



Library of Tibetan Works & Archives

(Centre for Tibetan Studies)

INTENSIVE TRANSLATION PROGRAM

1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Chinese invasion and its occupation of Tibet in 1959 resulted in the mass killing of Tibetans, including monks and nuns, and vast destruction of temples and monasteries. The infamous decade-long Chinese "Cultural Revolution" (1966-77) and the subsequent repressive policies unleashed by the Chinese government further intensified religious and cultural persecution, ravaging and pillaging much of the priceless Tibetan literary, religious and cultural wealth. The illegal occupation forced Tibet's spiritual and temporal leader, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and thousands of Tibetans to flee into exile and seek asylum in India and elsewhere.

Today, despite all adversity, His Holiness the Dalai Lama with generous support from India and other countries, have taken tremendous strides towards rebuilding the ancient monasteries and cultural institutions and opening new schools for the teaching of modern subjects. This effort has led to the establishment of many cultural centers, the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, in Dharamsala in northern India.

Founded in 1971, the LTWA was formally recognized as a "Centre for Tibetan Studies" by the Himachal Pradesh University. With an extensive library facility aided by several other departments, the LTWA functions as an academic and cultural centre for Buddhist and Tibetan studies.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In the ongoing struggle for Tibet's freedom, Tibetans stand face to face with two major challenges: firstly, to sustain their unique identity through the preservation of their distinct culture and religion, and secondly to begin to embrace modern science and technology and seek to excel in these areas for the betterment of Tibet and the world. In view of these challenges, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has been working tirelessly towards the rebuilding of monasteries and centers for cultural education, and the opening of new schools for learning both modern and traditional subjects.

These two challenges further spur the needs for promotion and translations to enable both the dissemination of Tibet's ancient spiritual culture to the materialistically advanced West and the assimilation of Western knowledge of modern science and technology to further Tibet's spiritual richness. This imperative could well yield an unprecedented growth of literary works to add to the already vast Tibetan literary collections, and will significantly help to ensure the intellectual growth of a nation. In light of these pressing needs, the LTWA has been organizing its annual Culture Workshop and Intensive Translation Program for years.

3. PROGRAMS DESCRIPTIONS

The LTWA organizes two intensive learning programs a year, a three-month **Intensive Translation Program** started in 2006. The ITP normally starts on 1st July and concludes on 30th September every year. Approximately thirty students are admitted to each program. The programs are open to Tibetans and others from the Himalayan regions and foreigners who have a good command over Tibetan language. Participants are taught Tibetan language and literature, Buddhist philosophy and practice, English language and literature, and translation methodology. However, classes are not held on Saturdays and Sundays of each month, on Tibetan national holidays and during His Holiness' teachings in Dharamsala. Students are required to attend a minimum of 80% of classes.

Throughout the periods the course focuses on Tibetan culture, Buddhist philosophy and practice, Tibetan language, English language and translation methodology and practice. On each working day there are four or five classes of 60–90 minutes.

At times, extra classes are conducted to provide students with direct interaction with scholars. Whenever possible, the LTWA also invites experienced translators, scholars, Tibetan parliament members and the senior CTA staff members to speak on different topics. Students can also attend scholarly talks organized by the LTWA for the general public. Besides, the LTWA entrusts students with numerous assignments during the training programs.

4. COMPOSITION

Faculty

The ITP is supervised under Ven. Geshe Lhakdor, the Director of the LTWA. The teaching faculty consists of Geshes, experienced translators and language teachers with years of experience teaching international students. There are five or six regular teachers.

Extra support

During the program, students are free to ask for any assistance, technical or otherwise, from the existing LTWA staff for the furtherance of their knowledge. Assistance may include free use of the Tibetan and foreign language reference library sections. Students can also avail themselves of services such as the copying of audio-recordings containing Buddhist translations, photocopying, etc. at nominal charges.

Students

In all, the program facilitates the training of a maximum of thirty students.

Scholarship Awardees

The LTWA offers a monthly stipend of Rs. 5,000 (five thousand) to the students.

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5. SELECTION AND ADMISSION

The LTWA will select and enroll a maximum of thirty students based on first-come, first-served basis based on the following requirements:

- ✓ A letter with signature assuring one will attend the whole program.
- ✓ A copy of one legal ID (for example, passport, IC, Adhaar card, RC etc.)
- ✓ A copy of class XII certificate or equivalent grade, proving a minimum knowledge of Tibetan and English to be able to get the lessons properly.

The program will be advertised either in print or electronic media or both.

6. FORMAL CERTIFICATION

On completion of the program, the LTWA confers upon students a certificate stating that they have successfully completed the program. Only those attending a minimum of 80% of the total working classes will be entitled to receive a certificate. Should a student fail to fulfill the minimum attendance requirement, no reasons—medical or otherwise—shall be entertained for the issuance of any certificate.

7. FOOD, ACCOMMODATION AND FEE

Each of the students selected under the scholarship awardee quota will be granted a monthly stipend of Rs. 5,000 during the program. However, those who get rooms at the LTWA will be charged accordingly.

No fee will be charged to students for any class or extra-curricular activity that the LTWA might conduct during the program.

For any further information, call/write to:

Office Secretary at +91-9882255047 or ltwa1970@gmail.com

