



Dr. Lobsang Sangay, Kalon Tripa, Central Tibetan Administration

Dr. Lobsang Sangay is currently the Kalon Tripa (equivalent to Prime Minister) of the Central Tibetan Administration based in Dharamsala, India. He was sworn in on August 8, 2011. He is an expert in Tibetan law and international human rights law.

He attended the Central School for Tibetans (CST) in Sonada and Darjeeling and completed his BA (Honors) in English Literature (1988-1991) and his Bachelor in Law (LLB 1991-1994), from Delhi University.

In 1995, Dr. Sangay was selected as a Fulbright Scholar and obtained his Masters degree at Harvard Law School. His thesis was on Buddhism and Human Rights. In the summer of 1996, he received a fellowship from the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva, Switzerland and helped research the report Tibet: Human Rights and Rule of Law, which was published in 1997. In 1996, he received a prestigious Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Pacific Basin Research Center and wrote a chapter on the Tibetan Educational System for a book titled Human Rights and Human Values in Asia-Pacific Region.

In 2004, he earned his Doctorate in Law from Harvard Law School, becoming the first Tibetan to receive this degree from Harvard. His Doctorate dissertation, titled Democracy and History of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile from 1959-2004 was awarded the Yong K. Kim' 95 Prize for excellence. He served as a Senior Fellow at the East Asian Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School prior to his election as the Kalon Tripa.

Dr. Sangay has interacted, discussed and debated various aspects of Tibet from historical status, occupation, to the present colonialism, His Holiness advocacy of Middle Way and diverse views within the society with numerous Chinese scholars from top universities in China and the United States. He is well versed in contemporary Chinese politics and legal issues. In an effort to promote Track II Diplomacy, Dr. Sangay has organized seven major conferences among Chinese, Tibetan, Indian and Western scholars, on contemporary Tibet. He organized two unprecedented meetings between HH the Dalai Lama and Chinese scholars: in 2003 where 35 Chinese scholars participated, and another in May 2009 when His Holiness met with more than a hundred scholars from China at Harvard University. Dr. Sangay has also trained Tibetan youth and students on effective interaction with Chinese students and people.

In 2007, he was selected as one of the twenty-four Young Leaders of Asia by the Asia Society, a global organization promoting understanding between North America and Asia. In recent years, Dr. Sangay has participated in Young Asian Leaders Summit in South Korea; Singapore; Japan; Thailand, Malaysia, and India.

In April 2008, he testified as an expert before the US Senate Foreign Relations Sub-committee on East Asia and Pacific Affairs, along with the United States Deputy Secretary of State John

Negroponte, Special Envoy of the Dalai Lama Lodi Gyari, and Actor Richard Gere. The Washington DC-based think tank Woodrow Wilson Center organized an event where Dr. Sangay debriefed Congressional staff members on the issue of Tibet.

As an expert on Tibet, international human rights law, democratic constitutionalism, and conflict resolution, Dr. Sangay has given lectures on Sino-Tibet issues in various universities, think tanks and other public forums in Europe, Asia and North America such as Ecole des Hautes Etudes En Sciences Sociales in Paris, University of Westminster, London, University of Deakin, Melbourne, University of Madrid, IIT Madras, Taiwan University, Peking University, Carter Center, Woodrow Wilson Center, Stanford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and many other institutes in the US.

He has been consulted by the news media, including The New York Times, The London Times, The Wall Street Journal, BBC, Newsweek, TIME Magazine, Washington Post, USA Today, the Boston Globe, Harvard Crimson, among others. His articles about Tibet have been published in the Harvard Asia Quarterly, Journal of Democracy, East Asia and International Law and chapters in several books.

Dr. Sangay was born in a village in Darjeeling in 1968 with a typical Shichak (refugee settlement) background amidst fields, cows, chicken, fetching wood in the forest and helping his parent's small business including winter sweater selling. He is married to Kesang Yangdon Shakchang, whose parents were from Lhokha and Phare. They have been together for 13 years and have a three-year- old daughter.

Dr. Lobsang Sangay speaks Tibetan, English, Hindi, Nepali and a bit of Chinese.

His Eminence Kyabje Kirti Rinpoche (Rongpo Choije)



The Eleventh Kyabje Kirti Rinpoche Lobsang Tenzin Jigme Yeshe Gyamtso Pal Sangpo (hereinafter Rinpoche) was born in 1942 at Thevo Takmoe Depa of Amdo in Eastern Tibet.

In 1946, following the harmonious conformity in divination results of many leading lamas including Je Jigme Damchoe Gyatsho and Je Jamyang Shedpa Tenpai Gyaltsen Pel Sangpo, Rinpoche was formally recognized as the incarnation of the Tenth Kirti Kyabgon. As is customary in the Tibetan tradition of Tulku recognition, Rinpoche was enthroned at the great monastery of Taktsang Lhamo in 1947. Thereafter, Rinpoche pursued his basic religious studies and training at the monastery in Amdo.

In 1957, at the behest of His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso, the spiritual and temporal leader of Tibet, Rinpoche journeyed to Lhasa in Central Tibet. The Central Government of Tibet, thereupon, conferred on him an honorary title, equal in prestige to the Tulku Namsum (Three Principal Tulkus). Following the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1949, Rinpoche followed H.H. the Dalai Lama into exile to India. In 1962, He received the higher vows of Buddhist of monk hood from H.H the Dalai Lama. From 1960 through 1964, Rinpoche pursued higher studies in Buddhist religion and philosophy at Buxar and later at Dalhousie, Both in India.

In 1965, through popular selection conducted by the Tibetan government, Rinpoche joined a Teacher's Training program, where he received higher training in both modern and traditional system of education. In 1968, at the request of the Ex-abbot Ven. Ngawang Samten Rinpoche, He took the entire responsibility of overseeing the administration of Gaden Tashi Choeling Monastery at Sukia, Darjeeling. At the same time, Rinpoche sought higher training in Buddhist and Tibetan Studies at the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies at Varanasi for nine years. Highly acclaimed for his excellence in study and research, Rinpoche was duly awarded the degree of Shastri and Acharya.

For a decade since 1978, Rinpoche worked as a Research Scholar at the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, Dharamsala, and was also appointed as the Representative of H.H. The Dalai Lama in the Governing Body of the Institute of Tibetology at Gangtok, Sikkim. In 1984, as a Representative of the Tibetan Government in exile, Rinpoche visited Tibet and China, where he met many Chinese dignitaries and high Tibetan Lamas including the Panchen Lama.

In 1986, undergoing a strict traditional examination and debating at the three great monasteries of Sera, Drepung and Gaden in South India, Rinpoche was honored with the highest degree of Geshe Lharampa (equiv. to PhD).

From 1987 onwards Rinpoche served in various important offices of Tibetan Government in exile such as the office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Political Committee, constitution Re-drafting Committee and also of member of Public Service Commission at the appointment of

H.H. the Dalai Lama. In 1992, Rinpoche reestablished the Kirti Japa Dratsang (Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies) at Dharamsala.

In 1997, Rinpoche was elected to the office of Kashag, the highest executive body in Tibetan government in exile. He took the oath of office of Minister of Religion and Culture, and served the community with utmost sincerity and dedication throughout his tenure. At the same time, He was also the Vice President of the Asian Buddhist Conference for peace (ABCP) and member of the Tibetan Religious foundation in Taiwan. Presently, Rinpoche is the Head of Kirti Japa Dratsang (Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies), in Dharamsala, Rinpoche is highly dedicated in service to the world community and the preservation of Tibetan Religion and Culture.

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