



GREEN TIBET

Annual Newsletter 2009
Environment & Development Desk



Source: John Novis, Greenpeace

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Green Tibet 2009

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Environment and Development Desk

Central Tibetan Administration established the Environment Desk in March 1990, which later evolved into the present Environment and Development Desk (EDD).

EDD operates under the Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR) of the Central Tibetan Administration headquartered in Dharamshala, India.

The primary goal of the desk is to monitor People's Republic of China's (PRC) policies and practices related to environment and development in occupied-Tibet. EDD works in close coordination with the media, experts and advocates on environment and various governmental and non-governmental organisations all over the world to preserve Tibet's fragile environment and increase international pressure on PRC to cease policies that undermine the long-term sustainability of Tibet's vital ecology. The desk helps increase global awareness on environment and development in Tibet and campaigns against PRC's hazardous development policies in Tibet causing rampant degradation of Tibet's environment. It conducts subjective researches and publishes timely educational materials. The desk also imparts trainings, workshops and seminars on environmental education to Tibetans in exile.

EDD's spheres of activities are mainly focused on Tibet, and its primary goals are:

- To monitor and research on environment and development issues inside Tibet.
- To disseminate information and carry out selective advocacy on promoting sustainable development inside Tibet.
- To create awareness and educate public on Tibet's environmental issues in the world in general and the exiled Tibetan community in particular

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It has been a discerningly absorbing year for environment activists and advocates around the globe. Here at EDD, we worked through yet another difficult year as we continued to witness the Tibetan glaciers – the source of livelihood for millions – deplete at a catastrophic rate. We witnessed the desertification of Tibetan grasslands due to mismanagement and introduction of ineffective and 'politically motivated' state-sponsored policies such as the forced resettlement of Tibetan nomads. We witnessed the continued implementation of unsustainable development projects all over the Tibetan plateau such as large scale mining and building of dams. Our constant pleas and well-researched warnings fell on the deaf ears of the People's Republic of China.

But, nevertheless, at EDD our work continues with eager zest and grounded dedication.

EDD's participation at the COP15 summit was widely appreciated and well received by diplomats, activists and the media alike. The release of EDD's latest report on Tibet's environment titled, 'The Impacts of Climate Change on the Tibetan Plateau: A Synthesis of Recent Science And Tibetan Research' and the screening of the Michael Buckley's documentary film, 'Meltdown in Tibet' amongst many other activities undertaken by the EDD at Copenhagen greatly helped in the realization of the urgency of the situation inside Tibet.

In the calendar year, EDD was privileged with numerous opportunities to attend national and international seminars and workshops. Our staff spoke on climate and environment concerns on the Tibetan plateau at the Global Convention on Climate Security held in India and also briefed the honourable members of parliaments at the 5th World Parliamentarian's Convention on Tibet held in Rome. The roundtable meeting in London with the representatives of Continental Minerals, the Canadian mining company involved in the copper mining project at Shethongmon near Shigatse, Tibet, proved as a landmark opportunity for EDD to communicate its objection and defiance to any mining project in Tibet without the consent of and consultation with the Tibetan public. EDD also attended the workshop on Climate Change and Multimedia Communication organised by PANOS South Asia in Nepal.

EDD has now four full-fledged staff working on specific aspects of Tibet's environment and development issues. In addition to Ms Dhondup Dolma Bhartso who re-joined our office after her further studies abroad, Mr Jigme Norbu, our new staff has added vigour and depth to our endeavours.

EDD extends its sincere gratitude to all our supporters and well-wishers around the globe. Your indispensable support will go a long way in preserving Tibet's environment, protecting the Tibetan plateau's flora and fauna and addressing the genuine developmental concerns of the Tibetan people.

In our ongoing efforts at minimising the carbon footprints of the office, EDD has decided to discontinue the print edition of our newsletter 'Green Tibet.' We shall be available for your interest and information at www.tibet.net.

We wish our readers a very happy new year 2010.

Dear Friends of Environment and Development Desk

The UN Summit on Climate Change, COP15, was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, from December 8 to 18 2009. Tibetans and Tibet supporters took active part in the NGOs forum highlighting the importance of the Tibetan plateau's environment and raising awareness on the Tibetan grassland and nomads.

Participating for the first time in the COP meeting, the Tibetans were able to bring the legitimate concerns of the Tibetan people with regard to the Chinese policies in Tibet before the international community.

The Environment and Development Desk (EDD) of the Department of Information and International Relations, CTA, Dharamshala, was represented at Copenhagen by Mr Tenzin Norbu and Ms Chokyi. The panel discussions and screening of documentary films on different aspects of Tibet's environment received an overwhelming response from the audiences and received positive coverage from the Tibetan and international media contingent.

The roles Tibetan nomads and their livestock play as the best stewards of the Tibetan grassland were widely discussed and promoted in light of the ongoing displacement of nomads from the grasslands by the Chinese authorities. The Tibetan nomads are being removed from their ancestral pasturelands to concrete buildings with no alternate source of livelihood, on the grounds that they were deteriorating the grassland. Yet running contrary to Beijing's claims, recent scientific investigations conducted in Amdo region have proved that 'grazing eventually helps to rejuvenate the grasses'. Beijing's past policies on 'protecting' Tibetan grasslands, such as the fencing policy and mountain closure have drastically failed in the proper management of the grasslands.

EDD report titled "The Impacts of Climate Change on the Tibetan Plateau: A Synthesis of Recent Science and Tibetan Research" was launched at the Bella Centre (Copenhagen) on the 10th of December, 2009. The report summarizes the recent scientific facts and findings published in various journals by independent researchers. It is the first ever report published by EDD on climate change impacts on the Tibetan Plateau in view of the recent climate change debates and discussions at different levels.

While at Copenhagen, the Tibetan delegation conducted immensely productive meetings and briefing sessions with the negotiating teams and delegates of the various countries attending the UN summit. Visiting each cabin at the Bella Centre, the Tibetan delegation successfully lobbied for their support in raising the urgent concerns of the Tibetan people on Tibet's environmental degradation and its impact in the region.

Meeting and holding 'green dialogues' with Chinese from the mainland and overseas was another hallmark of the summit. A Danish diplomat of Chinese while appreciating our perseverance on negotiations for a better and greener tomorrow said, "there won't be such tragedy (March 2008) in Tibet if people are allowed to decide".

EDD gained a lot of exposure and experiences by participating in the UN Climate summit. We were bestowed with the wonderful opportunity of meeting a lot of people from different organisations and backgrounds and sharing our common concern for saving this planet from human greed.

We hope that the topics covered in the newsletter provides our readers with a resource for thoughts and activities. We humbly request our readers to pass on the newsletter and your knowledge on Tibet's fragile ecology amongst your friends and your communities.

Together we can save Tibet from environmental destruction.

China builds dam on Indus in Tibet, keeps Pakistan uninformed

By Shahid Shah, March 19, 2009

KARACHI: Keeping the users of Indus River water uninformed, China has built a dam at catchment area of the river in Tibet at Senge (Indus)-Ali (Tibetan: Ngari). Pakistani authorities remain unaware of the dam with the exception of some individuals who read about this in a book published recently.

Alice Albinia, a British journalist and writer who recently visited Indus up to its roots, wrote in her book 'Empires of the Indus' that the greater part of water in the River Indus came from its upper reaches, from Tibet, Ladakh and Baltistan, rather than from its Himalayan tributaries in the Punjab. "All the water that drains from these mountains, I remember, is currently being stopped by the new dam at Senge-Ali," she wrote.

She visited the Indus from its end point Indus Delta to its catchment area and the point of start called Senge Khabab by Tibetans, which means the lion's mouth. It is the only place, where water did not flow from the glaciers, but the ground and flow continued round the year. (According to WWF Indus River faces threat from climate change as it is fed largely by glacial melt water. For more details, please refer to the WWF report available at <http://assets.panda.org/downloads/worldtop10riversatriskfinalmarch13.pdf>)

On her way to Senge Khabab, she saw a huge dam with massive concrete curve looms up from the riverbed. "The structure itself is complete, but the hydroelectric elements on the riverbed are still being installed. There are pools of water this side of the dam, but no flow. The Indus has been stopped," she writes.

The Indus, born some thirty to forty-five million years ago, is the oldest known river in the region. It is the 21st largest river in the world in terms of annual water flow. The total length of the river is 3,180 kilometres (1,976 miles). The river has a total drainage area exceeding 1,165,000 square kilometres (450,000 square miles).

"I feel sad for the river: for this wild and magnificent, modern, historic, prehistoric river; for this river which was flowing for millions of years before humans even saw it; for this river which has nurtured the earth since the land rose from the ocean," she writes.

Majority of the water experts in Sindh remain unaware of any dam built in Tibet. Most of them are of the view that Indus does not start from one point. It has thousands of tributaries, said Eng. Naseer Memon, water expert.

Indus main tributaries were in Ladakh, Baltistan and Tibet, glaciers of Himalayas, but there was also occasionally monsoon support.

He said there was no major water flow upstream, so building a big dam was not feasible.

Idrees Rajput, former secretary irrigation, Sindh and water expert, said the major water flow started from Skardu downstream, so

building a dam could only be helpful for power generation and not the irrigation purpose.

He said the dam at Senge-Ali was for the power generation purpose, which will have no impact over Indus River. "Indus water still flows," he said. (*Tapping water of the already endangered river would bring adverse impacts on the Indus Basin where mangroves are fast vanishing. It also threatens the survival of Indus Dolphin, one the rarest mammals in the world*)

China had not officially informed the government of Pakistan, as there was no treaty between China and Pakistan over shared waters. Similarly, India has right to build a dam on Indus for power generation with a maximum capacity of 0.25 MAF (million acre feet) water.

Indus River's inflow is 140 MAF in Pakistan, and the small dams will have no impact over us, said Rajput. Pakistan is building largest dams on Indus River with 6.4 or 7 MAF water capacity.

Rajput said they got to know about the dam through "Alice's book," but Indus discharge in Pakistan was not stopped."

Released ahead of World Water Day on March 22, IUCN's latest publication, "Share: Managing Water Across Boundaries," shows that international rivers - those shared by neighbouring countries - provide an estimated 60 percent of the world's freshwater.

There are some 260 international river basins in the world, which cover nearly half of the Earth's surface and are home to 40 percent of the world's population.

"We cannot underestimate the importance of water for life on this planet; it is as necessary as the air we breathe," said Julia Marton LefEvre, IUCN's Director General. "Governments must realize that river basins, not national borders are the boundaries around which effective water management must be drawn."

Source: http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=167900

More dams on Yangtze soon

StraitsTimes, April 21, 2009

BEIJING - CHINA will build at least 20 more reservoirs or hydroelectric projects in the Yangtze (Tib: Dri Chu) river system by 2020, the government said Tuesday, despite growing concerns over dam construction there.

The figure was contained in comments by a top water resources ministry official on plans for the Yangtze, China's longest river, and its upper reaches that were posted on the ministry's website.

'At least 20 (new) reservoirs will be put into operation by 2020,' vice minister Hu Siyi was quoted as saying in a report on the website.

The increase was aimed primarily at further harnessing the hydropower resources of the Yangtze, the report said.

A proliferation of dams in the Yangtze drainage basin has drawn heavy criticism from domestic and overseas experts who have warned of a range of environmental and seismic risks.

Much of the criticism has been centered on the massive Three Gorges Dam project in Hubei province.

Government reports in recent years have warned that the dam's huge reservoir had trapped massive amounts of pollution dumped into the river system and that the reservoir's weight on surrounding terrain was triggering landslides.

The state-run China Daily newspaper said Tuesday the government's plans were aimed at tapping 60 per cent of the river's hydroelectric potential by 2030. It quoted Yangtze Water Resources Committee director Cai Qihua as telling a water conference in Shanghai on Monday that currently just 36 per cent of that potential was now being harnessed. But it also noted the proliferating dams and reservoirs - aimed at meeting China's sky rocketing electricity needs and flood control - were 'posing threats to the ecology of the Yangtze River.' Chinese experts have warned that one of the many dams along the Yangtze river system may have triggered the massive earthquake last May that left 87,000 people dead or missing. However government officials have rejected those assertions.

Source: http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Asia/Story/STIStory_366437.html

China starts building 5th civil airport in Tibet

chinaview.cn, April 30, 2009

XIGAZE, Tibet, April 29 (Xinhua) — Tibet Wednesday started construction on its fifth civil airport in the southwest China's autonomous region, according to local authorities.

The government would invest a total 480 million yuan (70 million U.S. dollars) in the airport in Xigaze (*Tib: Shigatse*), the second-biggest city in Tibet, said Xu Bo, head of the Civil Aviation Administration's Tibet Branch.

Construction work on the Peace Airport, at an altitude of 3,782 meters, would be finished in two years, Xu told Xinhua.

Yan Ping, chief commander of the construction work, said the airport was designed to handle 230,000 passengers and 1,150 tonnes of cargo and mail a year by 2020.

Xu Xueguang, secretary of Xigaze prefectural Party committee, said: "The civil airport will be an air corridor linking Xigaze with the outside world and inject new vigor into local social and economic development." Hao Peng, vice chairman of the Tibet regional government, said the airport would allow more people in other parts of the country to take flights to the autonomous region.

The airport, together with more railways and highways, would help to boost investment and tourism in Xigaze, Hao added.

It would be the fifth civil airport to be operational in Tibet, after Lhasa, Qamdo, Nyingchi and Ngari, according to Xu.

It also is among the 180 key projects in which the central government invested more than 70 billion yuan (10.3 billion U.S. dollars) in the five years through 2010.

(The world's second highest airport in an ethnically Tibetan area in Sichuan was opened last year and airport in Ngari would soon become operational in 2010. Beijing's frenzy infrastructure investments in Tibet were responsible for major land cover and land use changes on the serene Tibetan Plateau. Tibet (as we know, with its three provinces Amdo, Kham and Utsang) now has more than 15 civilian airports)

Source: http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2009-04/30/content_7734281.htm

Chinese police shoot six women during dam protest

Guardian, Uyghur News, May 26, 2009

A dam along the Fu Jiang River linking to Tangjiashan quake lake in Beichuan, in Mianyang city, in China's southwestern province of Sichuan in June 2008. Six Tibetan women were shot by China security forces during a protest over a hydroelectric dam project in Sichuan province (*Historically a Tibetan area*).

Six Tibetan women were shot by China security forces during a protest over a hydroelectric dam project in Sichuan province, the Tibetan government-in-exile claimed today.

The women were demonstrating against a forcible relocation programme in Yajiang (*Tib: Nyagchu*), Ganzi (*Tib: Karze*) Tibetan Autonomous Region, on Sunday morning, when public security officers and armed police opened fire, according to the statement from Dharamshala.

The condition of the women is unknown as they were reportedly taken away by the authorities. Their names were given as Tsering Lhamo, Rigzin Lhamo, Dolma, Kelsang, Dolkar and Khaying. Other Tibetan sources were unable to confirm the shooting. Chinese government officials said they would look into the claims.

Several dams are under construction in the area. Among them is the Lianghekou hydroelectric plant, which is scheduled to begin operation in 2010. *(There are more than 20 super-large dams planned mostly with capacity of more than 2000 Megawatts in the region)*

Political tensions in and around Tibet are increasingly exacerbated by environmental concerns.

Exiled supporters of the Dalai Lama claim the government in Beijing wants to drive Tibetans off the land so it can extract minerals and water resources from the mountain region.

The communist government says it is investing heavily in measures to improve the environment of the region.

Tensions are sporadically apparent. According to a separate report today, hundreds of Tibetan villages are staging a peaceful protest

against a gold mine in western Sichuan that is planned near an area that locals consider a sacred mountain.

Source: <http://www.uyghurnews.com/tibetan/Read.asp?TibetNews=chinese-police-shoot-six-women-during-dam-protest&ItemID=PV-812009989893605235680>

Tibet: Standoff at Gold Mine
Radio Free Asia, 26 May 2009

Gold deposits make Ser Ngol Lo valuable in other ways too, and tensions are rising.

Tibetan Buddhists regard it as a sacred site. Gold deposits make Ser Ngol Lo valuable in other ways too, and tensions are rising.

Hundreds of villagers in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of western China are facing off against armed security forces at the site of a planned gold mine on what the Tibetans consider a sacred mountain, witnesses say.

“The Tibetan protesters are worried,” said one local man, who said he was one of eight organizers of the protest. “The police, the soldiers, and the miners are threatening to move ahead with the mine... They have said they will force their way through and go to the site.” “...The Tibetans...are vowing to resist even if it means sacrificing their lives.”

Tibetans have historically worshiped the site, conducting rituals there in the event of drought, residents say. Now a Chinese mining and lumbering firm, Zhongkai Co., has been authorized to excavate the area, and locals are protesting.

Another Tibetan man said hundreds of protesters had gathered peacefully at Ser Ngol Lo [“Year of Gold and Silver” in Tibetan] in the Tsangshul subdistrict of Lhara village, Markham County, Chamdo prefecture.

“Now there are so many soldiers too. I would say more than 300 of them,” he said.

Another local Tibetan said security forces had cut off the protesters from the rest of the village. “They blocked all phones and even cell phones aren’t reachable,” the man said.

“We can’t reach any of the protesters. Today [24 May 2009] another four vehicles with roughly 30 to 40 soldiers in them went to the protest site. But the Tibetans all put religious books on their heads and are vowing to resist even if it means sacrificing their lives,” he said.

A Tibetan employee at the nearby Markham [in Chinese, Mangkang] Hotel said the protest had been continuing for several months.

“There is trouble at the mine,” she said, adding, “There are more than 300 armed police...The county government also sent more than 100 people. It’s been three or four months and is still going on.”

An official at the Markham county Public Security Bureau declined to comment on the mine or the protest.

Asked if the demonstration had been quelled, he replied, “We are not authorized to say. You should ask [someone] higher-up. It’s inconvenient for us to comment.” An employee of Zhongkai Co., contacted by telephone, also declined to comment. “I am not clear on the situation at the mine,” the employee said. Pema Thinley, vice chairman of the TAR Communist Party, was sent to Markham to try to convince the local population to accept the mine, one of the protesters said. But residents continued their demonstration, and Pema Thinley was escorted back to Lhasa, the regional capital, on April 5 [2009].

On May 16 [2009], a contingent of police and security forces arrived, but as many as 500 Tibetans blocked the road leading to the planned mine, one of the residents said.

“The Tibetans slept on the road day and night and the Chinese group stayed in a school nearby. They were trying to convince us to stop protesting,” he said, adding: “The Tibetans declared that they are ready to die to protect the sacred hill.”

(Earlier in the month of June, Tibetans in Gyama Township of Maldrogungkar County, Lhasa City, protested against an environmentally destructive mining operation being carried out in the region. Three Tibetans were seriously injured during the demonstrations as Chinese authorities clamped down on the Tibetans. An English translation of an article written in Chinese (at High Peaks Pure Earth) by the Tibetan writer Woesser tells us with defining pictures, the pollution of Lhasa River and problems associated with mining at Gyama village of Meldro Gungkar. For more, refer to: <http://www.highpeakspureearth.com/2009/12/tibets-water-pollution-and-chinas.html>)

Source: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/mine-05242009130753.html?searchterm=None>

China’s efforts at controlling water flowing south spur tensions with neighbours

WorldTribune.com, September 1, 2009

Beijing is seeking to control vital water flowing from southern China into India and other Southwest Asian countries, according to an Indian affairs specialist Jaideep Hardikar, a journalist at the Daily News and Analysis newspaper in Nagpur, India, reported August 9 that Beijing’s aggressiveness in border regions with India is raising tensions along the border.

“By annexing Tibet, China virtually controls the water supply of Pakistan, north and northeastern India, Burma and Vietnam,” he said.

“Six major Asian rivers arise from the Tibetan plateau — the Indus, Mekong, Brahmaputra, Salween, Yangtze and Yellow River. China has plans to build several hydroelectric plants on Tibet’s rivers and export power to its cities,” he said.

According to Hardikar, China also has used Tibet's uranium mines to carry out nuclear weapons research and places to dump nuclear wastes.

China's latest action is to open a high-altitude, four-lane road linking the country with Pakistan as a way to gain quick, direct access to the Arabian Sea for trade. The highway will reduce Beijing's dependence on sea lanes through the Indian Ocean, which Beijing fears can be disrupted by U.S. warships in a conflict.

The new highway is raising concerns in India because it will traverse Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, a flash point between the two nuclear powers of India and Pakistan. (...)

Source: http://www.worldtribune.com/worldtribune/WTARC/2009/ea_china0694_09_01.asp

No Chinese dam over Brahmaputra - Indian PM assures Arunachal

Thaindian News, October 20, 2009

Guwahati, China has formally clarified to India that it is not building a dam over the Brahmaputra river on its side, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Dorjee Khandu said Tuesday.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh met a group of legislators and MPs from the northeastern state led by Dorjee Khandu in New Delhi Monday.

"The prime minister assured us that there was no dam being constructed over the Brahmaputra by China. In fact, Beijing had formally communicated this to the Indian government," Khandu told IANS on telephone from New Delhi.

The controversy follows media reports that Beijing was constructing a \$167 million hydropower plant in Zangmu, 140 km southeast of Tibet's capital Lhasa, besides diverting water to its parched northwest and northeast territories, which includes the Gobi desert.

The 2,906-km long Brahmaputra is one of Asia's largest rivers that traverse its first stretch of 1,625 km in Tibet, the next 918 km in India and the remaining 363 km through Bangladesh before converging into the Bay of Bengal.

"We are happy with the prime minister's assurance," the chief minister said. There were fears expressed by both the Assam and Arunachal Pradesh governments that diversion of water from the Brahmaputra would lead to a natural disaster in the region.

Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi is meeting Manmohan Singh Tuesday night to express fears about the reported dam construction.

Media reports of Chinese incursions into India and Beijing's opposition to the Indian prime minister's visit to Arunachal Pradesh — a region Beijing claims — also figured in Monday's meeting.

"Chinese claims are simply unfounded and baseless. Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India and the prime minister said categorically that this is New Delhi's stand," Khandu said.

Beijing in 2003 gave up its territorial claim over Sikkim but still says that nearly all of Arunachal Pradesh belongs to it.

The mountainous state of Arunachal Pradesh shares a 1,030-km unfenced border with China.

The India-China border along Arunachal Pradesh is separated by the McMahon Line, an imaginary border now known as the Line of Actual Control.

(Sources from China confirm the building of dams on the Brahmaputra. See at http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-01/19/content_7450749.htm)

According to the International Rivers, an NGO with the experience of working on several projects in China, there are a series of five dams planned to be built on the middle reaches of the Brahmaputra. <http://www.internationalrivers.org/node/357>

These five dams are Zangmu (Tib: rDzam), Jiacha (Tib: Gyatsa), Zhongda (Tib: sGrom-mDa) and Lengda (Tib: gLing-mDa), and Jiexu and Langzhen.)

Source: http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/no-chinese-dam-over-brahmaputra-pm-assures-arunachal_100263015.html

Dalai Lama urges people to preserve environment

Press Trust of India, November 13, 2009

Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh), Nov 10 (PTI) Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama today asked people to preserve environment and work for development of religion, health and education.

Expressing concern over climate change and global warming, the Dalai Lama said he always told people to preserve environment.

"Do not use plastic bags and do not litter, keep your surroundings clean," he said.

Praising development in the region, the Dalai Lama said the situation had improved significantly comparing to what he saw when he came here from Tibet 50 years back.

"I am impressed about the efforts of people to preserve religion and culture and for development of education and health," he said in an address to the public at the Tawang Higher Secondary ground on the fourth day of his visit here.

(Visit <http://www.tibet.net/en/pdf/diirpub/environment/51/bhd12007.pdf> for collected statements of His Holiness the Dalai Lama on environment)

"A political solution (for Tibet) may take time, but that's okay, we can wait, But damaging the ecology, year by year, is happening, so we really need serious studies and to make a plan to protect the environment. That is very very important."

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama at U.N. summit on global hunger in Rome

Tibet experiencing higher temperature

PTI 29 April 2009, 08:18pm IST

BEIJING: Hit by global warming, excessive grazing and human activities, temperature in Tibet has risen continuously over the past 48 years, triggering snow melting, glacial shrinking and rising water levels in the fragile Himalayan region.

The study, based on data from 38 weather stations under the Tibet Autonomous Regional Meteorological Bureau, indicated that the average temperature in the landlocked region rose 0.32 degree Celsius every 10 years between 1961 to 2008.

In China, average temperatures rose 0.05 degree Celsius to 0.08 degree Celsius every decade, while the global level was 0.2 degree Celsius, a senior meteorologist with the bureau, Du Jun said.

Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, and the cities of Tsedang and Shiagatse experienced the sharpest rise of more than 0.3 degree Celsius every decade. Tibet is one of the most sensitive areas to climate change; Du was quoted as saying by Xinhua news agency.

The temperature change in Tibet was a direct effect of global warming, he said, which triggered snow melting, glacial shrinking and rising water levels.

He said that other phenomena included grassland degradation, more plant diseases and insect pests, a reduction in bio-diversity and higher risks of disasters.

(Other major concerns of temperature rise are degradation of permafrost and drying of wetlands on the Tibetan Plateau. Permafrost on the plateau serves as huge carbon sink and with the permafrost meltdown massive amount of carbon would escape into the atmosphere thus contributing to global warming. Wetlands on the Tibetan Plateau not only serve as an important habitat for birds but also plays a huge role in carbon sequestration and in regulating the flow of rivers.)

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Earth/Tibet-getting-hot/articleshow/4464685.cms>

Glacier thawing speeds up in Yangtze River sources

www.chinaview.cn 28 July, 2009

XINING, July 28 (Xinhua) — Glaciers covering almost 233 square kilometers have melted over the past 30 years in the source area of the Yangtze River, China's longest waterway, due to global warming and the melting is accelerating, experts said Tuesday.

By last year, the total area of glaciers had decreased to 1,051 square kilometers from 1,283 square kilometers in 1971. Nearly 1 billion cubic meters of glaciers were melting yearly, said Xin Yuanhong, senior engineer at the Water Resources and Geology Institute of western Qinghai Province.

About 164 square kilometers of glaciers melted in the source area in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau from 2002 to 2008. However, the figure was only 68 square kilometers from 1971 to 2002, said Xin, who participated in the ecological and geological survey on the source area of the Yangtze River.

The melt can reduce water in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, dry up lakes and trigger desertification, said Xin.

He said the rising temperatures in the area due to continuing global warm were the major cause of the glacier melt.

Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/28/content_11788610.htm

Melting of Himalayan glaciers the biggest threat to food security

Vivek Kaul / DNA

Tuesday, December 29, 2009

Shortage is driving up food prices globally, and global warming remains one of the biggest threats to food security. "After a certain point, rising temperatures reduce crop yields. For each degree celsius rise in temperature above the norm during the growing season, farmers can expect a 10% decline in wheat, rice, and corn yields.

As the earth's temperature continues to rise, mountain glaciers are melting throughout the world. Nowhere is this of more concern than in Asia. It is the ice melt from glaciers in the Himalayas and on the Tibetan plateau that sustain the major rivers of India and China, and the irrigation systems that depend on them, during the dry season.

"Indeed, the projected melting of the glaciers on which these two countries depend presents the most massive threat to food security humanity has ever faced," says Lester R Brown, environmentalist and president of the Earth Policy Institute, a non-profit research organisation based out of Washington DC.

Brown has co-authored over 50 books on global environmental issues. Most recently he has authored Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization, a book which he keeps updating regularly and which is freely downloadable at www.earthpolicy.org.

http://www.dnaindia.com/money/report_melting-of-himalayan-glaciers-the-biggest-threat-to-food-security_1328491

(Of the few cultivation zones in Tibet, farmers in Shigatse and Lhoka are challenged by extreme weather patterns.)

Global warming threatens Tibet railway: report

May 6, 2009

BEIJING (Reuters) - China's controversial railway to the remote and restless mountainous region of Tibet could be threatened by global warming, which may melt the permafrost on which the tracks are built, state media said Wednesday. "In Tibet, the mercury has climbed an average of 0.32 degrees Celsius every decade since records began in 1961," China Meteorological Administration head Zheng Guoguang was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua news agency.

"This is much higher than the national average temperature rise of 0.05-0.08 degrees Celsius every 10 years," Zheng added, speaking at a meeting in the Tibetan regional capital of Lhasa. Tibet, being so high, acted as a "magnifier" for global warming, Zheng said.

"The impact of global warming has accelerated glacial shrinkage and the melting glaciers have swollen Tibet's lakes," Zheng added.

If the warming continues, millions of people in western China would face floods in the short term and drought in the long run. "In the worst case, such warming could cause permafrost to melt and threaten the plateau railway linking Tibet with (neighboring) Qinghai province," the report paraphrased him as saying.

Beijing has said it wants to combat climate change yet ensure China's economic development is unimpeded.

Xinhua said the government believes the railway will be safe to use for the next 40 years if the thaw continues at its present speed. Over the last two decades it has spent more than 1 billion yuan (\$146.6 million) reinforcing the main highway to Tibet, where the permafrost is also melting, Xinhua added. *(Surface disturbances mainly due to construction of highways, pipelines, railway has speeded up the degradation of permafrost on the Tibetan Plateau)*

China says the 30 billion yuan rail line, opened in 2006 and passing through towering mountains and vast deserts, will help bring economic development to ethnically distinct Tibet. Tibetan activists, however, say it speeds the immigration of Han Chinese to Lhasa and the plateau, and allows increased exploitation of Tibet's significant mineral resources.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE5451IM20090506>

TIBET IN COPENHAGEN

Environment and Development Desk of the Department of Information and International Relations produced series of briefings about why Tibet matters, in the Copenhagen negotiations for the planetary climate. Because the six million Tibetans are silenced, forbidden to form their own organisations, people think Tibet is small and unimportant on a global scale. Actually, of every square kilometre of land on earth, 17 hectares are Tibetan. Climate scientists have recently realised the Tibetan Plateau is the planetary Third Pole, an island in the sky so vast it deeply affects circulation, draws the Asian monsoons deep inland, affecting even storm tracks of the north Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

Tibet matters, because not only are its glaciers melting fast but the Plateau is warming faster than other areas on earth, resulting in more extreme and unpredictable weather across Asia. If the most glaciated part of the planet may lose its glaciers in decades, the whole of Asia, downstream and downwind of Tibet, will suffer more extreme weather.

Climate change is not an impersonal, inexorable force of nature. It has known human causes, and available solutions. But the biggest emitters continue to avoid taking effective action, each arguing that first the other must do more.

At Copenhagen, the biggest greenhouse gas emitters are China and the US. China argues quite rightly that it took centuries of industrialisation in the rich countries to build CO₂ levels to where they are now. But does that mean China should be largely exempt from the binding carbon emission reduction targets which should come out of Copenhagen? The US argues, rightly, that all industrialised and rapidly industrialising countries should contribute to the carbon emission reduction, because the problem is now so serious.

So it goes round and round, each major emitter making valid points to avoid doing much, even to claim the right to massive payments to do anything. While the major emitters argue, the losers are those who never emitted much, who persist with a sustainable subsistence economy, a modest way of life that does not demand ever increasing production, pollution and consumption.

This includes the six million Tibetans and the 2.5 million sq. km Tibetan Plateau, in the heart of Eurasia. The series of briefings assess what is at stake at Copenhagen, from a Tibetan angle. They explain the impacts of climate change on Tibetan lands and livelihoods. They look at what climate change in Tibet means for Tibet's neighbours in coming years, from failed monsoons to extreme floods. They look at the Tibetans who have long cared for the land, the farmers and pastoral nomads and at new Chinese policies which expel nomads from their lands, as if this is the only way to conserve watersheds. This series of nine briefings offers a complete picture, including alternative solutions which include rather than exclude the nomads as part of the solution, rather than labelling them mistakenly as a cause of the problem.

Each Briefing stands on its own, with a list of sources of further information and data validating the assessments presented. Taken together, the nine Briefings, with little overlap, offer a rounded picture of how the latest science understands the Tibetan Plateau and the Tibetan people.

- 1 TIBET IN COPENHAGEN
- 2 HEATING THE CLIMATE OF THE THIRD POLE
- 3 INDIA'S MONSOONAL CLIMATE AND TIBET
- 4 TIBETAN FARMERS FACE CLIMATE CHANGE
- 5 TIBET'S NOMADS FACING CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISPOSSESSION
- 6 CHINA, TIBET AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- 7 IS TIBET PART OF THE PROBLEM OR PART OF THE SOLUTION?
- 8 SOLUTIONS FOR TIBET AND FOR PLANETARY HEALTH
- 9 CHINA, GLOBAL CONSUMPTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE
- 10 WHERE TO FROM COPENHAGEN?

Climate change in Tibet is a human rights issue, because, in the name of climate change adaptation, China forces Tibet's nomads to lose their lands and livelihoods. It is a development issue, because Tibetans are poor, and disempowered, with little opportunity to repair their damaged grasslands or slow the melting of the glaciers. Skilful inclusive development that engages Tibetans as active partners, versus unskilful top-down statist exclusion of nomads, are among the development choices facing Tibet now.

Tibet is not a remote area, of little significance. It is the size of western Europe, 1.7 per cent of all land on earth, and cannot be spoken for by those who lack intimate knowledge of how to live extensively, sustainably and productively on the plateau surrounded by snow mountains.

Tibetan voices must be and will be heard in the negotiations for a liveable planet. This is not a demand for independence of Tibet, or an attempt to politicise the climate debate. Tibetans want to be part of the solution to climate change, working with the international community to rehabilitate the rapidly degrading rangelands, so Tibet can once more be a natural carbon sink, a capacity that is fast disappearing right now.

If the viability of life on earth is at stake, all lives, in all areas, must be included, must be present in the debate, and heard as legitimate voices speaking up for their land and people. Tibetans come to Copenhagen with this basic stance, and unique perspective.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has frequently expressed his deep concern at the deteriorating climate, soils, rivers, lakes and human livelihoods in Tibet and therefore downstream also. Tibetans have little opportunity to protect this natural heritage, and are not even allowed to form their own NGOs for environmental protection.

The world comes to Copenhagen willing to assist China meet its goals, even though China refuses to be bound by specific emission reduction quotas. China asks for large sums to protect its watersheds from the effects of climate change, but is less willing to act decisively to reduce the basic causes of climate change.

When the world assists China it can also assist Tibet, but only if the money allocated is very carefully targeted, and implementation in Tibet is directly supervised by international NGOs or development agencies. On the basis of long experience, this is the way to ensure China's clean development finance does not in reality, on the ground, evict Tibetan nomads from their land.

Please find remaining nine series of briefings at www.tibet.net

Highlights

International Day of Climate Action, 24 October 2009

In Dharamshala, the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje joined the International Day of Climate Action to promote awareness on climate change and its impact on the Himalayas.

The campaign was jointly organised by Environment and Development Desk (EDD), Clean Upper Dharamshala Project (CUDP) of the Tibetan Settlement Office and Tesi Environmental Awareness Movement (TEAM).

The day's events included talks, photo exhibition, signature campaigns, film screening, and panel discussion.

"Everyone of us should take initiatives in finding solution to the carbon poisoning problem. Doing something as simple as not burning your trash and switching to energy efficient light bulb is a good start. And this is something we all can do," said Tenzin Mewang of CUDP.

Gyalwang Karmapa gave a PowerPoint presentation about the environment and also lent support to the signature campaign by

becoming a signatory. In his opening remarks Gyalwang Karmapa said: "We as Buddhists believe that benefiting others is an act of kindness, and the first thing that comes to our mind, as act of kindness, is giving alms to the poor. That's not the only way, there are many ways to be kind. Taking care of the environment and nature is also a very important act of kindness that can benefit many humans and animals alike in the future."



On October 23, the students of the Tibetan Children's Village School, during their calisthenic performance, made an art formation of 'Cut CO2 to 350 ppm, Save World'.

Tibetan exiles express concern on climate change in Dharamshala and Copenhagen

Phayul 13 December 2009

While Tibetan delegations from India were putting effort to raise environmental issues of Tibet in Copenhagen organizations such as Tibetan Women's Association, Students for a Free Tibet and the Gu Chu Sum movement arranged a panel discussion in Dharamshala on Global Day of Climate Action. Local Tibetans, government officials and foreigners attended the discussion. Speaking at the discussion were Ms. Dhondup Dolma Bhartso, Under Secretary at the Environment and Development Desk (EDD) of the exile Tibetan government, and Tsering Yankey, Director of the Tesi Environmental Awareness Movement.

"Tibet is called the Earth's Third Pole by scientists because only the North and South poles hold more glacially stored freshwater. The Tibetan Plateau is undergoing climate change twice as fast as the rest of the world," noted Tsering Yankey.

Yankey further said that every individual can play a role in securing a safe earth for future generations. "By doing small things locally, we can make a difference. Everybody should know about climate change to make a difference. Turning off electricity, using local transport, using less water, you know these kind of things are all what we can do as a general public to combat climate change," she said.

Dhondup Dolma Bhartso, researcher at EDD expressed importance of the Tibetan Plateau in combating global warming. "Glacier meltdown across Tibet is disrupting downstream water supplies, threatening the sustainable livelihoods of Tibetan nomads and villages, and putting at risk more than one billion downstream peoples and communities across south and east Asia," she warned.

Tibet is in trouble, as climate change is now happening faster than in many areas, with multiple impacts on human livelihoods, rangeland degradation, desertification, loss of glaciers and more, all detailed here. Trouble in Tibet means trouble downstream and downwind from Tibet, across Asia, where Tibetan rivers flow and Tibetan climate generates and regulates monsoon rains over Asia.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change rightly treats Tibet separately, since the plateau is close to two per cent of the land surface of our planet; and is a huge island in the sky, between four and eight kilometres above sea level, exerting a profound impact on Asia, even on the north Pacific. So the science says.

These are good reasons for Tibet, until now a net sequester of carbon, to attract worldwide attention. Though cold, Tibet also heats quickly in spring and summer, diverting the jet stream, establishing an intense low that draws monsoon clouds deep inland, into the heart of Eurasia. The Tibetan climate is alpine and desiccating, yet in places also humid and even subtropical where the Indian monsoon penetrates the mighty Himalayas. For all these reasons, the glaciers, snow peaks, innumerable rivers, lakes, forests and wetlands of Tibet have long provided major environmental services to Asia, from Pakistan to Vietnam to northern China. Tibetans did almost nothing to diminish those environmental services. There was almost no Tibetan industrialisation, damming of rivers, draining of wetlands, fishing, or hunting of wildlife. Tibet remained unfenced; its grasslands intact, its cold climate able to hold enormous amounts of organic carbon in the soil. The human population used land extensively and lightly, a mobile culture with its domestic herds and a deep knowledge of how to sustain the grasslands with a light touch, by moving on to allow the hardy grasses and sedges of the alpine meadows to regrow.

In recent years every one of these services has been damaged, so much so that Tibet is fast moving from being a net sequester of carbon to becoming a net emitter. In part this is due to the climate change that affects the whole planet, though the data available suggests it is happening faster in Tibet. Much of the damage is due to direct human interventions in Tibet, which now concentrate population in towns and cities, transport hubs and corridors, even concentrating nomads in settlements, their remaining animals fenced in, unable to move far. Millions of non-Tibetan settlers have moved in, supported by an energy-intensive importation of modern luxuries and basics which Tibetans had little use for. Huge areas of forest were cut for export to China; dozens of destructive, unregulated artisanal gold mines scarred the Tibetan earth and rivers, and now large scale industrial mining of copper, gold, chromite, oil and gas extract Tibetan resources for Chinese industry. The damming of Tibetan rivers, commercial fishing of Tibetan lakes, draining of wetlands, introduction of invasive alien species all compromise Tibet's ability to remain a carbon sink.

In addition to these localised impacts, global climate change is fast melting the most glaciated region on earth. In the short term this means greater river flows, floods, landslides and glacial lake outbursts. In the longer term -now measured in only a few coming decades- it will mean the loss of the glaciers, and with them the loss of year-round regulated flow through to the lowlands of Asia.

The permafrost frozen soils of much of the Tibetan Plateau used to hold water as ice in winter, thawing in spring to release water for wetland and pasture plants, and for freshly sown crops. Now that the temperatures are fast rising across Tibet, wetlands are drying, their stored carbon becoming methane vented to the sky. Carbon sinks become sources of atmospheric carbon. The permafrost area steadily shrinks. As ice in the subsoil active layer thaws into water it now drains away before plant roots can reach down to it. The result is desiccation and desertification, both now advancing rapidly.

On the rangelands decades of compulsory overstocking in the 1960s and 1970s set off a process of degradation which turns the carbon-rich living turf black, exposed to the gales and blizzards which are becoming more extreme, according to the latest science. Rangeland degradation is now so widespread that the plants, usually able to store most of their biomass and their carbon below ground, below the teeth of the grazers, away from the biting winds, now die. Quickly the high alpine meadows turn black, the soil is whipped away by gales, and all that is left is bare earth, with little likelihood of recolonisation by life for centuries. So extensive is the degradation of the rangeland that nomads are now compelled to leave their lands and herds, in the name of "ecological migration" and watershed conservation. The nomads could be integral to the rehabilitation of degraded rangelands, but instead they are excluded, a classic tragedy of the commons even though nomads always cared for commonly held land.

These are among the impacts of climate change documented in EDD's recent report. Readers interested to check the evidence for this long list of detriment and decline will discover, in the footnotes, that there has been a huge research effort, largely by Chinese scientists, much of it published in specialist journals hard to obtain. While their findings sometimes differ, the picture that emerges is of a Tibetan Plateau now prone to heating, drying and more extreme weather, which in turn compromises the monsoons of both India and China.

Since Tibetans did so little to cause global climate change, but are now at the forefront of its impacts, we pray the world's governments to act in the interests of the whole planet and not just their own short term interests. We are distressed that, as Tibetans, we can no longer guarantee our Asian neighbours the environmental services we all used to take for granted. We pray wisdom may prevail and that all emitting countries, whether new or old emitters, will contribute to effective solutions. And we especially look forward to global assistance in financing the remediation of the Tibetan Plateau, so we can once more provide pure water and a monsoon engine that is no longer faltering and compromised.

Issues Related to the Mining Sector

Tibet's natural resource legacy, is being threatened with more exploitation than ever before especially with coming of the railway line to Lhasa and the skyrocketing of prices of minerals worldwide. The general attitude of Tibetans, both inside Tibet and in exile, toward mining is overwhelmingly negative. However, Beijing encourages the foreign investors to explore and exploit mineral resources in the Tibetan Plateau. This has attracted a large number of foreign companies, multi-national companies from countries such as Canada, Australia and Britain. The special treatment that China gives to foreign companies raises the fundamental question — how will the ordinary Tibetans benefit or get affected from large-scale mining.

Issues Concerning Employment Opportunities

The acquisition of goods and services required for mining project may benefit the local economy, but without a suitable planning it can cause serious problems. The employment issue is seen as a major aspect of the mining activities worldwide. In the case of Peru, local communities perceive employment as the greater immediate benefit that a project can bring to the area. However, in Tibet almost all mining related jobs go to Chinese migrants, which includes even unskilled labor despite the high unemployment rates amongst the local Tibetans.

Such discriminatory policies have negative impacts, such as excessive Chinese migration to mining areas and the economic marginalization of the local Tibetans. A byproduct of such onslaught of migration is social conflicts — drug use, domestic violence, dilution of Tibetan customs and increased poverty and alcohol consumption. This also brings in prostitution, HIV/AIDS and other diseases. The increased pressure from a growing non-Tibetan population is likely to have a disastrous effect on the region and lead to more conflicts among the local Tibetan population.

Environmental Impacts

There is a dearth of empirical evidence on environmental impacts of mining in Tibet. However, we know from similar international cases that impacts are large and dangerous, particularly when there is little or no regulation and civic participation. Therefore mineral resource extraction has a huge impact on the environment of the Tibetan plateau and the local Tibetan People. The anecdotal evidence suggests that the impacts are large and varied on Tibetan people and the environment.

The Guidelines for International Development Projects and Sustainable Development in Tibet published by the Central Tibetan Administration in Dharamsala, suggests that Tibetans do not want Western mining companies. Tibetans do not consider mining as development; they see it as resource extraction. This is because in addition to the loss of precious minerals, the environmental costs are devastating no matter how carefully and scientifically the operations are undertaken. Water pollution is one of the biggest challenges that China faces. This harms people, livestock, marine and wildlife. One infamous example of water contamination is the Bay of Ite in southern Peru, where copper mining has caused marine life disappear completely from the central area. We learned from a personal interview with Ven. Yeshe Togden, the former president of Gu-Chu-Sum Movement based in Dharamsala, several examples of environmental and social impacts of mining minerals such as zinc, copper and uranium from Medrogyama Village of Meldro Gungkar county near Lhasa has been recorded. More details can be read from *Tibet's Water Pollution and China's "Global Warming" by Woenser*.

There are serious concerns about the environmental impacts of mining in Tibet, such as the contamination of soil and water by Arsenic or Cyanide, which could seriously affect local farmers and communities further downstream in other Asian countries. The Tibetan Plateau is the source of headwaters of many great rivers of Asia such as Brahmaputra, Yellow, Yangtze, Indus, and Mekong. Contamination of these waters would affect millions of people. Another concern is that many of the Tibetan communities who have been living thousand of years near the proposed mining sites, particularly areas in central Tibet where gold and copper deposits have been discovered, rely on the land for their agricultural-based economy. Mine operations also destroy grazing lands, negatively impacting the livelihood of local residents. In some cases the mining activities force entire villages to be relocated and displaced.

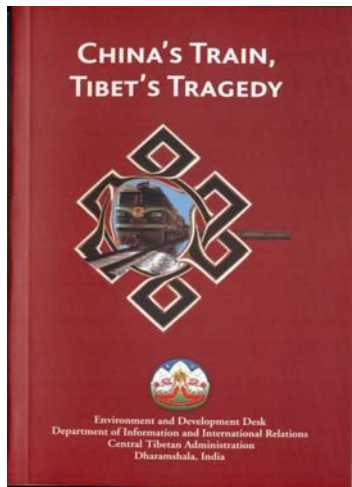
Involving Local Groups and People's Participation

The consultation, participation and involvement of all the interested groups, especially the local people, must be taken into consideration in all activities relating to a mining project. The free flow of information about the mine's development activities and its impacts can help maximize benefits and reduce negative fallouts. However, under the current Chinese rule, Tibetans have no say in how their mineral resources are used. They fear to speak out against the exploitation for fear of serious repercussions from the authorities. The Shethongmon (Chinese: Xietongmen) copper mining project, located in Shigatse about 240 km from Lhasa owned by a Canadian mining company, Continental Minerals, is carrying out explorations of the deposit. Continental Minerals claims that the local county/township/community leaders believe that with training of local people, health benefits and active Tibetan involvement from the beginning of the project, some local Tibetans do wish to benefit from mining employment. This could indicate a compromise that might enable Tibetans to support environmentally sensitive mining to proceed. If mining companies and the government do not seriously consult with local communities, they will not understand what contributes to the well-being of the local people and the local economy. On the contrary it is likely to ignore the non-marketable environmental, social, and cultural costs.

By Dhondup Dolma Bhartso

EDD Publications

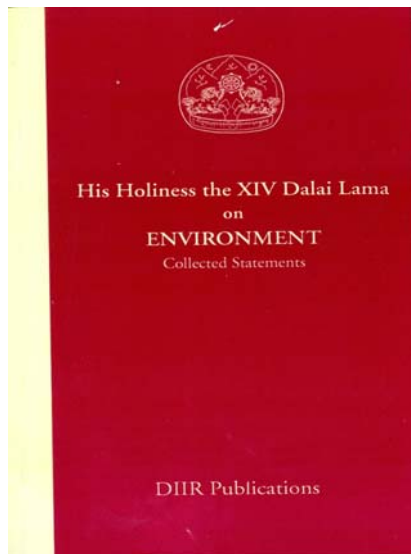
(March 2009) China's Train, Tibet's Tragedy



Ms. Kunchok Dolma, an intern (Jeanette K Watson Fellowship, US), at EDD compiled, researched, wrote and edited this report. EDD's first report on the railway was published in 2001 with Title "China's Railway Project where will it take Tibet? With the advent of the railroad from Beijing to Lhasa, and therefore a closer and more profound link between China and the Tibetan

Plateau, it has become imperative for us to examine the impacts of the railroad on Tibet's sensitive environment, on its vulnerable culture and people, and the cultural survival thereafter.

(November 2009) His Holiness The XIV Dalai Lama on Environment (Collected Statement) in English



First edition of the book was published in March 1994. Since then it has been published with new statements after every two or three years. The fourth and updated edition was printed in January 2007. This one is reprinted version of the fourth edition.

"I feel that it is extremely important that each individual realize

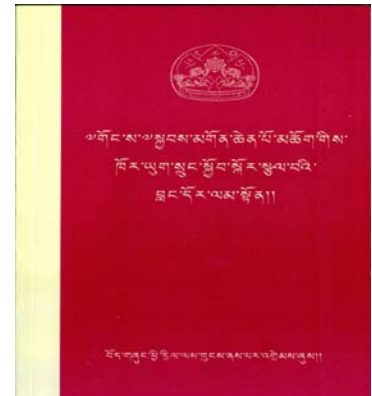
their responsibility for preserving the environment, to make it a part of daily life, create the same attitude in their families, and spread it to the community."

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

(November 2009) His Holiness The XIV Dalai Lama on Environment (Collected Statement) in Tibetan

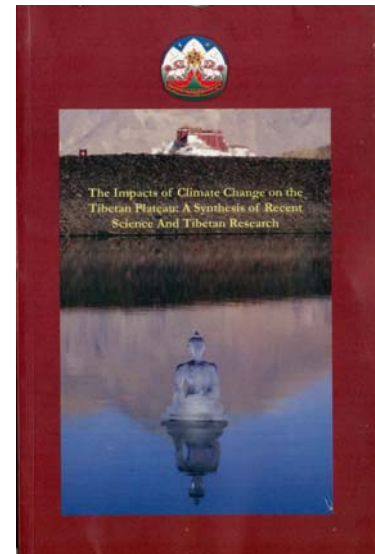
A revised second edition of "His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama on Environment (Collected Statement) in Tibetan" was published by EDD, DIIR in November 2009.

The first edition of the collected statement of His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama on environment in Tibetan language was first printed in 1996.



(December 2009) The Impacts of Climate Change on the Tibetan Plateau: A Synthesis of Recent Science and Tibetan Research

First ever report on climate change by EDD in view of the fast melting Tibetan glaciers and permafrosts. This synthesis report summarized over 150 of the most recent research reports published in scientific journals by Chinese and International scientists. It was released at the COP15 meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark.



(December 2009) Tibet in Copenhagen

A series of ten briefing papers on why Tibet matters at the Copenhagen negotiations was released during the UN Summit.

Note: These are some of our most recent publications. All the publications from our desk can be easily downloaded online at <http://tibet.net/en/index.php?id=198&rmenuid=11>

EDD - talks/ Seminars/ Workshops attended: (Dec 2008-2009)

Date	Event	Venue
30 December, 2008	Emory University Students	Dharamsala
24 February, 2009	SIT Student Exchange	Dharamsala
16 April, 2009	Emory University Students	Dharamsala
05 June, 2009	World Environment Day (CTA Staffs)	Dharamsala
13 June, 2009	Climate Security Conference	Palampur, H.P.
16 June, 2009	TPPRC Workshop for Class XI Students	Dharamsala
06 June, 2009	TEAM Workshop	TCV School Gopalpur
04 July, 2009	Talk Tibet	Dharamsala
10 July, 2009	Fullbright Scholars	Dharamsala
27 July, 2009	US based Tibetan Students Exchanged Program	Upper TCV School
29 July, 2009	Resource person talk	Lower TCV School
17- 24 August, 2009	Climate Change and Multimedia Workshop	Kathmandu, Nepal
05 September, 2009	TCHRD Workshop at Sarah	Dharamsala
09 September, 2009	Navdanya Climate Yatra	Dharamsala
24 September, 2009	Resource person talk	TCV School Gopalpur
3-7 October, 2009	2nd Conference on Environmental Protection for Kagyu Monasteries and Centres	Dharamsala
24 October, 2009	International Day of Climate Action	Dharamsala
27 October, 2009	Noble Laureate Gathering/DIIR Hall	Dharamsala
07 November, 2009	IIMC Students	Dharamsala
13 November, 2009	Seminar on Himalayan Glaciers and Mekong Basin	IIC, New Delhi
18 -20 November, 2009	World Parliament Conference on Tibet	Rome, Italy
24 November, 2009	Commemorating 50 Years in Exile	Bangalore
23 - 24 November, 2009	1st Conference of the Himalayan Tibetan Monasteries on Environmental Protection	Gurgaon, Haryana
8-19 December, 2009	UNFCC Climate Conference –COP 15	Copenhagen, Denmark
12 December, 2009	Global Day of Climate Action	Dharamsala
26 December, 2009	TPPRC Workshop for Class XI Students	Dharamsala
29 December, 2009	First Anniversary of Environment Club	Sarah College, Dharamsala
26 - 30 December, 2009	Tibetan Youth Leadership Workshop	TYH, Pitampur, Delhi

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