

ostensibly “close the gap between Tibet's educational level and those in China.” The other program is the longrunning ‘Tibetan inland schools and classes’ or *neidiban* that has been criticised by experts in the past for its assimilationist agenda and practice.

Introduced in 2016, the ‘Group Form’ education aid Program replaced the previous system of scattered and short-term education aid, and represents the Chinese government’s long-term goal to cultivate the young generation of Tibetans that is patriotic and loyal to the Chinese Communist Party. The program requires teachers and educators from various Chinese cities and towns to spend three years to “support the [TAR]’s high-quality educational resources, concentrate on selecting and sending teachers to Tibet, and fostering proponents and successors in the cause of building of a socialist society that loves the party and patriotism,” reported the *Lhasa Daily News* on 19 July.

According to Chinese state media, every year 800 inland teachers are divided into 20 groups and sent to 20 Tibetan primary and middle schools to boost local education. While the majority of them are mathematics, physics and chemistry teachers, there are others who control the ‘moral and ideological education’ courses and work as school principals and administrators.

The program traces its roots to the decisions taken at the Sixth Tibet Work Forum in August 2015 when president Xi Jinping emphasized that “changing the appearance of Tibet and Tibetan-inhabited areas fundamentally depends on education.” In December of the same year, the Ministry of Education along with other ministries and

commissions jointly issued the “Implementation Plan for the work of Aiding Tibet in Group Education”. In April 2016 ‘group form’ education aid was officially launched. The first group of 800 teachers from 17 provinces and municipalities including Beijing, Shanghai, Hunan and others provided assistance at 20 primary and secondary schools in TAR.

The pilot project was implemented in Lhasa where three schools received assistance, with 195 teachers and 21 staff from China taking part in the project with an investment of 483 million yuan (approx. 70 million US\$). Beijing City government was among the early participants in the Lhasa program.

In August 2017, Beijing city authorities expanded the program from Lhasa Beijing Experimental High School to simultaneously supporting Lhasa Beijing Experimental High School, Lhasa Beijing Middle School, Lhasa First Elementary School, Lhasa First Secondary Vocational Technical School, and four other vocational schools.

The program also involves sending 400 Tibetan teachers and school staff every year to Mainland Chinese schools for training in “curriculum design, interdisciplinary teaching and culture inheritance.”

Since 2016, the Shanghai Municipal Education Commission has also dispatched a group of 40 teachers every year to support the Shigatse Shanghai Experimental School in Shigatse city. Their terms ranged from one to three years.

Since 2016, the principal of the Shigatse Shanghai Experimental School has been Fu Xin who was earlier the deputy principal of the high school attached to Shanghai Normal University. Fu is also the deputy director of the Shigatse City Education Bureau. Fu's three-year term ends in August this year.

State media reports claimed that Tibetan children at a welfare house in Shigatse "regard Fu and the other 39 Shanghai teachers as their Shanghai fathers."

Under an agreement signed between the China Welfare Institute Nursery and the Shigatse City government to "promote educational exchanges and the sharing of resources", Chinese trainers will guide the preschool education of Tibetan children below 6 years old by training managers and teachers from Shigatse nurseries and kindergartens. The China Welfare Institute Nursery is an early childhood education institution based in Shanghai with a long patriotic history and enjoys Chinese government patronage.

In Nyingtri (Ch: Linzhi) City, a group of 16 teachers has been sent every year to train and guide Tibetan teachers. In 2016, the first group of 16 teachers from Tsinghua University Attached Middle School, Beijing Normal University Attached Middle School, Nankai University Attached Middle School, Tianjin University Attached Middle School and Southwest University Attached Middle School arrived at Nyingtri No.2 High School to carry out education aid projects.

More than 20 percent increase in Chinese cadres dispatched to Tibet

The number of Chinese cadres and professionals sent to "support local development" in TAR has increased by more than 20 percent compared to the previous eighth batch, according to a 31 July report on gov.cn, a website of the Chinese central government.

With an increase of 445 people, the current ninth batch has 2006 cadres and professionals who will be stationed in different areas of TAR for the next three years, it was revealed at a 30 July ceremony to welcome them. Among them, a total of 361 cadres were selected from central government units and 1645 cadres from 17 mainland provinces and cities.

Chinese authorities claimed that along with the expansion of 'counterpart support' in the ninth batch, the "structure and functions" of the cadres and professionals have also been continuously optimized, and the proportion of professional and technical personnel has increased by 13 percent, with the number of cadres possessing a bachelor's degree or above reaching 96.66 percent. They also included cadres and professionals specializing in medical care and education.

The selection and distribution of the cadres and professionals was carried out by the Organization Department of the Party Central Committee and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security.

Citing decisions taken at the Third Tibet Work Forum in 1994, the report said the policy of "partial responsibility, counterpart support, and regular rotation" has formed a pattern of counterpart support for TAR from 17 provinces, municipalities, central and state organs, and central enterprises for the past 20 years.

On 22 July, the *China Tibet Network* reported the arrival in Chamdo, TAR of the ninth batch of 237 cadres and professionals from provinces such as Tianjin, Chongqing and Fujian.

Separately, *Xinhua* reported the arrival of 301 Chinese cadres in Xining, capital of Qinghai Province on 29 July to support local development activities for the next three years. This is the fourth batch of 'counterpart support' cadres in Qinghai.

China worried rising unemployment among Tibetan college graduates may become a 'stability' issue

More Tibetan college graduates are finding it difficult to get employed in the public as well as private sectors even as official Chinese sources consistently publish glowing accounts of economic progress in Tibet. According to the statistics of the TAR education department, as of the end of June, only 8,308 out of the total number of 23,616 new graduates were able to find employment. This means that only 35.17 percent of new graduates were able to find jobs in TAR.

The official *Tibet Daily* noted in a report on 18 July that "as a frontier minority area, improving the employment situation of college graduates is not only related to the well-being of thousands of families, but also to national unity, development and stability, and consolidation of border areas."

The report added that the TAR party committee and government had always prioritised the employment of college graduates as a major issue that concerns the management of people's livelihood and winning the people's hearts and minds in fortifying grassroots control.

In coordination with various departments at all levels and other Chinese provinces and cities providing aid to Tibet, the report claimed that TAR authorities had so far arranged employment for more than 60,000 college graduates and successfully held 183 job fairs.

The TAR authorities reportedly maintained that they will continue to "promote the reform of employment systems and policies for college graduates, run various job fairs, promote the implementation of policies for employment and entrepreneurship of college graduates, strengthen job development, and organize employment exchange seminars."

In a testimony provided to TCHRD earlier this month by Kangjen, a Tibetan student from Chuchen (Ch: Jinchuan) County in Ngaba (Ch: Aba) Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, the situation is much worse for Tibetan job hunters with little knowledge of Chinese language.

Many of them either opt for low-paying jobs in state translation departments or teaching Tibetan language in schools. But these jobs are few and far between. In 2017, there were only two vacancies for the post of Tibetan language teacher at the Ngaba County Middle School and more than 2000 applicants all of whom were Tibetan high school graduates. Kangjen was one of the applicants. In other incidents over the years, Tibetan graduates have held protests over unemployment, unfair selection tests, and corrupt practices by local authorities.

China holds 5th Inter-Institutional Communication Symposium of Tibetan Buddhist Institutions

On 2 July, the 5th Inter-institutional Communication Symposium of Tibetan Buddhist Institutions was held in Dechen (Ch: Diqing) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, in the Tibetan province of Kham. The *China Tibet Network* reported on 3 July that the theme of the symposium was the “three-level academic syllabus”, an ongoing project to introduce new textbooks for all three levels of the Tibetan Buddhist academic course.

The three-level academic syllabus and the annual symposiums are part of the Chinese Communist Party’s goal to cultivate patriotic and politically reliable Tibetan Buddhist religious teachers and personnel.

Representatives from the central Tibetan Buddhism Higher Studies Institute, as well as Buddhist institutions in TAR, Sichuan,

Yunnan, Gansu, and Qinghai took part in the discussion. The conference was hosted by the Department of Tibetan Language at the Yunnan Tibetan Buddhist Higher Studies Institute.

The relevant officials of the Central United Front Work Department guided the conference delegates and the leaders of the United Front Work Department at provincial and prefectural levels.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the relevant person in charge of the provincial United Front Work Department expressed hope that “through the discussion and exchange, the standardization, serialization and popularization of the three-level academic syllabus will be realized as soon as possible, and the healthy inheritance and progress of Tibetan Buddhism in the new era will be promoted.”

Liu Peng, deputy dean of the Beijing-based Tibetan Buddhism Higher Studies institute stressed the importance of the speech given by president Xi Jinping at a symposium for teachers of ideological and political theory in Beijing in March this year. Liu also drew attention to the speech made by You Quan, head of the Central United Front Work Department, during the presentation of “Torampa” Tibetan Buddhist advanced academic degrees in Beijing.

In May this year, You Quan stressed that the “Tibetan Buddhist community must resolutely safeguard the unification of the motherland and national unity, adhere to develop religion in the Chinese context, carry forward the great traditions of patriotism and love of religion,

obey the law and Buddhist discipline, dedicate to further study, speak and behave well, benefit all beings, and play an active role in promoting the healthy inheritance of Tibetan Buddhism and adapting Tibetan Buddhism to the socialist society.”

Tak Khyung, deputy dean of the TAR Buddhist College, reportedly said in his speech that "since the opening of the college in October 2011, the college has established a standardized teaching syllabus, compiled practical materials that meet the requirements of the development of the times, and established a relatively complete teaching, practice system and academic title system." He also said that the college provided combined sutra and tantra courses, admission to both monks and nuns, prioritised teaching and research in Tibetan Buddhism, before adding that the various course materials such as the "Syllabus of TAR Buddhist College", "Syllabus of the TAR Buddhist Academy", "Syllabus for TAR Buddhist College Nuns", and "Syllabus for the Training Course of TAR Buddhist College in Remote Border Areas" had been completed. The syllabus for the training of young reincarnate monks at TAR Buddhist College is being compiled at present.

Lhagyal, the deputy dean of the Qinghai Tibetan Buddhism College, informed the delegates that since its renovation and relocation in 2016, the college had worked on revising and perfecting the syllabus, which they completed in 2018.

The nextstep is to “improve the quality of the syllabus by making it systematic and scientific, establish a support mechanism, and strengthen the exchange of teaching and research.”

The 4th edition of the symposium was held in July last year in Trikha (Ch: Guide) County, Tsolho (Ch: Hainan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province where the Qinghai Tibetan Buddhist Institute is based. It was at this symposium that Wang Changyu announced the building of a database under the aegis of the Beijing Institute that will collect information on Tibetan Buddhist teachers and personnel including masters, teachers, assessing teachers, class managers, debating personnel, researchers, and Torampa Geshe degree holders. Wang is the executive vice president of the High-level Tibetan Buddhism College of China.

TAR Party authorities investigate and guide implementation of ‘Four Standards’ policy to cultivate ‘advanced monks and nuns’

Chinese Communist Party authorities carried out inspection tours in various parts of TAR to review and guide the implementation of the ‘Four Standards’ policy introduced in 2017 to realise the goal of sinicizing Tibetan Buddhism.

On 11 July, Solang Renzeng (Sonam Rigzin), vice chairman of the TAR Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and party secretary of the TAR branch of the Chinese Buddhist Association was on an inspection tour to Sangri County in Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) City to guide relevant personnel

on the effective implementation of the “Four Standards” policy for the cultivation of “advanced monks and nuns”, reported the Sangri County United Front Work Department on 15 July.

Solang Renzeng was accompanied on the investigation by Nima Duji (Nyima Dorjee), deputy director of the TAR United Front Work Department; Kang Aimin, secretary of the Sangri County Party Committee; and Dawa Tsering, vice president of the TAR Buddhist Association and president of Lhoka Buddhist Association; Li Shineng, deputy director of the United Front Work Department of Shannan Municipal Committee; Qianba (Jampa), member of the Standing Committee of the Sangri County Party Committee and director of the County United Front’s Ethnic and Religious Affairs Bureau accompanied the investigation.

Solang Renzeng visited the Sangri County United Front and the Chakar Choede Temple Management Committee reviewed the situation including preaching, learning, and investigation of the ‘Four Standards’ policy, and held meetings with the United Front cadres and the cadres stationed at the monastery.

In Medro Gongkar (Ch:Mozhugongka) County near Lhasa, vice president of the Chinese Buddhist Association

Drikung Chungtsang Losang Jampa visited various monasteries such as Gatse Monastery, Zongtse Monastery, Yangri Monastery, Dedrung Monastery and Drikung Thil Monastery to effectively promote the propaganda activities of the ‘Four Standards’ policy, according to information released by the Lhasa Municipal Party Committee on 12 July.

More than 240 people participated in the propaganda activities including Drakpa Samdup, member of the Standing Committee of the County Party Committee and leader of the County United Front as well as monks and nuns and residents cadres stationed at the monastic institutions.

Losang Jampa conducted the propaganda activities in “adhering to four standards and striving to be advanced monks and nuns” in each monastery instructing the monks and nuns “on patriotic education and temple discipline” for nearly two hours.

He called on the monks and nuns to prioritise the ‘four standards’ and ‘advanced monks and nuns’ policies as an important task for now and in the future by implementing them on their own in combination with the actual situation of the temple. Executing the ‘four standards’ policy, he said, requires one to bear in mind the instructions of president Xi Jinping to demonstrate “politically reliability, religious accomplishment, “moral integrity capable of impressing the public,” and willingness to “play an active role at critical moments.”

The report noted that the propaganda tours had “further enhanced the recognition of the great motherland, Chinese culture, and Socialism with Chinese characteristics among the monks and nuns by strengthening their political consciousness, consciousness of the overall situation, consciousness of the core, and consciousness of conformity, and striving to demonstrate a clear-cut stand.”

China’s Buddhist supervisory body to earnestly implement ‘five-year plan’ to sinicise Buddhism

Buddhist Association of China (BAC) held the third meeting of its 9th Standing Committee on 24 July in Beijing to discuss the two-fold theme of “Maintaining the direction of Sinicising Buddhism and strengthening the development of the [modern] Buddhist system”.

According to a report dated 25 July on *China Tibet Network News*, it was announced at the conference that the BAC and the Buddhist community all over the People’s Republic of China “should earnestly carry out the implementation of the ‘Outline of the Five-Year Work Plan for the Sinicization of Buddhism (2019-2023)’ to unite the strength of the national Buddhist community in sinicizing Buddhism in in the new era”. The plan “clarifies the background, basic connotation, significance, guiding ideology, principle of adherence, overall goal, and efforts of sinicising Buddhism in the new era.”

In their speeches at the meeting, the heads of relevant departments of the Central United Front Work Department put forward four requirements for the work of BAC: 1) adhere to the direction of sinicizing Buddhism and profoundly understand that adhering to the direction of sinicization is not only inevitable for the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics but also an inherent requirement for the healthy development and promotion of religions in the country; 2) strengthen the cultivation of talented individuals, strictly control monastic vows and disciplinary percepts, give importance to the leading role of the Buddhist colleges in cultivating religious personnel; 3) strengthen the development of teaching methods, implement the spirit of the National Religious Work Conference, and resist the erosion of the commercialization of Buddhism; 4) strengthen the construction of system by formulating and revising internal rules and regulations in accordance with the requirements of the new era for the construction of Buddhism itself, and gradually establish a modern Buddhist system.

The meeting also reviewed and approved nine newly revised rules and regulations such as the ‘Management Measures for National Han Buddhist Temples’, reviewed and approved the five-year work plan, as well as reviewed the revised draft of the Charter of the Chinese Buddhist Association.

The revisions included president Xi Jinping's directives on religious issues and religious work, as well as the major decisions made of the Party Central Committee on religious work in recent years.

TAR stability maintenance chief calls on 'resolutely resisting Dalai Clique's infiltration and destruction' on visits to monasteries

Zhong Yuan, deputy secretary of the TAR Party Committee and head of the TAR Stability Maintenance Command visited Drepung Monastery, Sera Monastery and Jokhang Temple on the morning of 24 July to "conduct field research, strengthen and innovate temple management work, and to meet with the personnel working on the frontline", the *Tibet Daily* reported on 26 July.

On his visits, Zhong directed the monks and nuns, especially spiritual leaders and eminent personalities, to "consciously study Xi Jinping's new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, learn the spirit of the TAR monastery management work forum, strengthen political stance, and resolutely resist the infiltration and destruction of the separatist forces represented by the Dalai clique." The religious leaders and personnel were further required to "**consciously safeguard national unity and ethnic unity, resolutely be consistent in words**

and deeds, and unify physical and mental aspects with a decisive stance by adhering to the direction of religious sinicization and taking the lead in carrying out the interpretation of religious teachings, educating and guiding religious believers to enable Tibetan Buddhism to keep pace with the times and better adapt to China's socialist society."

Zhong continued that the religious leaders and personnel should firmly grasp the leadership of the temple management by requiring the resident cadres stationed at monastic institutions to always adhere to the word 'stability' to ensure that the monasteries are harmonious and stable. By persisting in political unity among monks and nuns and respecting their religious faith, Zhong said efforts should be made "to understand their thoughts, solve their practical difficulties, and effectively unite the vast majority of monks and nuns around the party and the government."

Zhong also stressed that it was necessary to "resolutely implement president Xi Jinping's important directives on religion work, comprehensively and accurately implement the basic principles of the party's religious work, implement the spirit of the TAR monastery management work forum", and "to continue to work hard on actively practising the 'four standards' policy by continuously improving the ability to manage religious affairs in accordance with the law and to promote the adaptation of religion to socialist society."

Party to open a ‘patriotic education base’ at Reting Monastery in Lhundrub County

On an inspection tour this month to investigate propaganda work on the ‘Don’t forget the original intention and carry on the mission’ campaign in Lhundrub (Ch:Linzhou) County, TAR Party Standing Committee member and secretary of the Lhasa Municipal Party Committee Baima Wangdui (Pema Wangdu) visited Reting Monastery and held meetings with the Seventh Reting Rinpoche Lodro Gyamtso Trinley Lhundrub and the resident cadres stationed at the monastery, reported the China Tibet Network on 15 July citing sources from the Lhundrub County United Front Work Department.

In his meeting with Reting Rinpoche, Baima Wangdui endorsed the proposal of building a "patriotic education base" at Reting Monastery and directed the monastery's management committee to put in place measures to expedite its execution. Reting Rinpoche had purportedly made the proposal to Baima Wangdui during the meeting.

During the course of his engagements at the monastery, Baima Wangdui emphasized that all reincarnate lamas, as representatives of the religious circles, should use their influence to propagate patriotism and love for the party and the government among the monks and nuns by “diligently studying the policies and political priorities of the party, actively responding to the party's call, implementing the party's decisions and achieving unity in the party's ideology”.

He further underlined the necessity of “implementing President Xi Jinping’s instructions on cultivating monks and nuns who are politically reliable, religiously accomplished, morally convincing, and can take initiative during critical periods”, as well as “adhering to the spirit of the important speech delivered by TAR party secretary Wu Yingjie at the symposium attended by representatives of Tibetan religious circles”.

On temple management and stability maintenance, he called on the monastery management committee to strengthen its work of controlling and managing the affairs of the monastery, by “always standing firm and having a clear-cut stand and never accommodating incorrect views among the monks and nuns”. He also called for the “effective popularization of the law and incorporation of the legal system throughout the entire process of monastery management work so that the monks and nuns set a red line of awareness and recognition that the national law is higher than the religious teachings.”

Monks and nuns were instructed to “not respond to the Dalai clique's incitement and enticement, not participate in the activities of splitting the motherland, not participate in activities that disturb the social order, focus on religious practice and not pick quarrels and make trouble. The resident cadres stationed at the temple had been instructed to “fully recognize the complex situation existing in the current religious field, anticipate danger even during peaceful times, take the initiative, pay attention to methods, and thoroughly expose the Dalai Clique's reactionary politics, religious hypocrisy and deceptive tactics.”

Baima Wangdui was accompanied by Liao Bo, standing committee member of the Lhasa Municipal Party Committee and secretary of the Municipal Party Committee; Anu Tsering, head of Lhasa United Front Work Department; Tsering Dhundrub, Lhundrub County Party Secretary; Gaden Tsering, Director of Lhundrub County People's Congress; and Tsering Dadul, head of Lhundrub County United Front Work Department.

Launch ceremony for 2019 Lawyers Group to Aid Tibet's legal service held in Lhasa

This year's launch ceremony for 'Lawyers Group to Aid Tibet's legal service' was held on the morning of 11 July in Lhasa, TAR. A total of 68 lawyers from 22 Chinese provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities have been assigned to work this year in Tibetan counties where there are no lawyers, the *Tibet Daily* reported on 12 July.

According to data released by the Ministry of Justice, there are only 343 lawyers and 49 law firms, while 74 counties do not have a lawyer. The total population of TAR is more than 3 million.

The Ministry of Justice, All-China Lawyers Association and China Legal Aid Foundation jointly hosted the ceremony. Xiong Xuanguo, vice minister of Ministry of Justice and Han Xiutao, general secretary of All-China Lawyers Association spoke at the ceremony.

In his speech at the event, Xiong emphasized that carrying out the project requires "everyone to profoundly study and understand the spirit of the important instructions of [President] Xi Jinping, and fully understand the importance

of doing a good job in aiding Tibet to promote the construction of Tibet's public legal service system, safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the people of all ethnic groups in Tibet, and promote the long-term development and long-term stability of Tibet's economy and society."

The English language *Global Times* on 11 July quoted Dan Ba (Tenpa), head of TAR Justice Department, as saying that the lawyers were expected to "improve the rule of law, enhance ethnic unity, social stability and prosperity of the region", in addition to promoting 'legal knowledge' among local students, monks, factory workers and herders.

Wang Qun, a cadre of Beijing Municipal Bureau of Justice and secretary of Beijing Lawyers Party Committee made a speech on behalf of Beijing judicial administration system. There were 13 lawyers, out of 68, that were selected from Beijing to take part in the project.

In the past five years, 152 lawyers from different parts of China have participated in the project.

In January this year, Xiong announced that the authorities had established 2,917 legal service centers at the county level and 39,380 legal service stations at the township level and in urban communities under a judicial reform plan from 2018 to 2020 that is aimed at increasing efforts to "further extend the network, raise public awareness and improve the legal aid system and management of lawyers."

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