

DIALOGUE:

Statement by Lodi Gyari concerning the dialogue process with China: On December 10, Lodi Gyari, Special Envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the lead person designated by the Dalai Lama to commence negotiations with the Chinese Government released a statement in response to an interview published in the Chinese media by Executive Vice Minister Zhu Weiqun concerning the dialogue process on December 8. In the statement, Mr. Gyari said, "We are currently under discussion with the Chinese leadership on the next round of dialogue and so the timing and content of this interview are perplexing." He added, "Time and again, the Chinese side has been the one that has been cautioning us from the negotiating through the media. They contend that we should take things up directly and face to face. But we see it is the Chinese side that is increasingly coming up with obstacles presented through selective interviews to the media." Mr. Gyari recalled an advice he received from a Chinese Professor involved with the Tibetan issue for many years while serving the Chinese Government who told him not to expect the Chinese leadership to have the political courage to remove the hat of separatism from the Dalai Lama even while they are clearly aware of it, as then they would not be able to justify to the Chinese people their current policies in Tibet or on the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet."

<http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/tibet-news/statement-lodi-gyari-concerning-dialogue-process-china>

TIBET ENVIRONMENT:

ICT Report: Tibet's importance as earth's third pole raised at COP15 for first time at international climate change forum: For the first time at a major international forum on climate change, Tibetans were present at the COP15 summit in Copenhagen to present new information about the global implications of climate change in Tibet. Tibet harbors the biggest ice fields outside of the Arctic and Antarctic and is referred to as the 'world's third pole.' The impact of melting glaciers on the Tibetan plateau could be catastrophic and has become a serious issue in the region. The Tibetans reported on how China's policies in Tibet are contributing to the warming of the plateau and excluding Tibetans in the stewardship of their land. Calling for independent, international scientific assessment of Tibet's ecosystem and current land-use policies, they said that the cooperation of all stakeholders from Tibetan nomads to Chinese scientists and representatives of countries downstream that depend on Tibet's water is essential given the scale of the threat.

<http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-press-releases/tibets-importance-earths-third-pole-raised-cop15-first-time-international-climate-change>

ICT Report: Parliamentarians call for global action on Tibet climate change crisis: Thirty five Parliamentarians from 16 different countries have written to the head of the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen urging negotiators to take into account the global implications for climate change in Tibet. The Parliamentarians, in their letter, noted that according to scientists, the Chinese government's land use policies of fast track urbanization, infrastructure construction and resource exploitation are contributing to the acceleration of global warming and environmental destruction in Tibet. Matteo Mecacci, President, Tibet Intergroup of the Italian Parliament, urged negotiators in Copenhagen to specifically address climate change in Tibet and said: "The policies of China toward Tibet are undermining not only the livelihood of Tibetan nomads and stakeholders, but also the preservation of natural resources that matter not only for Tibetans, but for hundreds of millions of people in Asia and beyond."

<http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/tibet-news/parliamentarians-call-global-action-tibet-climate-change-crisis>

U.S. CONGRESS:

ICT Report: U.S. Congress funds Tibet programs for fiscal year 2010: In a strong assertion of support for Tibet, the U.S. Congress is moving to give final approval to legislation that provides millions of dollars for Tibet programs. The funding is provided in the Conference Report on the Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 3288) for Fiscal Year 2010. The House of Representatives passed the bill on December 10 by a vote on 221-202; the Senate is expected to consider the measure this weekend. The bill funds several longstanding programs, including grants to non-governmental organizations to support sustainable development and cultural traditions on the Tibetan plateau, scholarship programs, educational and cultural exchange programs, funding for the Office of the special co-coordinator for Tibetan issues at the State Department and it includes "surge" level funding for Tibetan broadcasting by Radio Free Asia and Voice of America. The bill also includes \$2 million for a new initiative to modernize Tibetan refugee settlements in India through organic agriculture and workforce development, designed to improve the sustainability and vitality of the long-standing settlement communities. <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-press-releases/us-congress-funds-tibet-programs-fiscal-year-2010>