

INTENSIVE TRANSLATION PROGRAM 2024

1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Through the ages, translation, a simple yet complicated process of rendering a piece of information from its language of origin into the expression of a different culture, has proven the greatest force behind constructive interaction among humankind. Translation has enabled the sharing and exchanging of knowledge on religion, culture, science, technology, education, traditions, arts and so forth among people of different cultural and environmental backgrounds. For the Tibetans, translation ushered in a golden era as it facilitated the advent of Buddhism in Tibet from India in the late seventh century.

Today, Tibet's identity is largely characterized by the principles and values enshrined in the innumerable ancient Buddhist scriptures that have been translated from the languages of India and other countries. Though its history is brief compared to other ancient countries, Tibet has witnessed one of the highest rates of Buddhist translation in this world both in quality and quantity. The superior quality of translations of works by the great scholars motivated solely by the intention to benefit others continued for hundreds of years under the patronage of the Tibetan kings and the successive ecclesiastical and lay rulers.

However, 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" (1966-1977) and the subsequent repressive policies instituted by the Chinese government further intensified religious and cultural persecution, ravaging 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 adversaries, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government-in-exile, 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, including one of the oldest: the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives in Dharamsala in the north of India.

Founded in 1970, the LTWA was formally recognized as a "Centre for Tibetan Studies" by the Himachal Pradesh University and as a "National Library" "National Archive" and "National Museum" by the Tibetan Parliament-in-exile in 1996. With an extensive library facility aided

by several departments, including the Department of Research and Translation, the LTWA functions as an academic centre for the study of Buddhism and Tibetan Studies.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In the wake of the new millennium and the ongoing struggle for Tibet's freedom, Tibetans today 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 them for the betterment of Tibet and the world. In view of these challenges, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government-in-exile have worked tirelessly towards the rebuilding of monasteries and centers for cultural education, and the opening of new schools for teaching modern subjects including science and technology over the past four decades in exile.

These two challenges further spur the need for the production of translations to enable 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 Tibetans' spiritual richness. This could well yield an unprecedented growth of literary works to add to the already vast Tibetan literary collections. This will significantly help to ensure the intellectual growth of a nation.

In light of these pressing needs, the LTWA is organizing a three-month workshop.

3. WORKSHOP PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The workshop shall be conducted for a period of three months from 1st June to 30th September 2024. However, classes shall not be held on Saturdays, Sundays, Tibetan national holidays and during His Holiness' teachings in Dharamsala. Students are required to attend a minimum of 80% classes.

Throughout the period, the workshop will primarily focus on four major subjects: Buddhist philosophy and practice, Tibetan language, English language and translation methodology. On each working day there will be five classes of 40-60 minutes each: two on Buddhist philosophy and practice and one each on Tibetan language, English language and translation methodology and practice.

An extra class will be conducted if necessary to provide students with direct interaction with Geshe las on specific topics of Buddhist philosophy and practice. Whenever possible, the LTWA will also invite experienced translators and scholars to speak on related topics. Students can also attend scholarly talks organized by the LTWA for the general public.

4. COMPOSITION

The program will comprise seven teachers, twenty five students and other additional staff. The program will be administered under the LTWA Director, Venerable Geshe Lhakdor.

Students

In all, the workshop will facilitate the training of twenty five students.

Teachers

The workshop will also comprise regular teachers/instructors: three for Buddhist philosophy and one each for Tibetan language, English language and translation methodology. The number of teachers may change in the event of their unavailability.

Staff

During the workshop, students are free to ask for any help or assistance, technical or otherwise, from existing LTWA staff for the furtherance of their knowledge. Assistance may include free use of Tibetan and Foreign Language Reference library sections. The students can also avail of services like copying of audio-recordings containing Buddhist translations, photocopying, etc. on nominal charges.

SN	Classes/Subjects	Teachers/Instructors
1	Buddhist Philosophy	1. Ven. Geshe Lobsang Tsundu 2. Ven. Geshe Gyaltzen Tsering
2	Translation Methodology	1. Ven. Geshe Lhakdor 2. Mr. Tsering Norbu 3. Ms. Phurbu Dolma
3	Tibetan Language	1. Mr. Bhu Dawa 2. Ms. Tashi Tsomo
4	English Language	1. Ms. Kerry A. Wright
5	Co-curricular Activities	1. Ms. Chemi Dolkar 2. Ms. Dolma Tsering

5. SELECTION AND ADMISSION

The LTWA will select and enroll twenty five applicants to the Intensive Translation Program 2024 on the first-come, first served basis.

Selection Committee

All matters relating to the selection and admission of students will be overseen by a committee comprising:

The LTWA Director

The LTWA General Secretary

In the event of any disagreement, the decision of the Selection Committee shall be final and binding.

6. FORMAL CERTIFICATION

On completion of the program, the LTWA will confer upon students a certificate stating that they have successfully completed the ITP 2024. Only those attending a minimum of 80% of the total working classes will be entitled to receive the 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. SCHOLARSHIP

Each of the students selected will be granted a monthly stipend/scholarship of ₹ 5,000 (five thousand) throughout the program period.

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

9. DISCIPLINARY NOTES

In the event of any dispute relating to the program, the LTWA reserves the sole right to make decisions or to entrust such cases to the appropriate bodies. The LTWA also reserves the right to terminate the program for any significantly viable reason or suspend a student for any improper action or behavior.

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