
中国藏学研究中心

China Tibetology Research Center (CTRC)

Submission to United Nations Universal Periodical Review of China

March 2018

1. The third universal periodic review (UPR) of China by United Nations Human Rights Council in 2018 is definitely a matter of attention for China Tibetology Research Center (CTRC). Over the years, the Chinese government has made great efforts and achievements in protecting the rights and interests of ethnic minorities, though there are still problems. Hereby, we would like to make some comments and suggestions for the protection of Tibetan human rights.

2. The systems of Regional Ethnic Autonomy and Community Level Self-Governance are under effective implementation. By electing people's representatives, Tibetan people participate in the management of state affairs and local affairs at all levels in Tibet. According to statistics, among the 445 deputies in the 10th Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), the Tibetans account for 65.2 percent and the Tibetans and other ethnic minorities altogether account for 69.2 percent. And among the 615 members in the 10th CPPCC

(Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference) of Tibet Autonomous Region, Tibetans account for 70.9 percent and the Tibetans and other ethnic minorities altogether account for 74 percent.

3. The majority of the local government officials in TAR were from the Tibetan group, which embodies the advantage of the system of Regional Ethnic Autonomy. Chief officials of the people's congresses, government and CPPCC in Tibet have always been held by officials from Tibetan ethnic group. Currently, there are more than 110,000 officials from minority ethnic groups in the Party and government at all levels in Tibet, accounting for more than 70 percent of the total number of officials. The Tibetan officials work together with officials of other ethnic groups to develop the economy, improve livelihood and ensure the full enjoyment and exercise of their rights of people.

4. The people of all ethnic groups in Tibet have the full right to vote and stand for election and participate in local political affairs. The farmers and herdsmen participate in regional political affairs through self-governance organizations in the village, and they have the full right to be informed, to express and to vote on local major issues. Since 2013, by widely participating in the self-governance organization at the primary level which composes of 5 to 10 households-"Building Two Connections with Households" (which means government officials build up connections with each household) in order to ensure the safety of each

household and help them to increase their income. This is an innovation to entitle the right of community autonomy to famers and herdsmen and is welcomed by the famers and herdsmen.

5. With the rapid development of economy, the livelihood has been significantly improved. The gross regional domestic product of Tibet reached 115.007 billion yuan at the end of 2016, 351 times more than that of 1965; the fiscal revenue increased 921 times than that of 1965. In 2016, the per capita disposable income of urban households reached 27,802 yuan, 38 times higher than that of 1978. The per capita disposable income of farmers and herdsmen in Tibet reached 9,094 yuan, with a year-on-year growth of 10.3 percent. Industries with local characteristics including traditional Tibetan medicine, ethnic handicrafts, pure land health industry, tourism culture and natural drinking water and so on have been developing significantly. Nowadays, Tibet is following an approach of sharing development, which is people-orientated and with industrial development as its core, innovation and entrepreneurship as its engine, under the goal of increasing employment through developing industries, providing profound material basis for protecting human rights and equal opportunities for realizing shared development.

6. The overall supply of basic public services has been enhanced and people's living quality has been greatly improved. In 2016, the registered unemployment rate in urban areas of Tibet was limited within 2.6 percent.

26,000 people were employed through public welfare jobs, and over 2,500 jobless families had realized that throughout the time at least one person per household got a job. The system of basic pensions and medical insurance, including the monks and nuns in the monasteries, has been established. The social insurance covered 2.606 million persons. All kinds of social welfare agencies adopted 5,711 orphans. People's health condition has been improving continually-680 township clinics have been built, providing free basic medical services to all farmers and herdsmen. Diseases such as echinococcosis, which has been jeopardizing people's health, are being effectively treated. Tibet has realized 15-year free education from the preschool stage to senior middle school, fully implemented the nutrition improvement plan for students under compulsory education in agricultural and pastoral areas. Tibet has covered all tuition, food, and boarding expenses for students from farmers' and herdsmen's families and those from families in urban areas with financial difficulties and raised the subsidy standard to more than 3,300 yuan per student every year. 88 percent of the counties in Tibet had access to asphalt roads; as many as 99.7 percent of the townships and 99.2 percent of the administrative villages could be reached by road. Internet penetration rate in Tibet was 70.7 percent, and the Internet coverage in farming and pastoral areas has surpassed 65 percent.

7. Targeted measures to help people lift themselves out of poverty

have been taken , and the number of poor farmers and herdsmen is decreasing. Since the implementation of the targeted poverty alleviation project, the poverty-stricken population-people with a per capita per annum income of less than 2,700 yuan (at constant price of 2010)-has fallen from 590,000 in 2015 to 443,000 by the end of 2016. From January to September in 2017, a total of 115,300 people were lifted out of poverty through developing competitive industries. Such measures as relocating the poor have given the farmers and herdsmen better chances to develop. Consumer products such as computers, smartphones and home-use cars have entered the homes of ordinary household in Tibet.

8. Tibetan language learning is efficiently protected. Bilingual teaching in Tibetan and Chinese is carried out in all schools in Tibet to inherit the Tibetan language in the course of learning. There are now more than 30,000 bilingual teachers, and about 5,800 teachers of Tibetan language in primary and middle schools. More than 80 percent of books published by Tibet People's Publishing House and Tibetan Ancient Books Publishing House were in Tibetan. The Region publishes 14 Tibetan-language periodicals and 11 Tibetan-language newspapers. Tibetan TV airs 24 hours of Tibetan-language programs.

9. Excellent traditional culture is all-around protected and inherited. The central government allocated more than 40 million yuan for the revision and publication of the Tibetan Buddhist canons (Tibetan

Tripitaka) *Kangyur* and *Tengyur*, a 20-year project entailing the efforts of more than 100 Tibetan experts so as to meet the needs of learning and practicing for monks and nuns and religious believers. Some achievements of *A Comprehensive Collection of Tibetan Classic Works* have been compiled and published. Endangered ethnic and folk culture has been effectively saved and protected. The central government and Tibet have channeled about 200 million yuan into efforts to preserve items of important intangible heritage, such as Tibetan opera, Gesar, traditional singing and dancing, and craftsmanship, thus forming a four-level intangible heritage protection category at the state, autonomous region, prefecture, and county level.

10. A large number of cultural relics and historic sites have been effectively protected and repaired. The third survey of immovable cultural relics across the Region has been completed, which recorded 4,277 cultural relics. The first survey of movable cultural relics has also been launched. According to statistics, there are millions of such relics across the Region. Security staff has been assigned to guard cultural relics in the wild, so further strengthening the security of cultural relics across the Region. The *Tibet Autonomous Region Pattra-leaf Scripture Catalogue* has been published. Currently there is one world cultural heritage site spread over three places, 55 cultural relics protection units at state level, 391 at autonomous region level, 978 at city and county level,

and three state historical and cultural cities, forming a pyramid complete system of cultural relics protection system.

11. People of all ethnic groups in Tibet Autonomous Region enjoy the freedom of religious belief. Today's Tibet is harmonious home to various religions including Tibetan Buddhism, Bon, Islam and Catholicism and so on. Normal religious activities and religious beliefs are protected according to law. There are 1,787 sites for different religious activities in Tibet, and more than 46,000 resident monks and nuns. Tibet Autonomous Region and seven cities all have Buddhist associations. Tibetan and other minority ethnic groups lead their religious lives and carry out religious activities according to native traditions. More than 40 major religious activities are protected and inherited. Each year, millions of pilgrimages to Lhasa are made.

12. The Living Buddha reincarnation is proceeding well. The Living Buddha reincarnation system is respected by the state and governments at different levels of the autonomous region, and the state has issued the Measures on the Management of the Reincarnation of Living Buddhas of Tibetan Buddhism. According to latest statistic, Tibet now has 358 Living Buddhas, more than 60 of whom have been confirmed through historical conventions and traditional religious rituals. Since 2013, the Living Buddha reincarnation system has been perfected in order to ensure the real Living Buddhas enjoys the full rights of promoting the Buddhism.

13. The system whereby Tibetan Buddhist monks learn sutras is improving. The High-level Tibetan Buddhism College of China has been set up in Beijing, and the new Tibetan Buddhist College in Lhasa. Both recruit and train senior Buddhist teaching personnel. Each year 1,000 new monks are recruited and then enter into different monasteries. More than 60 monasteries of various sects in Tibet have their own sutra learning classes, and teach and confer degrees according to tradition. By 2017, a total of 105 monks have received the "Lharampa Geshe" degree, the highest degree conferred in the traditional Tibetan monastic system, and 148 monks received the senior "Tho Ram Pa" degree from the High-level Tibetan Buddhism College of China.

14. Temples are maintained and protected. The central government has allocated more than 1.4 billion yuan to restore Tibetan cultural relics and refurbish key monasteries. For example, a total of 6.7 million yuan, 111 kg of gold, 2,000 kg of silver, and a large amount of jewelry has been used to renovate stupas and prayer halls from the Fifth Panchen Erdeni to the Ninth Panchen Erdeni. Since 2013, the state has strengthened the support by planning to spend 1.8 billion yuan to restore and protect monasteries in TAR during the period of the Thirteenth Five-Year Plan (from 2016 to 2020).

15. We propose to promote the application of smart technologies such as big data in safeguarding the human rights in Tibet Autonomous

Region and to carry out a scientific quantitative assessment of the development of human rights in TAR.