

THE TIBET MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

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The Demton Khang /the Tibet Museum Newsletter is published bi-annually by the Tibet Museum, DIIR, and welcomes articles, letters, photos, etc. that are related to our interest in Tibetan history. Articles may be submitted on diskette, or a hard copy, or by email.

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Profile: Important People in Tibetan History

Tsepon W.D. Shakabpa

Tsepon W.D. Shakabpa or better known as Tsepon Shakabpa was born on 11 January, 1917 in Lhasa, the capital of Tibet. At the age of 13 he joined the civil service of the Government of Tibet in Lhasa. Within nine years he became a chief of the Finance Department of the Tibetan Government.

In 1947-1948, Tsepon Shakabpa visited China, United States of America, England and other countries as a member of the Tibetan trade delegation. In

1950, he was also appointed as a representative of the Tibetan Government to talk peace to Russia and China.

In 1951, when the eastern Tibetan town of Chamdo fell to the invading People's Liberation Army of China, the Communist Chinese government forced the Tibetan delegation to sign the so called Seventeen-Point Agreement Between the Central People's Government and the Local Government of Tibet on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet. Following this event, Tsepon Shakabpa left Tibet and stayed in Kalimpong, a town in the northeast of India. He then decided to work for the Tibetan cause and founded a Tibetan freedom movement with few other Tibetans in Kalimpong.

When His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama sought asylum

in India in 1959, Tsepon Shakabpa was appointed as Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in New Delhi. He was sent as a member of Tibetan delegation to the United Nations Organisation in 1961. In 1963, he left to USA, and later wrote a book on Tibetan political history, entitled TIBET: A POLITICAL HISTORY, which was published in 1967 by Yale University Press. He returned to India and stayed in Kalimpong, where in 1976, he completed the Tibetan edition of political history of Tibet which was published in two volumes.

Tsepon Shakabpa from his early age had a great interest in history, religion, and biography of great peoples. He was among one of the great scholars of Tibet, whose work for Tibet will be remembered for generations to come. ■

Travelling Exhibition



Mr. T.D. Tamling, Principal Secretary, Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council inaugurating the exhibition

"I have never been to Tibet, but seeing those pictures, I came to know many things that I never know, so being a future seed of Tibet, we should do our study to get our country back."

Tenzin Tsepak CST, Darjeeling



Exhibition at Darjeeling

As a part of our public outreach programme, a photograph exhibition, entitled "A Long Look Homeward", was displayed for five days from 24 to 29 October 2005 in Darjeeling, a home in exile for some 2,000 Tibetan people. The exhibition was linked with the Tibetan festival organised by the Tibetan Welfare Office, Darjeeling, in collaboration with the resident Tibetan associations.

In the foothills of the Himalayas, overlooked by the white peaks of the Kanchenjunga, 'Darjeeling' has been a popular hill station. Located in the northern extreme of the Indian state of West Bengal, the exotic town lies just east of Nepal, south of Sikkim, and a bit west and south of Bhutan. The town, also the headquarters of Darjeeling district, is situated 305 miles north of Kolkata and perched on the narrow Ghoom Senchal Ridge at an altitude of 7,000 feet.

Along with the exhibition, various programmes were held across the town, providing fresh inspiration to the local Tibetan community. Mr. T.D. Tamling, Principal Secretary, Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council, opened the exhibition. Documentaries on Tibet were also screened every afternoon. These included History of Tibet, Compassion in Exile, Cry of the

Snow Lion, The Kingdom of the Lost Boy. The exhibition attracted a large number of local people as well as visiting tourists from outside the town, and it was an eye opening experience for many of them. With a rich collection of visual accounts of Tibet's contemporary history and personal narratives of many members from the exile community, the exhibition was a rare glimpse into the tragedy of Tibet and its people.

After Darjeeling, the exhibition moved to the Ravangla Tibetan settlement, situated in a remote place in Sikkim with a total Tibetan population around 1,500. The exhibition was put there for 6 days from 1 to 6 October 2005 in the community hall of the settlement. Documentary films on Tibet were also screened during this period. The exhibition was visited by all the Tibetan people living in and near the settlements and also by local Indians.

The next venue for the display of photo exhibition was the conference hall of Hotel Tibet in Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim. Tucked away in the foothills of the Himalayas, Sikkim is a wonderland with lovely views, exotic orchids and forest-trails. The delightfully quaint capital, has many pagoda-like roofs.

In Gangtok, the exhibition was displayed for five days from 7 to 12 October 2005. Besides the residents of Gangtok, both Tibetans and Sikkimese, the exhibition there attracted more important visitors - students of almost all the schools located in and around the town.

The last venue for exhibiting “A Long Look Homeward” on this tour of Northeast India in 2005 was Kalimpong, a small sleepy hill resort which lies within the jurisdiction of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council. With a population of about 50,000, it is ethnically and culturally similar to Darjeeling. Most activity centres around the Bus Stand in the heart of the town. In bygone days, Kalimpong used to be the hub of India-Tibet trade, the route of which passed through Pedong, Rongli in Sikkim and then the pass of Jelepala on the Sikkim-Tibet border, but the Sino-Indian war of 1962 put an end to all that.

The exhibition in Kalimpong was displayed for two days at the Central School for Tibetans. All the school children and staff and many local Tibetan and Indian residents visited the exhibition, which was well received appreciated by all.

The Tibet House Trust, UK, generously funded the expenses for

organising this tour of photo exhibition. ■

Photo exhibition “Tribute to Peace Apostles” in New Delhi

After three months of successful display, our temporary photo exhibition entitled “Tribute to Peace Apostles”, which was based on the life and struggle of Mahatma Gandhi and His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, was exhibited in New Delhi for three days from 5 to 7 November 2005 during the *national conference on Global Peace through Universal Responsibility*, organised by the Central Tibetan Administration in celebration of the 70th birth anniversary of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. The exhibition was coordinated by our staff, Ms. Dicki Yangzom, and was much appreciated by the conference participants as well as local visitors. ■

“A Long Look Homeward” in Chandigarh

On an invitation by Chandigarh Tibetan Youths, “A Long Look Homeward” was displayed for three days on the occasion of the Tibetan Festival in Chandigarh. This was the second time that our photo exhibition was put on in Chandigarh. The exhibition was also accompanied by film shows on Tibet. ■



A conference participant going through the exhibition, “Tribute to Peace Apostles”, in New Delhi



Ms. Dicki Yangzom guiding the exhibition visitors in Chandigarh

Temporary Exhibition

Painting exhibition

On 10 December 2005, on the occasion of the 16th auspicious anniversary of the conferment of the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, the Tibet Museum hosted an eight-day exhibition of the paintings of four Tibetan artists entitled “Tibetan Paintings” at the Museum’s exhibition hall in Dharamshala. The exhibition was inaugurated by Kalon Tripa Prof. Samdong Rinpoche, and was attended by many hundreds of visitors.

The Tibet Museum hosted this exhibition of Tibetan paintings as a part of our effort to encourage and promote Tibetan artists and other creative minds among the Tibetans.

Tibetan Sport Exhibition

Exhibition on the Tibetan Sport was held at the Tibet Museum in Dharamshala for one week from 12 to 20 March 2006. Ms. Dolkar Lhamo, Member of the Assembly of Tibetan People’s Deputy, and Ven. Karma Gelek Yuthok, Secretary for the Department of Education, Central Tibetan Administration, were among the Chief Guests at the inauguration of the exhibition.

The exhibition included photographs of Tibetan national football team in exile and its tour to Denmark, Italy, Greenland, etc. It also included souvenir and football trophies. The main aim of this exhibition, as Mr. Kalsang Dhondup, Executive Secretary Tibetan Sports Association, said “is to create awareness about the development of the Tibetan Sports Association, its achievements and future plans in the exile community.” The exhibition was visited by a significant number of people and greatly loved by sport lovers.

The Tibetan Sport Association is a non-profit organisation geared to promote football in the Tibetan community and to select a Tibetan football team that would function

Notice

To promote and encourage Tibetan artists and other creative arts among the Tibetans, we are providing our museum exhibition centre and hall to interested artists free of cost till date.

However, with effect from 1 May 2006, we are charging a minimum amount of fees for the use of our museum hall. Exhibition hall will be available for a maximum period of seven days.

Staff Update

Mrs. Tsering Choedon

Mrs. Tsering Choedon has resigned from the Tibet Museum after serving more than five years. We wish her good luck for her future endeavour.

Ms. Kunchok Youdon

Ms. Kunchok Youdon is presently on leave for two years further studies in USA under CTA’s Department of Education Fulbright Scholarship Program. She is expected to return back to India in September 2006.



Gyalum Chemo Memorial Gold Cup



Greenland and Tibet

Clipping from Sport Exhibition

Calendar

Contemporary Tibetan Art Exhibition entitled “Form and Establishment”

A Contemporary Tibetan Art exhibition by Mr. Sonam Dhondup, art teacher of Institute of Buddhist Dialectics, Sarah, is due to open on 28 March 2006 for five days. The exhibition contains some of the best selected paintings of Mr. Sonam Dhondup. ■

Photo exhibition “Tribute to Peace Apostles” to be shown in Japan

The Office of Tibet in Japan will host our photo exhibition on the lives and struggles of Mahatma Gandhi and His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, entitled “Tribute to Peace Apostles” in July 2006, during their two-week Tibetan festival in Tokyo. ■

Photographic Archive

With funding support from the Galen Rowell Fund, USA, through the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT), the first phase of our Photographic Archive database production has been completed. We are now at the second stage of feeding the data and uploading our image collections, which consist of more than 25,000 still photographs, 10,000 negatives and around 5,000 slides on various aspects of Tibet.

This functional database will not only improve and optimise retrieval and

accessibility of the photographic collections but also will help in the preservation of rare photos of historical significance.

The local network users of the Central Tibetan Administration in Dharamshala will be able to access our image bank from May 2006 and later on it will be made available online. ■

Buffalo Arts Studio

Buffalo Arts Studio will host our exhibition “A Long Look Homeward” in the months of June-July, 2006.

Buffalo Arts Studio (BAS) is a not-for-profit arts organization whose mission is to provide affordable studio space and regular public exposure for regional, national, and international artists through exhibitions, and to enrich the community with art classes, mural programs, and public art. Exhibitions, public art projects, and classes help the studio serve as a cultural center. ■

Exhibition in Mainpat, Orissa and Bhandara Tibetan settlements

In 2006-07, the photo exhibition “A Long Look Homeward” will be shown in three Tibetan settlements of Central India: Mainpat, Orissa and Bhandara. The exhibition will be accompanied by screening of documentary films.

For the past two year, this exhibition has been displayed at more than 30 locations in India and abroad. ■

Support

Donate your photo collections

We always welcome donation of photographs and artifacts on Tibet. These donations from many of our friends and supporters have greatly benefited to enrich the variety of our collections at the Museum. We will highly appreciate if you have any objects or photographs that you feel proper to donate to the Museum.

Host our travelling exhibition in your community

We have prepared a travelling exhibition kit which is basically a compact and portable version of our permanent exhibition “**A Long Look Homeward**”- a journey through Tibet’s history as narrated by eleven members of the Tibetan community in exile who are the exhibition’s curators. The curators’ personal stories are interwoven with the story of their nation and are accompanied by images of their choosing.

For more information on how to bring this exhibition to your institution or community please log on to:

www.thetibetmuseum.org/travel_exhibition/index.html

or

send us email at: tncdc@gov.tibet.net



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Demton Khang/ The Tibet Museum

The primary mission of Demton Khang /The Tibet Museum is to present Tibet's rich history and visions for its future through texts, photographs, videos and installations.

The museum features our main exhibition, " A Long Look Homeward". It is divided into two sections: the first floor presents the Chinese occupation and its results, and the second one displays Tibet's past and hopes for its future.

In addition, the museum hosts a memorial for 1.2 million Tibetans who died as result of the Chinese occupation of Tibet, and a remembrance and hope butter lamp display.

The aim of this newsletter is to keep you informed of the Museum's development and how you can assist. The Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR), Central Tibetan Administration, established the Tibet Museum in 1998 in Dharamsala, India.

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