

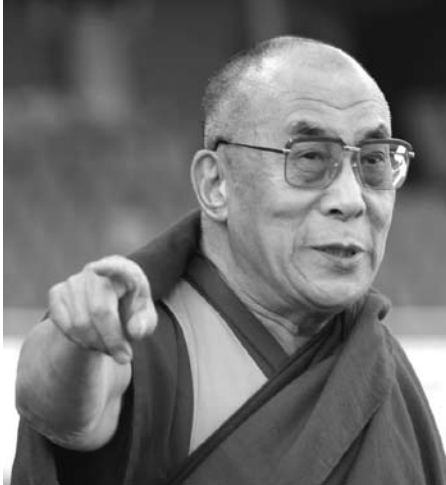


Tibet News

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The Newsletter of the **Tibet Information Office** for Australia, New Zealand & South East Asia



His Holiness the Dalai Lama returns to Australia in December 2009 with visits to Sydney, Hobart and Melbourne

Visits by His Holiness are eagerly awaited by people all over the world. Wherever he travels, people from all walks of life, young and old, those with religious faith and those without, greet His Holiness as a truly great man of compassion and wisdom. Here in Australia we are very blessed. His Holiness the Dalai Lama is returning to Australia in December 2009 for the

His Holiness the Dalai Lama to visit Australia and New Zealand in December 2009

third year in a row! This is a special opportunity to deepen our connection with one of the great leaders of our time and engage with His Holiness' message of love, compassion, tolerance and wisdom.

His Holiness is an advocate of individual and universal responsibility - this is his message, the very basis of his teachings and those of Buddha.

Over the course of the visit, His Holiness will present, demonstrate and discuss the very nature of being and how responsibility for our future lies with each of us.

The theme of His Holiness' visit this year is *Our Future, Who is Responsible?* It is one of helping us to become aware of and accept our responsibility as

global citizens for our own actions, for what is happening in the world in which we live and for all the other living beings that we share our world with.

His Holiness will be appearing at public talks in Sydney, Hobart and Melbourne and will give a two-day teaching in Sydney, in addition to his participation in several major conferences and functions. It is an intensive and exciting program that will give tens of thousands of Australians the opportunity to hear His Holiness' important message - that responsibility for the future of life on earth rests with each of us. Visit www.dalailamainaustralia.org for further information.

New Zealand

His Holiness will give a Public Talk on *A Peaceful Mind* on 5 December and on 6 December give a teachings on *Nagarjuna's Commentary on Bodhicitta (jangchup semdrel)*. The visit is organized by the Dalai Lama Visit Trust New Zealand and further information Visit www.dalailamavisit.org.nz

HIS HOLINESS THE SAKYA TRIZIN DAGTRI RINPOCHE'S AUSTRALIAN TOUR

Apr 24 to 13 July, 2009

Tibet Information Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Canberra and Tibetan Communities in Australia and New Zealand welcome His Holiness the Sakya Trizin, H. E. Jetsun Kushok Rinpoche, H.E. Ratna Vajra Rinpoche, H.E. Vajra Rinpoche and entourage to Australia and New Zealand.



His Holiness the Sakya Trizin

- His Holiness Sakya Trizin gave the precious Lamdre teachings in Balmain Town Hall. It was organized by Drogmi Retreat Centre under its Spiritual Teacher Khenpo Ngawang Damchoe. The Lam Dre is considered the most profound of all teachings in the Sakya tradition.
- Sakya Dagtri Rinpoche also visited all the Sakya Centres in Australia and New Zealand and gave numerous teachings and initiations.
- On 11 July, Sakya Centres, Tibetan Communities in Australia offered Long Life Puja to Sakya Dagtri Rinpoche and Dagtri Rinpoche gave Long Life Initiation to the hundreds of Australians and Tibetans.

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Tibet News

Tibet News is the newsletter of the Tibet Information Office, Canberra

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Contact the Office for copies of *Tibet News*.

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Please make cheques payable to 'Tibet Information Office'.

Signed articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tibet Information Office.

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Statement by the Australian All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet on the Occasion of the First Australian Parliamentary Delegation to Dharamsala



The All-Party Parliamentary Group

We, the representatives of the Australian All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet, offer our sincere thanks to His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama, Prime Minister Samdhong Rinpoche, Speaker Mr. Penpa Tsering, Deputy Speaker Mrs. Gyari Dolma, the Kashag (Tibetan Cabinet) and the Tibetan Parliament for this opportunity to visit Dharamsala and learn first hand about the challenges facing the Tibetan people today.

We further thank the people of McLeod Ganj for their warm hospitality, and the many Tibetan non-government organizations with whom we have met for providing us with a rich insight into Tibetan culture and the situation of Tibetan refugees in India.

May we first acknowledge the extraordinary successes of the Tibetan people here in Dharamsala and in many settlements throughout India and overseas in building a vibrant and flourishing community in exile. We congratulate you on the time and effort you have invested in education, health services, community building and the preservation of your unique culture, heritage and religion.

Our delegation reflects all major parties of the Australian Parliament and is testimony to the depth and breadth of support in Australia for a peaceful resolution of the Tibetan situation. We speak also on behalf of many Parliamentary colleagues and friends

in the Australian community who are unable to join us in person.

Australia is home to over six hundred Tibetans. This growing community has become a cherished part of our multi-cultural landscape and we are very grateful for the contribution that Tibetan people and their culture have made to Australian society.

We support, strongly, His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Middle Way proposal for a peacefully negotiated settlement of the Tibetan situation and regret that the Tibet-China dialogue has so far failed to bring genuine progress towards a mutually acceptable resolution.

In this, the fiftieth year since the Tibetan Uprising of 1959 and the Dalai Lama's exile, we express our deepest concern and sympathy over the enduring situation inside Tibet, in particular the deteriorating conditions of the last year. Religious repression, "patriotic education" and undemocratic social-economic reforms, including the forced settlement of nomads, have fanned the flames of unrest in Tibet and brought untold suffering to the Tibetan people.

We express our disappointment at the Chinese Government's outright rejection last November of the "Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy for the Tibetan People" – a detailed proposal for meeting the needs of the Tibetan people within existing provisions in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China. We support the memorandum

as a basis for constructive negotiations on Tibet's future and will continue to encourage the Chinese Government to enter into sincere and substantive discussions with the Dalai Lama or his representatives over the eleven "subjects of governance" outlined in this important document.

It has been an honour to meet with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Professor Samdhong Rinpoche and several members of the Central Tibetan Administration here in the heart of the Tibetan exile community. We commend His Holiness, with whom we had the privilege of conversing at some length, for his pragmatic and conciliatory

approach to the Tibetan situation and for his calm determination.

We look forward to welcoming His Holiness back to Australia in December of this year, a visit that will coincide with the twentieth anniversary of his Nobel Peace Prize. The visit, which has been given the theme "Our Future: Who Is Responsible?", comes at a time when Australia and the world at large are facing some of their greatest challenges and opportunities. We look forward to hearing more of His Holiness's thoughts on universal responsibility, peace, justice and the global environment.

We have been very well looked after here in Dharamsala and are enjoying

our visit to India immensely. We will be returning to Australia with a greatly enriched understanding of the Tibetan situation and with many new ideas for providing constructive support from Australia.

Once again, we offer our thanks and appreciation for this unique opportunity and will be doing our best to help secure a better future for Tibet.

Tashi Delek.

Mr. Michael Danby MP, The Hon. Peter Slipper MP, Senator Nick Xenophon, Ms. Melissa Parke MP, Senator Scott Ludlam, Senator Sarah Hanson-Young

The Dalai Lama's Birthday unites with the formation of the Chinese Tibetan Friendship Association of Melbourne

Sunday 5th July 2009, at Bentleigh McKinnon Youth Centre.

For Tibetans, the morning began auspiciously, with light rain followed by sunshine. Appropriate too because it was a day combining several momentous events. The Birthday of one of the most respected figures of this era, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, the launch of the Chinese Tibetan Friendship Association of Melbourne and as a huge thank you to all of the kind Australians for supporting and making the Tibetan Community so welcome here.

Around three hundred people came, including fifteen Chinese. There were many local Tibetan Sangha (monks and nuns), and important dignitaries. Mr T.P. Atisha, the Representative of HHDL in Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia, Ms Jenny Mikakos, and Colleen Hartland, both are the Honourable Upper House members of Parliament, and MP For Tibet. Mr Frank Ruanje, member of the Coalition of the Chinese Democratic Movement in Melbourne and the Chief Editor of Chinese language newspaper Tian An Mien Times. Plus members of Tibetan support groups, most prominently from the Australia Tibet Council.

To begin, Geshe Konchok Tsering lead the monks in the Long Life Prayer for His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Kesang Wangmo (Secretary) and Sandup Tsering (Head) of the Tibetan Community of Victoria lead the proceedings.

Sandup spoke first with a huge welcome to all with an overview of the days events. He reminded us of the incredible achievements and capacity of the Dalai Lama. All of these qualities are but a drop in the ocean His Holiness is truly the ocean of Wisdom, how he so successfully guided the preservation of Tibetan culture outside Tibet, keeping it alive and of our great fortune to be born in the same time as he. Also reminding us of His Holiness's words on the importance of human values. Finally, acknowledging deep gratitude to India for such vital safe haven in exile.

The day brimmed over with exciting and colourful performances of traditional song and dance by the Tibetan community of all ages. The costumes were vibrant and stunning. Performances some gentle and some wild, expressed the heart of the Tibetan people by being so natural and joyful overflowing with love, honesty and happiness. A feast for the eyes, ears and heart.

Jenny Mikakos MP, gave a warm thank you for being invited and the strong purpose she holds for building bridges and her involvement in the Parliamentary Friends of Tibet Group. Her dedication to human rights and in particular the Tibetan situation deeply touched the hearts of the Tibetan people.

Ms Mikakos also read a personal message from Victorian Premier John Brumby MP, where he best wishes to the Tibetan Community, going on to say I congratulate your community for



hosting this auspicious celebration and for its initiative to strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding in our community.

Mr T.P. Atisha, on behalf of His Holiness thanked all for the encouragement and particularly to the many support groups and all political parties in Australia who dedicate their time, money and effort It makes a big difference for the Tibetan people.

Then came the landmark launch of the Chinese Tibetan Friendship Association of Melbourne. The stage filled with the inaugural Chinese and Tibetan members, all proudly receiving khatas from Mr Atisha, holding raised hands in dedication to the union. The hall filled with the loudest applause that went on and on as each member accepted a khata. Faces beamed and hearts filled at what some may have thought impossibility, yet through real respect and true dialogue, the impossible happened. Read the rest

THUTEN KESANG – UNSUNG HEROES OF COMPASSION AWARD

May 12, 2009

Thuten Kesang of New Zealand received “Unsung Heroes of Compassion Award” on 26 April 2009 in California, USA, the award which has been presented to 49 individuals from 13 countries by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Mr. Thuten Kesang is the first Tibetan to arrive and settled in New Zealand in 1967. Since then he is passionate about helping his fellow Tibetan refugees. For him, in fact, it is a moral imperative. Equally important, however, is that aiding others is his way of returning a stranger’s long-ago kindness.

Eager to see him well educated, Thuten’s parents sent him at age of eleven from his home in Lhasa Tibet, to board at Dr Graham’s Homes, a school in Kalimpong, India. One of India’s finest schools, Dr. Graham’s Homes was established in 1900 to educate, Anglo-Indian children, and Thuten was one of the few Tibetan children enrolled. Four years later, however, he learned that his parents had been arrested in the 1959 Chinese occupation of Tibet and that he had become a refugee. With no money to pay tuition and no family to return home to, Thuten’s prospect looked dire. Then, one day, he met Robert Crow, a Scottish board member of Dr. Graham’s Homes who lived in India and offered to pay Thuten’s tuition and boarding fees.



Unsung Heroes of Compassion - Thuten Kesang

“That precise moment,” Thuten says, “I decided that I would do my best to repay his kindness by helping others in need when I was in a position to do so.” Read the rest »

SYDNEY TIBETAN PRESENTED WITH AWARD BY DALAI LAMA

May 8, 2009

On 26 April in California His Holiness the Dalai Lama presented 49 individuals from 13 countries with an “Unsung Hero of Compassion” award. Dorjee Dadul, a long-term resident of Sydney’s Northern Beaches, was among the recipients.

Dorjee has been recognised twice by the Australian Government for his contribution to the Sydney’s Tibetan community and to the broader Australian community: In 2007 he was named Warringah Council’s Citizen of the Year. Also that year he received the Most Commended Volunteer Award from the New South Wales Community Relations Commission.

“These individuals have been selected



Unsung Hero of Compassion - Dorjee Dadul

as representatives of the tens of thousands of people worldwide who quietly serve the disenfranchised and work to improve our communities through their personal efforts,” said Dick Grace, Chair of Wisdom in Action, who hosted the celebration. “We don’t see them or hear about them in the daily news, but they exemplify a humanism and heroism to which we must each aspire.”

Among other things, Dorjee has worked tirelessly both to preserve Tibetan culture within Australia’s exiled

Tibetan community and to promote Tibetan culture to the wider Australian community. Dorjee teaches Tibetan language, culture and customs to young Tibetans as well as running Tibetan language classes for Australians.

The Unsung Hero of Compassion award was also presented to Thuten Kesang, President of the New Zealand Tibetan community. Thuten recently spent his Easter break in Dee Why on Sydney’s Northern Beaches, at the fourth annual gathering of Tibetans from Australia and New Zealand.

The other recipients, 25 women and 24 men, ranged in age from 12 to 77 and came from a variety of ethnicities, cultures and religious backgrounds.

Tibetan Communities in New Zealand and Australia Conclude 4th Tibetan Conference

Apr 23, 2009

Canberra: The Tibetan communities based in Australia and New Zealand held their fourth Tibetan conference at Dee Why, Sydney, from 11 – 13 April, as a part of an event to commemorate 50 years in exile.

The conference also called for urgent action towards repealing of death sentences meted out to four Tibetans by a Chinese court in Tibet’s capital Lhasa, for their alleged involvement in the protests in March 2008. A

formal letter of condemnation signed by presidents of the various regional Tibetan communities of Australia and New Zealand was sent to the Chinese Embassy in Australia. A press release was also sent out urging in particular the Government of Australia and New Zealand to “condemn the Chinese authorities for the gross human rights violations” in Tibet and to demand for a free and fair trial to all those who are detained in Tibet.

A special prayer led by Tibetan monks and members of Tibetan communities

was held to secure reversal of sentences and for well being of those who are still suffering repression in Tibet.

The conference witnessed the gathering of around 300 Tibetans residing across the continent of Australia and New Zealand. As part of the agenda, the presidents of Tibetan communities read out their annual reports and discussed the agenda.

On the second day of conference, a special reception called “THANK YOU AUSTRALIA” was held to honour all Tibet Support Groups including the

Australian chapter of the International Commission of Jurist, the body that raised pioneering legal voice to the plight of the Tibetans in the early days of exile in 1959 and onwards. The other Tibet support groups and dignitaries present were Tibet Friendship Group, Australian Tibetan Society, Australian Tibet Council, Han-Tibetan Association, Freedom 4 Tibet, Mr. Bread Hazzard, MP and Dr. Christena Kirshch, council from Warringah and some members from the local government. The delegates were offered with Khatak- (Tibetan traditional scarf) and a book by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, along with Rangtsen Thakpa (knitted black &

white wrist band) as an appreciation for their untiring support towards Tibetans and Tibet cause. A group of Tibetan primary schoolchildren dressed in traditional Tibetan costumes sang both the Tibetan and Australian national anthem.

The Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Canberra, Mr. Tenzin P Atisha, in his opening speech thanked the government and people of Australia and the Tibet support groups including All Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet for their significant contribution towards Tibetan community in exile and for raising Tibet's issue not only in Australia but also internationally.

A separate gathering of Tibetan youths was held with the aim to allow them to brainstorm ways to preserve and promote Tibetan language and culture. They also discussed about networking among Tibetan youth worldwide and also with Chinese and Australian youth studying at their schools, colleges, and universities to educate them on Tibet's issue.

On a whole, the three days conference was a great success and an interactive one. The president of Tibetan community in Australia, New South Wales, Mr. Tenzin Gaden and his team did an excellent job in arranging this conference.

His Holiness 74th Birthday Celebration Thank You Australia in Canberra

Tibet Information Office, Canberra and Tibetan Communities in Canberra celebrated the 74th birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama on 3rd July 2009. A special thank you reception was also held on this occasion to express sincere gratitude and appreciation to Tibet Support Groups and other Australian friends for their continuous support towards Tibetan cause. Around 75 Australian guests from different walks of life such as Australian friends for Tibet, Diplomats, and Sponsors, joined this celebration, which was also graced by the kind presence of our Chief Guest, Honourable Shane Rattenbury, Speaker of ACT legislative Assembly.

Mr. Tenzin P Atisha, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Australia, in his welcome speech appreciated and thanked all the guests for participating with Tibetans in celebration of HHDL's birthday and for their support. This was followed by speeches from other guests including Mr. Sherab Dorjee, the first Tibetan to come and settle in

Australia. Mr. Sherab Dorjee shared with everyone his early experiences in Australia.

As the program unfolds, the Tibetan Communities of Australia, New South Wales and Canberra presented the guests with Tibetan Cultural dances and songs. Mr. Tenzin Gaden, President of Tibetan communities of Australia, New South Wales along with around 30 Tibetans travelled from Sydney especially to perform and participate in this celebration. Furthermore, one of the other show- stealing Cultural performances was from Mr. Tenzin Choegyul, a Tibetan singer and also the President of Tibetan Communities in Brisbane, who enchanted the guests with his melodious musical and songs performances.

Whilst the guests were enjoying Tibetan Cultural performances, the local Tibetan Communities of Canberra were busy in kitchen getting dinner ready.

As the program concluded, Mr. Tenzin Gaden, President of Tibetan

Communities of New South Wales read out the vote of thanks. Guests were then invited for dinner, which included popular Tibetan momo. After dinner as the guests started to depart, Tibetans stayed back little longer enjoying Tibetan dances (Gorshey) and other dances and songs.

A joint effort from Tibetans Communities of Canberra with support from Tibetan Information office and participants from Sydney brought together a great celebration of 74th Birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. A special thanks to Mrs. Tsering Deki, President of Tibetan Communities of Canberra, Mr. Tenzin Gaden, President of Tibetan Communities of NSW and Mr. Tenzin Choegyul, President of Tibetan Communities of Brisbane for their support and help.

The Guest were presented with Tibetan National Flag button, Rangtsen Thakpa (knitted black & white wrist band) as an appreciation for their untiring support towards Tibetans and Tibet cause.

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Tibetan People's Uprising and Thank You Australia Day

Apr 22, 2009

On 12 April, a large gathering of Tibetans and Australian supporters met in Dee Why to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Tibetan People's Uprising. It was an emotional occasion with the audience remembering the ongoing struggle of Tibet and expressing

gratitude for the kindness and support of the many Australians who have come forward to assist in so many ways. The meeting ended on a happier note with a much applauded display of Tibetan song and dance performed by local Tibetans.

Tenzin Phuntsok Atisha, Representative



Tenzin Phuntsok Atisha, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Australia

of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Australia, made the following Thank You speech:

On behalf of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Tibetan Government in-exile, I take this opportunity, on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Tibetan People's Uprising, to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the people and Government of Australia and especially to all the supporters of Tibet.

I sincerely appreciate the great contribution made by Australians to the Tibetan Community in exile, towards promoting and preserving Tibetan culture and in highlighting and educating the just cause of Tibet – not only to the Australian public, but also to the international community through various peaceful campaigns.

During 1959 and 1960, the International Commission of Jurists, Australian section played a prominent and vital role in establishing the status of Tibet and highlighting human rights violations

in Tibet through its publications. Later, the gradual establishment of Tibet Support Groups across Australia since 1975 not only helped poor and needy Tibetan refugees in exile in India and Nepal, but also ensured the Tibet issue received wider international attention and awareness.

Tibet Information Office was formally established in Canberra in the early 1990s and in the late 1990s a Special Humanitarian Program was started by the Australian Government. I believe these actions represent a Statement of Justice, Care and above all Universal Responsibility by one fellow human being to another.

In a democratic country, people's voices have great impact and your voice will certainly make a big difference. As we speak here, Tibet is under undeclared Martial Law. Therefore, I urge you to continue your concern and support for the just and peaceful struggle of the Tibetan people through the Middle Way Policy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama

in promoting Universal Human Values and Inter-Religious Harmony.

The Tibetan people and His Holiness the Dalai Lama will remain ever grateful and indebted to the great people of Australia. Your presence here tonight shows your generous and compassionate support.

Before I conclude, I once again would like to extend my Thank You to the Government of Australia, its people, the All Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet and all the founding members and present members of the International Commission of Jurists, Australian branch, and Tibet Support Groups: Australian Tibet Council, Tibet Friendship Group, Tibet Support Group in South Australia, Dalai Lama in Australia in Australia Ltd, Australian Women's Association and Tibetan Action Group in Western Australia, Tibet Welfare Group and Tibet Action Group in Canberra.

Tibetans Protest at the Chinese Consulate, Melbourne Australia

Mar 28, 2009

There was a strong gathering of Tibetan and Tibet Supporters outside the Chinese Consulate today. The weather was beautiful and hearts were strong, as united voices came together in outcry against the appalling behavior of the Chinese government, who have made March 28th 'Serf Emancipation Day'. Thus forcing Tibetans in Tibet to celebrate the a day for the loss of their leader, the loss of their freedom, the loss of their culture.

Sandup Tsering, president of the Tibetan community in Victoria lead the protest with a very meaningful description of the situation, which has been a very consistent Tibetan point of view. "This is provocative and an insult to the Tibetan people past, present and future, because this sets a law on Tibetans to do something against our will and conscience. How could we celebrate the death of our people and our nation? That is why we are here today, to condemn it!" Sandup went on to explain 'this is a blatant lie, an



Tibetans Protest at the Chinese Consulate on 28th March in Melbourne Australia

attempt to rewrite Tibet's history, the reality is the complete opposite.'

It was a very peaceful but well represented protest, overseen by the friendly and cooperative Victorian and

Federal Police. The event was covered by SBS and the international organization NTDTV, who are apparently able to broadcast uncensored into China.

Prayers lead the occasion and other

speakers included Tenzin Tsethar of the Tibetan Youth Group. The leafy South Yarra suburb where the consulate lies, also rang with the cries 'We will never give up, China is lying – Tibetans are dying, Genuine dialogue – no more killing'. Plees to the Chinese consulate, just a few metres away for some fairness

and justice for their people.

At the closure, Sandup thanked everyone, including the police for their respect and restraint. The Tibetan community of Melbourne then, quietly and carefully collected all their things and left the usually quiet street as they found it. But with them, they took the

pain of knowing that there is a long and treacherous road a head, perhaps for generations, until the culture known throughout the world for kindness and love is able to blossom again in their land of Tibet.

NEW REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA TO AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND & SOUTH EAST ASIA

Mr. Sonam Norbu Dagpo, Secretary (International Relations) in the Department of Information and International Relations, begins his new posting as Australian Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in October 2009. He is replacing Mr. Tenzin Phuntsok Atisha, who has held the post since 2003.

Sonam Dagpo was born in Dagpo region of U-Tsang (Central Tibet) in 1956 and escaped to India in 1962. He attended the Central Tibetan School in Darjeeling before completing both a Bachelor and Masters degree in History at Delhi University. Sonam Dagpo also holds a Bachelor of Education from Jamia Millia Islamia University in New Delhi and a Master of Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Prior to joining the Central Tibetan Administration in 1987, Sonam Dagpo was an active member of the Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC), serving as executive member and President of Regional TYC, Delhi from 1975 to 1978. He was elected as member of the Central Executive Committee of TYC from 1981 to 1983 and President from



Sonam Dagpo, our new representative

1983 to 1986. Sonam Dagpo also taught at the SFF School in Herbertpur from 1980 to 1983.

Sonam Dagpo's first role within the Central Tibetan Administration was as a research officer in the Research and Analysis Section of the Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in New Delhi. He has since worked within the Kashag (Cabinet) Secretariat and held a number of roles within the Department of Information and International Relations, including Head of the India and China Desk, Additional Secretary and, since 2004, Secretary (International Relations). In 1991 Sonam Dagpo was

appointed as one of the member of the Tibetan Election Commission for the election of the 11th Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies. Between 1997 and 1998 he was Secretary of the Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in New Delhi.

Sonam Dagpo has been a member of the Task Force for Negotiations with the People's Republic of China. He has been a member of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's delegation to China from 2002 to 2008.

In addition to his many posts within the Central Tibetan Administration, Sonam Dagpo has been a member of the organizing committees of all five International Tibet Support Group Conferences (Dharamsala, Bonn, Berlin, Prague and Brussels), and a member of the organizing committees of the International Year of Tibet and the Celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Nobel Peace Prize. Sonam Dagpo has also attended many international and national conferences on Tibet and is a founding member of the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy and the Tibetan Young Buddhist Association.

New Staff Member at TIO

Mrs. Dadon has joined the Tibet Information Office from 1st October 2009 as China Desk Staff. She will try provide information on Tibet and Tibetans to the Chinese speaking communities in Australia and New Zealand. Mrs. Dadon was educated in Tibet and later at Taiwan. She has worked as news reporter in the Office of Voice of Tibet Norway, based in Dharamsala, for the last almost 8 years till her migration to Australia in the year 2008.

We wish her every success in her new assignment..



Mrs Dadon, China Desk Staff

NEW TIBETAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION'S EXECUTIVE MEMBERS IN NEW SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA AND AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Sydney

President - Mr. Jigme Dorjee
Secretary - Mr. Mingmar Tsering
Secretary - Mr. Tenpa Dugdak
Cultural Officer - Mr. Dorjee Damdul
Mr. Luesang
Treasurer - Mr. Jamphel Tseten
Mr. Kalsang Tipnak
Public Relations - Mrs. Dadon
Mr. Loden?



President of Sydney Branch - Mr. Jigme Dorjee



President of Melbourne Branch - Mr. Sandup Tsering

Melbourne

President - Mr. Sandup Tsering
Vice President - Mrs. Kelsang Wangmo
Treasurer - Mr. Phuntsok Gyaltzen
Public Relations & Welfare -
Mrs. Choni
Youth & Culture Co-ordinator

Canberra

President - Mr. Tenzin Lhadhar
Vice-president - Miss Lhamo Tenzin
Secretary - Mr. Tsewang Thupten
Treasurer - Mr. Kunsang Dorjee
Cultural Officer - Mrs. Tsering Choden



President of Canberra Branch - Mr. Tenzin Lhadhar



President of Brisbane Branch - Mr. Tenzin Choegyal

Brisbane

President - Mr. Tenzin Choegyal
Treasurer - Mrs. Tseten Dolkar
Secretary - Mrs. Kalsang Tsono
PR - Mr. Tsering Wangchuk

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