The Tibet Fund Welcomes Executive Director Lobsang Nyandak

The Tibet Fund’s Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Lobsang Nyandak, former Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the Americas, was appointed Executive Director of The Tibet Fund on September 1, 2013.

After a thorough search and interview process, the Search Committee and Board of Directors unanimously agreed that Mr. Nyandak was ideally suited to move the mission and work of The Tibet Fund forward. Mr. Nyandak’s knowledge of the Tibetan community in exile, his profound understanding of Tibetan culture, and his years of dedication to the Tibetan people made his candidacy exemplary.

For the past five years, Mr. Nyandak has served with distinction as the Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the Americas. Previous to holding this position, Mr. Nyandak worked extensively within the Tibetan community in exile, serving for five years as a Member of the Assembly of Tibetan People’s Deputies, for five years as the Kalon (Minister) of the Department of Finance, for three years as the Kalon of the Department of Health, for two years as the Kalon of the Department of Information & International relations in the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), as Executive Director of the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, and as a Trustee of His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s Charitable Trusts in Dharamsala and the United States.

The Board of Directors heartily welcomes Mr. Nyandak and is excited about the leadership and insight he will bring to the organization’s work in service to the Tibetan people, their culture, and religion.

Joseph Wood Joins The Tibet Fund’s Board of Directors

The Tibet Fund’s Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Board Member Joseph Wood. Mr. Wood has an extensive financial background, having served as a Vice President at the World Bank, where he was responsible for the Bank’s financial policies for over a decade. In addition, he led the initiative to create the Global Environment Facility, and was in charge of the Bank’s operations in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan.

Mr. Wood retired from the World Bank in 1998 after 31 years of service. He then went on to co-found the Bridge Fund, a non-profit organization that runs development projects in Tibetan communities in Western China. Mr. Wood recently stepped down as chairman of the organization, and currently serves as treasurer and board member of Unniti Foundation, which supports empowerment projects for women in India and Nepal.

Mr. Wood has an undergraduate degree in Mathematics from Yale University and an advanced degree in Economics from Oxford University. He and his wife Kathleen reside in Hyannis Port, where her family has had a home since 1911.
Tibetan Scholarship Program: The Tibet Fund Welcomes the 27th Batch of Students

The Tibet Fund welcomed a group of eight students during the second week of August 2013 as part of the Tibetan Scholarship Program’s (TSP) 27th grant. These students are attending premier academic institutions in the United States for their graduate studies in fields such as: East Asian Studies, Film Studies, Environmental Studies, Business, and Physics. The TSP students participated in a two-day orientation in New York, organized by The Tibet Fund. The goal of the orientation was to provide the newly-arrived students with information on a variety of topics, including: academic life, acclimating to American culture, and the rights and responsibilities of a TSP participant.

During the orientation, Kasur Dharlo, Executive Director of The Tibet Fund, welcomed the participants to the United States and wished them success in their studies. Since 1987, The Tibet Fund has brought 406 Tibetan students from India, Nepal, and Bhutan to the United States for professional development and enrollment in advanced degrees programs in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

The Tibetan Chamber of Commerce’s Trade Delegation Visits New York City

On September 27, 2013, The Tibet Fund hosted a reception for the Tibetan Chamber of Commerce’s (TCC) trade delegation at the Stephanie Odegard Collection showroom. The delegation visited New York at the end of September in order to establish networks and explore possible markets in the United States.

At the reception, Rinchen Dharlo, President of The Tibet Fund, welcomed the delegates to New York, and introduced Lobsang Nyandak, Executive Director of The Tibet Fund, who highlighted the importance of the TCC and the trade delegation’s visit to the United States. Kaydor Aukatsang, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the Americas, provided brief remarks regarding the TCC. Kesang Norbu, President of the TCC, discussed the Tibetan Chamber of Commerce’s mission and the objectives of the delegation’s trip. Yangki Tshering, Director of the Business Center for New Americans, introduced the reception’s speaker, Karen Sieger, Principal and Founder of Sirene MediaWorks. Mrs. Sieger addressed the delegation, discussing current market trends in the United States, before opening the floor to questions. Tsewang Namgyal, Vice President at the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ and Board Member of The Tibet Fund, served as moderator and provided closing remarks for the evening.

The Tibet Fund Explores Supporting Tibetan Entrepreneurs in Exile

Peter Korynski, an independent consultant, traveled to India in the beginning of September on behalf of The Tibet Fund in order to take a critical look at the business opportunities in Tibetan communities and the role The Tibet Fund can play in strengthening their success.

While Tibetan businesses are small and the entrepreneurs remain modest, the situation may be slowly changing. Trends show that experienced entrepreneurs are beginning to break into the Indian market with traditional Tibetan products, and emerging leaders are establishing non-traditional businesses.

A contemporary art and design studio in Delhi, founded by a London-educated Tibetan designer with her Indian colleague, and a dance school in Dharamsala stand as new business models for the community.

The Tibet Fund is well positioned, working with the CTA and other business networks, to add value and to make capital available to entrepreneurs; to provide business management skills; and to stimulate entrepreneurship among the younger generation of Tibetans in exile.