

# CTRC Update



## About CTRC

His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Central Tibetan Relief Committee, the relief wing of the Department of Home, Central Tibetan Administration is a legally registered Charitable and development organisation working mainly for the welfare and sustainable socio-economic development of the Tibetan exile community particular those living in India, Nepal and Butan.

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## Board of Advisors:

Katri Samdhong Rinpoche  
Tsering Dhundup  
Tseten Gyurmae  
Ngodup Dorjee  
Topgyal Tsering  
Tenzin Lungtok  
Tsering Topgyal

## Editor:

Tsering Lhundup

Newsletter of H H the Dalai Lama's Central Tibetan Relief Committee



## 5th general meeting of settlement officers, Dharamsala:-



**Settlement Officers with Hon. Home Kalon during the meeting**

The 5th settlement officers meeting was held from 22nd January to 25th of January 2007 at Dharamsala. All the 39 Tibetan settlement officers from different parts of India, Nepal and Bhutan have attended the 4 days of meeting. The first day of meeting was grace with presence of Hon. Kalon tripa and other 3 Hon. co-kalons of Kashag and it was auspiciously began with the lighting of butter lamp and valuable speeches from Honourable kalon Tripa and other 3 Hon. kalons.

The Home Secretary Mr. Tsering Dhundup has made an introduction speech and explained on importance and necessity of such meetings. During the meeting lots of discussion were made from Central Tibetan Administration's major policies of Middle path approaches to resolve the Tibet issue, Sustainability of Tibetan settlements in exile, Health and Environment, Basic Education Policy (BEP), Organic Agriculture Farming, Poverty Alleviation Programmes and other various and sundry topics like Abiding with law of land, Procedures for applying for RC(Registration Certificate) and IC (Identity Certificate), Budget preparation and audit findings, Project Planning & Management, general local governance.

## Sustainable Agriculture Development

A 3 year Sustainable Agriculture Development Project, co-funded by the Italian Cooperation and jointly implemented by COSPE - CTRC, has completed its 2nd year on 22nd February 2007. During these two years of joint implementation of the project in 12 Tibetan settlements covering 9 states in India, a great deal of time and money has been spent for the training of Agriculture Extension Officers, Farmers and Cooperative personnels on organic farming. There has been more than 300 individual farmers taking part in organic farming crop demonstrations, with the use of various new technologies for propagation of the crops, pest and disease control measures and production of organic composts. These crop demonstrations have been very encouraging and helps the overall CTA's agricultural policy of Organic Farming in all the Tibetan settlements.



## Activities carried out by CTRC

### Budgeting Training to Co-operatives Managerial Level

3 days budget training were conducted in each 4 different zones under the co-ordination of Co-operative Development Division, CTRC. Trainings were attended by Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Board of Directors, Secretaries and Accountants of all the Tibetan cooperatives in India. These trainings were funded by Belgian Foreign Ministry through Office of Tibet, London. Following are the 4 different zone where the trainings were conducted :-

**Tibetan Handicraft Centre, Dharamsala:-** from 5 - 7 February 2007 (Resource Person Mr.Ngodup Dorjee, Addtl. Secretary & Head of Agri. & Co-op. Section and Mr. Dawa Tsultrim, Dy Secretary of Co-op. Division).

**Northeast Tibetan Co-operatives:** (Total 6 Co-operatives) at Kunphenling Tibetan Settlement, Ravangla (Sikkim) from 28th February to 2nd March 2007 (Resource Person - Mr. Dawa Tsultrim, Deputy Secretary of Co-op. Division).

**Central & Southern Tibetan Co-operatives:** (Total 8 Co-operatives) at Lugsam Tibetan Settlement, Bylakupee (KS) from 28th February to 2nd March 2007 (Resource Person - Mr. Ngodup Dorjee Addtl. Secretary).

**Tibetan Refugee Service Co-operative Society Ltd. Sonamling, Ladakh:** from 7 - 9 March 2007 (Resource Person - Mr. Dawa Tsultrim, Dy. Secretary of Co-op. Division).

### Paro Settlement Road Renovation, Bhutan

The settlement road renovation work was completed successful in month of March, 2006 with funding assistance of Rs. 16,089.00 from Tibet Fund, USA. All the settlers are grateful to the Tibet Fund for the philanthropic contributions.

### Renovation Old People's Home, Orissa

Building renovation work of Old People's Home at Orissa was completed with generous funding from Association of ETRE, Swiss. Total cost of the renovation was Rs. 178,988.00 and all the elders in home convey their hearty gratitude for the kind contributions.



### Construction of Community hall at Hanley, Jangthang

Construction community hall for the Tibetan nomadic people at Hanley, Jangthang was successfully completed with the help from Office of Tibet, Australia to the tune of Rs. 300,000.00

### Staff Quarter Renovation, Ladakh



Staff quarter renovation project of Sonamling, Ladakh was successfully completed with generous funding assistance of Rs. 878,247.00 from ECH Eversdijk Smulders Stuchting, The Netherland.

### Renovation of Community Centres, Tezu



Community centre at Tezu was completed with a funding assistance from Office of Tibet, Australia. The total cost of the renovation was Rs. 250,000.00

### Skill training (YES)



88 unemployed youth from various Tibetan Settlements have completed their skill training in March 2007 from the Institute for Small Trade Learning (ISTL), a training unit of CTRC. And 4 other unemployed youth are still undergoing skill training on Traditional Thanka Painting and Modern Oil Painting course from other Tibetan vocational institutions.

## Activities carried out by CTRC Soil and Water Conservation



The Rabgayling Tibetan Settlement near Hunsur is situated in an area that has very scarce rainfall and suffers from frequent drought for most of its 34 years of existence. With the request of Central Tibetan Relief Committee, Tibet Information office in Canberra, Australia had requested Mr. Killelea Stephen to assist the Soil and Water Conservation Project for Hunsur. With Mr. Killelea efforts, The Charitable Foundation has very generously funded the Soil and water Conservation Project for Rabgayling Tibetan Settlement, Hunsur in 2004 and the project will be completed by September 2007.

Doeguling Tibetan Settlement in Mundgod is one of the largest Tibetan Agricultural Settlements in India. However, since its inception in 1966, there have not been any soil and water conservation measures taken place in the settlement resulting to heavy soil erosion and degradation of soil fertility. Central Tibetan Relief Committee once again requested Mr. Killelea Stephen to consider this project. The Project was accepted for funding in principal provided the visit by its Chief Executive Officer/ Managing Director Mr. Rob Owen to the settlement to actually makes an assessment of the ground situation.



**Mr. Rob Owen with settlement officer assessing the areas**

Mr. Rob Owen visited Doeguling Tibetan Settlement, Mundgod on 16th and 17th February 2007 and Mr. Tsering Dorjee, Deputy Secretary of CTRC/Dharamsala accompanied him. He made an extensive study of the settlement areas where the soil and water conservation project will be implemented. After successful site assessment the project was formally approved to the tune of US\$368,465.00.

## Irish Project

The Tibet House Trust in London has sought funding from the Irish Development Cooperation, for the sustainable development of the three Tibetan settlements in Arunachal Pradesh for a period of three years. The project is in its final year and will be completed by August 2007.

### 1) Milk Collection and sales unit of Tezu settlement:-



**Settlers queue up for providing their milk**

The milk collection and sales unit has been set up in Dhargayling Tibetan Settlement, Tezu and it is improving well. Earlier the settlers had faced difficulties in marketing their milk and most of them were sold in Tezu town where the payments were not received in time or otherwise facing various problems. Since the inception of the milk collection center and marketing by Coop. Society, the farmers are now able to get fair price and get their money in time. The milk production in the settlement has increased from 80 lts to 150 lts. per day. This is mainly due to the additional cows that the project has provided to the farmers. The settlement was encouraged to buy local breed cows since they are more resistant to various diseases as well as easy to feed and maintain. Currently the milk supplied by the farmers are marketed to Tezu town. However, the main aim is to produce milk products in the settlement and find markets outside the settlement where the farmers will get better returns. But initially, the settlement farmers need to increase the milk production in the settlement to enable them to have enough milk product for producing milk products like butter and cheese.

### 2) Cold storage, Tenzingang:-

Tenzingang settlement, which is situated at temperate zone west of Arunachal Pradesh, close to Bhutan, has vast areas under apple plantation and the project proposes to construct cold storage to store apple belonging to the farmers and the Cooperative society until they find suitable price to sell. The construction of the cold storage has already started. The land for the cold storage warehouse has been provided by the settlement monastery.



## Model Organic Settlement, Kollegal

Model Organic Project at Dhondenling Tibetan Settlement was started during the year 2005-06 with funding from Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations, such as NCA - Norway, Tibet House Trust, London, Tibet Fund, NY, Tibet Information Office, Australia, Trento, Italy, Mexico were funding via Tibet Fund and HH the Dalai Lama's Charitable Trust. The project has been able to convert the agriculture system into sustainable organic farming for 6 villages (192 families) as of now and more villages are in waiting for converting to organic farming.

In addition to this Model Settlement, (CTRC) Home Department has already planned to establish Model camp/Villages in all the Tibetan agriculture settlements as this will create the organic farming awareness and motivate the farmers more easily and faster. Several villages/camps from various settlements have already been selected for Model Village and the work will begin from this year's cropping season.



Settlement officer examining the crops with farmers

Preparations for Agriculture land survey and geo-hydrological surveys of Tibetan settlements in Mainpat, Orissa, Bhandara and Sonamling are underway. Technical experts from Action for Food Production (AFPRO) are assessing the situations of these settlements. As soon as the agriculture surveys are done, soil and water conservation measures will be taken up in these settlements. We planned such activities also for the Tibetan settlements in North East as well.

Under the Belgium funding, we are also implementing promotion of rearing indigenous breed cattle and preparation of various types of composts which are essential to organic farming. The project is being implemented in Phuntsokling, Phendeling and Norgayling settlements in Central India.

### Staff updates:

**Mr. Phuntsok Dhondup is transferred as settlement officer for Tibetan Cholsum Industrial settlement, Paonta Sahib from Jan. 18, 2007.**

**Mr. Sangpo is transferred as settlement Officer of Norgayling Tibetan settlement, Bhandra from February 12, 2007.**

**Mr. Lobsang Choejor is transferred as settlement officer for Phendheling Tibetan settlement Mainpat from Feb. 21, 2007.**

**Mr. Kalsang Tsering is transferred as settlement officer for Kalimpong settlement from March 6, 2007.**

**Mr. Tenzin Damdul, AEO of TRL Settlement, Hunsur has been transferred to the Farm Project as Manager with effect from February 25th. 2007**

**Mr. Tenzin Rigdhen, AEO TDL Settlement, Bylakuppe has been transferred to Sonamling and Jangthang settlements, Ladakah**

**Mr. Raptan Tsering, AEO of Choepheling Settlement, Miao has been transferred to Doegul-yugyaling, Sakya and Paonta Cholsum settlements to look after the organic farming activities of these settlements. We wish them success with their new assignments in their new environments.**

**Ms. Jampal Wangmo - AEO of Tenzingang settlement, Arunachal Prash has resigned from her post of AEO and we wish her all the best with her new career.**

## Profile of Old People Home, Mundgod:-

### Background:

Mundgod Tibetan settlement was established in 1966 and soon after few years in exile different elderly programs were initiated by the CTRC to cope with increasing number of poor and destitute elders among the first generation of Tibetan refugees. Mundgod Old People Home was also established with kind support from government of India and initially to accommodate 250 elders.

Later on due to poor condition of the old building with kind support from **Initiatives Oberland Germany** the four new blocks consisting of 15 rooms were constructed and this new blocks comfortably accommodates 120 elderly and other separate blocks for monks, patients and sick oldies. Besides residential they have two kitchens, one prayer hall cum dining hall and one dairy farm. Today Doeguling Old People Home is a home to 170 elders mostly belonging to this settlement.

### General routines of elders at the OPH:

Since, it is accustomed with Tibetans and specially with elders to rise early in the morning, so many of elders in home enjoy rising early morning and remains reciting the prayer at their room and some circumambulating at near by stupa. At home every morning general mass prayers of all the elders begins from 6am to 7 am and from 3 pm to 4 pm in the evening at the prayer hall. Otherwise, they spend most of their leisure time on cleaning and washing their clothes and circumambulating the big prayer wheel and stupa. They even enjoy watching television from 6 pm to 9 pm in the evening and chit-chat about their old days and villages at home land Tibet.

### Facilities at the OPH:

All the elders are provided with decent living quarters, food, clothing, medical care and lives like an extended family. There are 20 staff members assigned with different duties like stock incharge, prayer incharge, cooks, caretakers, milk man, sanitor etc to look after the well being of all the elders.

### Yearly Budget:

The home runs on an approximately budget of Rs. 24 Lakhs per year and main source of running expenditures are money received from elders's individual sponsors.

### Current needs and problems:

- Funds needed to raise the OPH compound wall.
- Funds needed for drilling of one submersible pump and its accessories.
- Funds for ten solar street light.

### Contact Address:

Representative Office  
Doeguling Tibetan Settlement  
P.O. Tibetan Colony-581411  
Mundgod, Distt. North Kannada  
Karnataka State, India



Front view of new block no.2 of Old People's Home, Mundgod

### Brief Life History of elder Sonam Tsering:

Sonam Tsering currently being 78 years old and like all other his fellow elders in Mundgod Old People's Home he was also born in Tibet. But after the failure of mass revolution against the Chinese invasion of Tibet in the year 1959, he and his family escaped to India and they were among the 80,000 Tibetans followed the His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Being a refugee in new alien land without any belongings, it's very hard for him to start a new unconventional life in exile. Initially he stayed in the North of India working on road construction in the remote and hilly Terrance of northern part of India like majority of other Tibetan refugee.

Later in the year 1960s with the help of Govt. of India and Central Tibetan Administration, majority of Tibetan refugees were shifted to Karnataka state, South India for resettlement provided with a piece of land to cultivate crop for livelihood. He too later in the year 1968 along with his wife worked in the fields for many years but unfortunately his wife expired leaving him behind alone. Since he has no children to look after him in his old age, he is admitted to OPH Mundgod where he is provided with decent living, which is the main objective behind setting up of the OPH. But this would not have been possible without the support and financial assistance received from the different sponsors abroad. Therefore, on behalf of all the elders he would like to take this opportunity to extend their heartfelt thanks for the generous support and concern shown towards them.

### CTRC REVOLVING LOAN FUND SCHEME:

CTRCs' Micro-Credit programme aims at promoting self-reliance and mitigating ever-rising youth unemployment through provision of soft start-up loan in setting up micro-enterprises leading to the attainment of sustainable communities. This programme is open to all the Tibetans (18-50 yrs), however, priority is given to those youth who have undergone skill training through CTRC's YES programme and looking forward to setting up the same enterprise, on which they were trained, within their own settlement or a radius of 300 kilometers from the settlement.

The ceiling for the micro-credit is set at Rs. 100,000/- for individual enterprise, Rs. 300,000/- for a partnership of 2 people, and Rs. 500,000/- for a group of others with the mere interest rate of 3% per annum with the maximum repayment duration at 5 years. The overall programme is managed and controlled by the YES' Central Committee at CTRC. However, the YES' Local Committee at the settlement level directly monitors the programme and the established enterprises.

Till the end of 2007, 113 unemployed youth were provided with total start-up soft loan of Indian Rupees 13,316,440.96 for setting-up their micro-enterprises.

### MICRO-CREDIT SUCCESS STORY - Case Study

**Name:** Sonam Dolma (29 yrs, female)  
**Enterprise:** Beauty Parlour  
**Settlement:** Dickey Larsoe Settlement, Bylakuppe, South India.



Sonam Dolma couldn't continue her school after class IX, and later underwent beautician training for six month in 2000 at the local town Kushalnagar. After completing the training, she felt the need and importance of experience and confidence in starting her own beauty parlour. Therefore, she worked in a Tibetan beauty parlour at Pondicherry for a year.

Being from the poor family, she was inspired by the Micro-Credit programme undertaken by the Youth Empowerment Support programme of CTRC, and started her own micro-enterprise called 'Sonam Beauty Parlour' in the Indian town Medikeri which is an hour journey from her settlement. She took start-up micro-credit of Rs. 98,955/- from the CTRC in 2002, and has, now, repaid the credit within 4 years as per the repayment schedule. She is still continuing the same enterprise, and earns around Rs. 6000/- per month. She has already trained 8 Indian youth, and, currently, providing training to 2 Indian youth simultaneously with her work. Not only does she foster 3 members of her family with her income, but she has also, due to the increase in customers, hired 2 employees with her. The micro-credit programme has empowered her in becoming self-reliant and successful.

Sonam Dolma attending her customer at own parlour

### CTRC's visitors:-

Sr.no.	Date	Visitor's name	Organization
1.	February, 2007	Partizia Torlini	Virtu Generose Onlus, Italy.
2.	February, 2007	Phuntsol Drolma	Denise CAMPET, APACT, France
3.	9th March, 2007	Mrs. Hedie Mayer & Assistant	German Aid to Tibetans, Hamburg, Germany

## Settlement Profile.

### Rabgyaling Tibetan Settlement, Hunsur, Karnataka

#### Introduction:

Rabgyaling Tibetan settlement was established in 1971 with help from the Government of India and MYRADA with a purpose of rehabilitating 2320 Tibetan refugees on an area of 2000 acres of forest land. Each adult Tibetan at the start of the settlement was provided with one acre of land.

#### Settlement Location:

It is located at Hunsur Taluk of Karnataka state, south of India and 60 km away from Mysore city. It lies on a flat plain at the height of 826 meters above sea level with temperature ranges between 15° to 35° degree Centigrade. This place has an average rainfall of 30-34 inches annually.

#### Settlement Population:

Initial population 2320

Present Population 3984

#### No. of villages or camp in the settlement:

This settlement consists of 16 camps, each having an average of 40 families. All the villages are situated in different locations at a distance of about 2-3 km to each other.

#### Settler's livelihood:

Most of the original families have a small piece of agricultural land provided by the Indian government for their living. Besides agricultural, the most of the settlers are engaged in trading, restaurant, shop keeping, and seasonal woollen business etc.

#### Facilities in the settlement:

**School :** 1 primary school up to 10th std., 2 nursery school

**Health facilities:** 1 modern allopathic hospital with special TB Ward, Branch clinic of Tibetan Medical & Astro Institute.

**Monastery :** 3 monasteries

**Co-operative Society :** The settlement has Co-operative Society which facilitates the settlers with supply of seeds, fertilizers and tractors. The co-operative Society also helps to search market for their agriculture product and this co-operative society is also member of All India Tibetan Cooperative Federation.

Under the management of the Co-operative Societies there are five shops, a dairy farm and a mechanical workshop, truck section, low cost Building Center, Handicraft centers have been set up to provide employment, to preserve the Tibetan traditional carpet weaving, and to generate the income for the co-operative societies.

#### Administrative setup:

##### CTA Representative:

Each settlement has a settlement officer who is the Representative of the Department of Home, Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), Dharamsala. Settlement officer is the principle post of the settlement and he is in charge with overall control of running affairs in the settlement. The Representative acts as the liaison between the settlers and the Central Tibetan Administration, as well as the main sources of information on policies and directives of Central Tibetan Administration.

##### Local Assembly:

There are 16 camps/villages in this settlement and the settlers of these camps possess their own elected Local Assembly. The actual term of these Local Assembly is for Five years and they hold session twice in a year unless some urgent Assemble is required. During the session they can raise question to settlement officer and make important decision on issues related to settlement.

##### Traveling guide:

**Nearest railway station:** Mysore, 60 Km from settlement

**Nearest airport:** Bangalore, 205 Km from settlement

**Bus and taxi services:** Yes

##### Contact Address :

Representative  
Rabgyaling Tibetan Settlement  
P.O. Gurupura, Hunsur Taluk  
Mysore District  
Karnataka State - 571188  
India  
Telephone: +91-8222-246007/246301  
Fax: +91-8222-246007  
E-mail: rabling\_rap@rediffmail.com



T.B. Ward Phende Hospital of Hunsur settlement



## HOW YOU CAN HELP.

1. Make donatiion to CTRC's General Fund.
2. Give project-specific donations.
3. Sponsor needy and old person.
4. Volunteer for transfer of technology and expertise.
5. Make donation to CTRC's Emergency Relief Fund.
6. Inform others about us.
7. Raise fund for CTRC's projects.

*You can send your donations by cheques, International Money Order or by Wire Transfer. If you prefer to pay directly into our bank account, the number is 01100055034, State Bank of India(0634), Kotwali Bazar Dharamsala - 176215, Kangra District, H.P, India. Donations made to CTRC are tax deductible under section 80-G of Indian Tax Act of 1961 subject to the limits prescribed in the law.*

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## Projects needing Fund

### Construction of flood protection bund for the Agling camp , Ladakh

The Agling camp, ladakh experianced unprecedented flood in year 2005 and recently in August 2, 2006. This project aim to construct concrete flood protection bund to protect the damages of live, properties and livelihood of settlers from unprecedent flood of Leh Ganga river. The total budget of project is Rs. 6,755,209 and the balance amount of Rs. 4,555,209/- is required .

### Staff Quarter Construction, Miao. Arunachal Pradesh

The project proposes to construct staff quarter for Representative and Office Secretary of Choepheling Tibetan settlement. The total budget of the project is Rs. 1,299,523 (USD 30,220) and balance amount Rs. 414,111/- is required.

### Ladakh Housing Renovation

The project aims to renovate 337 residential houses of Sonamling Tibetan refugee settlement in Ladakh. Most of the beneficiaries are living below the poverty line and hence could not renovate the houses of their own since its inception in 1969. The total budget of the project is 4,369,672 (USD 300 per house) and balance amount of Rs. 3,550,952/- is required.

### Construction of community hall &Library, Bir Dege Settlement.

This project of constructing Library and community hall aims to channelize the youthful energy into constructive and useful self-enhancing activities. It also prevents youth from indulging in anti-social activities such as gambling, alcohol and drugs. The total cost of the project is Rs. 2,710,821/-.

### Construction of Retaining Wall, Kalimpong

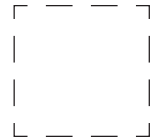
The project aims to construct retaining wall to prevent risk of landsliding and soil erosion in the nearby area. The total cost of the project is Rs. 259,200/

*CTRC take this opportunity to express its sincere gratitude & appreciation for your continuous support & well wishes. We wish you all the best and hope to retain your patronage. THANK YOU.*

This issue covers events from Oct'06 to Dec.2006.

If undelivered, please return to:

### BOOK POST



To

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Executive Secretary  
 Central Tibetan Relief Committee  
 Central Tibetan Administration  
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 Dharamsala - 176215  
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 INDIA

