



VOICE



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TIBETAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
ADVOCACY FOR HOME
ACTION IN EXILE



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CONTENT

1. Chronology of Self - immolation inside Tibet	1
2. 31st Refounding Anniversary of Tibetan Women's Association	3
3. Meetings and interation with national and international groups	8
4. World River Day	16
5. Indian Week of Climate Action	19
6. Observational Report on Stitches of Tibet	25
7. Other Activities	27
8. Empowerment through Action Desk of TWA	45
9. Record fo Activities Undertaken by RTWA Chapters	92

CHRONOLOGY OF SELF-IMMOLATION INSIDE TIBET



TWA pays tribute to the brave souls who self-immolated to protest against the Chinese occupation and decades of oppression to crackdown the Tibetans. TWA publish the names and brief information about the self-immolators in its every quarterly newsletter 'VOICE' to pay homage. For this newsletter, we have continued the chronology of self-immolation from the last edition (April 2015-July 2015). The number goes from 142-143.



143. Name: Tashi Kyi

Date: August 27, 2015

Protest location: Sangkok township, Sangchu in Kanlho

Age: 55

Current whereabouts/wellbeing: Deceased



Tibetan mother of four in her mid-fifties who set herself on fire on August 27 and died, apparently as a protest against China's policies of relocation and demolition of housing. Tashi Kyi, described as a "generous Buddhist" who was "devoted to her family", was a relative of a prominent monk who escaped into exile after a bold protest in 2008.



Although local Tibetans attempted to save her life by extinguishing the blaze, Tashi Kyi died hours after setting herself on fire in her housing compound, a nomad settlement site in Sangkok township, Sangchu (Chinese: Xiahe) in Kanlho (Chinese: Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu Province. Her body was taken away by the authorities.



31st REFOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF TIBETAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Tibetan Women's Association commemorated its
31st Anniversary on 10th September 2015.



As we commemorate the 31st year of re-establishment of Tibetan Women's Association (TWA) in exile, we proudly remember and honour those great women who stood up against the ruthless Chinese armed forces during the first ever great uprising of Tibetan Women on March 12, 1959. These great women were the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for their people and country. We, the members of the Tibetan Women's Association, steadfastly share our solidarity with all those Tibetan brothers and sisters who selflessly sacrificed their precious lives for the cause of Tibet and its people. We will always remember your courages acts and will promise to fulfill your dreams of a Free Tibet.



VOICE – TWA Newsletter

Tibetan women from the three provinces of Tibet, Amdo, Kham and Utsang, under the banner of TWA, created a history in exile ever since it was re-established in India on 10th September 1984, under the guidance of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. TWA is proud to state that the Association has expanded with 56 regional chapters in four continents (Asia, America, Europe and Australia) with 17,000 Tibetan Women as members in exile.

During the past 31years, the Tibetan Women's Association has become a force to reckon in the Tibetan Community as well as in





its collaboration and networking with the local and International Women's Organizations. Due to hard work and perseverance of the TWA's Executive Members, during the 31 long years, the Association is now in a position to take equal responsibility to preserve her unique culture and to maintain a high quality of social and political activism. Today, TWA can claim that it is one of the oldest and most popular non-governmental organization and the only Tibetan Women's Organization



in exile. TWA's continued efforts to focus on the Tibetan issues on the International platforms to create awareness and get justice to our cause has yielded certain amount of responses from across the world. One can boldly say that TWA is one of the organizations that are fully involved in social service in the Tibetan Community. It works towards strengthening our exile community by supporting the education of Tibetan Women and making them self-reliant. TWA's various training programs and workshops have helped many young Tibetans who are in the threshold of their career and life.

TWA plays an important role in raising the serious issues of climate change and its aftermath destruction; Environmental disasters that threaten to destroy fragile ecosystems and disrupt life for billions of people across Asia. Also special attention is being given to the problems of the Tibetan Nomads, whose livelihood is being disturbed by the Chinese government's wrong policy. TWA attends many of the conferences and workshops in India and abroad in order to get more support for the cause of Tibet.

On this 31st re-instatement anniversary of Tibetan Women's Association in exile, we remind and appeal to the world leaders and Tibet support groups to take up the following most urgent issues with the Chinese Government:-

- 1 To urge and pressure China to restart the dialogue with the Central Tibetan Administration in exile as per the Middle Way Approach proposed by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama.
- 2 We urge United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearance to pressure China to release His Holiness the 11th Panchen Lama who has been in Chinese captivity for over 20 long years. Despite numerous appeals and pressure from various governmental and non-governmental organizations, the Chinese authorities

have not responded. TWA once again urge the Chinese authorities to relent to the pressure put on them as it is a Human Rights issue.

- 3 TWA demand the Chinese authorities to investigate and make public the circumstances surrounding Tulku Tenzin Delek Rinpoche's death in Chinese prison on 12th July, 2015.
- 4 Lastly, we appeal to the United Nations to urge the Chinese government to release all the Tibetan political prisoners at the earliest.

Tibetan Women's Association (Central) and RTWA Dharamsala celebrated the 31st Re founding anniversary at TWA's new building (hall). The guest of honour for the occasion was Mrs Rinchen Khando la, the first president of TWA. The celebration concluded in a very joyous way- Tibetan group dance.



VOICE – TWA Newsletter

MEETINGS AND INTERACTION WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL GROUPS

Tibetan Women's Association assigns great importance to meeting and interacting with students, researchers, journalists, activists and delegates to raise global awareness of the critical situation inside Tibet. Through such meetings, TWA can increase international pressure for the improvement of Human rights for Tibetans living in occupied Tibet.

From Aug to Nov 2015, the TWA team met several groups from different countries.





Tibetan Women's Association's executive members and staffs with
Australia Chinese Delegation.



Tibetan Women's Association's executives and staffs had an
interactive session with the group from Australia Tibet Council.





Tibetan Women's Association's executives and staffs with Ms. Kristiina Vainio (The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights KIOS) and Mr. Colin Gonsalves (senior advocate of the Supreme Court & the founder and Director of Human Rights Law Network.)



Tibetan Women's Association's executives and staffs had an interactive session with a group from Karlstad University, Sweden.





Tibetan Women's Association's executives and staffs had an interactive session with Rebekah L. Usatin (manager, program monitoring & evaluation of NED) and Tenzin Palkyi (Program officer of NED).



Tibetan Women's Association's executives and staffs had an interactive session with Shambala group from Germany.





Tibetan Women's Association's Environment and Development officer Miss Norzin Dolma attended the conference "ONLY ONE TIBET TO QUENCH ASIA'S GROWING THIRST" (Experts look into the health of the Tibetan plateau) organized by Tibet Policy Institute, University of Delhi and Foundation for Non-violent Alternatives (an institute for developing peace studies) at Delhi on 21st Aug 2015.





Tibetan Women's Association's Environment and Development officer Miss Norzin Dolma participated in "Building Cross-Cutting Skills And Knowledge For Youth Leadership On Climate Change" at Barmer, Rajasthan organized by Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC), Indian Youth Climate Network (IYCN), Church's Auxiliary for social Action (CASA) and Laya from 24th to 27th August 2015.





Two staffs of TWA Central and the executive members of RTWA Dharamsala joined the mass tree plantation on Dhauladhar hillside to celebrate the year of HH the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday organized by Indo-Tibetan Friendship Association and Forest Department of Dharamsala on 6th September 2015.





Tibetan Women's Association collaborated with the Environment desk of Tibetan Settlement office-Dharamsala and Lha Environment desk to celebrate "World Massive Clean up day" on 20th September by organizing awareness campaign in Mcleod via Bhagsu which is one of the main tourist spot.



WORLD RIVERS DAY

Norzin Dolma (Environment and Development officer)

Do rivers have rights?

Do they have the right to run to the sea without being blocked or diverted?

Do they have the right to remain wild and free?

TIBET'S RIVERS - ASIA'S LIFELINE
WORLD RIVERS DAY
27th SEPTEMBER

Dhardon Sharling
Member of Parliament
Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile

Jyotsna George
Campaigns Director
Students for a Free Tibet - India

Tsering Tsomo
Director
Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy

DATE - Sunday - 27.09.2015
TIME - 4:00 PM
VENUE - HOTEL TIBET

Organized by:

On Sunday 27th September 2015, Tibetan Women's Association and Students for a Free Tibet-India jointly organized a Panel discussion titled "Tibet's Rivers, Asia's Lifeline" on World Rivers day.

To mark 'World Rivers Day' which is usually held on the last Sunday of September, a Canadian-based initiative that strive to encourage



public awareness and encourages improved stewardship of all the rivers around the world.

This time to celebrate World Rivers day, we choose the theme of the event based on Tibet's river and our goal is to create awareness and propaganda on how the environmental condition of Tibet and those mighty rivers become global issues in 21st century.

Tibet's rivers though they flow freely into ten downstream nations without being blocked or diverted and it flourish the food and water security of ten downstream nations (Bhutan, India, Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam). But few decades ago, the evil lurking eye of People Republic of China took the advantage of mighty rivers transboundary nature, they started constructing mega and minor dam project, their mining operation and dumping of wasted industrial material into Tibet's rivers which led to danger of food and water security of ten downstream nations and put the live of 3 million people at stake.

It becomes crucial to celebrate this day as our 'Tibet' is in grave danger due to its fragile ecosystem and it is known by Tibetan as a Ghangjong-The land of snow. But these days question arises whether it should be renamed as land of melting snow as the glaciers are melting at a fast rate due to drastic climate change and unwanted human interference.





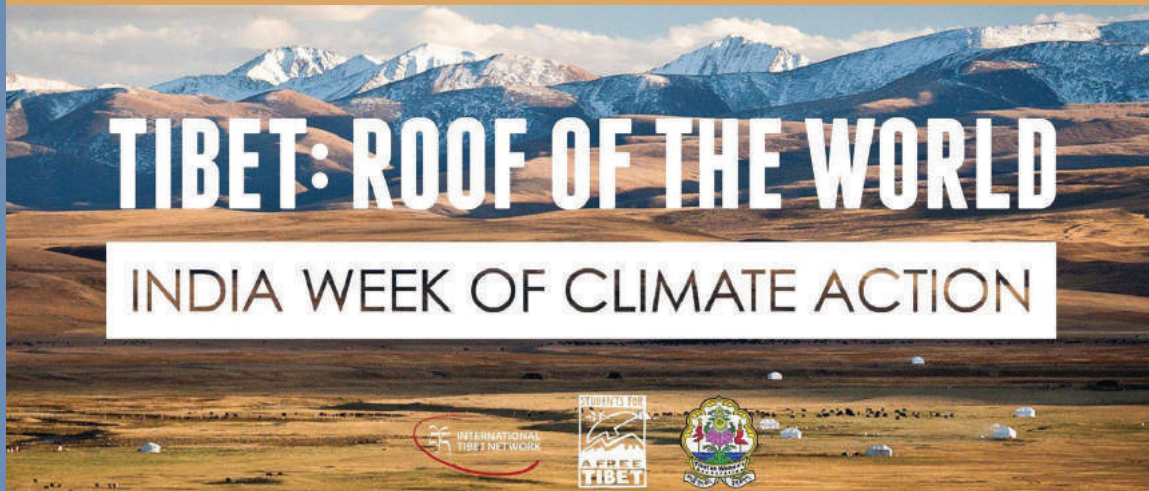
Tibet is the fount of the Yangtse, Yellow river, Mekong river, Salween river, Brahmaputra, Karnali river, Sutlej river, Indus, Arun river and Norbu Lakchu which flows through nourishing 3 billion people from Peshawar to Beijing. We have invited three dynamic and well known figures in our Tibetan exile community as speakers of the events and they have presented their topic with wonderful power point presentation. Namely

First Speaker: Tsering Tsomo la, director of Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, she had given presentation on the condition of Tibet's mighty rivers inside Tibet and how Chinese engineers have been constructing mega and minor dam project and how they are polluting the Tibet's rivers by doing mining operation and dumping of wasted materials into rivers.

Second speaker: Jyotsna George - Campaigns Director of Students for a Free Tibet-India, she did her presentation by displaying wonderful pictures of Tibet's map with inclusion of its mighty rivers flow into tributaries to the ten downstream nations such as Bhutan, Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, India, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam, those ten downstream nations are very much dependent on Tibet's mighty rivers for the purpose of food and water security. She mainly focused on Brahmaputra.

Third speaker: Dhardon Sharling- Member of Parliament, Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, where she had prepared a very attractive power point presentation on international campaign on Tibet's rivers. She had even highlighted where she had visited regarding COP 15 meeting at Copenhagen and other places where she had advocated Tibet causes and most issue of 21st century is a current Tibet's environmental condition and how it directly influence and effect the livelihood of ten downstream nations.





Tibetan Women's Association and Students for a Free Tibet-India, in coordination with International Tibet Network invite you to join us in our India Week of Climate Action in the build-up to the UN COP 21 Summit in Paris.

Through a series of events at the end of November in the national capital New Delhi, we raised awareness, garner support, and shine a spotlight on Tibet's environmental crisis, and the dangerous consequences for all of us in Asia.

Day 1: November 27. 2015 - Formal launch of 3-day events and actions.

Day 2: November 28. 2015-SEMINAR: Tibet's Rivers, Asia's Lifeline at India International Centre.

Day 3: November, 29. 2015 - People's Climate March for Tibet.





As part of the Tibet Climate Action Week, the India Tibet Third Pole Team Tibetan Women's Association & Students for a Free Tibet - India in coordination with the International Tibet Network met the representatives of the Embassy of Nepal yesterday followed by Shri Jai Ram Ramesh, former Minister of State at the Ministry of Environment and Forests and currently Member of the Indian Parliament who were briefed on how [#Tibet](#) remains an indispensable variable in the Climate change equation. The campaign has three phases: lobbying, Seminar & Climate Rally.





For two days, the India Tibet Third Pole Team (Tibetan Women's Association & Students for a Free Tibet - India in coordination with the International Tibet Network) submitted reports, resolutions and reports to representatives of the Embassies of Pakistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Thailand, Burma, and Cambodia, calling for a network of downstream Asian Countries to multilaterally engage with China on Tibet's rivers.





DHARAMSALA:

STREET THEATER TO HIGHLIGHT THE CLIMATE CRISIS IN TIBET:

Tibetan Women's Association and Students for a Free Tibet India in coordination with International Tibet Network staged a street theater to highlight the urgent climate crisis in Tibet in Dharamsala.

. #Tibet3rdPole# ClimateActionforTibet #ClimateJusticeforTibet





DELHI: India Tibet Third Pole Team (Tibetan Women's Association & Students for a Free Tibet - India in coordination with the International Tibet Network) staged a street theatre before the United Nations Office in Delhi and memorandum was submitted highlighting the crisis on Tibet's river and its impact on downstream Asian countries.





DELHI: [#Tibet](#) Climate Action Rally: Yak Deleck and his brother Dawa led the Climate Rally today from Rajghat to Jantar Mantar in New Delhi Highlighting Tibet's Climate Crisis in the lead up to UN [#COP21](#) [#ClimateChange](#) [#Environment](#) Org. By Tibet Third Pole Coalition- Tibetan Women's Association, Students for a Free Tibet-India and International Tibet Network.



OBSERVATIONAL REPORT ON STITCHES OF TIBET

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Seollan Pyeon
Intern

First of all, I really want to thank Tibetan Women's Association for giving me such a wonderful opportunity to witness the works of the association. I was really impressed by what they do for Tibetan women and especially the project, which is called Stitches of Tibet (SOT). The people I met here were amazing and I am honored to be with them.

Actually whatever happened in Dharamshala was coincidence and lucky for me. I came here to conduct my research on reconstruction of social networks among new comers in Dharamshala and I looked for the proper place to do that. Fortunately, I found that TWA is running a project SOT that provide opportunities to learn the tailoring for female newcomers since 1995, and they need an intern as an English teacher at SOT. I thought it could be helpful not only for my research but also for new comers who couldn't get a chance to learn English in Tibet.

As a result, I learned from the girls of SOT more than I taught. I started from May to December of 2015 except July and August. It was almost 6 months being with the ladies of SOT. The class was only one hour, however, I used to stay more than 3 hours because chatting with them was really pleasure. We talked not only about English but also their lives. They used to tell me how they think of the situation as refugees,





how difficult the Tibetan women's lives are, sometime, how they enjoy their daily lives. We are not definitely in same situation, but we could share our thoughts and feelings. We were nothing but friends beyond the classroom.

In other hand, six months is not that long to understand people, so I cannot say I understand Tibetan women well. By the way, I can say that they are stronger than others for sure. They are human beings who have lot of problems and they are even refugees. I cannot imagine how they deal with it. They, however, usually think in positive way, always try to have hopes for the future, and help others even though they also have difficulties in their lives. I think it is because of the way of seeing the world according to Buddhism and the teachings of Dalai Lama. This overwhelms me and it has been a really tremendous experience for me.

So again, I really thank all of you for letting me be with you. I will never forget about the time we spent together and your kindness.





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OTHER ACTIVITIES





TWA's staffs Miss Lhamo Tsering (Research & media officer) and Miss Norzin Dolma (Women Environment and Development officer) participated in "Defending the Defenders" retreat organized by TCHRD from 3 to 5 Aug, 2015.





Operation Groundswell's Gender and Religion program visited Dharamsala to learn about the Tibetan struggle for Tibet, the reality of life in exile and the ways that gender participates in these struggles. TWA organized the five days educational program for the students under this program. The students were introduced to the major Tibetan NGOs and institutions.





Tibetan Women's Association wishes Indian Prime minister Narendra Modi & all our Indian brothers and sisters **HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY**. India is our second home & we are always indebted to Mother India. **JAI HIND!!... JAI TIBET!!**





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The representatives of Tibetan Women's Association, Students for a Free Tibet, Gu chu sum and Tibetan Youth Congress had an interactive session with Gandhi Peace Foundation delegation on 18th Sept 2015.





Tibetan Women's Association's Joint Secretary Ani Tenzin Tselha had interactive sessions with different groups & journalists on "Tibet issues" & our association when she visited Vilnius, Warsaw, Estonia and Kaunas during her holiday trip.





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Tibetan Women's Association supports [#climateactionfortibet](#) [#ooftheworld](#) [#COP21](#)





Tibetan Women's Association, Central and the Regional Chapter, Dharamsala had jointly organized a Special Prayer Service for the soul of late Tulku Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, at Tsuklakhang on 29th August 2015. The Association had lighted over 1000 butter lamps. The Prayer Service was attended by monks, nuns and general publics. The Regional Chapters of the Tibetan Women's Association all over India and abroad had observed all the weekly rituals as per the Tibetan religious tradition.





Tibetan Women's Association's President Dolma Yangchen la and PRO Kalsang Youdon la took part in Interfaith Coalition for Peace (ICP) Women's Journey held in Kolkata from 28th-30th September, 2015.





Tibetan Women's Association's President Mrs. Dolma Yangchen la, General secretary Miss. Tsering Choezom la and Environment officer Miss. Norzin Dolma la attended the 5th Asia Regional Meeting of International Tibet Network which was held for 3 days from Nov 9-11 inclusive with over 40 participants representing more than 10 Tibet groups. Similar meetings are organised by the International Tibet Network every 18 months in Asia, Europe and North America in order to build capacity and collaboration among the Tibet groups.





Tibetan Women's Association's Women Environment and Development officer Norzin Dolma attended the workshop on "Smart City Mission" organized by the Directorate of Urban Development and Municipal Council Dharamsala. The workshop was chaired by Honourable minister of urban development.





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Tibetan Women's Association's Women Environment & development officer Norzin Dolma and Research & media officer Lhamo Tsering took part in the one day conference on the "PRESENT SITUATION INSIDE TIBET" organized by Tibet Policy Institute on 29 Sep 2015





Tibetan Women's Association's president Dolma Yangchen la and





PRO Kalsang Youdon la visited Tibetan Youth Congress
“INDEFINITE HUNGER STRIKE FOR TIBET-DAY 22” on 1st
October 2015.





Tibetan Women's Association's Research and Media officer Lhamo Tsering participated in the "Young Tibetan Research scholars conference" on Tibet and Tibetans: Prospects and challenges for two days (21-22 Oct 2015) organized by The Tibet Policy Institute (Funded by: Friedrich Naumann Foundation).



In the light of the brutal murder of Tsultrim Chokden, who died protecting his female friend, the Tibetan female is the key witness in this case. TWA has called on the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Dharamsala, Kangra to offer maximum security and moral protection for her so that she feels encouraged and bolstered in her efforts to bring justice to the victim under the rule of law. TWA also urged the S.P to ensure safety for women, particularly for Tibetan women in public places at odd hours, so that the repeat of such unfortunate incident is avoided.





Tibetan Women's Association's Vice-President Miss. Tsering Dolma la attended the meeting of the representatives from Forum for Human Rights and Justice (FHRJ) and Tibetan NGOs.





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Strengthening and Promoting Democracy in the Tibetan Community in Exile Pan India-Nepal-Bhutan



Organized by:



Funded by:





REPORTING FROM

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ACTION DESK OF TIBETAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Enhancing and Sustaining Democracy in the Tibetan Community in Exile: an undertaking of TWA's Empowerment through Action Desk and supported by KIOS, the Finnish NGO for Human Rights.

Enhancing and Sustaining Democracy is a direct outreach and empowerment program of Tibetan Women's Association in three Asian countries; India, Nepal and Bhutan, to include 43 remote regions of the Tibetan Exile Diaspora.

Tibetan Women's Association remains forever thankful to our donor KIOS, the Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights, for providing TWA with the most needed financial assistance to implement and fulfil our goal. We are happy to share with you our joy and experience while conducting the workshop on Democracy for the Tibetan community at the regions mentioned below.

TRAINERS FOR TRAINING INCLUDED:-

S.NO	TRAINING MONTH	PLACES	TRAINERS
1	August- September, 2015	Ladakh (Jammu and Kashmir), Himachal Pradesh (Bir, Manali, Shimla, Dalhousie, Dharamsala) and Central India (Delhi)	Dolma Yangchen and Tsering Chomezom

2	September, 2015	North India; Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh; Mussoorie, Rajpur, Dickyiling, Tsering Dhonden, Dhundupling, Chanda Muni, Nainital, Herbertpur, Puruwala, Paonta Sahib and Central School for Tibetan Paonta Sahib.	Tsering Dolma and Tenzin Dolkar
3	October, 2015	Meghalaya State – Shillong, Arunachal Pradesh : Tezu, Miao, Tenzing Gang and Nepal : Kathmandu and Pokhra (Tashiling, Jampaling and Tashipelkeil)	Kalsang Youdon and Tsering Yangzom
4	October, 2015	Central India (Orissa, Mainpat, Bhandara) and South India (Kollegal, Hunsur, Bylakuppe and Mundgod)	Tsering Dolma and Tenzin Tselha
5	November, 2015	West Bengal (Darjeeling, Sonada, Self Help Centre, Kalimpong, Gangtok, Ravangla) and Bhutan (Bjimenang and Kapchisa)	Dolma Yangchen and Tsering Chomezom



INTRODUCTION:-

Tibetan Democracy: - Tibetan people are extremely blessed with a leader like

His Holiness the Dalai Lama whose vision of future democratic Tibet saw its first phase of fruition with the establishment of the Tibetan Government in exile in 1959 and the successive establishment of Tibetan Democracy the subsequent year.

The Tibetan Democracy underwent big changes since 2000, during which His Holiness the Dalai Lama made a landmark decision that called for the office of the Kalon Tripa to be directly elected by the Tibetan people. This empowered the Tibetan people to recognize their rights and responsibilities as an individual in a society and participate in voting. This will further, strengthen and solidify the Tibetan Government as a justly operating democracy in line with international norms.

Compared to the earlier elections, 2011 election for Kalon Tripa was far more impressive because of improved people's participation in voting. As an Organization dedicated to informing and empowering the Tibetan Community, TWA initiated to reverse the cycle of poor voter participation and the voter turnout for 2011 was far more satisfactory than 2000.

As we are in the mid of the second election for Kalon Tripa (Sikyong) and the members of Parliament in 2015-2016, Tibetan Women's Association geared up to outreach the Tibetan community in remote corners of India, Nepal and Bhutan to teach them how important it is for every Tibetan to vote for their representatives from among many eligible candidates for the post of Kalon Tripa as well as members of the Parliament. To make this workshop more effective, the TWA executives introduced simple and attractive workshop methods such as using both English and Tibetan languages with Power Point which could be easily understood by both young and old.





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Every workshop started with brainstorming of the participants and group interactive sessions which opened up the minds and the workshop become more interesting. The discussions become more focussed on Democracy, Human Rights and individual's rights and responsibilities in a Democratic Government in Exile. The participants appreciated the TWA's efforts to educate the general public on Democracy and Voting procedures during the election.

TWA's sincere hope is that all Tibetans take this opportunity to utilize their democratic rights to determine their political future, and come forward to vote for Kalon Tripa (Sikyong) and the members of the Parliament with full enthusiasm and make 2015-2016 election the most successful one.

LADAKH: -



Tibetan Women's Association President Dolma Yangchen and General Secretary Tsering Choezom reached Ladakh and were received by the President of Regional Chapter Mrs. Karma Rinzin Palmo. The workshop on Democracy and Election was conducted for 6 days at two different locations.





Each location has 75 and 50 participants. The workshop was conducted in the respective Community Halls as per schedule given to them. At both the locations of the workshop we had the following guests: - Mr. Dhundup Gyalpo (Coordinator of the Settlement Office), Mr. Wang Thinlay (President of Tibetan Co-operative Society), Mr. Tsetan Dorjee (Vice President of Local Assembly), Mr. Choedar Tashi (President of Local Freedom Movement) and Camp Leaders. All the participants were women between the ages 22 to 70. Even the guests also participated throughout the workshop and led the groups during the discussion. This was very helpful to us.



The President of Tibetan Women's Association started with the topic DEMOCRACY and ELECTION. By then the participants were fully prepared to get involved as much as possible in the workshop. This was a workshop which mainly focused on creating awareness among the participants who are less knowledgeable on Democracy and Importance of participating in election. As the workshop progressed the participants were divided into 6 groups having 10 participants in each. Everyone took active role in the discussion and read out their group presentation.

To keep the participants more active and alert, games were arranged. They took lots of interest in learning about Democracy and its benefits.





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They appreciated the Tibetan Women's Association's effort to come to their doors to give knowledge and create more awareness on the importance of their participation in election.

FEEDBACK FROM THE PARTICIPANTS:-

"It would be beneficial if such workshop will last for few more days"

Tsewang Dolker, Age: 29years.

"We have learned so many new things about Democracy in general and about CTA's role in particular"

Ms. Phurbu Sichoe, Age: 28

"TWA has voluntarily done such appreciable social work to bring awareness among the Tibetans here in Ladakh and we are looking forward to have more awareness program."

Ms. Tenzin Dazey, Age: 28

RTWA DELHI



The Regional executive members of Delhi arranged the workshop venue and all the other arrangements were made after we reached in Delhi. The Regional executive members tried their best to encourage as many people as possible to attend the workshop. However, most of



the Tibetans in Delhi are of floating population and not residence of Delhi. Hence the participants were less in number.

The workshop started at 10am with the following guests: - Mr. Lob-sang Phunstok (President of Local Freedom Movement), Mr. Karten Tsering (People's Representative) and three Media Reporters, Mr. Pachen Dorjee (Voice of Asia) and Mr. Sangyal Gyatso (Radio Free Asia).

The participants were given training on Democracy & Importance and procedures of the forth coming Tibetan Exile Governments election for Sikyong and Members of Parliament. The training was given in Tibetan language as well as in English with the help of PowerPoint presentation. The participants were divided into groups and discussions were held among themselves after which they were made to present the group presentation on the charts. The participants were served refreshments and lunch.

Compared to previous years we have observed that due to TWA's time-to-time efforts on giving training on Democracy and Importance of election, people have taken lots of interest in getting involved. Over all, the workshop was quite successful and participants found it very useful for the forth coming election.

FEEDBACK:-

1. My name is Kunsang, not educated but this workshop was easy to understand because it was both in English and Tibetan. This will definitely help me during the election.
2. I am attending this workshop for the first time. I have learned a lot in this workshop and I am thankful to TWA.

–Lobsang Dorjee, Age: 57

3. I am a housewife and I know very little about Democracy and voting rights. This workshop gave me lots of information which helped

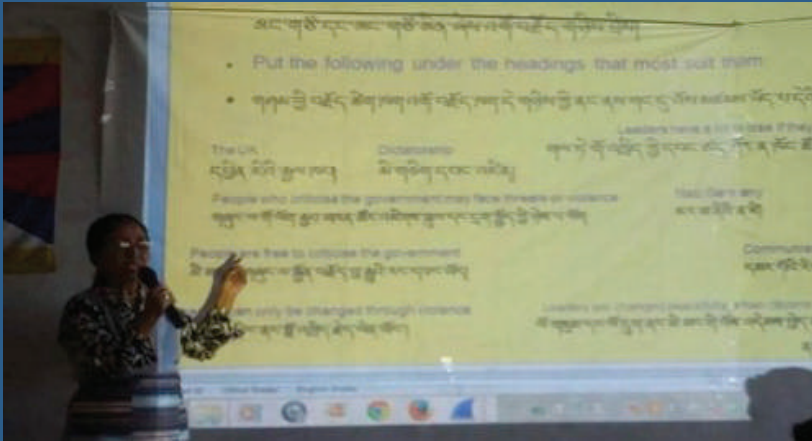


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me in knowing my rights and how to vote. Thank you RTWA and TWA.

–Tsering Kyi, Age: 55

RTWA SHIMLA



We were informed by the Regional Vice-President that all the Tibetans in Shimla are scattered in three areas and their livelihood is mainly based on several petty business. Hence, many have already left for winter business and there was difficulty in gathering people for the workshop. After knowing this we approached the Settlement Officer with a request to inform the respective camp leaders to arrange as many people as possible for the workshop.

The workshop started at 10am with the Settlement Officer Mr. Tsering Tashi, Mr. Tenzin (People's Representative), Mr. Tenzin Yeshe (Local Freedom Movement) and Mr. Tashi (Regional Tibetan Youth Congress). There were over 65 participants between the ages 20 to 65. The Settlement Officer inaugurated the workshop with a brief speech on the importance of this workshop. He also took part in the workshop till lunch time. The participants were quite excited to learn about Democracy and the Importance of voting for their future leaders.





The workshop started with a brief introduction on the Tibetan Women's Association and its activities in the Tibetan Community. Participants were divided into mixed groups and made to discuss the points and put it on the chart. Each group presented their presentation to the larger groups.

We were happy that every participant took active role in the discussion and questions/answers session.

RTWA MANALI

Since 10th September was the 31st Anniversary of Tibetan Women's Association's re-establishment in exile. The Regional Chapter had organized a brief function in the morning followed by workshop. The Settlement Officer was kind enough to give an introduction on the workshop and he took part in the workshop for an hour. The participants were a mixture of men, women of different age groups. Over all there were 73 participants. After a brief introduction on the Tibetan Women's Association, the participants were introduced to the subject Democracy, Election's rules and regulations. The participants were



asked to introduce themselves and later they were divided into groups of ten. Here we found that some of women participants were too shy or reluctant to speak out in the beginning but after getting involved in a group discussion they could speak out their minds.



FEEDBACK: -

1. My name is Tsering Choezom and I am 40 years old. I am highly thankful to Tibetan Women's Association for giving us opportunity to speak out in front of public.
2. Please be very sure about whom to elect as "Kalon Tripa", we really had a great time and also come to know about the governance of Central Tibetan Administration.

Tsetan Yangkyi, Age: 29

RTWA PONDOH TASHILING

Pondoh Tashiling is a very small Settlement populated mostly with the elder people. At the start when we spoke to the Settlement Officer about the workshop, he informed that the settlement is very small and most of the younger people were either on their business or working elsewhere. At that time there were very few elderly people living in the settlement.





There were 32 elderly participants who were mostly men. The Settlement Officer Mr. Tenzin Lekshey la accompanied by representative of Local Freedom Movement, Regional Tibetan Representative and Camp leader took part in the workshop. Mr. Tenzin Lekshey la introduced TWA's President and the General Secretary to the participants. The participants took keen interest in the workshop. Some of them were quite knowledgeable and they could understand the importance of Democracy and Election. There were lots of questions from many of them including women. They expressed the usefulness of this workshop and their gratitude to TWA.

FEEDBACK: -

1. Thank you TWA for giving this workshop.
–Nyima Thakchoe, Age: 57
2. This workshop was very refreshing and useful. It will benefit the public if this kind of workshop is repeated in future.
–Tsering Wangyal, Age: 65
3. I am very happy. I will pray for TWA's success in every field.
–Lobsang Damdul, Age: 67



RTWA DALHOUSIE



The executive members of the Regional Chapter have gathered good number of participants with the help of Settlement Officer. The total numbers of participants were around 60 (men, women of different age groups.) All of them were quite active as the workshop progressed. The participants were divided into groups. They were asked to have discussion on Democracy and Election. By going through the charts submitted by the groups we were happy to learn that now the Tibetan people on the whole are quite knowledgeable about Democracy and importance of participating in Election.

At the end many of them came up with questions and suggestions. They expressed the benefit of this workshop and requested us to conduct more workshops of this kind in the future.

RTWA BIR:-

There were less Tibetans in Bir because most of the younger people were doing sweater business. The number of the participants is 45 and they were mostly women. The participants participated eagerly in the





workshop and went back with more information on Democracy and voting system.

RTWA MUSSOORIE:-

The workshop was held in S.O.S Home Hall and it was attended by so many men and women. The participants showed very good response as the method that TWA used in this workshop was very simple and understandable even to those who are not educated.





The participants took lots of interest in group discussions which boosted the confidence of some of the participants who were not able to speak out in the beginning. Over all the workshop went on very well and even the elder people commented that this type of workshop is much needed for the people who are not aware of the importance of Democratic system.

RTWA RAJPUR:-



Although the overall population in Rajpur is low because it is not a big Settlement and people living there are scattered in small groups. One of the good parts of Rajpur is that they have handicraft centre where a number of women are employed and many of them are also members of Regional Tibetan Women's Association. The number of participants is 96. The participants were ages between 22 to 79 and most of them were women.

They found the workshop interesting and useful as they had very little knowledge on Democracy and voting system.

RTWA DECKYLING:-

On 17th September, 2015 TWA's Vice President Ms. Tsering Dolma and staff Ms. Tenzin Dolkar visited Deckyling Tibetan Settlement af-





ter finishing workshop at Rajpur. They were warmly received by the RTWA's executive members who had already made arrangements for the workshop.

The workshop was held in the Community hall with the presence of the Settlement Officer Mr. Jampa Phuntsok, local leaders (Mr. Tsewang and Cheme) and total number of 90 participants. Although there were number of young people who are educated, most of them were not aware of how Democracy works in the Tibetan Community. As the workshop progressed many of the participants started to become more interactive and more confident in asking questions to clear their doubts. On the whole the workshop was a successful one and the participants were very happy to be a part of the workshop.

FEEDBACK:-

1. As an individual I would like to convey my thanks to TWA for conducting an important workshop. I would like to request TWA to conduct more workshops of this type to educate the Tibetan Community.

-Tsering Youdon, Age 26

2. Its my first time to attend such workshop and it was very knowledgeable.

-Tashi Dolma, Age 23



RTWA TSERING DHONDEN:-



Tsering Dhonden is an isolated settlement, situated miles away from the city life, the people are encountering crisis regarding water supply and transportation.

We were welcomed wholeheartedly by the local leaders and local assembly. We gave workshop on 19th September. There were 55 participants. People from all aspects of age had participated in this workshop and are enthusiastic to take part in the discussion as well in the matter of sharing their perspectives.

RTWA DHONDUPLING:-





The workshop was held at RTWA Hall with the presence of Tsering Dolma (Settlement Accountant) and Thupten Sherab (Local Assembly). There were 73 participants with 46 females and 27 males aged between 25 to 85 years old.

The workshop was quite interesting as the participants were so active. Since there were 73 participants of different age groups, many of them raised questions to their doubts simultaneously which resulted in questions varying from simple questions like how to vote for the right person and what are the rights and the responsibilities of the Democratic system.

WORKSHOP AT CHANDA-MUNI :-





We conducted workshop in Chanda-Muni region as the Tibetans living there were very interested in the workshop. This small village is located near Clementown and the small Tibetan community was mixed with the local Indian families. We conducted the workshop in the Community Hall.

This small community is totally cut off from other bigger Settlements. Hence they do not get a chance to attend any type of workshop which will help them in learning what is happening outside their village, hence we obliged to conduct the workshop and they were very happy and were very attentive during the workshop.

RTWA PAONTA SAHIB:-

The official guests as follows: - Ms. Tenzin Nawa (Settlement Officer), Mr. Kunchok Tsering, Ngawang Lhundup, Tsering Wangduk, Urgen Dorjee, Tashi, Tamdin Sidup, Lobsang Choephel and Tsering Choephel. The training went remarkably successful.





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The total number of participants was 62 (mixed of 24 males and 38 females). The workshop was introduced by the Settlement officer and thanked the TWA for taking this initiative to educate the Tibetan community in far flung areas. The participants were divided into six groups. They were also asked to present their presentation to other groups. Surprisingly, all the groups presented their work very well.

RTWA PURUWALA:-

On 26th September, 2015 the workshop was held in the Kunga Rachun Community hall. The participants were only 42 (25 females and 17 males). The Chief Guest for the day was Mr. Tenzin Kunga (Settlement Officer) and Mr. Tenpa (President of Regional Tibetan Youth Congress). Compared to last year we had fewer participants this year as many of them are away for winter business. The participants are happy to be a part of the workshop on Democracy and Voting procedures.





RTWA HERBERTPUR:-



The workshop was held in the Settlement Community Hall and we had Mr. Tenzin Chokten and Mr. Jampa Saab as chief guests. It was attended by 52 participants who are mostly monks. Initially most of the participants were shy and hesitant to speak out but as the workshop progressed they became more comfortable and started asking various questions which made the workshop a successful one.

RTWA NAINITAL:-





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TWA's vice president Tsering Dolma and staff Tenzin Dolkar conducted workshop in the Monastery hall with the total number of 62 participants. The official guests were Kunchok and Rinpoche Tenzin Thinley Langdok from the Election Commission, Yeshe Dhunden and Tsering Dolma, representatives from the Local Assembly, Ms. Tsering Palkyi, Lobsang Choedon and Nyima Chungdak from the Regional Tibetan Youth Congress.

The group discussions and activities were taken very seriously. In addition, there were many well educated people among the participants and their positive feedback strengthened the training.

CENTRAL SCHOOL FOR TIBETAN PAONTA SAHIB:-

As requested by the Settlement Officer of Paonta Sahib, TWA conducted a workshop which was attended by the faculty members and the cl XII students of the school. We came to know that it was the first time for them to attend such workshop. All the students took very active participation. The workshop was a successful one.





RTWA TEZU DHARGYALING

5th October 2015



On 4th of October we reached in Tezu Dhargyaling Settlement, Arunachal Pradesh, in the afternoon. The Regional executive members tried their best to gather many people for the workshop. However, the participants were less than we have expected.

The workshop started at 9 Am with the Settlement Officer as the chief guest. The workshop was held in the Co-operative Society Hall. There were about 78 participants, 12 males and 66 females. Among them 44 participants were above 45 years old and 23 young people between the ages of 25 to 35.

PROBLEMS & CHALLENGES: -

The general knowledge of the public on CTA's role and TWA as an NGO is very poor. However after this workshop the role of CTA and TWA has become much clearer to the public. This was due mainly on the method used by TWA with the help of power point and simple language. This was very much appreciated by all and requested TWA for more workshops of this type to improve their knowledge. As it was





our first time to visit The Regional Chapter in Tezu region, we faced difficulties such as crossing a big lake by boat as there were many incidents in the past of boat over turning due to heavy loads of luggage.

FEEDBACK:-

I am Tenzin Lhamo (23yrs) College going girl, it was my first time to attend the workshop regarding the Democracy and Election procedures. I thank you TWA for giving us the workshop which was very understandable and helpful too. So I request, if possible in future also please organize more workshops. Thank you for taking the trouble to travel so far.

RTWA MIAO CHOEPHELING:-

7th October, 2015

On the next day 6th October 2015 morning we left for RTWA Miao Choepheling reached 5:30 pm in the evening. After reaching Miao we approached the Settlement Officer Mr. Kagyu Choephel and explained the reason why we had come to the Settlement. Normally the workshop arrangements were made locally by the RTWA executives, since there were fewer executives this time the Settlement Officer was kind enough to call upon the camp leaders to do the job.



The workshop started at 9 am after the hall arrangements were made. The participants started coming in and the Settlement officer gave a brief introduction on the purpose of this workshop. There were 129 participants, out of which 47 males and 82 females. All the participants took active role in group discussion and presented their works to the larger group. Participants served refreshment and lunch that was prepared at the workshop site. The workshop finished at 3:45 pm with the following feedbacks.

FEEDBACK:-

I am Rabten Tsering, working as a secretary of Miao Tibetan Settlement Choepheling. It is not an easy job coming all the way in spite of the difficulty faced while travelling. We appreciate the service rendered by Tibetan Women's Association for the most useful workshop. I am sure this workshop would have opened doors for better understanding on Democracy in Tibetan community as well as the procedures of the election which plays an another important role to the Tibetans.

RTWA TENZING GANG:-

11th October, 2015



We reached Tenzing Gang, Arunachal Pradesh around 6.30 in the evening due to bus strike. RTWA made all the arrangements for the workshop and this enabled us to start the workshop at the earliest. After a brief introduction by the Settlement officer on the importance of Democracy and election procedures, the workshop took off with the total number 85 participants. It was mixed of older and younger generation of different age groups.

After handing over the workshop kits the participants were divided into few groups in order to make the discussion more effective. Every participant took lots of interest and the group task was good.

FEEDBACK:-

1. This is such a good job done by TWA. I highly appreciate TWA for conducting such workshop at our Settlement.

–Tenzin Gyaltsen, Age 65

2. TWA's workshop method is different with the power point example which makes it much easier for the participants to understand.

–Jampa Kunchok, Age 27

3. The most useful information from this workshop is to know the importance of Democracy and voting procedures.

–Lhakpa Rinchen (Gyurmey Monastery)

RTWA SHILLONG:-

14th October, 2015

The workshop was conducted in a Military Community Hall and the following guests had attended:-

Mrs. Pema Youdon (Settlement Officer), Karma Tenzin (Local As-



semble Officer), Mr. Dhondup from Election Commission and Tsering Chomphel, member from Freedom Movement. As the Settlement officer, Mrs. Pema Youdon gave brief introduction of the workshop. In Shillong we found the maximum participants for the workshop. There were 105 participants (69 female and 36 male). There were lots of educated participants and they appreciated TWA's method of conducting the workshop with the Power Point in both Tibetan and English Language. At the end the RTWA President Donlha gave a short speech, thanking the TWA's executives who had travelled all the way to conduct this important workshop and also the participants.

FEEDBACK:-

One elderly woman said that without having proper knowledge as to whom to vote and without knowing the importance of voting the right person, it has been a difficult task to cast the votes. She thanked TWA for the productive workshop.

It was really wonderful work done by TWA and I would like to thanks the Regional Tibetan Women's Association for the cooperation. Large number of youth should take part in such workshop. On behalf of all the participants and the people of Shillong I would like to thank TWA for this workshop.

–Sambhota's School Principal



RTWA KATHMANDU:-



During our visit to Kathmandu the situation there was very tense due to various political and public strikes and there were blockage between India and Nepal. In spite of these difficulties we managed to cross over to Kathmandu. There with the help of Regional Chapter who had made arrangements in a remote area where we could have the workshop as it was never allowed by the Nepal Government to conduct any type of gatherings. We also have approached the Settlement Officer who had extended his support.

In spite of all the restrictions we managed to gather 55 participants both men and women of different age groups. Some of the participants felt that due to political reasons the CTA (Central Tibetan Administration) is unable to conduct any type of meetings or workshop in Nepal and that is why these people lack knowledge on Democracy and other important matters. They appreciated the TWA's workshop to reach out to them in spite of all the obstacles.

RTWA POKHRA TASHI PELKEIL:-



The workshop was conducted at 9 am in the Community Hall. There were a number of local official guests such as Mr. Karma Yeshe from Freedom Movement, Namgyal from Ngari Association and Mr. Pema who is a local camp leader. The number of participants was 70 consisting different age groups.

FEEDBACK ON THE WHOLE:-

Thank you very much TWA for this workshop. We really appreciate the TWA's effort to come all the way to conduct this important workshop to the people of this Settlement. This type of workshop really empowers the general public to participate in Democratic system and to follow the correct procedure during the election of Parliamentarians and Sikyong.

RTWA JAMPALING:-

On 25th October 2015, we conducted our second last workshop at Jampaling in Nepal. The workshop started at 9.30 am in the Community Hall with the following official guests Mr. Thupten Choephel (Settle-



ment Officer), Mr. Lobsang Wangdue (Regional Freedom Movement Officer) and Mr. Tenzin Tashi (Local Assemble Officer). 75 participants took part in the workshop who are mostly women. The participants took active role in the workshop including the official guests who spent whole day in the workshop. They appreciated the commendable work done by Tibetan Women's Association. This is the real empowerment for the general public.

FEEDBACK:-

1. I find this workshop very useful. As I have learnt one's own rights and responsibilities in democratic system but also got to learn that the Middle Way Approach was the best solution that His Holiness the Dalai Lama felt and suggested but the Tibetan people gave full support to this or not is their choice.

– Mr.Karma Yeshi, Age 69

2. I learned the importance of casting vote for the right candidate and I will try my best to guide other voters.

–Lobsang Wangdue, Age 41

3. Thank you TWA for today's workshop. This is my first time to attend such important workshop. I am very happy to learn about Democracy and the importance of voting.

–Phurbu Tsering, Age 24

RTWA POKHRA TASHILING:-



We requested the Settlement Officer to inform the people about our workshop as it is not meant for the TWA's members only. With his support we managed to gather over 90 participants of different age groups.

The workshop started with the introduction by the RTWA President Mrs. Palzom and she also introduced the official participants of the workshop:- Mr. Tsultrim Dorjee (Settlement Officer), Mr. Tenzin Tashi (Secretary of Settlement Office), and Mr. Tashi Rabten (Ngari Association), who also remained in the workshop for the whole day. The participants were responsive and they expressed that this type of workshop conducted by TWA is very helpful to the people who has less knowledge on Democracy and the procedures of the voting system.

ORISSA, MAINPAT AND BHANDARA :-

Tibetan Women's Association's vice president Tsering Dolma and joint secretary Ani Tenzin Tselha conducted workshops in Central India including Orissa, Mainpat and Bhandara in the month of October 2015.



This year we have less educated participants but the total average of participants was quite satisfactory as compared to the year 2011 workshop.



TWA's Joint Secretary Ani Tenzin Tselha started with a brief introduction of Tibetan Women's Association formation, aims and objectives.



After that TWA's vice president Tsering Dolma started workshop on Democracy and the importance of voting system. The majority of the participants were uneducated and most of them were old. With their individual experience on Democracy, the workshop concluded with a good interactive session with questions and answers from them.

RTWA DHONDENLING (KOLLEGAL), MUNDGOD, HUNSUR RABGYALING and BYLAKUPPE

From 15th October 2015 to 1st November 2015 TWA's vice president Tsering Dolma and joint secretary Ani Tenzin Tselha conducted TWA's workshop on Democracy and the importance of voting system within these four Regional Chapters.

RTWA KOLLEGAL:-

Kollegal was the first Tibetan Settlement within our visit to the southern India. Workshop day's program began with a welcome note by Ms. Tsering Wangmo, General Secretary RTWA Kollegal, followed by a short introductory speech of the day's program by Ani Tenzin Tselha, Joint Secretary of Central Tibetan Women's Association.





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The official guests of the day were as follows: - Mr. Passang Dorjee who is a President of Local Assembly, Mrs. Gaden Plamo, Local Assembly Member and Mr. Tashi Tsering, President of Freedom Movement. The workshop at Dhondenling was held on 20th October, 2015 with 78 participants attending it. We had less female and more male participants. It was mixed of different age groups between 24 years old to 55 years old.

FEEDBACK:

1. I have heard about TWA's workshop but never got opportunity to attend. Today I got an opportunity and would like to say thank TWA and RTWA for conducting such awareness training on Democracy which is very important.

–Tenzin Tsering, Female, Age 26

2. Today I came to know more on Democracy how it works in our Tibetan Community.

–Dhundup Dolma, female, Age 37

HUNSUR RABGYALING:-

The number of participants during the workshop was 76, (the youngest was 30 years old and the oldest was 77 years old). Majority of the participants were women.



The participants were very eager to learn about the Democracy as they have less knowledge on the concerned topic. Every participant took active role in the group discussion and came out with the various questions about rights and responsibilities of a person in a democratic system.

RTWA BYLAKUPPE:-

Bylakuppe Settlement is the first Tibetan Refugee Settlement in Karnataka State and is one of the largest agricultural Settlement in south India. It has the largest number of Monasteries and besides Central School for Tibetans there is a residential school supported by Tibetan Children's Village (TCV).



There are two Settlements located close to each other. The first one is Lugsam Tibetan Settlement and the second one is Tibetan Dickyi Larsoe Settlement. Although it was winter sweater business season there were good number of people who attended the workshop. There were 84 participants. The youngest participant was 21 years old and the oldest was 86 years old. There were 55 women participants out of which 40 were RTWA members.



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The workshop was held at Sakya Monastery Hall in Lugsam Settlement. The workshop included a short video clip on Middle Way Approach. The group discussions went very well and many questions were raised and answered.

RTWA MUNDGOD:-

TWA's vice president Ms. Tsering Dolma and Joint Secretary Ani Tenzin Tselha's ended up their tour at Mundgod Tibetan Settlement near Hubli in Karnataka State. This Settlement is also a very large one with a large population from the various Monasteries.



The workshop was attended by 85 participants. When we saw the large number of participants, we were very happy as this was the last round of south trip. Our executive Ani Tenzin Tselha gave a brief introduction on Tibetan Women's Association and its activities in the Tibetan Community. The workshop on Democracy was started by the vice president Tsering Dolma.

The last round of workshop in Central and Southern India ended up on a good note as the participants were very happy with the Tibetan Women's Associations effort to educate the Tibetan masses on Democracy and Importance of Voting.





The last tour of workshop on Democracy was led by TWA's President Dolma Yangchen and General Secretary Tsering Choezom and they covered the RTWA Chapters in Sonada, Darjeeling, Self Help Centre, Kalimpong, Gangtok and Ravangla in West Bengal State. The last area covered was Jigmenang and Kapchisa in Bhutan.

RTWA SONADA:-

We conducted the workshop on 20th November 2015.



Although there were less people because of sweater business season, we were able to gather about 30 adults and about 35 students from class VIII, IX and X. The workshop started with lots of enthusiasm from the school children. For them it was the first time to get an opportunity to participate and learn about Democracy. The workshop at Sonada was a successful one with the help of RTWA executive members.

RTWA DARJEELING: -

The workshop was conducted at the Community hall and there were 70 participants including the representatives of U-Tsang President Mr. Phuntsok Namgyal, Dotoe Representative Mr. Tasok Chomphel and Mr. Sonam Gyatso from Tibetan Freedom Movement.





The workshop was started by a brief welcome speech by RTWA's Darjeeling President Mrs. Dorjee Wangmo. The TWA's President gave a brief introduction speech on Tibetan Women's Association's activities within the Tibetan community and also the importance of this workshop on Democracy. It was a very energetic session as everybody participated with great interest. There were lots of questions from participants. They requested us to repeat the same program in future.

RTWA TIBETAN REFUGEE SELF HELP CENTRE:-

On 22nd November 2015, workshop was conducted at Tibetan Refugee Self Help Centre with 25 participants. The participants were happy





and grateful as we have come all the way to conduct workshop on Democracy.

RTWA KALIMPONG :-

In Kalimpong we were warmly received by RTWA President Mrs. Sonam Bhuti along with the executive members. We were happy to note that they have managed to invite a number of officials beside the public to participate the workshop on Democracy. The main guests were the Settlement Officer Mr. Passang Choetso, The President of Tibetan Freedom Movement and the Local Assembly's President.



There were 80 participants during the workshop out of which majority were women. Some of the guest participants took active role as they are more knowledgeable. Before the conclusion of the workshop the Settlement Officer Mr. Passang Choetso thanked the TWA for taking such a step to educate the general public.

FEEDBACK:-

We are highly thankful to the Central Tibetan Women's Association for conducting such valuable workshop on Democracy. We got to learn about the importance of casting vote besides the practice of Democracy. Often we get confused during the election as we have no knowledge of to whom to vote and how to vote. This workshop has helped us to understand the procedure very clearly and we will be more careful in electing our leaders in the final election in the month of March 2016.

RTWA GANGTOK:-

In Gangtok it was a good mixture of educated young and old between the age group of 15 to 62 years old, totally there were over 55 participants. A number of them were educated and they were great help during the workshop. This workshop was held at Hotel Tibet and the



Settlement Officer Mr. Dhudul Dorjee who gave a brief introduction of Tibetan Women's Association and its activities in the Tibetan Community. One of the main guests was our former President of RTWA who is now a member of Local Assembly.



We were happy to have Mr. Passang Tsering of Radio Free Asia of Gangtok who covered the workshop till the end. We were happy to see a number of Tibetan young girls from Senior Schools and College. They also expressed their happiness to have had the opportunity to attend this type of workshop which had enlightened them politically.

FEEDBACK: -

1. Today, I got to learn about three important points as follows:-
 - a] Learned the meaning of Democracy.
 - b] The Structure and Role of Central Tibetan Administration and
 - c] The relation and responsibilities of the public and the elected leaders.

Sonam Gyaltzen, Age 59, RTYC, GS, Gangtok

2. The most important thing I learned from this workshop is how to face the public and express my thoughts to the people in front of me. I feel great today as I have never done that before. This is the



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first time I have learned about Democracy and the importance of our Tibetan Government in Exile.

– Tenzin Sangmo Sherpa, Age 15

3. The workshop was very good in terms of information about Tibetans. I request to conduct these types of workshops more often as this will create more awareness and knowledge among the younger generation.

–Mrs. Dechen Pedon, Age 62

RTWA RAVANGLA:-

The last Tibetan Settlement that we visited in West Bengal was Ravangla. On 28th November, 2015 the workshop was conducted in the Community hall and there were more of elders and illiterate people. However, we were able to persuade the school Principal to send some of the senior students to attend the workshop. In total there were about 80 participants. Although the elders were not able to respond much the students found it very interesting and took active participation in the workshop.





FEEDBACK ON THE WHOLE:-

We would like to thank Tibetan Women's Association for giving such a valuable time to conduct workshop in our Settlement. This is our first time to participate in such workshop and got to learn about what is Democracy, the difference between Democracy and Non-Democracy and the importance and role of our Tibetan Government in exile. Class VII and VIII

RTWA BHUTAN:-





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Tibetan Women's Association President Dolma Yangchen with General Secretary Tsering Choezom started the tour to Bhutan with lots of uncertainty and anxiety because of the overall situation and the restrictions on the outsiders. In spite of this, we proceeded to Phuntsokling town which is the border between India and Bhutan.

We were lucky to get permission to enter Bhutan. In Bhutan we visited two Regional Chapters (JIGMENANG and KAPCHESA) in the 1st week of December 2015.

We tried our best to reach our Regional Chapters in spite of many obstacles. The participants appreciated our visit and the workshop on Democracy which they felt was a very useful information on how the Tibetan Government and people are governed within the Tibetan community in exile. We had an opportunity to thank the old executive members and elect new members for the next term.

DHARAMSALA:-

This time we have picked up Dolma Ling Nunnery for the Democracy workshop as we felt that it is important for the nuns to be included in this workshop. Although there were less nuns at nunnery as many se-





niors' nuns had gone to south India to attend the teachings of Lamrim by His Holiness the Dalia Lama; there were about 25 young nuns who attended the workshop. As this was the first experience for the nuns to be a part of the workshop on Democracy, they found it very interesting and paid very good attention throughout the workshop. They even requested to conduct the same on another day when all the nuns are present in the nunnery. Politically it is very important to give such opportunities to the nuns so they will be aware of what is happening in the community, their rights and responsibilities in the exiled Tibetan Government.





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RECORD OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY REGIONAL CHAPTERS OF TIBETAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION





RTWA CHAPTERS' CLIMATE CAMPAIGN

Regional Tibetan Women's Association from all over the world took part in Climate Action for Tibet. RTWA chapters organised drawing competition in different schools on the theme "Climate Change on Tibetan Plateau" and involved the people from their locality in the photo challenge.





RTWA DECKYLING





RTWA DHONDUPLING





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RTWA GANGTOK





RTWA ITALY





RTWA KALIMPONG



RTWA ODISHA





RTWA TASHI PALKHEIL NEPAL





RTWA TASHILING POKHARA





RTWA HUNSUR





RTWA DARJEELING





RTWA BYLAKUPPE





RTWA DHARAMSALA



RTWA Dhasa celebrated RAKSHA BANDHAN on 29th August 2015 with the local leaders and local brothers from Dharamsala. Raksha Bandhan is a festival to celebrate the emotional bonding between a brother and sister by tying a holy thread around the wrist.





RTWA DELHI



RTWA Delhi tied Rakhi knot to Delhi's Chief Minister Mr. Arvind Kejirval of (A.A.P.) and Shri L K Advani Sir. They also tied Rakhi to other dignitaries too on behalf of all Tibetans to have good and friendly relation between the two countries.





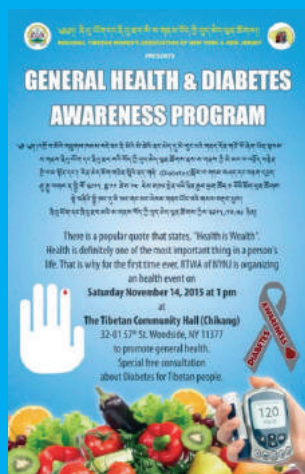
RTWA MAINPAT



RTWA Mainpat celebrated the 31st Refounding Anniversary of Tibetan Women Association.



RTWA NYNJ



28.9. 2015 RTWA with RTYC, TCNYNJ and Dhokham Chushi Gangtruk organized a solidarity protest rally for President Xi jiping UN visit urging the World leaders to speak for Tibet and asking Xi Jiping to have dialogue with H.H the Dalai Lama.

14.11.2015 RTWA NYNJ organized a Diabetes Awareness Program, providing information about diabetes and a free diabetes check up.



RTWA SHIMLA



On 29th August Rtwa Shimla celebrated Raksha Bandhan day and tied Rakhi to CM Bir Bhadur singh of Shimla.





RTWA MUSSOORIE



RTWA Mussoorie celebrated the 31st Refounding anniversary of Tibetan Women's Association.

