Human Rights Symposium on Tibet

‘Not the sophistication of industrial devices but the commitment to freedom and equality’

Speakers:

Tenzin Nyinje: Pema Tseden’s “Old Dog” and the Changing Identity of Modern Tibet
John Gaudette: International and Human Rights Law and Advocacy
Dr. Yeshi Choedon: Tibet’s Human Rights Factor in International Relations
Jigme Yeshe: China’s Institutional and Structural Dominance in Tibet
Tsering Tsomo: Exploring Human Rights Protection System in China

Schedule:

21 February:

Opening Remarks
10:00-10:10: Introduction/Welcome (Tsering Tsomo)
10:10-10:20: Summary of TCHRD 2013 Annual Report (Tenzin Nyinje)
10:20-10:30: Summary of “Tibetan Gulags” (John Gaudette)

Morning Session
10:30: Presentation on International and Human Rights Law and Advocacy (John Gaudette)
11:00-11:15: TEA BREAK
11:15-12:30: Presentation on International and Human Rights Law in Tibet continues
12:30-2:00: LUNCH

Afternoon Session
2:00-2:05: Introduction to movie “Old Dog” (Tenzin Nyinje)
2:05-3:35: Screening of the movie “Old Dog”
3:35-3:50: TEA BREAK
3:50-4:30: Lecture and discussion on “Old Dog” and the Changing Identity of Modern Tibet

End of Scheduled Activities

22 February:

Morning Session
10:00-11:00: Tibet’s Human Rights Factor in International Relations (Dr. Yeshi Choedon)
11:00-11:15: TEA BREAK
11:15-12:30: Presentation on Tibet’s Human Rights Factor in International Relations continues
12:30-2:00: LUNCH

Afternoon Session
2:00-3:00: Presentation on China’s Institutional and Structural Dominance in Tibet (Jigme Yeshe)
3:00-3:15: TEA BREAK
3:15-4:30: Presentation on China’s Institutional and Structural Dominance in Tibet continues

End of Scheduled Activities

23 February:

Morning Session
10:00-11:00: Presentation on the Human Rights Protection System in China (Tsering Tsomo)
11:00-11:15: TEA BREAK
11:15-12:30: Presentation on the Human Rights Protection System in China continues
12:30-2:00: LUNCH

Afternoon Session
2:00-3:00: Questions and Answers with TCHRD
3:00-3:15: TEA BREAK
3:15-4:15: Roundtable Discussion with participants
4:14-4:30: Conclusion/Farewell

End of Scheduled Activities

Speaker Biographies:

Ms Tsering Tsomo is the executive director of Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD). Before joining TCHRD, she was the media coordinator for the New Delhi-based Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Ms. Tsomo also worked as the research and media officer at Tibetan Women's Association. She then worked as the editorial assistant at Tibetan Review journal in New Delhi. She also worked as a researcher on the Cultural Genocide project at Department of Information and International Relations of the CTA in Dharamsala. She was one of the founding members of the Network of Asia Pacific Youth. Ms Tsomo is a trained journalist and her writings have appeared in Asia Times Online, Daily Pioneer, Courrier International, Sikkim Observer, Border Affairs, and exile Tibetan publications. Born and brought up in India,
she was educated at Tibetan Homes School (Mussoorie), Delhi University, and New York University.

**Jigme Yeshe** completed his schooling from St. Joseph’s North Point Darjeeling and received a BA in History from St. Stephen’s College Delhi University. He pursued a Masters in Political Science from the Centre for Political Studies in Jawaharlal Nehru University (2008-2010) and a Masters in Philosophy from the Chinese Division of the Centre for East Asian Studies JNU (2010-2012). His dissertation was entitled Tibetan Responses to China’s Project of Modernisation 2001-2012 under the supervision of Professor Srikanth Kondapalli and currently he is a PhD student in the same centre working on the topic of “Challenges to China’s Legitimacy in Tibet – Issues of Hegemony and Contestation 1995-2013”. He has published in the current affairs journal “World Focus” and also contributed a chapter to the edited volume “INSIDE CHINA – NEW LEADERSHIP, SOCIAL CHANGES AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES” published by the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies. He has also made several presentations for the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, ML Sondhi Institute for Asia-Pacific Affairs as well as for the Department of East Asian Studies, Delhi University. In 2009 he also served as the President of the Regional Tibetan Youth Congress (RTYC), New Delhi.

**Dr. Yeshi Choedon** has been a member of the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament Faculty since 2004. Her Ph.D. thesis was on “China, the United Nations and Major Conflict Situations in Asia”. From October 1988 to March 2004, she worked as Lecturer and later as Reader in Political Science and International Relations at the Sikkim Government College, Gangtok. She was awarded the UGC Career Award from 1995 to 1998 and was a DAAD Fellow at Free University, Berlin in 1997. She attended and presented papers at the World Congress on Human Rights, New Delhi in December 1990 and she has been frequently attending international seminars on Tibetan Studies. She has also attended and presented papers at the XVth World Congress of International Political Science Association in 1994. Choedon has attended and participated in numerous other seminars, conferences and workshops in India and abroad.

**Tenzin Nyinjey** currently works as researcher, translator and editor at the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy. Formerly he served as the speechwriter of the Sikyong (Prime Minister) of the Central Tibetan Administration, the managing editor of the Tibet Journal published by the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, and a researcher and translator at the Department of Information and International Relations, Central Tibetan Administration. He holds an MA (Political Science) degree from the University of Wyoming, Laramie, United States. He research interests includes Tibetan politics, culture, literature, history and arts.

**John Gaudette** is legal research officer at the Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Dharamsala, India. At TCHRD he has drafted articles and reports concerning the human rights situation in Tibet. John received his M.A. in international relations and J.D. from the University of Denver where he was captain of the Jessup international law moot court team. He received his B.A. from St. Lawrence University. John has traveled to 33 countries and lived in Hong Kong for 5 years.