



སྐྱེ་བཅའ་དཔེ་མཛོད་ཁང་།

བོད་དང་ཉི་མུ་ལ་ཡའི་རིག་གཞུང་ཞིབ་འཇུག་ལྷེ་གནས་ཁང་།

SONGTSEN LIBRARY: CENTER FOR TIBETAN AND HIMALAYAN STUDIES

Newsletter Issue-III

Successful Completion of the Intensive Tibetan Language Course

The first three-month 'Intensive Language' course program that began on 18th October 2004 successfully concluded on 18th January 2005. The study curriculum (mentioned in our previous newsletter) was focused on improving Tibetan colloquial skills as well as developing students' proficiency in Tibetan grammar. The course started with 5 international students and the number increased to 7 by the end of the course.

A humble gathering was organized on the successful completion of the course, attended by the Director of the Songtsen Library and the two teachers, Ven. Konchok Sherab and Mr. Tenzin Jampa. The Director congratulated every student and requested for feedback from the students. Students gave their suggestions enthusiastically and a fruitful discussion took place with the Director. The gathering ended with tea and snacks.

A Discourse Related to Buddhism by His Holiness the Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche

A special discourse on subjects associated with practical Buddhism was delivered by His Holiness the Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche to about 300 members of the Drikung Kagyu Institute and youth from around Dehradun on the 18th July 2005. The members included nuns as well. The discourse emphasized the practical that a Buddhist should try to follow. The speech ended with a question and answer session where the youths enquired on subjects related to superstitions attached to Tibetan culture and tradition, and on the benefits of daily practicing the Dharma.



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Visit to the University Of Missouri-Kansas City, USA by the Library's Resident Scholar Khenpo Konchok Tamphel

On the 10th October 2005, our resident scholar Khenpo Konchok Tamphel visited the University of Missouri, Kansas City in USA to attend the training on 'Supplementary Instruction' and Video-base Supplementary Instruction.' On receiving the invitation to the Drikung Kagyu Institute by the university, our resident scholar and Ani Konchok Palmo from the Samtenling Drikung nunnery were nominated to participate in the training. The training was for 12 days.

Beginning of the Annual Intensive Tibetan Language Course

The Annual three-month Intensive Tibetan Language Course began on 17th October 2005 with 10 international students. Students from the local community as well as from Ladakh also attended the study program. The training module was designed for three months with three sessions of one hour daily. The curriculum was customized to the needs of the students.

Lecture on the Total Pacification of Disease by Mr. T.J. Tsarong

A Lecture series was organized by the Library for three days from 21st November on the topic of 'Total Pacification of Disease.' The lecturer Mr. T.J Tsarong is a former director of Tibetan Medicinal and Astrological Institute, Dharamsala and has authored several books on medicinal plants. The talk specifically dealt with the role of numerous diverse herbs and natural plants in the Himalayan belt in keeping our body healthy.



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Contribution of 3000 Digitized Formats of Buddha Dharma Texts by Prof. E. Gene Smith

Prof. Gene Smith has been associated with the exile Tibetan community way back since 1960s and was one of the foremost western students taking keen interest in Buddhism. He has studied under many Tibetan lamas and visited many monasteries in India. During his studies, the professor has collected many texts of Buddhist literature from individuals as well as from monasteries. The dharma texts obtained by the Professor in his long years of study began to be digitized some years back. The Songtsen Library is very fortunate to have received 3000 digitized formats of Professor's dharma text collection which can be accessed by interested researchers and students studying in the Library. The library owes a great debt for the professor's kind gesture.

A talk by Khenpo Konchok Tamphel on his visit for training in the United States

On his return from the training in USA on 'Supplemental Instruction' and 'Video-base Supplemental Instruction' Ven. Khenpo Tamphel gave a talk on the concept of the subject to members of D.K.I. at the Kagyu College. The Supplemental Instruction, popularly known as 'SI' promotes different methodologies and approaches divergent from conventional techniques in improving learning skills. The students studying or adopting these new methods can also suggest and initiate new ideas, enriching the concepts of SI.



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Third Environment Workshop on the Conservation of Himalayan Environment

The library organized its third workshop on the conservation of Himalayan environment from 28th to 30th December 2005. The workshop was formally inaugurated by the chief guest, His Holiness the Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche, and guest of honour Dr. Raghunandan Singh Tolia, Chief Information Commissioner and Dr. Bhagat Singh Barfal, Head and Principal Chief Conservation Forest, Uttaranchal Government. They lighted a lamp for the success of the workshop. In the opening speech, His Holiness emphasized on the importance of every individual's contribution for a global conservation of environment.

The three-day workshop was very intensive with 13 resource persons presenting the plight of our environment. About more than 40 college students from Himalayan regions of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Bhutan, Tibet, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttaranchal as well as students from colleges in Dehradun participated in the workshop. On the third day, students were taken on a field trip to Rajaji National Park. The park ranger gave a short talk on the number of different animal species that live in the 8000 square meter park.

The Library initially was determined to organize the environment workshop on environmental conservation issues from a Buddhist perspective, and a number of resource person in the field were contacted. However, due to busy schedules of the resource persons, it could not materialize. The Library looks forward to organizing the fourth environment workshop on that topic. We would like to thank the Schweisfurth Stiftung Munchen, Germany for sponsoring this workshop.



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Newsletter Issue-III

1700 Books on Himalayan Regions Added to the Library's Collection

In the continuation of the Library's cataloguing, 1700 more books have been added to the Library's collection. We hope these books will help students and researchers to enhance their knowledge on the subject of Himalayans and its region. The Library's collection can be viewed on our website at <http://www.songtsen-library.net/database>.



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Thank you

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