaries and 4 other officials from The Department of Education and 8 Heads and Assistant Heads of the different Schools Systems. The 2-day meeting was chaired by Education Kalon, Mr. Ngodup Tsering. The Head Meeting was funded by DANIDA.

Counselling Section

Orientation program to prepare the students for college is one of the most important activities under DOE Counseling Program. DOE Counseling section conducted the Orientation on College Admission & Scholarship at CST Mussoorie (14/3/2017), CST Darjeeling (18/3/2016), CST Dalhousie (13/2/2016), CST Shimla 23/3/2017), CST Kalimpong (20/3/2017) CST Herbertpur (15/2/2017), TNMF, Clementown (16/2/2016) & THF Mussoorie (13/3/2017. 335 class XII students attended the Orientation in the North & North East. Total of 484 students benefited from this program. This program is funded by SOIR-IM & PRM.

PTA Strengthening Program

As per the guidelines and direction provided by The Department of Education, CTA, the PTAs located in different settlements and schools organized workshops for the PTA members as a part of PTA Strengthening Program. A total of seven PTAs took part in the workshop organized in the month of March 2017. The Workshops were held at Dickey Larso from 14-15 March, Dekyiling on 16 March, Bir on 17 March, Chauntra on 24 March, Gangchen Kyishong on 25 March, Paonta on 29 March and Lugsung Samdupling from 28-29 March. During the workshop, they covered a wide range of topics such as Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, Roles and responsibilities of PTA, Parents Role in educating their children, organizing educational activities in schools, organizing fund raising activities, etc. The PTA strengthening program was funded by Global Affairs Canada.

Conclusion of 2-years Primary Teacher Training

The concluding ceremony of 2-years Primary Teacher Training was held on 17 February, 2017 at CHTS, Sarah. The Honorable Education Secretary Nangsa Choedon along with the dealing officers graced the graduation function of the Primary Teacher Training Program. The Education Secretary awarded certificates to the 19 trainees (12 females and 7 males) and advised them to make their contribution for the betterment of exile Tibetan schools through their teaching service in the future.

The teacher training was collectively funded by Global Affairs Canada and DANIDA.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

One of the best possible ways to further your academic studies is to study abroad. Studying abroad entails a lot of benefits in terms of personal growth, career prospects, and life skills as well. Despite its lucrative future prospects, there are many challenges. The Tibetan students in particular are further more challenged. With the exception of enormous cost of studying overseas, the vast majority of the Tibetan students are already dependent on financial support from the Central Tibetan Administration in pursuing various academic and professional lines in exile India.

Due to the grace of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and with the ardent international supporters, the Department of Education under Central Tibetan Administration is happy to announce many prospective scholarships to study abroad specifically reserved for our young inspiring Tibetan students.

* Jai Mukhi Scholarship from the Oxford Programme for Undergraduate Studies (OPUS), UK for 3-month course (April to June 2017). DoE will shortlist 2 candidates from the CTA staff and the other two from the Tibetan schools under the department. However, the final selection will be done only by the OPUS. The scholarship includes tuition fee, single room housing, academic fees, library fees, Orientation, membership of the Oxford Union Society, and participation in trips and special events in the UK and Oxford.

We are thankful to Prof. Deepak Mukhi, Program Director of OPUS for making this scholarship possible for our students. Further detail information can be accessed from www.oxfordprogram.com, www.sherig.org, & www.facebook.com/doe.lobyon.

* Scholarship opening at United World College (UWC) for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (11th & 12th standard equivalent) across the 16 UWCs. There are 16 UWC Schools and Colleges in the World including one in Pune (India). The UWC Committee of India will be working with the DoE, CTA for the selection of 2017 entry from Tibetan students in India.