TIBET
FACTS AND FIGURES 2015

Preface

The Tibetan Plateau maintained close contacts with other parts of China in the political, economic and cultural fields in history. Tibet was officially put under the jurisdiction of the Central Government of China in middle of the 13th century, which is held by historians as the inevitable result of the historical development of China. In the 700-odd years thereafter, Tibet was ruled by the upper-class monks and lay people. During the period, the Central Government exercised rule over the territory of Tibet.

China, Tibet included, was reduced into a semi-feudal and semi-colonial society after 1840.While leaving no stone unturned to carve up China, imperialist powers worked hard to cultivate people who stood for national separation. These people did their best to incite Tibetan independence, but failed to succeed.

The People's Republic of China was founded on October 1, 1949. On May 23, 1951, the Agreement of the Central People's Government and the Local Government of Tibet on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet ("17-Article Agreement" for short) was signed in Beijing to bring about the peaceful liberation of Tibet. This was an important part of the cause of the Chinese people's national liberation, a great event in the nation's struggle against imperialism to safeguard national unity and sovereignty and a milestone marking the commencement of Tibet's progress from a dark and backward society toward a bright and advanced future.

In the 1950s, when slavery and serfdom had long since been abandoned by modern civilization, Tibet still remained a society of theocratic feudal serfdom. Through the Democratic Reform in 1959, Tibet has abolished feudal serfdom and theocracy, estab-

lished the system of people's congresses with the people as masters of the country. The Tibet Autonomous Region was established officially in September 1965.

Over the past 50 years since then, Tibet has gained unprecedented achievements in various undertakings, witnessed great changes in social outlook and profound changes in the people's lives, greatly improved the human rights conditions, achieved rapid and comprehensive economic and social development and made a world-acclaimed historical leap.

The past over 60 years have shown that Tibet shares its destiny with the rest of the motherland; its development, in fact, would have been impossible without that of China as a whole. Tibet's rebirth and development would have been impossible without national unification, independence and prosperity, the great unity of the Chinese nation, the support of the entire nation and the firm leadership of the Central Government. Only by adhering to the leadership of the CPC, the path of socialism, the system of regional ethnic autonomy, and the development mode with Chinese characteristics and Tibet's regional features, can it enjoy lasting prosperity and a bright future.

The Dalai clique trumpeted the "middle way" in an attempt to gain the so-called "high degree of autonomy" by setting up the "greater Tibet" free from the jurisdiction of the Central Government. This move negates Chinese sovereignty over Tibet and is aimed at realizing its pipe dream of "greater Tibet". Facts will tell the Dalai Lama his dream goes against the PRC Constitution and the State system. It will certainly be doomed.

CONTENTS

01

Administrative Division,Ethnic Makeup, Population and Religion 1

- Administrative Division 2
- Ethnic Makeup 12
- Population 13
- Religion 17

02

Geography and Natural Resources 29

- Geography and Climate 30
- Natural Resources 38

03

History and Administrative Division 45

- History 46
- Administrative Division 66

04

System of Regional Ethnic Autonomy 75

- Political Autonomy Right 76
- Economic Development 81
- Protection, Inheritance and Development of Excellent Traditional Tibetan Culture 84

05

Customs and Folklore 89

- Tibetan Festivals 90
- Clothing Culture 91
- Catering Culture 92
- Traditional Marriage Customs and Funeral Customs 94
- Traditional Folk Houses 95

06

Economy 99

- General Survey 100
- Aid to Tibet 102
- Financial Revenue and Expenditure 103
- Investment in Fixed Assets 104
- Agriculture and Animal Husbandry 106
- Industry and Construction 109
- Domestic Trade 113
- Foreign Trade 115
- Finance 117

CONTENTS

07 

Transportation, Postal Services, and Telecommunications 143

- Highways 145
- Aviation 147
- Railways 149
- Pipeline Transportation 151
- Postal Services, Telecommunications and the Internet 153

08 

Environmental Protection 159

09 

Education, Science and Technology 163

- Education 164
- Science and Technology 167

10 

Culture, Health and Sports 175

- Culture 176
- Medical Treatment and Health Care 184
- Sports Undertakings 187

11 

Living Conditions and Social Security 195

- Living Conditions 196
- Social Security and Employment 199

12 

Tourism 211

- Tourism Resources 212
- Tourist Reception Capability 213

01

Administrative Division, Ethnic Makeup, Population and Religion



Administrative Division

Ethnic Makeup

Population

Religion

01 Administrative Division, Ethnic Makeup, Population and Religion

Administrative Division

Situated in the southwestern border area of the People's Republic of China, the Tibet Autonomous Region lies at 78°25′—99°06′E and 26°50′—36°53′N, and covers an area of about 1.22 million square km, or one-eighth of China's land territory area.With a size equal to the total of the five countries including the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Germany, the Netherland and Luxemburg, Tibet is the second largest provincial-level area in China, next only to the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.It abuts the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Qinghai Province in the north, Sichuan and Yunnan Provinces in the east and southeast.It also has a 3,800 km border with the neighboring countries of Myanmar, India,

Tibet is known as the "Roof of the World" with vast area and rare population.

Bhutan and Nepal as well as Kashmir in the south and west.Tucked away at an elevation of over 4,000 meters on average, Tibet is often known as the "Roof of the World".

The Tibet Autonomous Region is one of the five provincial-level autonomous regions of the ethnic minority groups. The Tibet Autonomous Region exercises jurisdiction over four prefectural-level cities (Lhasa City, Xigaze City, Qamdo City and Nyingchi City), three prefectures (Nagqu, Shannan, and Ngari Prefectures), four county-level districts (Chengguan Districs under Lhasa City, Samzhubze District under Xigaze City, Karu District under Qamdo City and Payi District under Nyingchi City) and 70 counties. Lhasa is the capital of the region.

Lhasa City

Located in the central south part of Tibet, Lhasa is the political, economic and cultural center of Tibet as well as the most important air and land traffic hub. With an area of 31,622 square km, it exercises jurisdiction over Chengguan District and seven counties including Dagze, Lhunzhub, Damxung, Nyemo, Quxu, Doilungdeqen and Maizhokunggar.The city is home to more than 30 ethnic groups including Tibetan, Han and Hui, of which Tibetans account for more than

Lhasa in Autumn.

87 percent of the total population.

It falls into the category of a highland monsoon climate.Tibet's major grain and economic crops could also be found in the city.Its medicinal herbs include Chinese caterpillar fungus, caladium, rhodiola root, ginseng fruit, musk and pilose antler.Its wildlife includes wild yaks, wild donkeys, black-necked cranes, Mongolia gazelles and Tibetan antelopes.Its traditional handicrafts include waist knives, kardian cushions, carpets, bamdian aprons, wooden bowls, and gold and silver jewelries.

Lhasa has a long history, reflected in its rich endowment under State protection (16) and 47 under the protection of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR).Its famous cultural attractions include the Potala Palace, Jokhang Monastery and the Norbu Lingka, now listed by UNESCO as World Cultural Heritage sites.Others include, Rampoche Monastery, Zhaibung Monastery, Sera Monastery, Zongjab Lukhang, Gandain, Curpu and Razheng monasteries, as well as the cultural site of the Neolithic period in Qoigong. Major natural attractions include Nam Co Lake-Nyainqentanglha Mountains National Scenic Area, Lhalu Wetland National Nature Reserve, and Yangbajain Geothermal Field, the snow peaks of the Nyainqentanglha range, hot springs at Dezong and Doilung, and the nature reserves in Lhunzhub and Meizhukongka.Thus far, the TAR has opened more than 200 scenic spots, including some 20 major ones.

Xigaze City

Xigaze City is one of China's youngest prefecture-level cities. The State Council approved the change from the former Xigaze Prefecture in July 2014 to establish the prefecture-level Xigaze City. The present Samzhubze District was formerly the county-level Xigaze City.

Located in southwestern part of Tibet, Xigaze City abuts Bhutan, India and Nepal in the south.It covers Samzhubze District and 17 counties including Namling, Gyangze, Tingri, Sagya, Lhaze, Ngamring, Xaitongmoin, Bainang, Rinbung, Kangmar, Dinggye, Kamba, Zhongba, Yadong, Gyirong, Nylam and Sagya. With an area of 180,000 square km, it is home mainly to Tibetans.Other ethnic groups found here include the Han, Hui, Mongol, Naxi, plus Sherpa people.

Xigaze is considered to be home to many plateau pastures, fields, forests, and snow-covered peaks. The Qomolangma Nature Reserve boasts the world's highest most

Farmers in Xigaze throwing Zanba into the air to pray for a bumper harvest during the Ongkor (Bumper Harvest) Festival.

intact vertical eco-system. Major scenic spots and places of historical interest include the Tashilhungpo Monastery, Sagya Monastery, site of Tibetans fighting British invaders at Zongshan Hill, Xialhu Monastery, Tang Tianzu Envoy Inscriptions, Qoide Monastery and Zholmalhakang, which are subject to national cultural protection, as well as the Natang Monastery, Rongbo Monastery, Palkor Monastery and Parlha Manor.

Xigaze City is the major area for the development of mountaineering in Tibet partly because it boasts five peaks each rising at least 8,000 meters above sea level: Qomolangma (8,844.43 meters), Lho Tse (8,516 meters), Makalu (8,463 meters), Cho Oyu (8,201meters) and Xixabangma (8,012 meters).In the past two decades or so, China has opened 44 high peaks and mountaineering routes. Foreign mountaineering teams climbing Qomolangma now number at least 20 a year.

Native produce of the city include wooden bowls wrapped in silver, tea tray and frames, Tibetan carpets, golden thread hats, Tibetan knives and kardian cushions.

Qamdo City

Established in November 2014, Qamdo City is one of China's youngest pre-

fecture-level cities and the third created in the Tibet Autonomous Region. The State Council approved the change from the former Qamdo Prefecture to become the prefecture-level Qamdo City. Karu District was established in place of Xigaze County.

Located in eastern Tibet, Qamdo City abuts Yunnan and Sichuan Provinces to the east, and Qinghai Province to the north. The Sichuan-Tibet, Yunnan-Tibet, Qinghai-Qamdo and other trunk highways meet here. There are also roads leading to various county seats. It covers Karu District, and 10 counties including Jomda, Konjo, Riwoqe, Dengqen, Chagyab, Baxoi, Zogang, Mangkam, Lhorong and Banbar counties. Covering an area of 130,000 square km, this city is home to the Tibetan, Han, Mongolian, Naxi, Lisu and Hui ethnic groups.

There are some 80 high peaks each with an elevation of over 5,000 meters in the city. In the river valleys, forests and natural pastures live more than 600 species of wildlife such as snow leopards, pandas, Yunnan golden monkeys and white lipped deer. It is rich in some 1,200 kinds of medicinal herbs including caterpillar fungus, musk, young pilose antler and the bulb of fritillary.

Major scenic areas include Karu District's Qambaling Monastery and Karu New Stone Age Ruins, Zugung County's Meili Snow Mountain, and Zaya County's carved rock paintings and Lunglung stone carvings.

Nyingchi City

According to Approval on the Replacement of Nyingchi Prefecture by Nyingchi City in the Tibet Autonomous Region, issued by the State Council, the Tibet Autonomous Region made change.. Payi District was established in place of Nyingchi County.

Located in southeastern Tibet, Nyingchi City is on the middle and lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River. It abuts India and Myanmar to the south. It covers Payi District, and six counties including Gongbo'gyamda, Mainling, Medog, Bome, Zayu and Nang counties.Covering an area of 99,700 square km, it is home to the Tibetan and Han, as well as Moinba, Lhoba and some other ethnic groups.

Under the impact of the warm air current from the Indian Ocean, Nyingchi City is free from unbearably hot weather in summer and freezing cold in winter. It is blessed with plentiful precipitation and humidity. Forests covering 2.64 million hectares teem with old giant spruce trees, while the oldest cypress tree is 2,500 years

old. Timber reserves exceed 800 million cubic meters. The number of known higher plants reaches some 2,000. The lowest elevation is about 1,000 meters.Some places in the prefecture are suitable for growing rice, oranges, bananas and lemon. Rare wildlife includes Bengal tigers and Yunnan golden monkeys. Native produce include tube of elevated gastrodia, pseudo ginseng, fritillaria, Hongjintian, Chinese caterpillar fungus, glossy ganoderma and other medicinal herbs. Nang County's Tibetan hats and wooden bowls, Bome's "Qomolangma holy tea", and Ye'ong Tibetan knives, Zayu's woven bamboo products and Tibetan wooden bowls are famous in China.

Nyingchi City boasts eight scenic areas comprising 40 scenic spots. They include ones acknowledged as outstanding by world tourism organizations, 4A ones recommended by the China National Tourism Bureau, as well as the national forest park - the Basum Co Scenic Area. Others include the Namjiagbawa Scenic Area, the Yarlung Zangbo Grand Canyon, the Yi'ong Geological Park and the Serchila National Forest Park, plus various kinds of glaciers.

Mitui glacier in Bome County.

Nagqu Prefecture

Nagqu Prefecture lies in northern Tibet abutting Xinjiang and Qinghai. It covers Nagqu, Jiali, Biru, Nyainrong, Amdo, Xainza, Sog, Bangoin, Baqen, Nyima and Shuanghu counties. Its total area is 286,500 square km. More than 98 percent of its population is Tibetan and their main livelihood is livestock breeding. The southern Nagqu is its main pastoral area, while the northern part is unfrequented plateau, the main body of Changtang National Nature Reserve.

The central and western parts of Nagqu are located at an average elevation of over 4,500 meters. Maintaining a primitive ecology, the prefecture is dotted with some 1,000 rippling lakes including the Nam Co, the Serling Co and the Tangra Yumco, as well as many hot springs and geothermal, oil and gas fields. There are over 20 animal species subject to national first and second class protection.

Major special products include oxen and sheep wool, Cashmere goat wool, caterpillar fungus, snow lotus flower and musk.

Major scenic spots include the Tangula Mountain-Nujiang River Source National Scenic Area, Tangula Station of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, the Cona Lake in Amdo

Tibetan herders by the Nam Co Lake.

County, the Shaten Monastery in Nagqu County, the Arza Lake and the Chongyi Township Scenic Area in Jiali County, the Nujiang River scenic area and the Bomphan Primitive Forests in Biru County, as well as the Bacang, the Lungkar and the Lupug Monasteries of the Bon religion.

Shannan Prefecture

Located on the middle and lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River, Shannan Prefecture abuts Bhutan and India to the south. It covers Nedong, Chantang, Qonggyai, Konggar, Sangri, Qusum, Coma, Lhunze, Co Nag, Nanggarze and Lhozhag counties. With an area of some 80,000 square km, it is home to the Tibetan, Han, Hui, Moinba and Lhoba ethnic groups. Tibetans occupy 98 percent of the total population.

As one of the major cradles of the Tibetan race, Shannan has a long history. It has 10 cultural relic sites subject to national protection, including the Tombs of Tibetan Kings, the Samye Monastery, the Changzhub Monastery, the Zhatang Monastery, the Jidui Tubo Tombs Group, the Leshan Tubo Tomb, the Lhagari Imperial Palace Ruins, the Namserling Manor, the Gyiru Lhakang, Segya Goto Monastery, as well as holy

Villagers in Nanggarze County, Shannan Prefecture, are having a tug of war game.

mountains and holy lakes.

It boasts snow-covered mountains, glaciers, pastures, unspoilt river valley, and places of historic interest. The Yarlung River National Class Scenic Area was ever the only one of its kind in Tibet. The prefecture has such tourist sites featuring scenic beauty and human interest - the Yamzhog Yumco Lake Scenic Area, the Samye Scenic Area and the Holy Lakes Scenic Area.

Native produces include pulu woolen fabrics, Tibetan joss sticks and kardian cushions.

Shannan Prefecture is an area with sound transport facilities. The Lhasa Gonggar Airport is located in Gyizholing Town of the prefecture's Gonggar County.

Ngari Prefecture

Located in western Tibet, Ngari Prefecture abuts Kashmir, India and Nepal to the west and south. With the border extending 116 km, the prefecture has over 60 mountain passes leading to other parts of the world. Of the seven counties under its jurisdiction, i.e.Gar, Zanda, Rutog, Gelgyai, Burang, Gyaize and Coqen, three engage entirely

Clay forests in Zanda.

in livestock breeding, and four in farming and livestock breeding at the same time. It covers an area of 303,000 square km, with relatively low population density.

The prefecture holds an important place in China's cultural and economic exchanges with the west. It is home to ancient civilization of Zhangzhung and the Bon religion.

With an average elevation of 4,500 meters, the prefecture is full of scenic wonders including glaciers, extensive plateau plant coverage, Gobi desert, rippling rivers and lakes, green fields, clay forests, and wildlife. Its Shiqianhe River, Kongquehe River, Xiangquanhe River and Maquanhe River are respectively sources of the Indus, Ganges, Sutlej and Yarlung Zangbo Rivers. It is also home to the sites of many ancient civilizations such as the ruins of the Guge Kingdom, the Toding Monastery, the Donggar Frescos and the Ritog Cliff Paintings. In Burang County is the holy mountain of Kangrenboqe, the chief peak of the Gangdese Mountains, and the holy lake of Mapang Yumco. Both hold an important place in Asian religious history. Ngari Prefecture also has five world-class tourist sites, 18 national class ones including Toding-Guge National Scenic Area, and 48 regional level ones. Tourism has grown into a major contributor to local economic growth.

Administrative Division (2015)

Prefecture-level city/ prefecture		District under the city	County	Township	Ethnic township	Town	Subdistrict	Urban residents committee	Villagers committees
Total	7	4	70	543	9	140	10	209	5255
Lhasa City		1	7	48		9	8	44	224
Xigaze City		1	17	175		27	2	30	1643
Qamdo City		1	10	110	1	28		23	1119
Nyingchi City		1	6	34	3	20		7	489
Shannan Prefecture			12	58	5	24		61	493
Nagqu Prefecture			11	89		25		37	1153
Ngari Prefecture			7	30		7		7	134

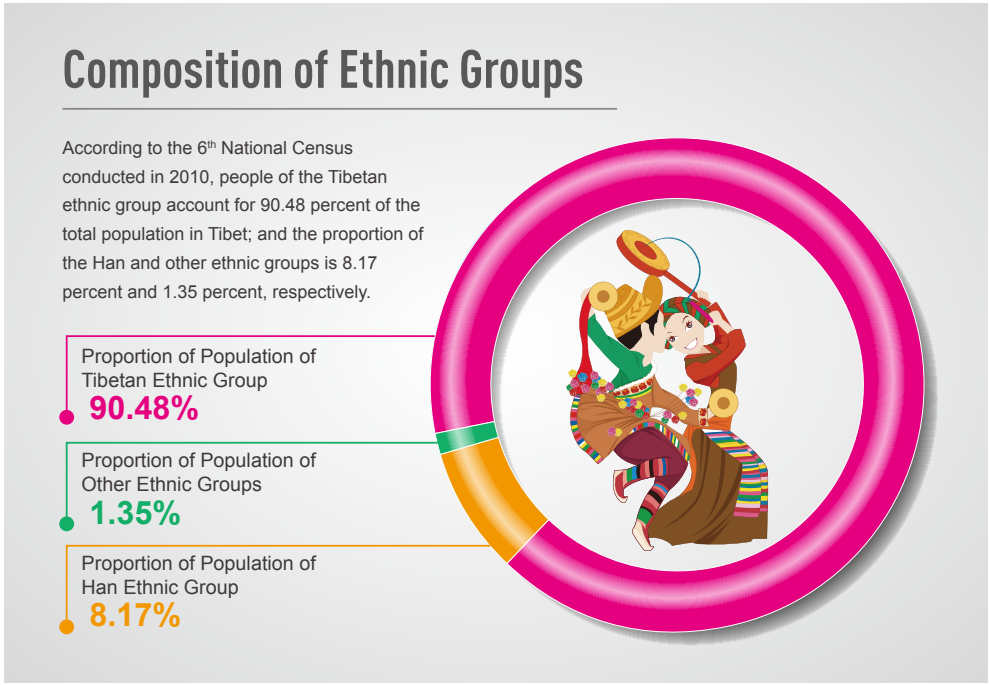
Ethnic Makeup

Tibetans form the major ethnic group in the Tibet Autonomous Region. Half of the people of the Tibetan ethnic group live in Tibet, and others are scattered mainly in the Tibetan-inhabited areas of Qinghai, Gansu, Sichuan, and Yunnan. There are also Tibetan resident population or floating population scattered in Beijing City, Shanghai City, Chongqing City, Shanxi Province, Shaanxi Province, Xinjiang Urgur Autonomous Region and Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region.

As one of the most ancient ethnic group in China, the Tibetan race was formed in the 7th century. The Tibetan race played an important role in the formation and development of the Chinese nation. According to historical documents in Tibetan and Chinese, in the course of its development, the Tibetan race expanded to include the Han, Mongolian, Manchurian, Hui, Qiang and Naxi peoples. Such a situation contributed to the characteristics of the evolution of the Chinese nation and the development of Chinese history.

During the struggle for maintaining national unification and opposing national division, all ethnic groups in Tibet have stood the test of all difficulties and risks and maintain the unity of the Chinese nation and national unification. In the course of

According to the 6th National Population Census in 2010, some 90.48 percent of the people living in Tibet are people of the Tibetan ethnic group.



achieving great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, all ethnic groups in Tibet share the development fruit and glory with the rest of the motherland.

Population

From the 7th to the 18th century, as a result of natural calamities, diseases and poor medical conditions, plus the fact that monks and nuns were not allowed to marry, the Tibetan population registered negative growth. In the 200 years from the 18th to the mid-20th century, the population further declined by 800,000.

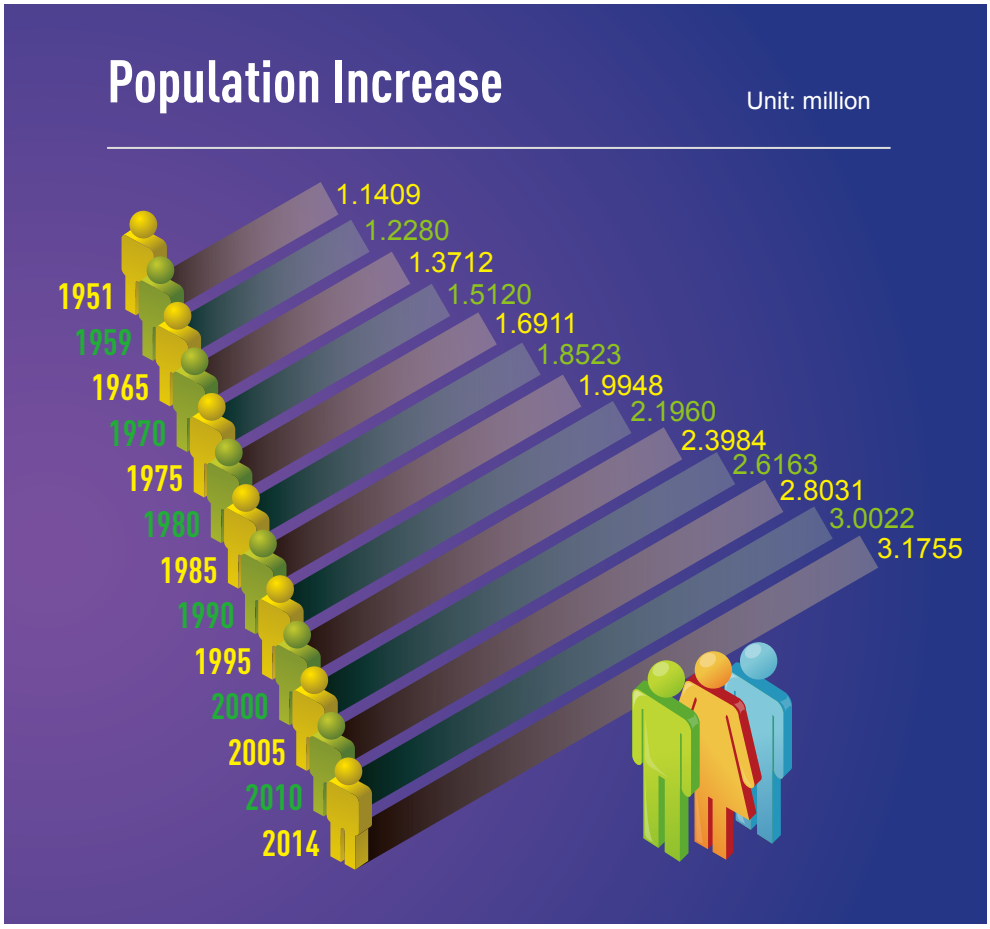
Data shows that the period from 1951 to the present time is the one witnessing the fastest growth of the Tibetan population in the past. Tibet's population birth rate and natural growth rate have all stayed higher than the national average since 1956.According to the result of the 6th National Population Census in 2010, Tibet's resident population reached 3.0022 million, an increase of 1.8613 million as against 1.1409 million in 1951 when Tibet won the peaceful liberation. Calculated according to a

population sample survey, Tibet's resident population reached 3.1204 million in 2013. The family planning policy followed extensively in China's hinterland is not followed in the farming and livestock breeding areas. A 1 percent sample survey of the resident population of Tibet shows the resident population of Tibet has been growing at an annual rate of 10 per thousand in the last 10 years, which stays higher than the national average in China

During the ongoing reform and opening-up period, there are people who come from hinterland to work, travel or do business in Lhasa and other parts of Tibet. But this has nothing to do with the increase in the Tibetan population. Of the people in Tibet, people of the Tibetan and other ethnic minority groups makes up more than 90

Changes in Tibetan Population (1951-2014)

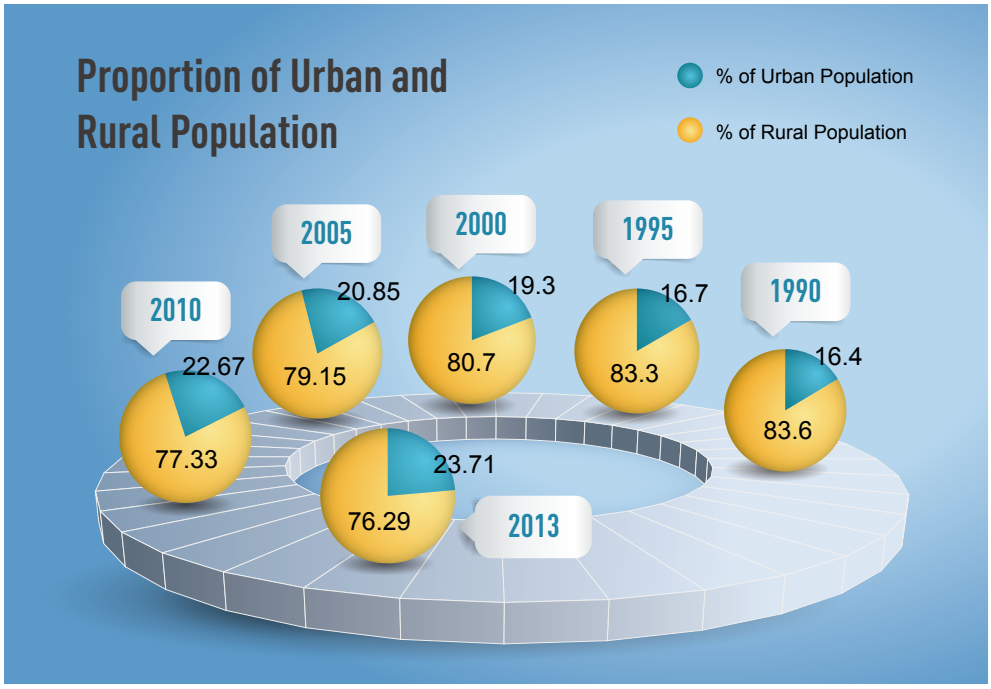
Time	Tibetan Population	Remarks
Peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951	About 1.1409 million	Death rate: 28‰; infant mortality rate: 430‰
First national census in 1953	About 1.275 million	Including the population Qamdo which was directly under the Central Government; Tibetan population (1 million) was counted based on estimates of the local government of Tibet then under the leadership of the 14th Dalai Lama
Second national census in 1964	1.251 million	Population of the Tibetan ethnic group stands at 1.209 million
Third national census in 1982	1.892 million	Population of the Tibetan ethnic group stands at 1.786 million
Fourth national census in 1990	2.196 million	Population of the Tibetan ethnic group stands at 2.096 million
Fifth national census in 2000	2.6163 million (including those hailing from other parts of China and excluding those who have left Tibet	Population of the Tibetan ethnic group stands at 2.4111 million
Sixth national census in 2010	3.0022 million	Population of the Tibetan ethnic group stands at 2.7164 million, with the population of the Tibetan and other ethnic minority groups making up more than 91.83 percent of the total population.
2011	3.0330 million	
2012	3.0762 million	
2013	3.1204 million	
2014	3.1755 million	



percent of the total population of the region.

According to relevant statistics, about 23.71 percent of the Tibetan population lives in urban areas, and 76.29 percent in rural and livestock breeding areas. Tibet sees an uneven distribution of population, with the greatest concentration in the southern and eastern parts; only a small number of people live in the western and northwestern parts.

The Tibet Autonomous Region has the smallest population and is the most sparsely populated among China's provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government. The average population density stood at 2.26 people per square km, equaling one-60th of the national average. The Lhasa Plain,



the plains at the middle and lower reaches of the Nyangqu River and the Zetang Plain have about 50 residents per square km, and there are more than 100 people per square km in the vicinity of the Chengguan District in Lhasa. The upstream section on the middle reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River, upper reaches of the Lhasa River and the northeastern part of the Hengduanshan mountainous area in east Tibet have a population density of 3-10 people per square km on average. Of these areas, Lhaze, the Sagya Plain, the Nyang River Valley near Nyingchi and the Lancang River Valley are more densely populated. The eastern Ngari and western Nagqu are the areas with the smallest population density in the world, being only 0.23 person per square km. Changtang in northwestern Nagqu is the "no-man" area.

In the late 1970s, China began to widely implement a family planning and population control policy, advocating one child for one couple, with the aim of curbing the rapid population growth. But in Tibet, the Central Government encouraged the autonomous regional government to adopt special policies in accordance with its own conditions. In 1984, the region's government decided to follow a special birth control

policy in the region, following the "one child for one couple" policy among Han officials and workers working in Tibet and encouraging the Tibetan government workers and urban residents wanting a second child to delay doing so. The family planning work has been carried out on a voluntary basis. Forced abortion in any form is prohibited. But they do receive education in scientific contraception methods, rational arrangements for birth and sound child rearing, so as to protect mothers and infants' health and raise the quality of population. In addition, government health departments offer safe, reliable health service to farmers and herders who voluntarily request assistance in birth control.

Religion

Main Religions

Religious practice encompasses Tibetan Buddhism Major (including the Nyingma, Gagyu, Sagya, Gelug Sects), Bon and folk religion, plus Islam and Catholicism. At

Kangrenboqe Mountain held as the holy mountains for many religions including Tibetan Buddhism and Bon religion.

present, there are 1,787 monasteries and nunneries of Tibetan Buddhism in the region, a coverage rate of one for around 1,500 people; there are more than 46,000 monks and nuns registered in monasteries, and 358 Living Buddhas. There are four mosques, with some 3,000 followers; and one Catholic church, with over 700 worshipers.

The social influence of these religions varies with the regions. Unlike Tibetan Buddhism, the Bon religion, Islam and Catholicism, the folk religion lacks theory, special venues for rituals and religious organizations. Tibetan Buddhism and the Bon religion are opposing faiths, although they have long exerted influence on each other. Thus parts of the Tibetan Buddhism can be found in the tenets of the Bon, and vice versa. Both have absorbed the cream of the folk religion, such as worship of various folk spirits. These have exerted profound influence on the formation of Tibetan Buddhism and the development of the Bon religion. Islam and Catholicism are small in the number of followers and influence in Tibet. They are practiced only in a limited area. However, they do exist and live harmoniously with Tibetan Buddhism and the Bon religion. Surrounded by various kinds of theological religions, the folk religion still has extensive and profound influence among the Tibetan folks and in particular in the remote and border areas.

Tibetan Buddhism

In the early 7th century, Buddhism made its way into Tubo (the old name of Tibet) from Nepal and China's Central Plains (the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River).For subsistence and development, Buddhism in Tibet absorbed a lot from the Bon religion and other folk religions. Strongly influenced by cultures of the surrounding areas, Buddhism in Tibet grew to possess voluminous classics, rich scriptural tenets, a sound monastic system, a strict sutra study system and meditation system; later, the Living Buddha reincarnation system emerged. Finally, it became a special branch different from the Han Buddhism and Pali-language Buddhism-Tibetan-language Buddhism also known as Lamaism.

Through long-time evolution, Tibetan Buddhism was split into many sects, and some of these sects exerted profound influence on the traditional culture of Tibet and even the history of China as a whole. Major sects of Tibetan Buddhism include the Nyingma (known as the Red Sect), Sagya (known as Colorful Sect), Gagyu (known as

A Tibetan woman spinning prayer wheels.

the White Sect), Gelug (known as the Yellow Sect) and Jonang sect. Of all the sects, Gelug was founded in the end of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and the beginning of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). The history of Gelug was short, but it was the most powerful because the Central Government of the Qing Dynasty attached importance to and supported it. The two major Living Buddha systems, Dalai and Panchen, came from the Gelug Sect. There are people who think the Bon religion should be counted as a part of Tibetan Buddhism as the Bon religion has taken a lot from Buddhism. But many with the Bon religious circle do not agree with this statement.

Tibetan Buddhism is practiced mainly in China's Tibet as well as the Tibetan-inhabited provinces of Qinghai, Gansu, Sichuan and Yunnan as well as areas where the Mongolian, Tu, Yugu, Moinba ethnic groups live together. There are also some who believe in Tibetan Buddhism, such as those of the Han, Naxi, Lhoba and Pumi ethnic groups. It has worshippers also in Bhutan, Nepal, Mongolia and India as well as Kashmir and Buryatiya in Russia. It spread to Europe, the United States and Southeast Asia in the second half of the 20th century.

During the heyday of Tibetan Buddhism in Tibet, each Tibetan family with more than one child was required to provide at least one member to become a monk or nun. This is why Tibetan monks and nuns made up 25 percent of the Tibetan population in the 16th century and thereafter. In 1951 when Tibet was peacefully liberated, there were 100,000 monks and nuns, or over 10 percent of the Tibetan population in Tibet. After the Democratic Reform in 1959, Tibetan people have since enjoyed freedom to be lamas or resume secular life.

Statistics show, prior to the Democratic Reform in 1959, monasteries owned 36 percent of the farmland in Tibet, and all of the grasslands, livestock and other means of production in the region; usury they issued made up 80 percent of the usury issued by the three major estate-holders in Tibet (local administrative officials, nobles and upper-ranking lamas in monasteries).Serfs who leased land from monasteries had to turn about 70 percent of their yields to the monasteries, and, moreover, paid corvee labor for the monasteries. Above statistics show the broad masses of serfs and slaves lived in deep water. Therefore, abolishing the feudal serfdom featuring temporal and religious administration and abolishing the feudal privileges of the noble class in the political, economic and judicial fields constitute the prerequisite for the broad masses of serfs and slaves to win political emancipation, and enjoy economic decision-making power and the true freedom of religious belief.

Appendix: Living Buddha Reincarnation

Tibetan Buddhism has many sects, which have introduced their own system for disciples to take over the teaching from their masters so as to safeguard their established interests and defend their own rule. This constitutes one of the social factors contributing to the introduction of the Living Buddha incarnation system.

Garma Gagyu, a sect of Tibetan Buddhism, was the first among the various sects of Tibetan Buddhism to introduce the Living Buddha incarnation system. According to historical records, Dorsum Qenba (1110-1193), founder of the Gagyu Sect, told his disciples before his death that he was to reincarnate and his soul boy would be his successor. The successor of Dorsum Qenba was Garma Baxi, who had been granted by Mongol Khan Mongo who later became the Emperor Xianzong of the Yuan Dynasty a gold-rimmed black hat. Gradually, the Garma Gagyu Sect was on a par with the Sagya

Sect in terms of strength. In 1283, after Garma Baxi died, his disciples, following his will, found a boy as his reincarnation to inherit the black hat showing leadership of his sect of Tibetan Buddhism. This was the beginning of the black-hat Living Buddha reincarnation system of the Gagyu Sect. Other Tibetan Buddhist sects followed suit and the procedures of looking for the reincarnated soul boy also became complicated gradually. The Gelug Sect had no Living Buddha reincarnation system when it was founded. The first few Living Buddhas in the two major reincarnation systems were admitted posthumously. The formal conferment and support of the Qing government was the key factor for the Dalai Lama and Panchen Erdeni reincarnation systems to be followed and their political and religious status to be solidified and raised. When the Gelug Sect took power in the 17th century, the Living Buddha reincarnation system became a means employed by those in power in Tibet to seek prerogatives. Numerous fraudulent practices in seeking and confirming the reincarnated soul boys emerged. To curb these, the Qing court promulgated the 29-Article Ordinance for More Effective Governing of Tibet in 1793.This prescribed the introduction of the system of drawing a lot from a golden urn to determine the reincarnated soul boy of a deceased Living Buddha. Thus, the Living Buddha reincarnation system of the Tibetan Buddhism was incorporated into the national legal system. That the Central Government held the final right to confirm and approve the reincarnated soul boy became a historical institution administered by the Central Government. Since then, there has been no exception in confirming and approving the reincarnated soul boy of Dalai Lama. The two golden urns made originally for this practice still exist. The one for the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Erdeni is kept in Jokhang Monastery in Lhasa; the one for Grand Living Buddha and Hutogtu Living Buddha in Mongolia and Tibet is kept in the Yonghegong Lamasery in Beijing.

The state respects the faith in and practice of Living Buddha reincarnation, as well as the religious rituals and historical institution of Tibetan Buddhism. In 1992, the State Council Bureau of Religious Affairs approved the succession of the 17th Karmapa Living Buddha. In 1995, the Tibet Autonomous Region, at the approval of the State Council, accomplished the seeking and confirmation of the 10th Panchen's reincarnated soul boy and the conferment and enthronement of the 11th Panchen, after going through the procedure of drawing a lot from the gold urn. More than 60 Living

Buddhas have been determined with the approval according to the historical institution and religious rituals of Tibetan Buddhism since the Democratic Reform in 1959.

In July 2007, the State Administration for Religious Affairs promulgated the Measures on the Management of the Reincarnation of Living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism.

Bon Religion

In about the 5th century BC, Prince Sinrao Miwoche of the ancient state of Zhangzhong founded the Bon religion on the basis of an existing primitive religion unique to Zhangzhong.It conducted rituals mainly in the Montog area of Gar County, Ngari, primarily to pray for luck and for dispelling evil. It gradually spread to the area drained by the Yarlung Zangbo River, becoming a dominant religious force in the ideological field of the plateau before Buddhism formally found a foothold there.

When Buddhism spread to Tibet, priests of the Bon religion and Buddhist monks fought each other. For the sake of its own survival and development, Bon was forced to

Ruins of the Guge Kingdom.

absorb, directly or indirectly, contents of Buddhism. Though the Bon religion worships Tonpa Shenrab instead of Sagyamuni, the Bon religion had its own temples looked like Buddhist temples and also had its own Tripitaka; it also practiced the Living Buddha reincarnation system and its monks wear a cassock. This has created differing opinions on whether the Bon religion has merely become one sect of Tibetan Buddhism or not.

Tibet boasts 88 monasteries of the Bon religion. They include 55 in Qamdo, 23 in Nagqu, six in the Xigaze area, two in Nyingchi, one in Lhasa and one in Ngari. There are more than 3,000 monks, 93 Living Buddhas and 130,000 religious followers.

Islam

According to Hudud al-Alam, a Persian classic, Islam has been practiced in Lhasa for some 1,100 years. Nowadays, there are more than 3,000 Hui residents in Lhasa, most of them Muslims. Some floating populations are Muslims coming from neighboring provinces and autonomous region or from foreign countries.

Mosque in Lhasa. Tibetan Buddhism coexists with many other religions in Tibet.

Muslims in Lhasa have adopted the habits of Lhasa in terms of language and garments although they still maintain their own beliefs. In daily life they speak Tibetan or Han language. While praying, they speak in Arabic first and then in Tibetan. Among the floating population, there are a number of Muslims living in Lhasa. They can also take part in daily religious activities according to their own belief.

There are four mosques in Lhasa, including the most famous one in Hebaling, located on Barkor Street South southeast of the Jokhang Monastery. Built in 1716, it originally had a constructed area of some 200 square meters. It underwent reconstruction in 1793. In 1959, when the Dalai Lama and his men staged an armed rebellion, it was destroyed. However, it was rebuilt in the following year.

Catholicism

Over the centuries, Catholicism spread in a limited way in the western and southeastern parts of the Tibetan Plateau. The only Catholic church is found in Upper Yanjin Village of Mangkam County, Qamdo Prefecture on the Sichuan-Yunnan bor-

A Catholic church in Mangkam County in Qamdo City.

der. After Catholicism spread to Yanjin in 1865, there were 17 people who served as priests or missionaries. This area is home mainly to Tibetans. Only a small number of the locals are of Naxi ethnic group. About 80 percent of the population (740) follows the Catholic faith. Among them, there are more than 600 local believers.

Uniquely, the people of the Tibetan ethnic group mostly believe in Catholicism and Naxi ethnic group mostly believe in Tibetan Buddhism. The sutras for prayers are translated from the Tibetan language. The local believers recite prayers in Tibetan. People celebrate the Tibetan New Year while taking Christmas as the most important holiday. While celebrating Christmas, however, there is no Christmas tree and no Santa Claus. A priest presides over the mass and gives a sermon. All the Catholic faithful gather in the courtyard of the church to dine and the party ends with Gozhuang and Xuanzi dances. When the nearby Gangda Monastery celebrates its Sorcerer's Dance, the priest and laity are invited to watch.

Freedom of Religious Belief

Freedom of religious belief is a basic State policy. Article 36 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China stipulates that all citizens enjoy freedom of religious belief; no State organ, social organization or individual is allowed to force any citizen to believe or not to believe in any religion; nor discriminate against any citizen with or with no religious belief; the State protects normal religious activities.

In China, the basic connotation of the policy regarding freedom of religious belief includes: Citizens enjoy freedom to believe in religion and freedom not to believe in religion; freedom to decide which religion to believe in and which sect to follow of the same religion. According to Chinese law, while all citizens enjoy the right to freedom of religious belief they must also carry out duties prescribed by law and safeguard the fundamental interests of the country and people, the sanctity of the law, ethnic unity and unification of the nation and mustn't impair the social order and the order of work and life. This is in conformity with the relevant clauses of the UN documents and conventions on human rights.

In old Tibet, all people were said to hold religious beliefs. As a matter of fact, it was the product of the temporal and religious administration. People enjoyed no freedom to religious belief. To become a monk or nun was more for the purpose of

survival. From 1959 to 1961, Tibet underwent a process of Democratic Reform. While abolishing the feudal privileges of the three major feudal lords and upper-class monks, annulling the exploitation system and separating religion from government, due respect was given to the Tibetan people's freedom of religious belief and folk customs. Resident monks and nuns in monasteries and nunneries have benefited from the reform and enjoy a good life. They are allowed to conduct their activities freely. The Tibetans enjoy real freedom in religious belief, enjoying the right to be lamas or nuns and to resume secular life if they so wish. Various monasteries have elected their own management committees or groups, which handle the daily affairs of monastic life. Statistics show there are more than 46,000 monks and nuns in Tibet, or 1.7 percent of the population. The normal religious activities of monks and nuns are fully respected and guaranteed. In accordance with the need of the religious activities of the patriotic religious personages and followers, a number of major monasteries have been listed as cultural relics units subject to State or regional protection.

The Living Buddha reincarnation system, unique to Tibetan Buddhism, still works in Tibet; Living Buddhas thus confirmed work actively in various religious sites.

Taking ritual walks around a holy snow mountain.

Today, all ethnic groups enjoy freedom and rights of religious belief under the protection of the Constitution and laws. All religions and sects are equally respected and protected. The real religious toleration is achieved. The traditional religious activities in Tibet including leaning sutra, debating sutra, degree promotion, taking oaths as a monk or nun, abhiseca, chanting sutras and cultivate oneself according to a religious doctrine are holding normally , and all religious activities are carried out according to institutions on the important religious days. Religious followers in Tibet may set up family shrines to worship Buddha at home. They are also free to worship in monasteries. It is a common scene that Tibetan worshipers take ritual walks around holy mountains or holy lakes, worship Buddha images, offer fruits or other things in front of Buddha images, chant sutras, invite monks or nuns, devout people hang up sutra streamers, pile up Mani stone mounds, or prostrate themselves along the route to Buddhist sites. Each year, there are up to a million people worshiping in the Jokhang Monastery in Lhasa. In addition, religious habits and customs inherent in wedding or funeral ceremonies are fully respected. Various religious holidays are celebrated as usual.

Birthrate, Mortality Rate and Natural Growth Rate of Tibetan Population

Year	Birth		Mortality		Natural Growth Rate (‰)
	Number (10000 People)	Birthrate (‰)	Number (10000 People)	Mortality Rate (‰)	
1970	3.78	25.3	1.52	10.2	15.1
1980	3.93	21.4	1.51	8.2	13.2
1985	4.62	23.3	2.01	10.1	13.2
1990	4.91	26.0	1.61	8.9	17.1
1995	4.82	24.9	1.77	8.8	16.1
2000	4.42	19.5	1.65	6.6	12.9
2005	3.20	17.9	1.61	7.2	10.8
2006	2.65	17.4	1.21	5.7	11.7
2007	3.08	16.4	1.17	5.1	11.3
2008	3.85	15.5	1.24	5.2	10.3
2009	3.85	15.3	1.24	5.1	10.2
2010		15.28		5.32	9.96
2011		15.39		5.13	10.26
2012		15.48		5.21	10.27
2013		15.77		5.39	10.38

02

Geography and Natural Resources



Geography and Climate

Natural Resources

02 Geography and Natural Resources

Geography and Climate

Topography

The Tibet Plateau is the major part of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau was the latest to emerge on earth, but it is the largest in size and the highest in elevation, hence its name as "Roof of the World" or the "third pole".

Descending from northwest to southeast, the plateau is full of gullies, glaciers, rocks and Gobi. The climatic types from southeast to northwest include tropical, subtropical, plateau temperate, plateau sub-frigid and plateau frigid zones. And the climate undergoes a vertical change from tropical and sub-tropical to temperate, frigid

2-1-1Tibet boasts vast area with varied and diversified geography.

temperate and frigid zones. There is a local saying that "there are four seasons within one mountain" and the "weather changes in a 5-km area" reflecting the diversity.

Himalayan Mountainous Area: Lying in southern Tibet, it is formed by several east-west mountains each with an elevation of 6,000 meters, including the Qomolangma which, located in Tingri County by the China-Nepal border and having an elevation of 8,844.43 meters, is the highest peak in the world. The Himalaya is capped by snow all the year round and climate in its southern and northern side, plus topography, is greatly different.

Southern Tibet Valley: Lying between the Gangdese and Himalayan mountains, the valley is drained by the Yarlung Zangbo River and its tributaries. This valley is composed of many small sub river and lake valleys. Blessed with flat land and fertile fields, this valley is the major agricultural area of Tibet.

Northern Tibet Plain: Lying among the Kunlun, Tanggula, Gangdese and Nyainqentanggula mountains, the plain occupies two-third of the regional area. Dotted with many basins, this plain is the major livestock breeding area of Tibet.

Eastern Tibet High Mountain Valley: This refers to the Henduan mountainous area located east of Nagqu. It is composed of a series of east-west and then south-north high mountains and deep ravines. The Nujiang, Lancang and Jinsha rivers flow among these mountains. While the top of the mountains are buried under snow, the area on the lower part of the mountain slopes are covered with trees and crops.

Climate

Under the impact of topography and atmospheric currents, Tibet's climate is varied and diversified. Overall, the Tibetan climate features frigid and dry air in the northwest and warm and humid in the southeast, forming climatic zones (southeast-northwest) such as the tropical, subtropical, plateau temperate, and plateau sub-frigid and plateau frigid climatic zones.

With the rise in elevation, the atmospheric pressure decreases. The oxygen content of air in places with an elevation some 3,000 meters is about 73 percent of that of the sea-level area. The percentage was 62-65.4 percent in area with an elevation of 4,000 meters, 59 percent in area with an elevation of 5,000 meters, and 52 percent in area with an elevation of 6,000 meters.

Tibet's climate is varied and diversified. Scientific workers are collecting meteorologic data.

Tibet has a clear distinction between dry and wet days. Generally speaking, the months from October to April are a dry season while the months from May to September are a wet season. Rainfall is unevenly distributed in different places of Tibet. Annual precipitation amounts to 5,000 mm in the low-lying area in the southeastern part, dropping to 50 mm in the northwest.

There exists great difference in climate between southern and northern Tibet. Under the impact of warm humid air currents from the Indian Ocean, the valleys in southern Tibet enjoy warm and wet weather, with the annual average temperature being 8 degrees Centigrade, with the lowest temperature being -16 degrees Centigrade, and the highest monthly temperature averaging over 16 degrees Centigrade. The northern Tibet Plateau enjoys a continental climate, with the annual temperature staying below zero. However, the icing period extends over half a year. July has the highest temperature which stays below 10 degrees Centigrade; June to August is the warm season featuring night rains; and winter and spring are seasons known as big wind. So far as temperature is concerned, March-October is the ideal season for visits and June-

September the best season of all. Recent years have seen huge influx of visitors to Tibet in winter.

Tibet boasts more solar radiation than any other part of China, about 100 percent or one-third more than in plains at the same latitude. In addition, Tibet enjoys longer duration of sunshine. Both the annual average temperature and the highest temperature in Lhasa and Xigaze are 10-15 degrees Centigrade lower than in Chongqing, Wuhan and Shanghai. In the Ngari area, some 5,000 meters above sea level, the temperature in August reaches 10 degrees Centigrade or higher during the day, but falls to below zero at night.

Mountains

On northern Tibet plateau lie the Kunlun Mountains and the branch Tanggula Mountain. In southern Tibet, there are Himalayas; in western Tibet, there are Karakorum Mountains; and in eastern Tibet, there are the Henduan Mountains. The Gangdese-Nyainqentanglha Mountains bisect Tibet from east to west. Mountains in

A distant view of the Kangrenboqe Mountain.

the region reach an average elevation of over 4,000 meters. But there are 50 peaks each with an elevation of over 7,000 meters and five each rising above 8,000 meters.

Mountains in the plateau basically extend either from east to west or from south to north.Major ones are as the follows:

Himalayan Mountains: Zigzagging through the southern part of the Tibetan Plateau, the Himalayas, the highest and the youngest mountains in the world, comprise many parallel mountains running from east to west. The major part of the Himalayas lies on the border between China and India, and between China and Nepal. Extending some 2,400 km, it is 200-300 km wide. Major peaks have an average elevation of some 6,200 meters. They include the world's highest peak Qomolangma, rising 8,844.43 meters above sea level, towers over surrounding peaks on the Sino-Nepalese border. In this part of the world there are 42 peaks each with an elevation of over 7,000 meters, including four each with an elevation of over 8,000 meters.

Kunlun Mountains: Kunlun runs west-east on the northwestern fringe of the Tibetan Plateau, with an average elevation of 5,500-6,000 meters. It is one of the places perennially covered under snow and with modern glaciers. Muztag, rising 6,973 meters above sea level, is the highest peak in the area.

Karakorum-Tanggula Mountains: The major part of the Karakorum Mountains lies on the border between Xinjiang and Kashmir. Galadandong is its highest peak. Rising 6,621 meters above sea level, it is the source of the Yangtze River, the longest river in China.

Gangdese-Nyainqentanglha Mountains: Lying at the southern edge of the Northern Tibet Plateau, the mountains serve as the border between north and south and southeast Tibet, and the demarcation line for rivers that flow within and out of the region.Kangrinboqe, with an elevation of 6,656 meters, is the main peak of the Gangdese Mountains; and Nyainqentanglha, rising 7,162 meters above sea level, is the highest peak of the Nyainqentanglha Mountains.

Hengduan Mountains: Hengduan is a combination of several parallel mountains with deep river valleys between them. These mountains from west to east include Bexoi La, Tanian-taweng and Markam mountains. Having an average elevation of 4,000-5,000 meters, they are extensions of the Nyainqentanglha Mountains and Tanggula Mountains.

Rivers

The huge mountains on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau have bred modern glaciers. Melted ice becomes the source of many well known rivers in Asia.In Tibet there are more than 20 rivers each with a drainage area of more than 10,000 square km, and over 100 each with a drainage area of more than 2,000 square km. The region has rivers known in the world including the Yarlung Zangbo River and its five tributaries such as the Lhasa, Nyang Qu, Nyang, Parlung Zangbo and Dorxung Zangbo. It has many tributaries on the upper reaches of the Yangtze River and the Langcangjiang (its lower reaches called Mekong River).

Some of the rivers in Tibet flow into the sea while the others are just inland waters. The average annual runoff stands at 448.2 billion cubic meters. Most of the rivers that ultimately empty into the Pacific Ocean or the Indian Ocean are distributed in the border areas of east, south and west Tibet. The inland rivers are mainly distributed on the Northern Tibetan Plateau. Snows on high mountains are headwaters of these

Yarlung Zangbo is the largest river in the Tibet Autonomous Region. Picture shows the U-turn Grand Canyon of the Yarlung Zangbo River in Medog County.

rivers, which are usually short and developed surrounding an endorheic lake. Most of them are seasonal waters. Their lower reaches either disappear in the wildness or accumulated into a lake at lower land.

Yarlung Zangbo: Seen as "Mother River" by Tibetans, it is the largest river in the Tibet Autonomous Region. Originating in the Gyima Yangzong Glacier (5,500 meters above sea level) in Zhongba County at the northern foot of the Himalayas, it runs through 23 counties of Xigaze, Lhasa, Shannan and Nyingchi. After leaving Medog County, it becomes Brahmaputra River which empties into the Indian Ocean when passing through India and Bangladesh. The Yarlung Zangbo River runs 2,057 km in China (ranking fifth in China in terms of length), draining an area of 240,000 square km (sixth in China).With the drainage area having an average elevation of 4,500 meters, the Yarlung Zangbo is the highest river in the world. About 1 million people, or 37 percent of Tibet's total population, live in the area drained by the Yarlung Zangbo River, where cultivated land amounts to over 150,000 hectares, or 41.67 percent of the region's total.The area is also home to some major cities and towns, including Lhasa, Xigaze, Gyangze, Zetang and Bayi.

Yarlung Zangbo Grand Canyon: The Yarlung Zangbo River cleaves a straight niche from west to east before reaching the juncture of Mainling and Medog counties, where it swerves around towering Namjagbarwa (7,782 meters), the highest peak in the eastern section of the Himalayas, creating the largest, U-shaped canyon in the world. Data published by the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping following the expedition shows that the canyon starts from the Daduka Village, Mainling County in the north and ends at Parcoka Village, Medog in the south.Stretching 504.6 km, the canyon is 2,268 meters deep on average, with the deepest point being 6,009 meters. The Colorado Canyon in the United States is 440 km in length while the Colca Canyon in Peru is 3,203 meters deep.

Lakes

Tibet boasts the largest number of lakes in China. There are some 1,500 lakes covering a total area of 23,800 square km, about 30 percent of the nation's total lake area. They include the Nam Co, Serling Co and Zhari Nam Co, each covering an area of over 1,000 square km; and 47 lakes each covering more than 100 square km. The

Yamzhog Yumco Lake, one of the three major Holy Lakes in Tibet.

lakes in Tibet can also be divided into following categories: exorheic, endorheic and inland in-take lakes according to water systems; freshwater, salty water and salt lakes according to chemical division; and structural, glacier lakes formed as a result of glacier activity and barrier lakes formed after mud-rock flows and landslides blocked the river course. There are many salt lakes in Tibet, a rough calculation showing about 251 of them covering a total area of 8,000 square km; surrounding these salt lakes are pastures that are home to rare wildlife.

Most of the lakes in Tibet assume blue cover and are crystal clear. Large ones are complete with islets, home to many birds. The bird islet in Banggong Co Lake in western Ngari is the most famous. Famous lakes in Tibet include the Nam Co, Basum Co, Yamzhog Yumco, Mapang Yumco, Banggong Co and Sengli Co lakes

Nam Co Lake: The largest lake in Tibet, it is situated between Damxung County of Lhasa, the capital city of the Tibet Autonomous Region, and Bangoin County of Nagqu Prefecture. It is the second largest salt lake in China.

Basum Co Lake: Located in Gongbogyangda County, the lake, also called Co Gor, was listed as a "world tourist attraction" in 1997, rated as a national 4A tourist area in 2001, and listed as a national forest park in 2002.

Yumzhog Yumco Lake: As the largest inland lake in the northern Himalayas, it is also the largest habitat for migratory birds in southern Tibet. The Yumzhog Yumco Pump-Storage Power Station built by the lake is the highest of its kind in the world. Its power station, with a fall of 800-odd meters, is complete with a water pumping chan-

nel extending close to 6,000 meters, and four hydroelectric generating units with a combined capacity of 90,000 kW. It is located 110 km from Lhasa City.

Sengli Co Lake: It is the number one lake in the world in terms of elevation. Located in Zongba County's Lunggar Town-ship, it has an elevation of 5,386 meters. The water surface covers 92 square km. There are close to 1,000 lakes each at an elevation over 4,000 meters in Tibet. They include 17 above 5,000 meters, of which Sengli Co is the highest.

Mapang Yumco Lake: Located some 200 km from Shiquanhe Town in Burang County, this is the highest freshwater lake in the world. With blue, crystal clear water, it is known as a holy lake together with Kangrenboqe. Located in Burang County, the lake is some 200 km from Shiquanhe Town.

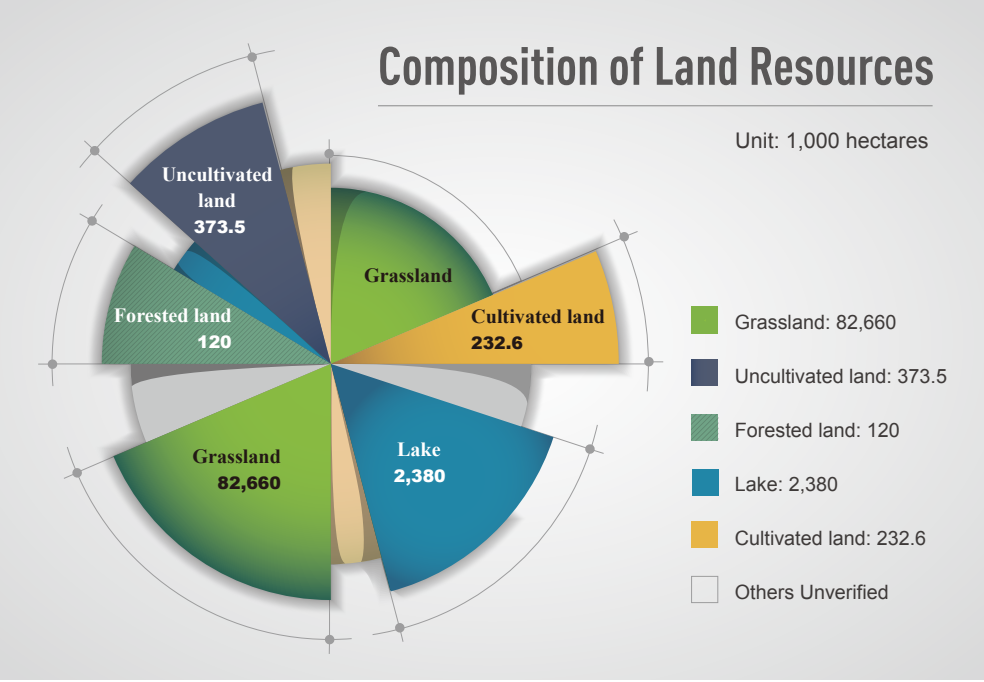
Banggong Co Lake: Located north of Ritog County seat, the bulk of the lake is located within Chinese territory, with a small part in Kashmir.

In Tibet, most of the lakes are tinged with religious meaning.Nam Co, Mapang Yumco and Yamzhog Yumco are mentioned as the three major holy lakes. In addition, the region boasts Lhamo Lha Co Lake which enjoys a special place in the Living Buddha reincarnation system of Tibetan Buddhism, Dangro Yumco, a famous holy lake of the Bon religion in north Tibet, Yumzelu Co, the residence of the Guardian Deity of Tashilungpo Monastery in Rinbung County, Sichinla Co the "Lake of Mammon" in Maizhokunggar County and the Cona, the soul lake of Living Buddha Razheng in Amdo County by which the Qinghai-Tibet Railway passes.

Natural Resources

Land Resources

Tibet has abundant land resources. Of its total area of about 1.22 million square km, 650,000 hectares are natural pastureland and 360,000 hectares are cultivated land. Most of the cultivated land is distributed in the southern Tibetan river valleys and basins, while the remaining small portions are scattered in the east and southeast of the region. A large proportion of land, or some 30.71 percent of the total, is yet to be utilized. As one the largest grasslands in China, Tibet leads Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang in terms of the area of natural grasslands.



Plants

Tibet is richly endowed with plant resources, with more than 9,600 species of wild plants, and 6,400 species of higher plants. They include 39 species which are subject to national protection. Gyirong, Yadong and Zhentang in southwest Tibet and Medog, Zayu and Lhoyu in southeast Tibet are known as museums of rare plants found even in the Northern Hemisphere. Even in north Tibet, with its extreme natural conditions, there are more than 100 species of plants

Forest coverage rate averages 9.84 percent in Tibet. Common tree species include Himalayan pine, alpine larch, Pinus yunnanensis, Pinus armandis, Himalayan spruce, Himalayan fir, hard-stemmed long bract fir, hemlock, Monterey Larix potaniniis, Tibetan larch, Tibetan cypress and Chinese juniper. The coniferous forests composed of spruce, fir and hemlock have the widest distribution, accounting for 48 percent of the total forest area in Tibet, with their reserves making up 61 percent of the total. Pine forests cover about 926,000 hectares in Tibet. The Tibetan longleaf pine and lacebark pine are the spe-

cies peculiar to the region, thus being put under the state-level protection.

As one of the five largest pastoral areas in China, Tibet boasts 85.11 million hectares of grassland. The bulk of Nagqu and eastern Ngari constitute major part of Tibetan grasslands, totaling some 600,000 square km, or half of Tibet's total.

There are over 1,000 kinds of plants with medicinal properties. They include some 400 kinds medicinal herbs commonly used in the traditional Chinese medicine, and some 300 kinds used to make Tibetan medicine with special curative effect. Major ones include tuber of elevated gastrodiae, safflower, bulb of fritillary, pseudo-ginseng, rhubarb, root of hairy asiabell, large-leaved gentian, root of red-rooted salvia, glossy ganoderma and reticulate millettia.

In addition to the aforementioned wild plant resources, the forests hold many kinds of fungus. Of the 200-plus fungi, many are edible, including some kinds of mushrooms, Auricularia auricula-judae and tre-mella. Tibet also produces precious medicinal fungus including glossy ganoder-ma, Chinese caterpillar fungus, fuling (Poris cocos), and stone-like omphalia.

Tibet is rich in plant resources. A shot of Nyingchi.

The major grain crops in Tibet include qingke barley and wheat. The main bean plants include broad bean and pea. Rapeseed is the major oil bearing crop. The subtropical areas in southeast Tibet produce such grain and cash crops as rice, corn, buckwheat, Chinese sorghum, peanut, and sesame seeds. In the past 10-odd years, the region has introduced green-house technology, enabling a variety of vegetables to be grown on this highland. Varieties of vegetables are grown in Tibet. Tibet also produces apple, pear, peach, banana, orange, grape, water melon and some other kinds of fruit.

Wild Animals

Tibet boasts 142 species of mammals, 488 species of birds, 56 species of reptiles, 45 species of amphibians and 68 species of fish. There are 799 species of wild vertebrates in the region. Among them 123 species are under key State protection, accounting for one-third of the national total under key protection. They include tiger, leopard, monkey, kiang, wild yak, red deer, white-lipped deer, black-necked cranes and lesser panda. Of these, 45 kinds of wild vertebrates including Yunnan rhesus monkey,

Tibetan antelopes.

Bengal tiger, snow leopard, wild Tibetan donkeys, wild yaks and antelopes, are either on the verge of extinction or peculiar to Tibet. Himalayan Tar sheep, an animal under first-class protection, can occasionally be seen in places with an elevation of 3,000-4,000 meters at the foot of the Himalayan Mountains.

Tibet is also home to 2,307 species of terrestrial invertebrates (insects).The Chinese Zoreaptera and Metog Zoreaptera are under key State protection. There are 103 species of beneficial insects and bees in Tibet, most of which are insect pollinators of flower-bearing plants.

Mineral Resources

More than 100 kinds of minerals have so far been discovered in Tibet, of which 36 have proven reserves, with those of 11 kinds ranking among the top five in China. They include chromium, industrial crystal, mica and arsenic.

Of the minerals with proven reserves, chromium leads the country in its reserves. Chromium iron deposits cover a total area of 2,500 square km. Norbusa Chromite Mine in the Shannan Prefecture has become a development base of chromium iron in the region.

In 1999, a new mineral natural lithium carbonate was first discovered in Chabyer Salt Lake at the elevation of 4,400 meters. The lake is now not only the largest lithium mine in China but also one of the three largest salt lakes in the world. It makes Tibet the No.1 area in the world in terms of prospect lithium reserves.

Energy

Tibet is rich in hydro-, geothermal, solar and wind energy resources.

Hydro-energy: Tibet is especially well endowed with hydroelectric power resources, having approximately 200 million kW of hydraulic energy resources, or about 30 percent of China's total. This puts Tibet the first place in China in terms of hydro-energy resources. Rivers each providing more than 10,000 kW of resources number 365. The majority part of Tibet's hydraulic energy resources is concentrated in southeast Tibet. The Yarlung Zangbo River promises 80 million kW of hydraulic energy reserves, which can amount to 90 million kW when added with the reserves in its five major tributaries-the Dogxung Zangbo, Nyang Qu, Lhasa, Nyang and Parlung Zangbo rivers.

Tibet is rich in hydroelectric power resources. Picture shows the new built Zammo Hydropower Station.

Yaks are known as "boats on the plateau".

Geothermal energy: Tibet is a region with the most dynamic geothermal activities, with more than 1,000 sites found to have prospective geothermal energy reserves. Tibet's geothermal heat discharge adds up to 550,000 kilocalories per second, equivalent to annual heat generation of 2.4 million tons of standard coal. The Yangbajain Geothermal Field in Damxung is currently China's largest high-temperature steam geothermal field. The hot water temperature stands at 93-172 degrees Centigrade. The place now is a well-known scenic spot.

Solar energy: Tibet leads the country in solar energy resources. In most parts of the region, the average annual sunshine stands between 3,100-3,400 hours, averaging nine hours a day.

Wind energy: There are two wind belts in Tibet. Their annual wind energy reserves are estimated at 93 billion kwh, ranking the seventh in China. Except east Tibet, all other areas in the region have and can use their affluent wind energy resources. The Northern Tibet Plateau in particular enjoys over 4,000 hours of effective wind velocity annually.

03

History and Administrative Division



History

Administrative Division

03 History and Administrative Division

History

Tibet is an indispensable part of China. Experts in genetics, archaeology, history, linguistics and humanics have come to the conclusion through studying many genetic marks such as blood type and protein that the ancient Han and the Tibetan race shared the same ancestors; the pre-historic boom in Tibet was strongly associated with the culture of the Yellow and Yangtze river valleys; and the Tibet Plateau and the hinterland of China maintained long economic, cultural and political ties throughout history. The Qin (221 BC-206 BC) and Han (206 BC-220 AD) Dynasties had relevant solid records. After the 7th century, all the major events that happened in the Tibetan history were closely associated with Chinese history. After Tibet became a region administered by the Yuan Dynasty court in the mid-13th century, relations between Tibet and hinterland and between Tibetan ethnic group and other ethnic groups in China became increasingly close and unbreakable.

The 7th-12th Centuries

Early in the 7th century, the Spurgyal tribe rose in the Yarlung area in today's Nedong County, Shannan. The tribe conquered others in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, and formed the Tubo Kingdom in the 7th century. The ancient Tibetan community formally came into being in the history of China. Early in the 7th century, the powerful Tang Dynasty was founded in the Central Plains, ending the disintegration and chaotic situation that had prevailed for more than 300 years.

Tubo kings married two Tang Dynasty princesses, and political, economic and cultural relations between the two sides became increasingly friendly and extensive. Tibet's ties with other ethnic groups in China were unprecedentedly close. The Tang-Tubo Peace Pledge Monument erected in 823 still stands in front of the Jokhang Mon-

The Sun-Moon Mountain on the Tang-Tubo Ancient Road, an important trading route between the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and Tubo Kingdom (7th century-9th century).

astery in Lhasa. The monument inscription reads in part: "The two sovereigns, uncle and nephew, having come to agreement that their territories be united as one, have signed this alliance of great peace to last for eternity!"

As one of local regimes, Tubo made an important contribution to the development of China's southwest border areas.

In the second half of the 9th century, a Tubo-wide slavery uprising toppled the Tubo Kingdom. Coincidently, the Tang Dynasty (618-907) was later also toppled by the peasants uprisings. In the ensuing 300-400 years, no centralized power was established in the Central Plains and the Tubo area as well. During this period of time, the Tibetans maintained close ties with the Northern Song (960-1127), the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), the Xixia Dynasty (1038-1227), the Liao (916-1125), the Jin (1115-1234) and other political powers. People of the Tuguhun and Xianbei ethnic groups, who formerly lived under the rule of the Tubo regime, merged with the Tibetans, and Tubo people living close to China's hinterland gradually merged with the Han people.

In the Tubo history books, the Tubo Kingdom was called the "period of Tsampo", as Tubo was ruled by Tsampo (kings) during the period, and the 400-year period after the fall of the Tubo Kingdom was mentioned as the "split period".

Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368)

In 1246, Tubo pledged allegiance to the Mongol Kharnate. In 1271 Mongolian Kublai Khan took Yuan as the name of his dynasty, with Dadu (present-day Beijing) as its capital. And the Tibetan area became a part of the Yuan Empire, and Tibet was finally included as a directly governed administrative unit.

When the Yuan unified China, the rulers adopted a series of measures for rule

The gold seal for the Bailan Prince bestowed by Kublai Khan, Emperor of the Yuan Dynasty, to the brother of Phags-pa, a hierarch of the Sagya Sect, in 1265.

over Tibet. They included the following:

- The Zongzhi Yuan, a central organ, was set up to manage national Buddhist affairs and Tibetan administrative and military affairs. It was later renamed Xuanzheng Yuan.

- Conducting population census, collecting taxes, setting up post stations, stationing troops in Tibet, and promulgating Yuan criminal laws.

- Tibetan monks and lay people were given high official titles for management over Tibetan affairs, among them the highest are Imperial Tutor or Prime Minister. Establishment of administrative and military organs and appointment of officials, and giving punishment or rewards to them were subject to the Central Government.

- The Yuan Dynasty installed three administrative and military Pacification Commissioners in the Tibetan-inhabited areas; these were separate and worked under Xuanzheng Yuan of the Central Government. What is the present-day Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) was placed under two of the three Pacification Commissioners previously mentioned. One was the U-Tsang Pacification Commissioner, set up in present-day Sagya. It had jurisdiction over present-day Lhasa, Shannan, Xigaze and Ngari (and a small place in Kashimir). According to Tibetan historical records, it was known as the "Sagya Regime". The second was the Do-khams Pacification Commissioner exercising jurisdiction over the present-day Qamdo and Nyingchi areas, eastern Nagqu area (plus Yushu of Qinghai, Deqin of Yunnan and Garze of Sichuan) with the government site placed in present-day western Sichuan and eastern Tibet. The Yuan effort to establish administrative divisions in Tibet plateau laid a good foundation for effective government and became a basis for administrative changes in later generations.

Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)

Soon after the Ming Dynasty replaced the Yuan Dynasty in 1368, the Central Government sent officials to the Tibetan-inhabited areas, calling for various tribal leaders to swear allegiance to the new ruler. Old official seals were reclaimed and replaced by new ones. The Ming continued sovereignty over Tibet and the Tibetan-inhabited areas of Qinghai, Gansu, Sichuan, and Yunnan.

The Ming abolished the official system the Yuan had adopted. But, the Ming rulers introduced a new system of granting official titles to Tibetan monks. All the

Edict issued by Ming Emperor Chenghua to the Great Treasure Prince of Dharma Karmapa in U-Tsang.

representative figures in Tibet received official titles from the Ming court for example, the reincarnated system of Great Treasure Prince of Dharma still exists today; granted official seals of authority, they managed affairs of their own areas. It was made clear then that the inheritance of their official titles was possible only with the approval of the emperor. Monk and lay leaders of various administrative and military organs were appointed by the Central Government. Their promotion or dismissal from office had to have the approval of the Central Government. Certificates of appointment and seals of authorization are eyewitness to history and they are still well preserved today.

The Ming Dynasty followed the administrative and military systems of the Yuan Dynasty in principle. According to historical accounts, it set up the U-Tsang and Dokhams Commander's Offices and the Olis Military Office in place of the previous Pacification Commissioner's Offices. Under them were different organs such as Commissioner's Office, Pacification Offices, 10,000-Household Offices and 1,000-Household Offices.

The then Tibet experienced some local authorities such as Sagya, Pagmo and Disitsangpa, but governed the limited areas of Lhasa, Shannan, Xigaze and Ngari today).

The present east and northeast of Tibet was not under the above-mentioned regimes.

Qing Dynasty (1644-1911)

The Qing Dynasty established the capital in Beijing in 1644, and united China. It exercised the sovereignty over Tibet according to the practice in history. The Qing rulers decreed that those in Tibet granted official titles by the Ming court might retain their official position so long as they turned over their official seals and applied for new ones from the Qing court.

Based on the experience gained by the Yuan and Ming dynasties in rule over Tibet, the Qing court made significant and comprehensive adjustments, improving the administration over Tibet. It carried out the following actions: stationing High Commissioners in Tibet; establishing such principles as foreign affairs and border defense of Tibet being the prerogative of the Central Government; issued orders for readjusting the administration system in Tibet; defining the borders of Tibet with Qinghai, Sichuan and Yunnan provinces; determining the area directly under the rule of the High Commissioners; and granting honorific titles to the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Erdeni and defining their authority in terms of area and power.

It was one of major move with the far-reaching influence that the Qing court stipulate for the system of drawing a lot from a golden urn be adopted to determine the soul boy (descendant) of a demised Dalai Lama or the Panchen Erdeni approved and confirmed in this manner by the Central Government. In 1652 the 5th Dalai Lama was summoned to Beijing for an audience with Emperor Shunzhi, receiving his official honorific title from the latter in the following year. The 5th Panchen Erdeni received his own official honorific title from Emperor Kangxi in 1713. This conferment of honorific titles by the Central Government thus formally established their political and religious status. From then on, the Central Government has exercised supreme authority to approve the holding of a lot-drawing ceremony to determine the reincarnated soul boy of the Dalai Lama or the Panchen Erdeni, and any exemption from this ceremony, and the power to confirm the reincarnated soul boy's assumption of honorific titles. It became a historic institution. The system of drawing a lot from a golden urn be adopted to determine the soul boy (descendant) of a demised Dalai Lama or the Panchen Erdeni approved and confirmed in this manner

by the Central Government as an important rule has implemented continuously for over 200 years and never broke.

The Qing court made further division of the administrative areas in Tibet. The Qing court made division of the administrative area subject to the rule of the Dalai Lama and the administrative area subject to the rule of the Panchen Erdeni. Besides enacting laws to define the authority of the two Living Buddhas, the court redivided the administrative area subject to the rule of the Qing High Commissioner stationed in Tibet. All these, together with the administrative area subject to the rule of Sagya Prince of Dharma and Lhagari Prince of Dharma, formed the basic administrative division pattern of the Tibet-Qinghai Plateau before the Revolution of 1911. Despite some later changes, the borderlines of Sichuan, Yunnan and Qinghai with Tibet have pretty much followed the same pattern determined in the period during the reign of Emperor Yongzheng of the Qing Dynasty for three centuries.

After the Opium War in 1840, the territory of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) including Tibet was vulnerable to dismemberment by big powers. In 1888, the British army made a sudden attack on Tibet for the first time. The Qing court stood for peace talks and sought every means to undermine Tibetan efforts to fight the British invaders. In February 1890, the Convention between Great Britain and China Relating to Sikkim and Tibet was signed in the Indian city of Calcutta (Kolkata).The border between Tibet and Sikkim was arbitrarily determined so that China lost large tracts of territory. In 1893, the Regulations Regarding Trade, Communication and Pasturage to Be Appended to the Sikkim-Tibet Convention of 1890 was signed and it stipulated that China should open Yadong as a new commercial port and Britain could enjoy its exterritoriality in Yadong.

China was defeated in Sino-Japanese War in late 19th century. The allied forces of the eight powers invaded China in 1900 to carve up China. From November 1903 to September 1904, Britain sent over 3,000 picked troops to invade Tibet for the second time. The 13th Dalai Lama escaped to Kulun, a town of military importance in the northern border area of the Qing Dynasty. After occupying Lhasa, the head of the British army presented the Treaty of Lhasa he had prepared in advance and asked the High Commissioner of the Qing court to sign, however, the Department of the Foreign Affairs of the Qing court immediately instructed the High Commissioner not to

In 1792, the Government of the Qing Dynasty set up the coin minting organ in Tibet. The picture shows coin minted in the period of the reign of Qing Emperaor Qianlong, which was circulated only in Tibet.

sign and to tell the British that all the articles would be examined and verified by the Qing court. In January 1905, the British promoted the idea that China enjoyed only "suzerainty" over Tibet, but it failed in this due to the opposition of the delegates of the Qing court. In 1906, China and Britain negotiated in Beijing and both parties signed the Treaty of Beijing. The Treaty stipulated that the British promised not to occupy the boundary area of Tibet and interfere in the political affairs of Tibet, and China promised not to allow other foreign powers to interfere with Tibetan affairs. This showed that the British government knew the foreign affairs of Tibet had to be handled by the Central Government of the Qing court. To attain the inclement objective, Curzon, the Governor-General of India put forward that efforts should be done to change the status of Tibet as a part of China and turn Tibet into a Britain-controlled "buffer state" between China and Britain and between Britain and Russia.

To counter the said moves of the British, in 1906 (the 32nd year of the reign of

In history the British invaded Tibet twice, and met with strong resistance from the Tibetans.

Emperor Guangxu), the Qing government decided to install ministers in the Sichuan and Yunnan border areas. Through some years since then, the Qing government endeavored efforts to launch a reform of the headman system and exercised jurisdiction over eastern Tibet western Sichuan and northwestern Yunnan

The imperialist powers knew clearly the sovereignty of China over Tibet, but none of them would like to let others get profits alone. In August l907 the British government reached an agreement with the Russian government. While claiming to enjoy their “special interest” in Tibet, they promised that "each side should contact Tibet through the Chinese Government", thereby turning Tibet into a buffer zone between the forces of Britain and Russia under the administration of the Qing court. The British, without the attendance of the Chinese Government, succeeded in persuading Russia to write words meaning China only enjoyed the right of suzerainty over Tibet into the Treaty.

The secular and monastic circles had a glorious patriotic tradition. Led by the 13th Dalai Lama and 9th Panchen Erdeni, the Tibetan people actively resisted the British invasion. They fought bravely to protect their homes and defend the country. However, the corrupt and impuissant Qing government blindly undermined Tibetan

efforts to fight the British, damaging the patriotic passion of the Tibetan people and also providing a hotbed for the imperialist forces to cultivate the forces of national splittism. The British then turned to cultivating and bribing pro-British elements by making use of problems existing between the local government of Tibet and the Central Government. The British tried everything possible to win over the 9th Panchen Erdeni. They invited him to India to meet the British heir to the throne who was visiting at the time. Meeting the British prince, however, he refused a British demand to kowtow, saying: "I kowtow only to the Grand Emperor of the Qing Dynasty." The 13th Dalai Lama went to Kulun before the British army invaded Lhasa. When he stayed at Wutaishan Mountain awaiting the Qing court's approval for his request to visit Beijing for an audience with the emperor and, during the following period when he was actually in the capital, envoys of Russia, America, Japan, Germany and Britain, and so on, vied with each other to get their hooks into him and make mischief. Seeing that the Qing court gave way to the big powers again and again and didn't approve his request of allowing him to directly report to the imperial court rather than doing this through the Qing High Commissioner stationed in Tibet, he became dissatisfied and switched from absolutely resisting the British to seeking their help to protect his ruling position and interests.

In 1906, the Qing government decided to appoint Sichuan-Yunnan Boundary Affairs Minister and send Sichuan army to Tibet to launch a reform of the headman system, which touched off strong opposition from the Tibetan ruling class in the Kam areas as threatening their political and economic interests. While on his way back to Tibet from Beijing at the end of 1908, the 13th Dalai Lama ordered Tibetan troops and militiamen be sent to stop the approaching Sichuan troops and asked the British envoy to put pressure on the Qing court for their withdrawal. When the 13th Dalai Lama returned to Lhasa, he appointed pro-British nobles as major government officials. In February 1910, the Sichuan troops reached Lhasa, forcing the l3th Dalai Lama to flee to India. The British expressed their warm welcome to him and his party, making good preparations for their accommodation and daily necessities. They even arranged for them to visit other parts of India. In retaliation, the Qing court removed the 13th Dalai Lama's honorific title.

The British, the creator of the so-called "Tibet issue", then left no stone unturned

to undermine China by interfering in the Tibetan affairs.

Republic of China (1912-1949)

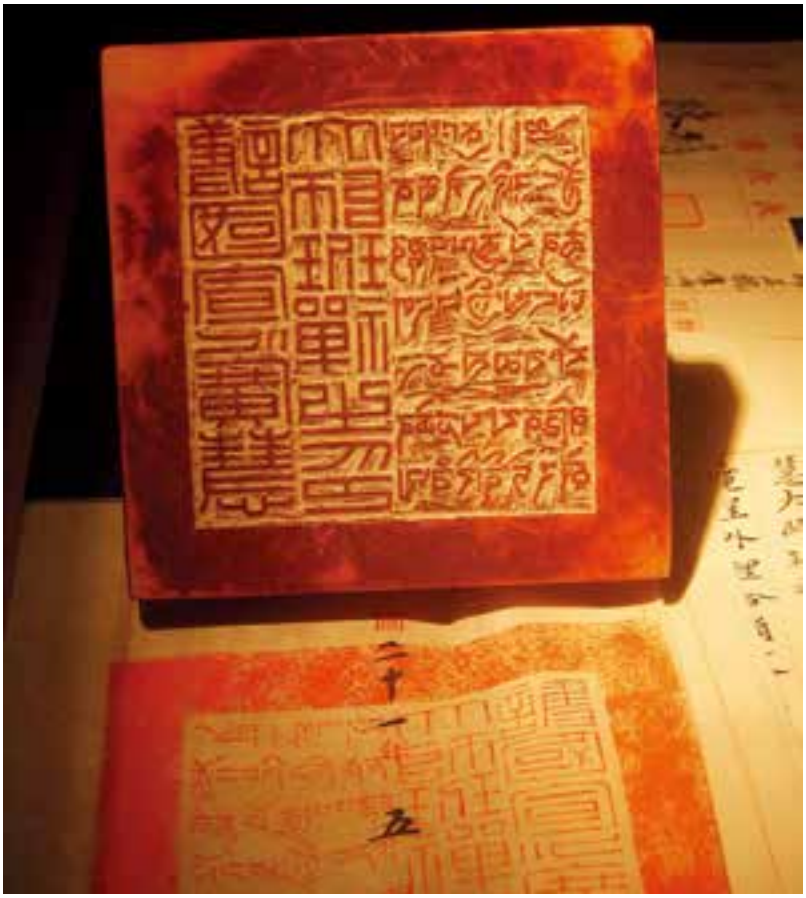
The Revolution of 1911 brought down the Qing Dynasty and led to the founding of the Republic of China in 1912. The Provisional Constitution of the Republic of China, enacted under the auspices of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, Interim President, stipulated that Tibet was one of the 22 provinces of the Republic of China. Stipulations concerning Tibet in the Constitution of the Republic of China promulgated later all stressed that Tibet is an inseparable part of Chinese territory. In July 1912, the Nationalist government established the Council for the Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs (renamed the Council of Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs in May 1914 and the Commission for Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs in 1929). Officials were appointed to work directly under the Prime Minister and take over the functions of the High commissioners in Tibet. In 1914, the Government of the Republic of China set up the Sichuan Border Special Area that included east of Mila Mountains- Northern Tibet's Nyainrong and west of the Jinshajiang River after the reform of the headman system in the end of Qing Dynasty. In 1939, the Government of the Republic of China set up Xikang Province, which included this self-same area.

Cashing in on the chaos resulting from the outbreak of the Revolution of 1911, British imperialists worked for "the independence of Tibet". From 1913 to 1914, the British government planned the "Simla Convention", attended by China, Britain and Tibet. The local representatives of Tibet attended the conference in a capacity equal to China and Britain, and began demanding "Tibetan independence" for the first time. The British delegate attempted to make Tibet independent and, at the same time, tried to bring a part of Xinjiang, the whole of Qinghai, Gansu and western Sichuan and northwestern Yunnan under Tibetan control. When this was thwarted, he plotted to divide Tibet into "Outer and Inner Tibet", with Outer Tibet exercising total autonomy under the control of Britain, with China only enjoying suzerainty."Inner Tibet" included Tibetan-inhabited areas in Qinghai, Gansu, Sichuan and Yunnan provinces. Unlike other provinces, whether it was to be under the jurisdiction of the Chinese Government would be determined later. Although the Convention failed to achieve its objectives, Sir Henry McMahon, Foreign Secretary of the British-run Government

When National Assemblies were held during the Republic of China (1912-1949), the Tibetan government sent their own representatives to attend. Here were Tibetan representatives attending the National Assembly in 1946.

of India and the chief negotiator of the convention, exchanged documents with the Tibetan delegate behind the back of the Chinese delegate for the delineation of the so called "McMahon Line" with a red-blue pencil drawing a line on the map at random, which took about 90,000 square km of Chinese land into British India. This was the root cause of the Sino-Indian border issue that still remains unresolved today.

When the Simla Convention collapsed, the British incited the 13th Dalai Lama and the local government of Tibet to mobilize the Tibetan army and people to dispel the Qing High Commissioner and fight the Qing troops there, occupying the area directly under him. After seizing a large tract of land in present-day eastern and northeast Tibet (the Sichuan Border Special Area) in 1914, which had never belonged to Tibet in the history, Tibetan troops attacked and entered Sichuan Province's west of Garze and Xinlong counties. This touched off the first Sichuan-Tibet conflict in 1917. They then turned up to "help with the negotiations" with the result that Tibet owned



Official seal the Central Government of the Republic of China gave to the 9th Panchen Erdeni in 1931.

13 counties including Qamdo, Rewoge and Zaya that were not under the jurisdiction of the local government of Tibet. After that, the relations between the Tibet authorities and the Central Government became worsen, and caused a reciprocal separation inside Tibet. In 1923, when the 13th Dalai Lama and the 9th Panchen Erdeni became estranged, the latter was forced to flee Tibet to live in the Chinese hinterland. Taking advantage of his absence, the local government of Tibet occupied the area formerly under his jurisdiction. With the areas formerly under the Qing High Commissioner, the Panchen Erdeni and the Sichuan Border Special Area, the territory controlled by the local government of Tibet was the largest it had been since the 9th century.

The 13th Dalai Lama was awakened completely due to a coup planned by the British behind the curtain later. The patriot realizing the error of his ways in his late years, he played an important role in safeguarding the integrity of the territory of the motherland. When the 13th Dalai Lama died in 1933, the local government followed historical precedent to report his death to the Central Government, whose approval was also sought for Reting Hutogtu to act as Regent. The confirmation and enthronement of the 14th Dalai Lama was also approved by the national government of the then Republic.

In April 1940, the Commission for Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs set up its Lhasa Office functioning as a Central Government organ in Tibet. According to records, during the period of the Republic of China, in each congress, prime power organ or national policy-making organ, or whenever the National Assembly met, there would be representatives of the 13th Dalai Lama (Tibetan government) and the Panchen Erdeni who participated, and these representatives were elected or appointed as government officials to participated in State management.

After the end of World War II, however, with the beginning of the Cold War and changes that took place to China's political situation, the US administration began to adjust its policy toward local government of Tibet. The adjustment started from the period of 1947 to 1948 when the United States played tricks on the issue of a visit of a "Tibetan business delegation", which was really a ploy to seek American support for Tibetan independence. From then on, even though the United States continued to acknowledge on official diplomatic occasions that Tibet was part of Chinese territory, it stealthily used the Tibetan separatists as its tool to contain China.

Due to the aggression of the imperialist, Tibet faced two different fates: being in or split away from the big family of the Chinese nation?

People's Republic of China (Founded in 1949)

The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China was declared to be established on October 1, 1949, to end national separation and achieve national reunification is a historic necessity in the new historic situation. On the same day, the 10th Panchen Erdeni, one of the two major Living Buddhas in Tibet, announced his support for the Central Government and his wish to see early liberation of Tibet. But

When the Chinese People's Liberation Army troops entered Tibet, the Tibetan people organized yak teams to help transport food them.

the Tibetan upper separatists and the imperialists worked for "the independence of Tibet", trying by every possible means to separate the region from China.

The Central Government adopted the policy of peaceful liberation and organized people to talk to the local government of Tibet and the 13th Dalai Lama. When they refused, the PLA was forced to fight the Qamdo battle in the winter of 1950 and the Tibetan army was defeated. Under the situation, the negotiation on peaceful liberation of Tibet began. On May 23, 1951, the Agreement Between the Central Government and the Local Government of Tibet on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet was signed in Beijing on the base of respecting and acknowledging a historic fact that Tibet is part of Chinese territory, declaring the peaceful liberation of Tibet. As the agreement contains 17 articles, it is often referred to as the 17-Article Agreement. The move created the condition for completely driving the imperialism force out Tibet, and was a justicial act that the Chinese Central Government exertsed its sovereignty, maintained national unification and upheld national territory territorial integrity after the subrogation of the Central Authority. The 14th Dalai Lama and the 10th Panchen

Erdeni both cabled the Central Government, expressing their support for the agreement and their determination to safeguard the unity of the sovereignty of the motherland. The 14th Dalai Lama and the 10th Panchen Erdeni attended the first National People's Congress of the PRC in 1954. And the 14th Dalai Lama was elected a vice-chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, and the 10th Panchen Erdeni a member of the NPC Standing Committee.

In November 1954, a group was set up for the founding of the Preparatory Committee for the Founding of the Tibet Autonomous Region according to the policies of regional ethnic autonomy that the People's Republic of China constituted and implemented. In April 1956, the said Preparatory Committee was set up in Lhasa. It was composed of 51 members representing the local government of Tibet, the Panchen Kampus Assembly, the People's Liberation Committee of Qamdo Area, and the Central Government. The 14th Dalai Lama served its director and the 10th Panchen Erdeni its first deputy director.

The system of regional ethnic autonomy means, under the unified leadership of the State, regional autonomy is exercised and organs of self-government are established in areas where various ethnic minorities live in compact communities. China established regional ethnic autonomy based on the ethnic relations and economic characteristics of local ethnic groups, proceeding from the actual conditions with regard to the history. At present, the system of regional ethnic autonomy, according to the population of ethnic minorities living in compact communities in the local area, involves an autonomous region, autonomous prefecture and autonomous county, equal to a province, city with districts under it and county levels separately in terms of administrative status.

Reform is a principle that was contained in the 17-Article Agreement. But the ruling class in Tibet still clung to feudal serfdom, which had been abolished for several hundred years in Europe, as something that has to be continued for ever in Tibet. According to the principle, the Preparatory Committee would work hard to turn, peacefully, the old political power into a power for the people which planned official positions for officials with the old political power. However, on March 10, 1959, the reactionary slave owners, deluded by foreign force, staged an armed rebellion and declared publicly "the independence of Tibet". On March 28, the Central Govern-

ment announced abolition of the local government of Tibet known as Gaxag, and the Preparatory Committee for the Founding of the Tibet Autonomous Region took over governance in the region, with the 10th Panchen Erdeni serving as its director. The 18 members of the Preparatory Committee, including Soikang who was a rebel, were dismissed from office. In order to mark the historic date, the Tibet Autonomous Region made March 28 the Tibet Serf Day in January 2009.

The Preparatory Committee for the Founding of the Tibet Autonomous Region passed on in June and September 1959 the Resolution on Democratic Reform in the Whole Area of Tibet and the Resolution on Abolition of Feudal Serf-Ownership of Land and Introduction of Farmer Land Ownership, deciding to fully arouse the masses to action and carry out the Democratic Reform throughout the region. The move completely ended the feudal serf-ownership system based on temporal and religious administration. In July 1959, the Preparatory Committee issued the Organizational Charters of Peasants Association in Various Counties, Districts and Townships of Ti-

The US CIA training officer with Tibetan separatists at the training camp. The CIA and the Dalai Lama clique even trained children for the armed rebellion in Tibet.

bet. According to the Charters, the Peasants Association would serve as local power organs. The people's power organs were set up in various parts of Tibet.

During the Democratic Reform in Tibet, the State Council decided to abolish the People's Liberation Committee of the Qamdo Area and dismiss the Panchen Kampus Assembly. All the said areas should be put under the Preparatory Committee for the Founding of the Tibet Autonomous Region and the Preparatory Committee for the Founding of the TAR assumed governance in the region. This paved the way for the establishment of a unified people's democratic political power organ and the integration of the administrative region.

In January 1960, the State Council decided that the former Tibetan administration division be merged into one district directly under the city, seven prefectures, 72 counties, and one city. Modern administrative patterns gained ground in Tibet since then.

The Democratic Reform was completed at the end of 1961. Grass-roots people's governments were set up at the county, district and township levels in succession. In March 1962, elections of government leaders were held or people's congresses convened on the basis of the peasants' associations in 92 percent of the townships. This paved the way for the election of county leaders, which was completed between July and August of 1965. A total of 54 counties held their first people's congress, leading to establishment of people's committees at the county level. County magistrates and deputy county magistrates were elected, and 301 deputies to the People's Congress of the Tibet Autonomous Regions were also elected.

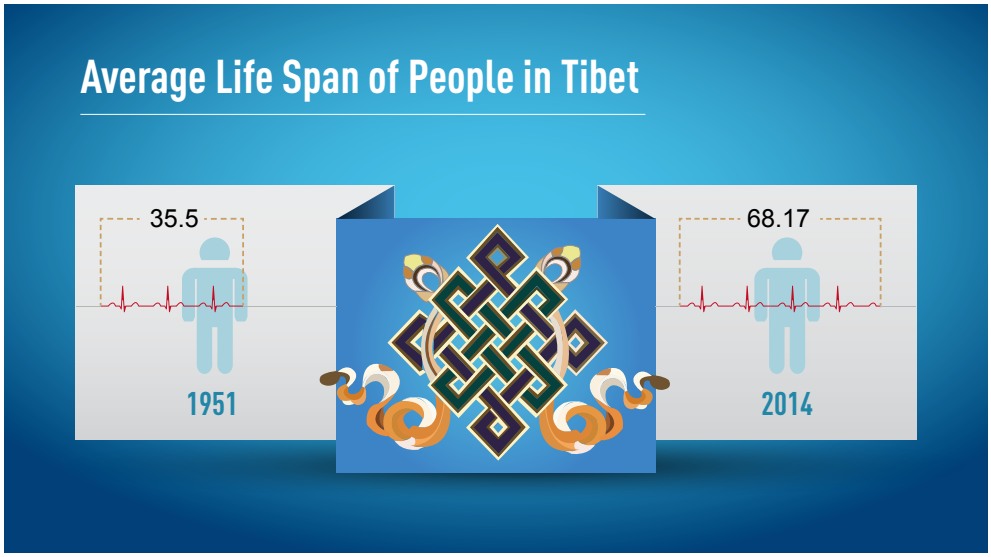
In July 1965 the Preparatory Committee for the Founding of the Tibet Autonomous Region submitted the Report for the Establishment of the Tibet Autonomous Region to the State Council. The State Council held its 158th session on August 23, agreeing the First People's Congress of the Tibet Autonomous Region be held on September 1, 1965 at which the Tibet Autonomous Region be set up. The Standing committee of National People's Congress examined and approved the State Council's decision on August 25.

The First People's Congress of the Tibet Autonomous Region was held on September 1-9, 1965 in Lhasa, and the Tibet Autonomous Region was announced to be set up.

50 years' Leapfrog Development

The year of 2015 was the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) . Since the founding of the TAR, the Central Government rendered strong policy in aid of the region in policy, materials and finance and other parts of China also moved to provide aid to Tibet. Progress has been made in all social undertakings. Rapid economic growth and comprehensive social undertakings progress have brought the life level of all ethnic groups in Tibet higher, maintaining the harmony and stability of its society.

Over the past 50 years, Tibet's GDP soared from 327 million Yuan in 1965 to 92.08 billion Yuan in 2014, a 281-fold increase. Since 1994, the local GDP has grown at an annual rate of 12.4 percent on average, registering double-digit growth for 20 consecutive years. Local fiscal revenues increased from 22.39 million Yuan in 1965 to 16.475 billion Yuan in 2014, an average annual increase of 14.46 percent, further enhancing Tibet's self-development capabilities. The Region's industrial added value skyrocketed from nine million Yuan in 1965 to 6.616 billion Yuan in 2014, a 735-fold increase, or an average annual growth of 14.4 percent, and the proportion of secondary industry's added value in the local GDP rose from 6.7 percent in 1965 to 36.6 percent in 2014. Total retail sales of consumer goods increased from 89 million Yuan in



1965 to 36.451 billion Yuan in 2014, a 409-fold increase, or an average annual growth of 13.1 percent. The total volume of Tibet's foreign trade rose from US$7 million in 1965 to US$2.255 billion in 2014, a 321-fold increase, or an average annual growth of 12.5 percent.

Over the past 50 years, Under the system of regional ethnic autonomy, Tibet's economic development has achieved leapfrog development by constantly reaching higher levels and progress has been made in all social undertakings. Rapid economic growth and comprehensive social progress have brought real benefits to all ethnic groups in Tibet, effectively guaranteeing their right to subsistence and development, and maintaining the harmony and stability of its society.

The Socialist New Countryside Construction, with Housing Project for low-income Families as its breakthrough, has brought real benefits to all Farmers and herdsmen in Tibet. Some 2.3 million people in 460,300 households in the TAR moved into safe modern new houses. Tibet has also improved its facilities in the areas of water, electricity, highways, gas, telecommunications, postal services, radio and television, the level of urbanization has also steadily risen. The urban construction pattern is forming fast with Lhasa as the center and other six prefectures (Cities) and county seats (city and town) with area centers. By 2013, the urbanization in Tibet has reached 23.7 percent.

In 2014 the per capita disposable income of residents in the whole Tibet reached 10,730 Yuan. Among them, that of farmers and herdsmen was 7,359 Yuan, representing an annual increase of 12.3 percent and registering double-digit growth for 12 consecutive years, and that of urban residents was 22,016 Yuan. The per capita expenditure on consumption of all residents in the Tibet reached 7,317 Yuan and such consumer goods as refrigerators, color TV sets, computers, washing machines, motorcycles, and mobile phones have entered ordinary households

Over the past 50 years, Tibet's medical undertakings were also rapidly improving. A medical and health network has been established in Tibet, covering all cities and villages in the Region, with Lhasa as the center. The medical service system that covers all urban and rural areas is improving, and a three-tier medical service network that covers counties, townships and villages is in place. Tibet has abolished the deductible line of medical assistance, and was among the earliest in China to realize full coverage and

urban-rural integration of medical assistance. Average life expectancy has risen from 35.5 years in the 1951 to 68.2 years in 2014.

Priority has been given to Tibet's education and the development strategy has implemented completely during the past 50 years. A complete modern education system is in place, covering preschool education, basic education, vocational education, higher education, adult education, and special education. Tibet has fully realized 15-year free education from the preschool stage to senior high school for the first in China, and realized 99.64 percent enrollment for the school age children in the Region

In January 2010, the CPC Central Committee held the 5th Conference on the Work of Tibet, and the economic and social development of Tibet and wellbeing of all people in Tibet has entered the best period. The economic and social development of Tibet featured fast economic development, higher investment, better benefits, strong supporting, solid life level improvement, good ecologic environment and steady social environment. Tibet's GDP soared at annual 10 billion Yuan-level increase steadily, and the economic growth is higher than that of national level. The fact proves that the CPC Central policy on Tibet in the new period is totally right, and accords with China's situation, Tibet's actual conditions and basic interests of all ethnic groups in Tibet.

Administrative Division

Through an understanding of the evolution of the administrative division of Tibet, anybody free of prejudice would gain more objective understanding of Tibet's history.

The Tubo Regime was a slave-based military power in western China, the size of its territory changing throughout the period from the 7th century to the 9th century. Documents show the Tubo Kingdom boasted four-five administrative and military divisions called "Ru"in the U-Tsang area in its early period. Throughout, however, Tubo didn't establish the corresponding level administrative division system with its military expansion.

After the fall of the Tubo Kingdom in the late 9th century, Tibet was in the "split period" of four hundred years.

In the mid 13th century, The Yuan effort to establish administrative divisions in

Tibet-Qinghai plateau laid a good foundation for effective government and became a basis for administrative changes in later generations.

The Yuan Dynasty installed three Pacification Commissioners in the Tibetan-inhabited areas; these were separate and worked under Xuanzheng Yuan of the Central Government. What is the present-day Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) was placed under two of the three Pacification Commissioners previously mentioned. One was the U-Tsang Pacification Commissioner, set up in present-day Sagya, which had under it 13 10,000-Household Offices and some 1,000-Household Offices. It had jurisdiction over present-day Lhasa, Shannan, Xigaze and Ngari (and a small place in Kashmir). According to Tibetan historical records, it was known as the "Sagya Regime". The second was the Do-khams Pacification Commissioner exercising jurisdiction over the present-day Qamdo and Nyingchi areas, eastern Nagqu area (plus Yushu of Qinghai, Deqin of Yunnan and Garze of Sichuan), with the government site placed in present-day western Sichuan and eastern Tibet. The third was Dorsma Pacification Commissioner, which was independent of the Tibet-Qinghai Plateau, exercising jurisdiction over the Tibet-

Tibet remained a society of theocratic feudal serfdom before the Democratic Reform in 1959, and the people lived in dire poverty.

an-inhabited areas in present-day Qinghai (excluding Yushu Prefecture), Gansu and northwestern Sichuan, with the government site placed in present-day Linxia of Gansu. According to historical accounts, the areas under the three Pacification Commissioners, each equal to a province, were designated as "human area", "law area" and "horse area" respectively. It has been suggested that these were "areas of sustentation" given by the emperor of the Yuan Dynasty to Phags-pa, a hierarch of the Sagya Sect. However, a large number of government orders and decrees of the Yuan Dynasty show this phrase was only lightly used by Buddhist historians and, in reality, they closely matched the three regions where the dialects of U-Tsang, Amdo and Kampa were spoken. The Yuan effort to establish administrative divisions in Tibet laid a good foundation for effective government and became a basis for administrative changes in later generations. People claim "three regions of one Tibet" with a view to supporting Tibetan separatists.

The Ming Dynasty followed the administrative and military systems of the Yuan Dynasty in principle. It set up the U-Tsang and Do-khams Commander's Offices and the Olis Military Office in place of the previous Pacification Commissioner's Offices. Under them were different organs such as Commissioner's Office, Pacification Offices, 10,000-Household Offices and 1,000-Household Offices. Monk and lay leaders of various administrative and military organs were appointed by the Central Government, whose approval was necessary for their promotion or dismissal. Certificates of appointment and seals of authorization from this time are still well preserved today. According to historical records, during the Ming Dynasty, when there was stability in the hinterland, Tibet experienced some changes in the political powers, from Sagya, Pagmo to Disitsangpa, all in the areas of the Dbus Pacification Commissioner, and some political power had under it only over ten county-like Zong. The present-day east and northeast of Tibet was not under the above-mentioned local regimes.

After it succeeded to power, the Qing court made further division of the administrative areas in Tibet. Besides enacting laws to define the authority of the two Living Buddhas, the court redivided the administrative area of the Kamba area, formerly known as area subject to rule by the Do-khams Pacification Commissioner of the Ming Dynasty. In 1726, the Qing court determined the borderline between Tibet, Sichuan and Yunnan. In 1731, it handed control of 79 Tibetan tribes living in areas north and south of the Tangula Mountain to the High Commissioner stationed in Tibet and

A decree issued by the National Government of the Republic of China which approved Lhamo Dainzin to be the 14th Dalai Lama. (Courtesy of the State Archives Bureau of the PRC)

Qinghai respectively. Twenty years later, what were known as the "39 Tribes of Northern Tibet" (namely, today's eastern Nagqu and northwestern part of Qamdo (subject to rule by different administrative systems, and with a history of some 280 years), along with Damo Mongols (today's Damxung) became part of the area subject to the rule of the Qing High Commissioner. Despite some later changes, the borderlines of Sichuan, Yunnan and Qinghai with Tibet have pretty much followed the same pattern for three centuries.

The Tibet local government, led by the Dalai Lama as the religious and political leader, called Gaindain Phodrang in Tibetan language. The Qing court made division of the administrative area of the government of Gaindain Phodrang and the administrative area subject to the rule of the Panchen Erdeni. Besides enacting laws to define the authority of the two Living Buddhas, the court redivided the administrative area subject to the rule of the Qing High Commissioner stationed in Tibet. All these, to-

Tibetan herders celebrating the peaceful liberation of Tibet.

gether with the administrative area subject to the rule of Sagya Prince of Dharma and Lhagari Prince of Dharma, formed the basic administrative division pattern of the Tibet-Qinghai Plateau before the Revolution of 1911.

After the Opium War in 1840, the territory of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) including Tibet was vulnerable to dismemberment by big powers. In 1888, the British army made a sudden attack on Tibet for the first time. The border between Tibet and Sikkim was arbitrarily determined so that China lost large tracts of territory. To attain the inclement objective, British put forward that efforts should be done to change the status of Tibet as a part of China and turn Tibet into a Britain-controlled "buffer state" between China and Britain and between Britain and Russia.

To counter such moves, in July 1906 (the 32nd year of the reign of Emperor Guangxu), the Qing government installed ministers in the Sichuan and Yunnan border areas, and launched a reform of the headman system (Bringing the aboriginal head-

men in Yunnan, Gansu and Sichuan Provinces under the jurisdiction of the Central government of Qing and appointing regular officials to these areas) to exercise jurisdiction over eastern Tibet and some administrative rearrangements emerged from 1908 to 1911. Taizhao County was set up in Gongbogyangda in 1908, Tongpu County in present-day Gyangda in 1909, Jiali County in present-day Jiali in 1910, and Endating in Rewoge in 1911; at the same time, the court sent officials to present-day Zaya, Qamdo, Lholung, Mamkang, Gongcho and Zayu. The Dengke Office was set up in Dengke (present-day Dege) of Sichuan to administer all the above areas, along with the Qamdo Office, Taizhao Office and Jiali Office. The Qamdo Prefecture, Taizhao Prefecture and Jiali Prefecture were planned to be set up on the base of the said division, but the collapse of the Qing Dynasty prevented the plan from being implemented.

Obviously, before the Revolution of 1911, the local government of Tibet (the Gaxag) did not exercise rule over the area centered around Xigaze, which the Panchen Erdeni ruled, nor the area in northeast Tibet, which the Qing High Commissioner oversaw, and the area east of Nyingchi under the Sichuan-Yunnan Minister.

After the Revolution of 1911, the Government of the Republic of China in 1914 declared to set up the Sichuan Border Special Area that included the area of reform of the headman system in the Qing Dynasty such as present-day eastern Nagqu as well as Gongbogyangda, Gyangda, Jiali, Rewoge, Zaya, Qamdo, Lholung, Mamkang, Gongcho and Zayu, but the precarious national situation prevented the plan from being implemented. In 1939, the Government of the Republic of China set up Xikang Province, which included this self-same area.

Cashing in on the chaos resulting from the outbreak of the Revolution of 1911, British imperialists worked for "the independence of Tibet". They incited the 13th Dalai Lama and the local government of Tibet to mobilize the Tibetan army and people to dispel the Qing High Commissioner and fight the Qing troops there, occupying the area directly under him (including Damxung, eastern Nagqu and Qamdo) in 1916, and entering Garze and western Xinlong of Sichuan in 1917. They then turned up to "help with the negotiations" with the result that Tibet owned 13 counties including Qamdo, Rewoge and Zaya that were not under the jurisdiction of the local government of Tibet. The 9th Panchen Erdeni was forced to flee Tibet to live in the hinterland in 1923. Taking advantage of his absence, the local government of Tibet occupied

the area formerly under his jurisdiction. With the areas formerly under the Qing High Commissioner, the Panchen Erdeni and the Sichuan Border Special Area, the territory controlled by the local government of Tibet was the largest it had been in some 1,000 years.

Following the liberation of Qamdo in October 1950, the People's Liberation Committee of the Qamdo Area directly under Government Administration Council exercised jurisdiction over the eastern part of Nagqu, Qamdo and most of Nyingchi (nearly, Xikang Province set up by the Government of the Republic of China, west of Jingshajiang river). After the 10th Panchen Erdeni returned to Tibet in 1952, the original areas under his jurisdiction were returned according to the 17-Article Agreement.

In 1950s, political powers of different nature including the People's Liberation Committee of the Qamdo Area, the local government of Tibet known as Gaxag, the Panchen Kampus Assembly, and the Preparatory Committee for the Founding of the Tibet Autonomous Region co-existed in the first eight years of the peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951. It was a co-existence of the administrative division situation including the areas under the People's Liberation Committee of the Qamdo Area, in which political powers of different nature (the People's Liberation Committee of the Qamdo Area, the Panchen Erdeni, the Dalai Lama (the local government of Tibet known as Gaxag) in the Tibet Plateau in 1950s. .

In March, 1959, after the Democratic Reform in Tibet, the State Council decided to abolish the Gaxag local government, the People's Liberation Committee of the Qamdo Area and the organs under it. The State Council decided that the Panchen Kampus Assembly be dismissed. All the said areas should be put under the Preparatory Committee for the Founding of the Tibet Autonomous Region and the Preparatory Committee for the Founding of the TAR assumed governance in the region. This put an end to the co-existence of the situation in which political powers of different nature, paving the way for the establishment of a unified people's democratic political power organ and the integration of the administrative region.

In January 1960, the State Council decided that 83 county-like Zong and 64 manors (at the Zong level) be merged into one district directly under the city, 72 counties, seven prefectures and one city. By April 1960, the said administrative area all had established their county-level government. In the meantime, people's governments

Tibetan farmers.

were set up at 20 districts and 300 townships. Modern administrative patterns gained ground in Tibet.

In September 1965, the TAR and its people's government were formed officially.

According to the evolution of the administrative division of Tibet, the Tubo regime was powerful from the 7th century to 9th century in the Chinese history, they exercised jurisdiction over the limited areas of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Since the 13th century, the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau are officially under the jurisdiction of the Central Government of China, however, by the mid-1920s the Central Governments of the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties as well as the Public of China had never put various areas of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau under a single administrative unit, and there existed no single administrative unit in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. From the Yuan to Qing dynasties, the local regimes that existed in Tibet, such as Sagya, Pagmo Zholpa, Disi Tsangpa and Gaindain Phodrang, ruled just part of the present-day Tibet Autonomous Region. The area under the the jurisdiction of the Gaxag local government in the first half of the 20th century, was formerd since the local government of Tibet, cashing in

on the chaos resulting from the outbreak of the Revolution of 1911, occupied the areas formerly under the jurisdiction of the Panchen Erdeni and the Qing High Commissioner stationed in Tibet, all of which were divided by the Qing court. The so called "large Tibet state", insisted upon by some people, in fact, never existed.

04

System of Regional Ethnic Autonomy



Political Autonomy Right

Economic Development

Protection, Inheritance and Development of Excellent Traditional Tibetan Culture

04 System of Regional Ethnic Autonomy

The system of regional ethnic autonomy means, under the unified leadership of the State, regional autonomy is exercised and organs of self-government are established in areas where various ethnic minorities live in compact communities, so that the people of ethnic minorities are their own masters exercising the right of self-government to administer local affairs and the internal affairs of their own ethnic groups. Following the founding of the Tibet Autonomous Region in September 1965, autonomous organs were set up in various parts of Tibet to handle Tibetan affairs.

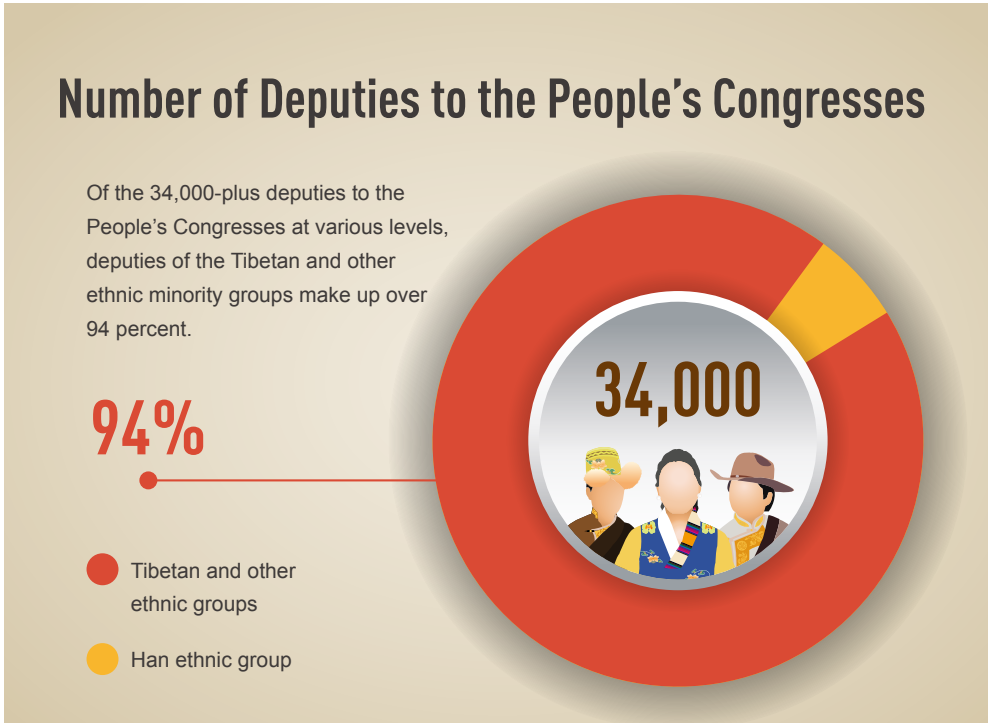
The Tibet Autonomous Region is one of five provincial-level autonomous regions in China. There are also the Moinba, Lhoba and Naxi ethnic townships. Facts prove the system is good for the Tibetans and for China as well. Anyone who wants to change the system goes against the law as it is the political system China follows to guarantee the people in the region to be masters of their own fate.

Political Autonomy Right

The Tibet Autonomous Region is one of five provincial-level autonomous regions in China In accordance with the Constitution and the Law on Regional Ethnic Autonomy, the Tibet Autonomous Region enjoys full autonomy, including enjoying the power of a general provincial legislature to formulate local regulations, having the right to implement in a flexible way related laws deemed not totally suitable to the actual conditions of Tibet, enjoying the power to use sn ethnic language, and having the right to manage its personnel and local finances and independently develop culture and education.

General elections were held for the first time in Tibetan history in 1961. Emancipated serfs and slaves elected deputies to the People's Congresses at various levels, and, through these deputies, participated in the management of State and local affairs.

From 2012 to January 2013, 94 percent of the constituency of Tibet Autonomous Region participated in direct elections at the county and township levels, among the four levels of the people's congresses. Among the 34,264 deputies directly or indirectly elected to the people's congresses at the autonomous regional, prefectural (municipal), county and township (town) levels, 31,901 were from the Tibetan, Moinba, Lhoba, Naxi, Hui, Zhuang and other ethnic minorities, accounting for more than 93 percent. Among the 45 members of the standing committee of the 10th regional people's congress, 24 are from the Tibetan and other ethnic minorities; among the 14 chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the standing committee, eight are from the Tibetan and other ethnic minorities. At present, more than 95 percent of villages have set up the villager representative meeting system in Tibet for local self-governance. This ensures village affairs enjoy open and democratic management. Over 90 percent of villages have public bulletins aimed at ensuring the people ' s right to know, to participate in and to express their opinions and to supervise. All 192 urban communities have established community residential congresses or community residential committees to ensure



community self- governance.

According to the law, The Tibetans have, under the leadership of the Central Government, taken an active part in the management of their own affairs. Sine 1965 Tibetan people have taken all of the chairmanship of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of the Tibet Autonomous Region. At present, Tibetan and other ethnic minority people serve as the major leaders of the Standing Committee of the People's Congresses and governments at various levels. Major leaders of the procuratorates and courts at various levels are also Tibetan. At present, 77.95 percent of cadres of the Region are Tibetan and other ethnic minority people. Among them, 70.13 percent of leaders at the county and township levels are Tibetan and other ethnic minority people. Among the administrative cadres or professional technical cadres in every walk of life in Tibet, the citizens of Tibetan ethnic group have become the main body. They are capable and play an important role in various undertakings of Tibet.

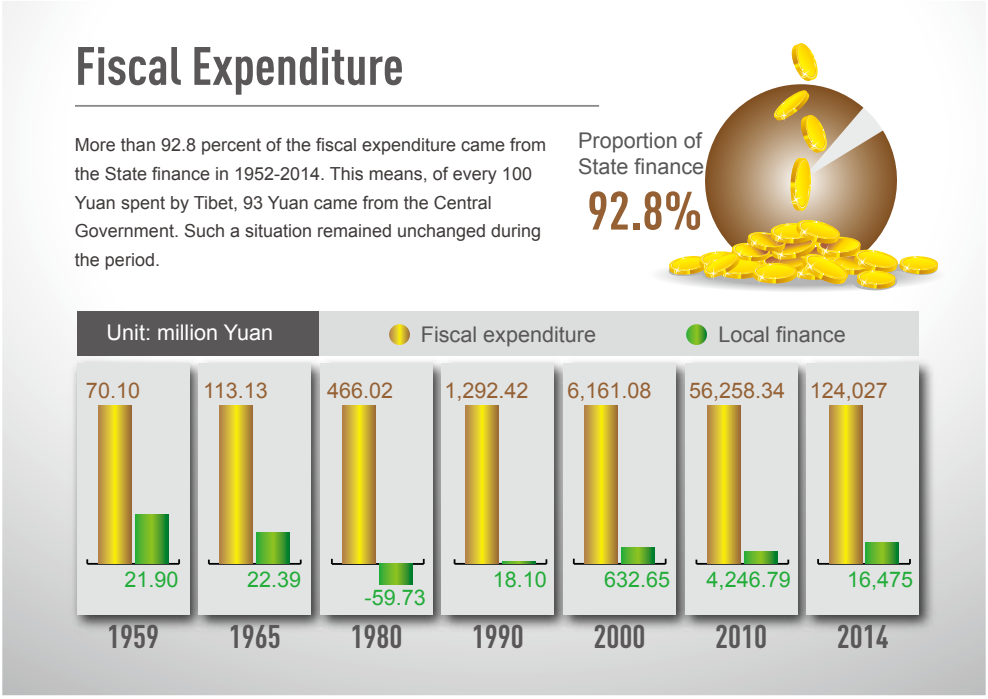
In Tibet, the Tibetan, Moinba, Lhoba, Naxi, Hui, Han and other ethnic minorities, jointly enjoy equal rights to participate in the management of State affairs. In

The Tibetan delegates attending the NPC and CPPCC sessions.

the each National People's Congress and National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, there are always Tibetan representatives of National People's Congress, and Tibetan members of the Standing Committee of the NPC, vice chairmen of the Standing Committee of the NPC, members of the CPPCC, members of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC and vice chairmen of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC. At present, there are 21 NPC deputies from the TAR. Of them, 12 are Tibetan and one is Moinba and Lhoba respectively, though the population of the latter two is very low. There are 29 CPPCC members from the TAR. Of them, 26 are Tibetans and other ethnic minority people.

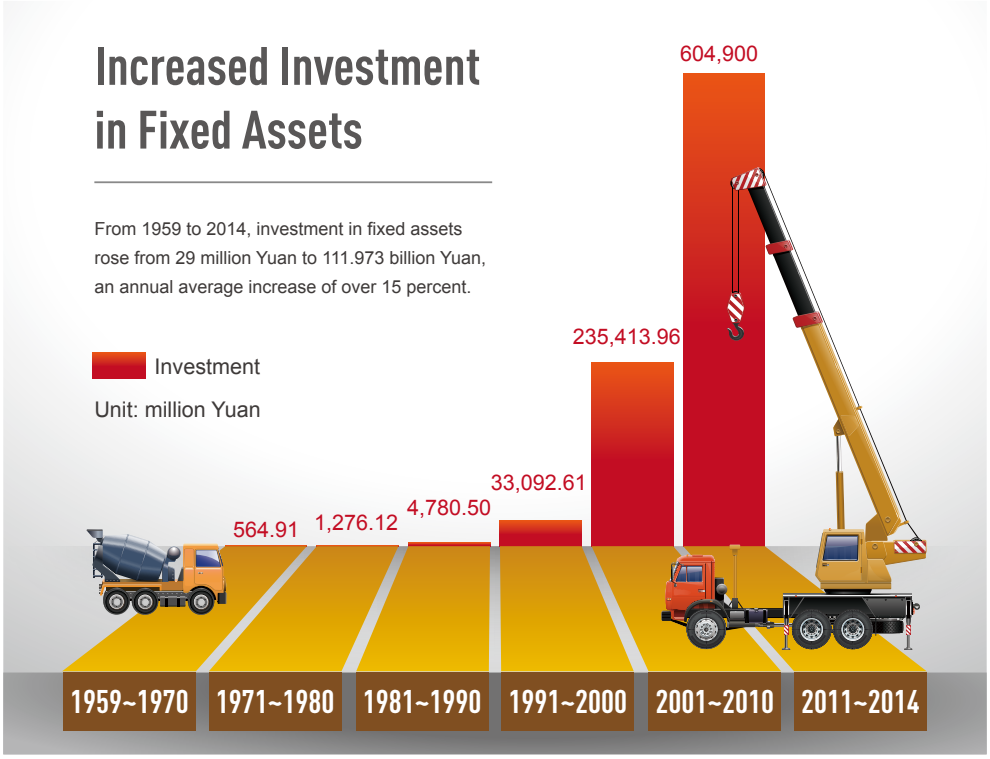
In accordance with the Constitution, the self-government organs of the Tibet Autonomous Region exercise the functions and powers of a provincial-level government, as well as regional autonomy, implementing the State laws and policies in light of the local conditions. The People's Congress of the Tibet Autonomous Region not only enjoys the power of a general provincial legislature to formulate local laws and regulations, but also have the power to formulate rules of autonomy and separate regulations based on the political, economic and cultural characteristics of local ethnic groups. Statistics show that since 1965, the People's Congress of the Tibet Autonomous Region and its Standing Committee have formulated 290 local laws and separate regulations, including many resolutions and decisions that have the same legal standing as regulations as well as implement measures of national laws suit to the characteristics of Tibet, concerning various aspects, such as the construction of political power, social and economic development, marriage, education, spoken and written language, judicature, forest, grassland, wild animals and natural resources protection. All these laws and regulations bear strong regional ethnic autonomous characteristics.

According to the relevant provisions of the Law on Regional National Autonomy, the Tibet Autonomous Region has the right to implement in a flexible way or not to implement the resolutions, decisions and instructions of higher-level government departments that are not suitable for the actual conditions of Tibet, with the approval of the higher-level government department. It is also in a position to work out rules and regulations as a supplement to State law in the light of the local conditions. Tibet created alternative regulations in 1981 and 2004, in which the legal age of marriage for both men and women was reduced by two years relative to the Marriage Law of



the People's Republic of China, and polyandrous and polygynous relationships that had existed before the regulations took effect would be allowed to continue if no one involved proposed dissolution. Tibet also issued the Interim Measures for Family Planning in Tibet Autonomous Region (Trial). Han Chinese officials and workers and their families are authorized to have only one child per couple; as regards Tibetan, Naxi, Hui and Zhuang officials and workers, and their family members whose hukous (residency registration) are in relevant urban enterprises, are allowed to have two children per couple at reasonable intervals; farmers and herdsmen in farming and pastoral areas are not subject to any restrictions, likewise there are no restrictions on couples from the Monba, Lhoba, Sherpa and Deng ethnic groups. In the national examinations including National Matriculation Test and Civil Service Exam, the Tibetan and other ethnic minorities enjoy preferential policy that awards bonus points.

Given the special geographical conditions in Tibet, working people in the region



work 35 hours a week, or five hours per week less than other parts of China.

While following the national way to celebrate traditional festivals, the TAR has also established other public holidays, mostly traditional Tibetan festivals such as the Tibetan New Year and Shoton (Sour Milk Drinking) Festival.

Economic Development

Speeding up social and economic development of the ethnic minority regions and guaranteeing the people of ethnic minorities enjoy equal right to subsistence and development constitute a key to the implementation of the regional national autonomy policy. After the Democratic Reform in 1959, the Central Government rendered strong policy in aid of the region in manpower, materials and finance. The past 50 years or more saw Tibet's economy experienced three historical stages of development:

1959-1965: From the Democratic Reform to the Establishment of the People's Government of the Tibet Autonomous Region

During the Democratic Reform in 1959, the feudal serfdom was abolished and efforts were made to reform the ownership system of the means of production. This led to fast economic development in the region. In response to the strong demand of the serfs and slaves, who made up 95 percent of the Tibetan population, the land and animals owned by the upper-class estate-holders, who made up a mere 5 percent of the Tibetan population, were distributed among the serfs and slaves. The individual economic system of the farmers and herdsmen was formed. From then on, Tibet's economy developed at a rate unseen before. Statistics show, in the first ten years beginning with 1959, Tibet's economy hovered around 150 million Yuan, a fact that Tibet's economy stood still as a whole. In the six years from the 1959 to 1965, the year the Tibet Autonomous Region was founded, Tibet's GDP registered an annual increase of 11.1 percent, reaching 327 million Yuan. This shows Tibet was in a pe-

The Central Government has always been aiding Tibet in its social and economic development. Picture shows a teacher from the Tibet Minzu University is lecturing on machinery processing class. (1975)

riod of fast economic development.

1965-1984: From the Democratic Reform to the Establishment of the People's Government of the Tibet Autonomous Region

The people's government of the Tibet Autonomous Region was founded in 1965, and the Central Government has since been following preferential policies in the region to aid its socio-economic development. In 1984, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council held their second National Conference on Work in Tibet, during which it was decided that the rural areas in Tibet continued to follow special policies for economic development. Also in that year, Tibet declared to open to foreign investment and trade and follow the reform program. During the period, Tibet enjoyed steady economic development, with the annual growth rate reaching 7.82 percent.

1984-Today: Period of Reform and Opening-up

Tibet began to introduce the policy of reform and opening-up in 1984 and, at the same time, the Central Government rendered strong policy in aid of the region in policy, materials and finance. Other parts of China also moved to provide aid to Tibet. Tibet's GDP rose from 1.368 billion Yuan in 1984 to 92.083 billion Yuan in 2014.

Strongly influenced by the increasing investment, investment from 1959 to 2013 in fixed assets, rose from 29 million to 111.973 billion Yuan, creating a cumulative total of 604.873 billion Yuan. This gain was marked by double-digit average annual growth.

With the national economy developing apace, the Central Government gives more support to economic development in Tibet. For this purpose, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council held the National Conference on Work in Tibet in 1980, 1984, 1994, 2001 and early 2010.More investment has been sent to Tibet from all over China.

Given many factors, Tibet still faces many challenges. In this part of the world, the cost for socio-economic development remains high, the market is comparatively underdeveloped, the rural and urban socio-economic development develops unevenly, and the farmers and herders are inferior in market competition—all of these problems have to be solved in future.

Tibetan farmers happy to move into new houses.

With increased investment from the Central Government in the region, and with enhanced income, farmers and herders will have high demand for consumption. Tibet's economy is highly likely to develop apace again.

Most of the increased investment in the region comes from the Central Government finance and economically developed provinces and municipalities directly under the Central Government. From 1952 to 2014, the Central Government finance transferred more than 648.08 billion Yuan to Tibet's finance, over 92.8 percent of the sum in the whole period. To put it in a nutshell, of 100 Yuan spent by Tibet, 93 Yuan come from the Central Government finance.

Protection, Inheritance and Development of Excellent Traditional Tibetan Culture

Tibet has made full use of the rights granted by the PRC Constitution and the Law of the PRC on Regional Ethnic Autonomy to develop its cultural undertakings.

This makes it possible to inherit and further develop its traditional culture.

Study and Use of the Tibetan Language

Tibetan language learning is efficiently protected by law. The Tibet Autonomous Region enacted and implemented related rules and regulations on learning, using and developing the Tibetan language in 1987, 1988 and 2002 respectively. Bilingual teaching in Tibetan and Chinese is carried out in all schools in Tibet to inherit the Tibetan language in the course of learning. At present, synchronous bilingual teaching is conducted at primary schools in agricultural and pastoral areas and certain cities and towns of the Region, and major courses are taught in Tibetan. Middle schools (including inland Tibetan middle schools) have Tibetan language courses, and other courses are taught in Chinese. Tibetan language is listed as an exam subject in college and secondary vocational school entrance exams and so figures in the final score.

Use of the Tibetan language is being popularized. All regulations adopted by people's congresses at various levels in Tibet, and all documents of governments at all levels in the region have both Tibetan and Chinese versions. Legal issues involving Ti-

Tibetan pupils doing homework.

betans also use Tibetan language. Official stamps, certificates, forms, envelopes, logos of various units, as well as sign boards of government institutions, factories, schools, bus stations, airports, stadiums, libraries and roads are all marked in the Tibetan and Han Chinese languages. Radio and TV programs in Tibetan have been created. For instance, the Tibet People's Radio Broadcast Station has many programs in the Tibetan, Lhasan dialect and Khampa languages. Each year, Tibet creates many films and TV plays, all dubbed in Tibetan, to the delight of the Tibetan audience; the Tibetan Language Translation Office of the TAR Movie Co. produces many translated items. While protecting and developing the Tibetan language, the State has always advocated the spreading, learning and use of official language among the citizens in all parts of the country including Tibet to promote the economic and cultural exchange.

Use of computer technology and popularity of Internet combine to provide a wide platform for the study, development and use of the Tibetan language. A domestically-developed advanced Tibetan language editing system, laser layout system, and electronic publishing system are widely adopted in Tibet. There has been a sharp increase in various kinds of applicable software being adopted; the Tibetan letters computerized coding system meets State and international standards. The Tibetan language is the first minority ethnic language in China to meet international standards. Numerous people who can read and speak Tibetan browse for news in that language on the Internet. This has become part of their daily life.

Excellent Traditional Culture is Protected and Inherited

The Tibet Autonomous Region has constantly renewed its efforts to protect Tibetan cultural relics and intangible heritage of humanity.

Relevant local regulations have been issued, such as the Regulations of Tibet Autonomous Region on the Protection and Management of Cultural Relics, and the Notice of Tibet Autonomous Region for the Strengthening the Protection of Cultural Relics. The Region boasts 4,277 cultural relics protection units, and of them there are 55 cultural relics protection units at state level, 391 at autonomous region level, 978 at city and county level, and three state historical and cultural cities. The Potala Palace, Norbu Lingka and the Jokhang Monastery are one the list of world cultural heritage. Lhasa, Xigaze, and Gyangze are state historical and cultural cities. Tibet Museum is a

museum at state level-one. The Tibet Autonomous Region Archives is home to more than 3 million items important historic archives.

There are 76, 323, 76, and 814 intangible heritage protection categories at the state, autonomous region, prefecture, and county level separately. The Region boasts 68 representative inheritors of intangible heritage at the state level, 350 at the autonomous region level and 117 folk Tibetan opera teams. Tibetan opera and Gesar have been chosen as Masterpieces of UNESCO Intangible Heritage of Humanity. In 2011, the Region set up special fund for the development of cultural industry to support Tibet's development of cultural industry.

Tibetan Studies

Old Tibet had no Tibetan studies in the modern sense. But, today, Tibetology has become a grand system of comprehensive studies of Tibetan society. According to statistics, there are over 60 institutions of Tibetan studies and more than 1,000 experts and scholars in this field in China at present. It covers most of the basic subjects in the social and natural sciences, including culture, Tibetan medicine and pharmacology,

Tibetan culture receives due protection. Picture shows graduates of a Tibetan Fresco Repair Class.

Tibetan farmers celebrating the Tibetan New Year.

transportation and tourism. Great progress has been made in Tibetan studies in Tibet. The increasingly strengthened Tibetology will exert profound influence upon the Tibetan society, culture, and the protection and development of medicine. In 2006, China offered the first State-level award—Mount Qomolangma Award—for Tibetan studies, marking the beginning of the brand-new stage in the development of China's Tibetan studies cause.

Respecting Customs and Habits

The customs and habits of the Tibetans receive due respect and protection. The Tibetan race and other ethnic minorities in the region enjoy the right to live in their own way in terms of daily life and social activities. While retaining their own costumes, diet and housing styles, the Tibetans pursue for things new. In the region, traditional holidays such as Tibetan New year, Sagya Dawa Festival, Ongkor (Bumper Harvest) Festival and Shoton (Sour Milk Drinking) Festival are still celebrated.

05

Customs and Folklore



Tibetan Festivals

Clothing Culture

Catering Culture

Traditional Marriage Customs and Funeral Customs

Traditional Folk Houses

05 Customs and Folklore

Tibetan Festivals

There are numerous festivals in Tibet; in the Tibetan lunar calendar, they appear almost every month. There are more than 100 major or minor festivals throughout the year involving different activities, including offering sacrifice to gods or ancestors, farming, commemorations, celebrations and social contact. Tibetan festivals can be grouped into traditional and religious ones, but there is some blurring of the lines. In Tibet today, folk festivals that carry religious color include the Tibetan New Year, Horse Race and the Ongkor (Bumper Harvest) Festival, while religious festivals that carry folk or tourist flavor include the Grand Summons Ceremony, the Lantern Festival, the Shoton (Sour Milk Drinking) Festival and the Tsangmoling Gyisang Festival.

Tibetans presenting Chema each other.

Tibetan girls in traditional robes.

Clothing Culture

Due to the different geography, climate and natural conditions in the vast Tibet Autonomous Region, each region has its unique folk costumes.

The Tibetan robe is the commonest. In the cities or towns, this is made from the high grade woolens, while in farming and pasturing areas, Pulu and fur are used, respectively. It is necessary to have belt to tie up the Tibetan dress. The flowered aprons that the women of the Tibetan ethnic groups wear are very unique, with florid color and characteristic patterns. In addition, Tibetan people like to wear hats, including felt

hat, leather hat and golden flowered hat. Footwear is normally what is called Tibetan boots which are soft. The Tibetans wear many ornamental articles.

Now, there are also Western-style clothes, jackets and sportswear in the wardrobes of Tibetan families, showing Tibetan new aesthetic value and marking the beginning of Tibetan society moving toward modernity. But some Tibetans wear traditional clothes when celebrating festivals.

The hada is a commonest article used for etiquette, and mainly expressing respect, friendship and sincerity. It varies in quality of the material, standard, color and length. In the past it was mostly made of raw silk or linen, while in recent years more and more man-made fibers are used to weave it. The Tibetan people worship the white, thinking the white symbolizes the sanctity, sincerity and frankness, so the common hada is white. In addition, there is the five-colored hada, respectively in blue, white, yellow, green and red. It has different explanations. Generally, the five colors represent the sky, clouds, earth, river and the god of protection.

Catering Culture

Tibetan people have their own unique food structure and catering customs. Zanba, butter, tea and beef & mutton are known as the four treasures of the Tibet diet. There are also the barley wine and various kinds of dairy products.

Tibetan Food

Tibetan food has a long history and is rich in variety. It is grouped into three major kinds, namely, staple food, dish and soup. Tibetan food pays close attention to a light taste. Simply cooked, it comes of many varieties today.

Zanba is the staple food of the Tibetan people and is simple. Mill the parched highland barley grains into flour, which is zanba. When eating, put the zanba into a bowl, add a little tea, butter and milk dregs to it, and mix and knead into a dumpling.

Air-dried meat is a unique food in Tibet. When the temperature falls below zero at the end of the year, slit the quality beef and then hang it in a windy place to dry. It can be eaten in the following February or March, the crisp meat having a unique taste.

There are numerous ways of cooking the food at a Tibetan-style feast, along with

the means of holding a feast. In traditional society, the social status of guests was a determinant of the style of feast. There are both vegetable and meat-based feasts in Tibet.

Generally, the Tibetans eat only beef and mutton, and never consume horse, donkey, mule and dog meat. While people in the cities and towns consume fish, shrimp, snake, eel and other seafood, but the people in the farming and pasturing areas never touch them. With the enhancement of the social economy and cultural life, the technique of cooking Tibetan dishes and the forms of taking the meal have been improved and enriched.

Wine Culture

Tibetan barley wine is brewed from fermented barley grown in the highlands, with lower alcohol content. Men and women of all ages like to drink it and it is indispensable during happy events and festivals.

There is a rich etiquette and many social customs associated with drinking wine.

Tibetan elderly charged with brewing Tibetan barley win.

Every time new wine is brewed, it is first offered to the gods and then to toast the oldest members of the family according to the ancient precept that "the old and young should observe order". At last, the family members can drink their fill. During a festival, marriage feast, or gathering of many people, the first toast is offered to the sainted elder present and then passes around clockwise. The toaster should raise the wine cup to about the height of his head with both hands in offering it to the person accepting the toast. The other person then takes over the cup with both hands, dips his or her right ring finger into the wine while holding the cup in the other hand and flicks the wine drops on the finger into the air. The movement is repeated three times to show respect to heaven, earth and the deities respectively. Sometimes, the person will make a congratulatory speech in a light tone before drinking.

When drinking at a gathering, singing is absolutely necessary. Tibetan toast songs are melodious and fair-sounding and express blessings and admiration. At a general feast, the host and hostess will sing the toast song. On very grand occasions, there are girls especially in charge of toasting others. The beautifully-dressed girl, singing the enchanting toast songs, will persuade each of the guests to drink in turn until all are drunk.

Tibetan Tea Culture

Butter tea is an indispensable drink in Tibetan life. The butter is the cream extracted usually from cow or sheep's milk, but the golden yellow butter extracted from yak milk in summer is the best; that extracted from sheep's milk is white. When drinking tea, the Tibetan people pay attention to rank according to age, and the order of master and guest. Guests cannot drink too fast. Generally speaking, drinking three bowls is the most propitious.

Traditional Marriage Customs and Funeral Customs

The Tibetan people living in different areas have unique marriage customs related to geography, natural conditions, religion, cultural background, and habits and customs. There are luxurious and simple weddings.

Generally speaking, when talking about marriage, the young man and girl cannot be of the same bone system, and should be suited to each other based on the animals

of the Chinese Zodiac. When proposing, the young man invites a matchmaker to present the gifts such as hada to the girl's parents. If the girl's parents take the gifts, that means they have accepted it. They select a lucky day to write the betrothal invitation and present the "Milk price" and gifts to girl's parents.

Before the marriage, the groom must present clothes, headwear and bracelets.

On the day of fetching the bride, a mounted delegation headed by a person with high status is assembled.The bride's side must hold a ceremony of sending a party to escort the bride to the groom's house.After the bride arrives at the groom's house, a marriage feast must also be hold besides a series of rites.

Here exist many modes of funeral such as inhumation, incineration, stupa burial, celestial burial, water burial, cliff burial, tree burial, stone coffin burial and multi-person burial, each having its special existent time, scope and sense. Inhumation is said to be the earliest practice in Tibet. The stupa burial and incineration are regarded as noble ways; the former in particular was only for the successive Dalai Lama and Panchen Lama as well as a few grand Living Buddhas, i.e. being buried in stupas; while the latter is for ordinary Shamen and noblemen.In the forested areas such as Nyingchi Prefecture, however, incineration is also practiced by the ordinary people. Water burial is also adopted by the poor for those who died of starvation and illness as well as children. Celestial burying is prevalent in many parts of Tibet.

According to the doctrine of Tibetan Buddhism, every thing has soul, and every life will be reincarnated.

Traditional Folk Houses

Tibetan dwellings are varied in their design, structure and type. There are highly portable tents; houses constructed with earth and wood; fort-style houses built mainly with stone, and pile dwellings made primarily with bamboo or wood, etc. Notwithstanding, the growing number of up-to-date ferroconcrete buildings with traditional style emerging in cities and towns today.

Tents

Tents are vital to the Tibetan herders, who have led a nomadic life for genera-

Tibetan tents - home for Tibetan herders.

tions. The raw materials for the tent generally come from their own cattle or sheep. The yak hair twisted ropes are used to brace the tent, the yak horns (or sometimes antelope horns or wood) serve as the tent pegs. When erecting and fixing the tent, the herders like to have a door in the leeside. A stove would be furnished in the central part for warming and cooking. The family shrine, sutra and oil lamp are placed near the centre. The foodstuffs and other similar things would be placed in the southern part as the "kitchen", while the quilt, blanket and other similar things would occupy the northern part as the "living room". Wherever the tent is erected, the herders will never forget to hang colorful prayer banners for good fortune. The tents and flying banners spreading

all over the grassland make the snow capped plateau look most colorful.

Traditional Flat-Roofed Fort-Style Houses

The flat-roofed fort-style houses can be seen everywhere in rural areas and cities and towns. The most typical fort is laid with stones, but some are made of earth and wood. They are both warm in winter and cool in summer. The forts are generally multi-story: the first floor accommodates the livestock, while the second is designed for living and storage. The third is the family sutra room enshrining the image of Buddha and the oil lamp. There are also some forts with only one storey.

The styles of the forts vary from place to place in Tibet, e.g. those in Lhasa have their courtyard and verandah inside the building. Yet, the forts everywhere are flat-roofed for people to enjoy sunshine, dry grains and conduct recreational activities. Another common point is that roof serves for hanging the multi-colored prayer banners.

New housing for farmers in Gongbo'gyamda County.

During the major festivals or family events of significance, the people bum bunches of aromatic plants on the roof to worship. Today, however, some flat-roofed fort-style houses have been changed into one with large roofs.

To people anywhere, home is of vital importance. There is no exception for the Tibetan people. When establishing new houses, they hold a variety of rituals for their protection and blessing.

06

Economy



General Survey

Aid to Tibet

Financial Revenue and Expenditure

Investment in Fixed Assets

Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

Industry and Construction

Domestic Trade

Foreign Trade

Finance

06 Economy

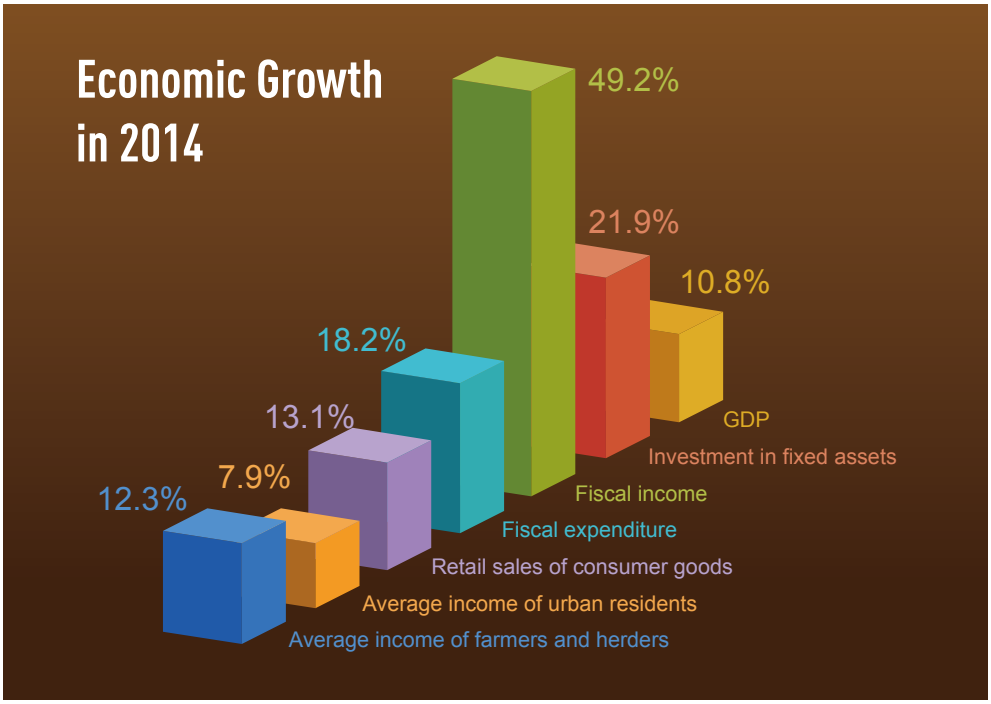
General Survey

Before its peaceful liberation in 1951, Tibet, a land-locked region, had no modern industry. The locals lived on livestock breeding, farming and handicraft business.

Following the peaceful liberation of Tibet, the Central Government has always given top priority to helping Tibet develop its economy, enhance its people's living standards, and change its impoverished and backward situation. It has issued a series of favorable policies, and made great achievements in promoting Tibet's economy.

Currently a relatively complete socialist market system has been established in the region, and historical leapfrog development has been realized in terms of economic aggregate. Tibet's economy is growing steadily and quickly. The Gross Regional Product (GRP) of Tibet rocketed from 129 million Yuan in 1951 to 92.083 billion Yuan in 2014. During the period of 2009-2014, Tibet maintained great-leap-forward development. Its GDP registered an annual average increase of 12.23 percent to rise from 40 billion Yuan to 50 billion Yuan, to 60 billion Yuan, to 70 billion Yuan, to 80 billion Yuan and further to 90 billion Yuan, higher than the national growth rate. In the same period, the local financial revenue of Tibet broke 3 billion, 4 billion, 6 billion, 9 billion, 11 billion and 16 billion Yuan in succession.

In 2014, the gross domestic product (GDP) of the Tibet Autonomous Region amounted to 92.083 billion Yuan, representing an increase of 10.8 percent from the previous year, 3.4 percentage points higher than the national average. Analyzed by different industries, the added value of the primary industry stood at 9.157 billion Yuan, up 4.2 percent; that of the secondary industry was 33.684 billion Yuan, up 14.6 percent; and the tertiary industry was 49.242 billion Yuan, up 9.5 percent. The per-capita GDP was 29,252 Yuan, up 9.1 percent. The total retail sales of consumer goods reached 36.451 billion Yuan, an increase of 13.1percent from the previous year. The



annual per-capita net income of farmers stood at 7,395 Yuan, an increase of 12.3 percent. The annual per-capita disposable income of urban residents was 22,016Yuan, reporting a year-on-year increase of 7.9 percent.

In 2014, while national economic growth faced challenge, Tibet continued keeping rapid growth as one of few provincial-level regions keeping over 10 percent of economic growth.

Tibet's economy is developing apace. Given many factors including poor natural conditions, backward infrastructure, and lack of trained talents, however, the development capability of Tibet is limited. Economic development still relies on transfer payments from the Central Government and aid from the whole country to a great extent. Central Government investment is the most important engine for the economic development of Tibet.

The Central Government invests heavily in the social and economic development of Tibet. Picture shows a highway built with the State investment.

Aid to Tibet

In order to help Tibet develop rapidly and get rid of poverty and backwardness, the central government has fully exploited the institutional advantages of the socialist system to pool nationwide strengths to support the construction of Tibet, and a series of preferential policies have been adopted and great financial and material resources as well as manpower have been amassed to inject new impetus to its development. For the past six decades and more, the financial department of the central government has steadily increased transfer payments for Tibet. In the period from 1952 to 2014, the central government provided 648.08 billion Yuan to Tibet in financial subsidies, accounting for 92.8 percent of Tibet's total public financial expenditure. Since 1980, five national symposiums have been called on work in Tibet, working out integrated blueprints for Tibet's development by proceeding from the perspective of the country's overall drive for modernization.

Since the third National Symposium on Work in Tibet in 1994, the Central Government has put into effect the policy of pairing-up support for Tibet where 60

Central state organs, 18 provinces or municipalities directly under the Central Government, and 17 Centrally managed state-owned enterprises have been paired up with and made to provide assistance to specific areas of Tibet. Over the last two decades, a total of 5,962 of China's best officials have been appointed to work in Tibet, 7,615 assistance projects have been carried out, and 26 billion Yuan has been invested in Tibet from the units of pairing-up support for Tibet and mainly directed at improving infrastructure and quality of life. All of this assistance has made an enormous contribution to Tibet's social and economic development. After the 5th National Symposium on Work in Tibet in 2010, the Central Government determined that the 17 provincial and municipal governments involved in the paired-up support program should provide Tibet with 0.1 percent of their yearly fiscal revenues as aid funds, thus establishing a mechanism to ensure a steady growth in such aiding funds.

Thanks to the long-term huge investment from the Central Government and the paired-up aids for Tibet, Tibet sees notable economic and social progress and its GDP and the per-capita net income of the urban and rural residents has retained double-digit increase for years, laying a solid material foundation for the future leapfrog development and long-term stability of Tibet.

Financial Revenue and Expenditure

In 2014, the TAR continued to strengthen its communications and coordination with relevant State ministries and commissions for State investment. Efforts were made to actively work for the gaining continuous increasing special investment from Central Government and ensure that the investment should be put in the right place timely using the investment preference policy on Tibet by the Central Government and special preference policies including finance, tax revenue and the paired-up aids for Tibet. Tibet also concentrated on the implementation of the 226 key projects aided by the State to support the development of Tibet during the period of the 12th Five-Year Program (2011-2015) and tried to start the approved projects earlier so as to complete them and gain effects earlier.

Meanwhile, work was done to increase revenue and reduce expenditure and earnestly implement various financial measures to ensure the successful implementation

of the budget policy. This effectively promoted the Region's steady and rapid economic growth. In financial expenditure, efforts were made to safeguard and improve people's livelihood. People in the Region now enjoy better life and various social undertakings develop apace.

Tibet's revenue further increased in 2014. Fiscal revenue reached 16.475 billion Yuan, an increase of 49.2 percent from the previous year. Total fiscal expenditure was 124.027 billion Yuan, up 18.2 percent. This included public budget expenditure of 118.551 billion Yuan (up 16.9 percent).The expenditure on social security and employment stood at 8.597 billion Yuan (up 10.2 percent); education 14.2 billion Yuan (up 30.1 percent); health care 4.886 billion Yuan (up 24.3 percent); and environmental protection 2.923 billion Yuan, (up 65.2 percent).Central Government subsidies increased to reach more than 100 billion Yuan, a larger growth.

In the past 60 years or so since the peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951, the expenditure of Tibet on improving people's livelihood and developing the economy has been always exceeded its financial revenue (more than 70 percent is spent on livelihood). The imbalance between revenue and expenditure is huge. Most of Tibet's financial expenditure comes from Central Government finance.

Investment in Fixed Assets

Tibet, located in the southwest border region, possesses poor natural conditions, inconvenient transport facilities, relatively closed economy and culture that long hindered its development. The Central Government investment is an important engine for rapid economic development of Tibet. While strengthening construction undertaken with investment from the Central Government, Tibet worked hard on strengthening project management, project audit and inspection to ensure proper handling of funds.

Investment in fixed assets in 2014 was 111.973 billion Yuan, an increase of 21.9 percent over the previous year; its growth rate ranked first in the country. Of this total, investment from the private sector rose 34.4 percent to 30.883 billion Yuan.

Analyzed by different industries, investment in the primary industry was 5.753 billion Yuan, a growth of 18.4 percent from a year ago; that in the secondary industry grew 24.3 percent to 35.59 billion Yuan; and that in the tertiary industry gained 21.0

The Qinghai-Tibet Railway, built with Central Government investment, is a boon for the social and economic development of Tibet.

percent to 70.63 billion Yuan.Analyzed by ownership, investment in fixed assets of the state-owned economy was 77.045 billion Yuan, up 14.7 percent; that of the collective economy decreased 45.3 percent to 448 million Yuan; that of other ownership economies rose 47.7 percent to 30.642 billion Yuan; and individual investment rose 23.6 percent to 3.838 billion Yuan.

Fixed-asset investment in agriculture, forestry, husbandry and fishing industries totaled 5.753 billion Yuan, an increase of 18.4 percent; that in the mining industry increased 3.6 percent to 6.115 billion Yuan; that in the manufacturing sector increased 33.3 percent to 6.548 billion Yuan; that in the electricity, gas and water supply industries increased 33.3 percent to 22.927 billion Yuan; that in the transport, storage and postal industries increased 26.9 percent to 21.414 billion Yuan; that in the information transmission, computer services and software sectors increased by 42.6 percent to 689 million Yuan; that in the wholesale and retail industries went down 50.7 percent to 981 million Yuan; that in the hotel and catering sectors amounted to 2.871 billion Yuan, up 11.4 percent; that in the financial industry went up 42.3 percent to 1.34 billion Yuan; that in the leasing and business service sectors increased 1.8 percent to 1.078

billion Yuan; that in the scientific research and technology services increased 11.2 percent to 1.138 billion Yuan; that in the water resources, environment and public facilities management sectors went down 5.9 percent to 8.145 billion Yuan; that in the residential services and other service sectors increased 281.7 percent to 1.828 billion Yuan; that in education was 3.208 billion Yuan, down 5.5 percent from a year earlier; that in sanitation and social welfares increased 96.8 percent to 1.564 billion Yuan; that in the culture, sports and entertainment sectors was 1.393 billion Yuan, down 39.0 percent; and that in the public management, social security and social organizations grew 12.9 percent to 11.172 billion Yuan.

In 2014, investment in real estate development was 5.291 billion Yuan, up 450 percent year on year. The floor space of buildings under construction totaled 2.7317 million square meters, increasing 370 percent over the previous year. The floor space of completed buildings was 524,700 square meters, up 190 percent, and the total sales of commercial residential buildings reached 593,300 square meters, up 130 percent from the previous year.

According to statistics, investment from 1959 to 2014 in fixed assets, rose from 29 million to 111.973 billion Yuan, creating a cumulative total of 604.9 billion Yuan. This gain was marked by double-digit average annual growth.

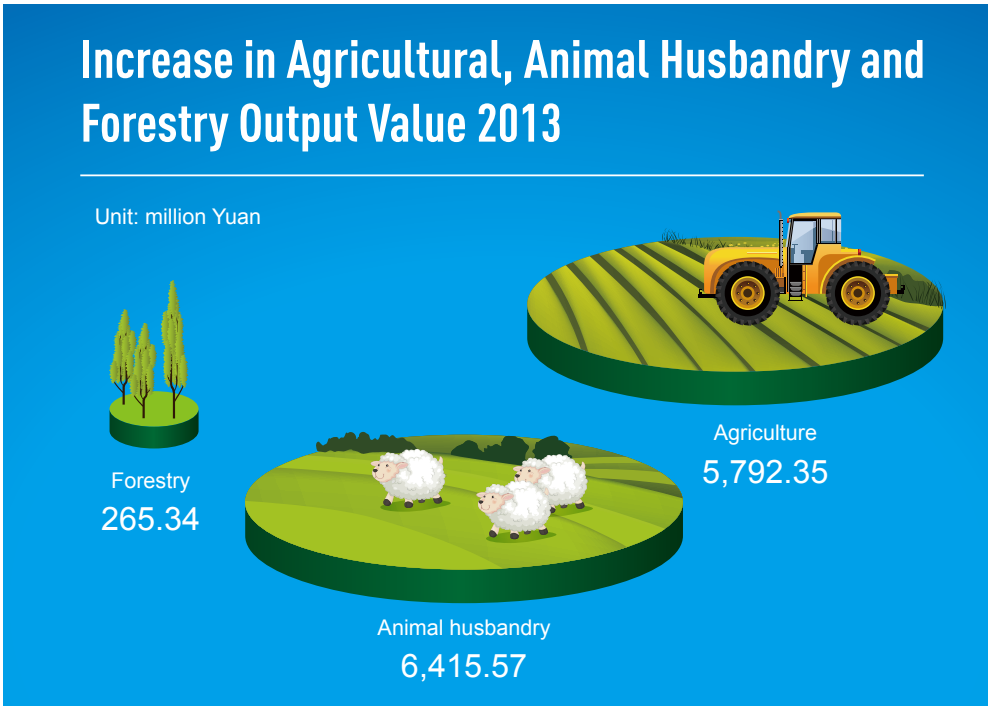
In the past 60 years or so since the peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951, investment in fixed assets has always exceeded financial revenues, and most investment comes from the Central Government finance, which is unique to China. This shows the long term care and strong support of Central Government to the construction and development.

Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

The adverse natural conditions of Tibet result in its backward agricultural production and low grain output. Its grain supply ever depended on the hinterland for a long time. Agriculture and animal husbandry of Tibet have a weak foundation due to historical, climatic and natural factors. Handicapped by poor transportation, the Tibetans consumed most of the farm produce and livestock products, and only a small amount could be exported to other parts of China. But with more support and aid

from the Central Government and various other regions in the country, Tibet enjoys fast development of agriculture and animal husbandry, and farmers and herdsmen enjoy increased income. Given the fact that the environment is not contaminated, Tibet has a good future for developing "green food". The opening of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, which greatly reduces the distance between Tibet and the hinterland, provides unprecedented opportunity for promoting development of the region's characteristic agriculture and speeds up access to wider markets. At present, the total output value of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery accounts for about 20 percent of GDP in Tibet, making agriculture and animal husbandry the basic industry of national economy in Tibet.

In recent years, the Central Government and the local government of Tibet has issued a series of preferential policies, such as those for crop cultivation, subsidies for livestock breeding and forestry, as well as preferential policies for the use of rural land and construction and subsidies used for education and training of farmers and herdsmen. Tibet increased investment to implement various preferential agricultural policies



in 2014. The fiscal fund for assisting agriculture amounted to 16.8 billion Yuan, a rise of 6.5 percent from a year earlier. Moreover, with the market playing an increasingly larger regulatory role, recent years have seen the farmers begin to arrange their production according to market needs. In 2014, Tibet's grain output reached 979,700 tons with an increase of 1.9 percent over the previous year, being over 900,000 tons for 16 running years.

In 2013, Tibet increased investment to implement various preferential agricultural policies. The direct allowance for the foodstuff growing increased from 225 Yuan per hectare to 300 Yuan per hectare, and general subsidies for agricultural production supplies rose from 225 Yuan per hectare in 2011 to 418 Yuan per hectare. The subsidy for dairy farming increased from 100 Yuan per cow to 150 Yuan per cow. Thus, farmers' enthusiasm was stimulated. Central Government and regional finance has provided large sums for farmers and herders to purchase agricultural and animal husbandry machinery. For instance, for the purchase of a 500,000 Yuan high-powered wheeled tractor, the government gives an allowance of 210,000 Yuan, and for a 400,000 Yuan

An irrigation sprinkler: Tibet has increased investment in the development of agro-technology.

combine harvester an allowance of 140,000 Yuan. The agricultural office of the regional government has issued a detailed agricultural machinery list and allowance standard.

In 2014, the sown area of grain in the Region was 250,870 hectares, an increase of 2,300 hectares compared with the previous year. Of this total, the sown area of highland barley 125,190 hectares, an increase of 1.34 hectares from a year earlier, and the sown area of wheat totaled 36,920 hectares, an decrease of 890 hectares. The sown area of rapeseed was 24,360 hectares, an increase of 20 hectares. The sown area of vegetables was 23,770 hectares, an decrease of 90 hectares. The total output of grain in 2014 was 979,700 tons, an increase of 1.9 percent over the previous year. The total output of rapeseed was 63,400 tons, representing growth of 0.1 percent, and the total output of vegetables was 682,100 tons, an increase of 1.8 percent. At the end of 2014, the total amount of livestock numbered 19.6144 million, a decrease of 869,100 compared with the end of 2013. Of this total, the number of cattle and yaks was 5.9416 million, a decrease of 47,000, and the number of sheep and goats was 11.8951 million, a decline of 829,100. In 2014, the total output of pork, beef and mutton stood at 286,200 tons, a decline of 2.0 percent from a year earlier, and the output of milk stood at 340,600 tons, up 4.8 percent.

Industry and Construction

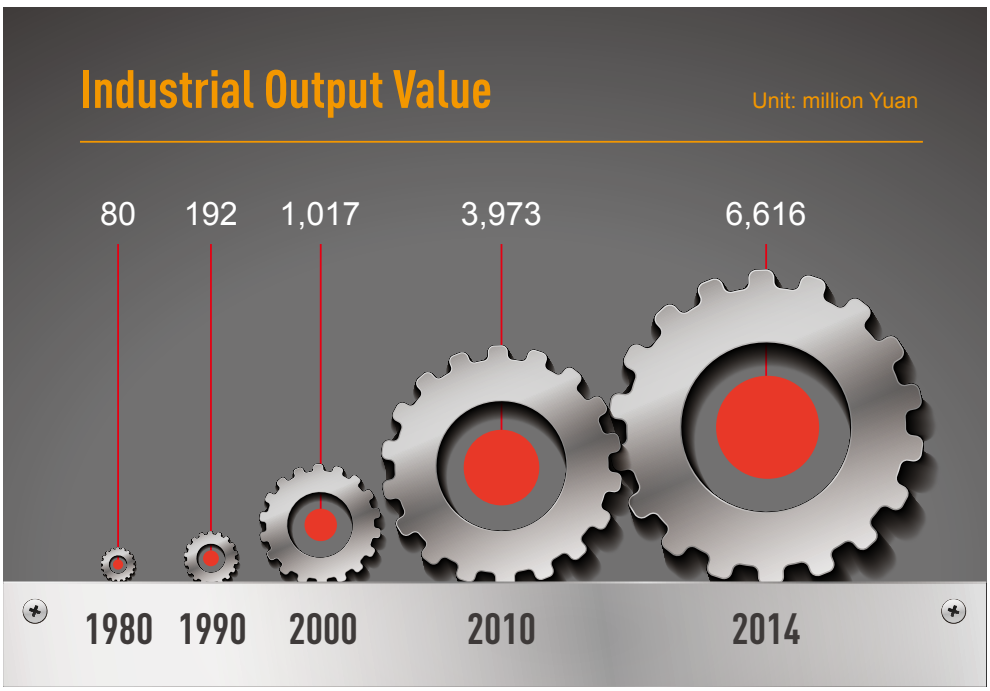
When Tibet won peaceful liberation in 1951, it was found to have an extremely weak industrial foundation, with only a small mint and a small machinery factory. A 125-kW small hydropower station was built to serve the rich around 1931; however, owing to poor management and a shortage of auxiliary equipment, it soon ceased operating. At that time Tibet had only 120 workers and its industrial output value could hardly be counted as an income for the region.

In the early 1950s, Tibet still had no industry in the modern sense. After the peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951, the Central People's Government intended to help Tibet build basic industries as soon as possible to make it adapted to social development and people's living needs. However, a number of measures were shelved due to the obstruction of the local government then.

Since the Democratic Reform in 1959, with the support of the Central Govern-

ment, Tibet began to establish its own modern industrial enterprises, which later grew into a major force in the region's economic development. Tibet now has a modern industrial system covering over 20 sectors with distinctive local features, including energy, light industry, textiles, machinery, timber, mining, building materials, chemical industry, pharmaceuticals, printing and food processing. Tibet has formed a system consisting of new types of energy resources, with hydropower as the backbone, supplemented by geothermal, wind and solar energy resources that lay a solid foundation for further economic development.

After the peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951, modern industry and infrastructure have been improving rapidly. A distinctive modern industrial system has been established that is adapted to the needs and conditions in Tibet and comprises more than 20 industries, in addition to the full development of a new energy system that is based on hydraulic power features complementation of geothermal, wind and solar power as well as other new energy sources. In 2013, the total installed generating capacity reached 1.28 million kw, and 100 percent of the local population was ensured access to electric power supply. A comprehensive transportation system including road, aviation,



railway, and pipeline transportation has been gradually developed and improved.

In 2014, the total added value of the industrial sector was 6.616 billion Yuan, an increase of 9.3 percent as compared with that in the previous year, while the national growth rate of the total added value of the industrial sector was only 7.0 percent. The added value of industrial enterprises above the designated size amounted to 4.887 billion Yuan, posting a growth rate of 6.0 percent. Of this total, the added value of light industry was 1.887 billion Yuan, up 18.3 percent, and that of heavy industry was 3.0 billion Yuan, the same as the previous year. The state-owned and state-holding enterprises realized added value of 1.902 billion Yuan, a rise of 3.0 percent in comparison with a year earlier. Analyzed by registration status, the added value of state-owned enterprises totaled 11.0 million Yuan, an decrease of 22.6 percent; that of the collective enterprises was 58.0 million Yuan, down 3.4 percent; that of share-holding enterprises rose 7.2 percent to 4.485 billion Yuan; and that of the enterprises funded by foreign investors and investors from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan went down 5.0 percent to 331.0 million Yuan; and that of other ownership enterprises was 3.0 million Yuan.

In 2014, the profits made by the industrial enterprises above the designated size were 1.244 billion Yuan, an increase of 89.2 percent over the previous year. The state-owned and state-holding enterprises decreased 470 million, down 4.2 percent. Of this total, the profits of the share-holding enterprises rose 120 percent to 1.049 billion Yuan; that of the enterprises funded by foreign investors and investors from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan rose 4.1 percent to 171 million Yuan; that of the collective enterprises increased 19.7 percent to 22 million Yuan;; and that of other ownership enterprises went up 21.0 percent to 215 million Yuan. The sales rate of the industrial enterprises above the designated size in the region stood at 94.4 percent.

In 2014, cement output by industrial enterprises above the designated size totaled 3.4225 million tons, an increase of 15.7 percent; total power generation decreased 9.0 percent to 2.005 billion kilowatt hours; the total output of beer numbered 158,500 tons, a decrease of 8.4 percent; that of Chinese traditional medicine (Tibetan medicine) totaled 1,515 tons, an increase of 10.1 percent; that of tap water added up to 122.57 million tons, an increase of 8.7 percent; and that of bottled drinking water stood at 114,500 tons, down 38.0 percent; and that of chrome ores stood at 90,000 tons, down 23.0 percent. In 2014, the added value of the construction sector was

Tibet enjoys fast industrial development. Picture shows the Huaxin Cement Works in Shannan.

27.068 billion Yuan, posting a year-on-year growth rate of 16.8 percent.

In July 2013, Tibet and Qinghai signed the cooperation framework agreement on construction of Golmud Tibet-Qinghai Industrial Park. The Park is one of the key projects during the 12th Five-Year Plan period of Tibet. Now, some items of its Phase I Project have been started. By the end of 2014, the industrial value-added of the Park reached 3.8 billion Yuan, and the gross industrial output value was 1.7 billion Yuan. According to the plan, before the end of 2015, the gross industrial output value of the Park was expected to reach 30.196 billion Yuan, with profit and tax totaling 6.886 billion Yuan; by 2020, the gross industrial output value of the Park is expected to be 91.488 billion Yuan, with profit and tax totaling 16.949 billion Yuan. Calculated on the base of Tibet's gross industrial output value reaching 90.0 billion in 2015 and 14.5 billion Yuan in 2020, the direct contribution of the Park in Tibet's economic development will reach 8.8 percent and 13.7 percent respectively.

The Park will help accelerate the new-type industrialization process of Tibet and Qinghai Province and be of great significance in promoting the regional economic

development and achieving the complementation of advantages, mutual benefit and common development of Tibet and Qinghai.

Domestic Trade

In recent years, a series of national policies and measures have been adopted to expand domestic demand and Tibet has worked hard to promote construction of the urban and rural market system. A modern circulation system has been introduced and there has been rapid growth in urban and rural consumption. Agricultural and pastoral areas in Tibet have seen consumption growth for several years, and the growth rate surpasses that in urban areas.

Tibet's urban and rural market system improved constantly along with rapid development of business services, creating large numbers of job opportunities in the business services sector. Tibet also enjoyed a substantial growth in urban and rural retail sales, and formed a new economic pattern featuring investment and consumption combining to promote economic growth.

The region has constantly improved the urban and rural market system and commodity circulation network. Nowadays, sale of the commodities closely related to the quality of life of residents increased significantly.

With the rapid development of the Internet and e-commerce industry, online shopping has a significant impact on the traditional commerce mode, and the consumption practice and concept of Chinese also has changed .Online shopping, featuring cheap price, convenience and saving time, is becoming popular. However, the popularization of computers and Internet in Tibet lags behind, due to an undeveloped logistics industry and consumption concept. The degree of online shopping in Tibet is lower than the Chinese hinterland.

In recent years, the large State investment in Tibet's infrastructure has greatly improved the communication and traffic conditions of the region, supporting online shopping. With the rapid development of the Internet and logistics industry, consumption structure and concept of Tibetans also has changed .Online shopping is becoming popular now. People's earnings have grown steadily, and convenient online shopping is increasingly popular among the people living in Tibet. Online banking is

the most popular payment mode for Tibetan online shopping. According to Alipay, the largest online payment platform in China, in 2014, the per capita payment of shopping through the portal was 6,066 Yuan. Mobile payment accounted for 62.2 percent, and since 2012, began to rank first in China. At the same time, well-known and quality products with local characteristics entered the Chinese hinterland market rapidly through the e-commerce channel.

Currently Tibet is incorporated into the national market system. Commodities from all over the nation and across the world keep flowing into Tibet, enriching the urban and rural markets as well as the lives of the people. At the same time, well-known and quality products with local characteristics and folk handcrafts are transported to other parts of the country and the world in large quantities.

In 2014, the total retail sales of consumer goods reached 36.451 billion Yuan, an increase of 13.1 percent from the previous year. Analyzed by different areas, retail sales of consumer goods in urban areas increased 13.9 percent to 30.301 billion Yuan, and retail sales of consumer goods in rural areas was 6.15 billion Yuan, up 9.6 percent. Analyzed by different sectors, sales in wholesale and retail trade reached 30.76 billion

Tibetans enjoy a comparatively higher consumption rate: Bustling Barkor Street.

Yuan, a growth of 14.0 percent; sales in the lodging and catering sector was 5.691 billion Yuan, up 8.4 percent from a year ago.

Of the total retail sales by wholesale and retail enterprises above the designated size, retail sales of petroleum and related products went up 12.2 percent; that of Chinese and Western medicine rose 81.2 percent; that of cosmetics increased 4.4 percent; and that of garments, shoes and caps and knitgoods and textiles rose 110 percent.

Foreign Trade

Tibet borders many countries and regions such as India and Nepal. With unique regional and geographical advantages, Tibet is becoming the main trading channel between China and the countries in south Asia. The Qinghai-Tibet Railway, foreign trade goods reshipment centers and border trade markets help boost Tibet's advantage in economic development. The Lhasa-Xigaze Railway was open to traffic, marking a great advance in Tibet's opening of land trade channel to South Asia.

Xigaze is a large city in Tibet in terms of population, border area, foreign trade and agriculture.In the past, there was only road transport in southwestern Tibet. Lhasa-Xigaze Railway will be of great significance in improving the traffic conditions and investment environment in Xigaze City, accelerating local economic development and improving people's livelihood.

Tibet's ability in export of the products it produces itself has been constantly strengthened, making the foreign trade become more efficient in promoting the economic growth of the region. There is also improvement in the composition of goods exported, with major export items changing mainly the resource-based products to goods it itself produces. This shift reflects improved economic structure of Tibet.

To accelerate the great-leap-forward development of its economy, Tibet has broken its traditional single internal-oriented economic development mode in recent years. It has vigorously developed export processing zones and cross-border economic and technological cooperation zones. Tibet is making great efforts to build up South-Asia-oriented trade, logistics and tourism centers, thus stimulating the development of southwest and northwest China. In order to maintain and promote the development of Tibet's foreign trade, the government will also increase its support to fiscal, taxation

Border trade booms in Tibet. Here Indian businessmen visit the market at the China-India border.

and financial measures. It will earnestly carry out various export rebates policies promulgated by the Central Government.

The total value of imports and exports in Tibet reached 13.848 billion Yuan in 2014, down 33.3 percent over the previous year. Of this total, the value of exports was 12.9 billion Yuan, down 36.6 percent and that of imports 948 million Yuan, up 210 percent. According to the survey of Tibet customs, the main road route in Nepal, the largest trade partner with Tibet, suffered a large landslide, blocking the flow of cargo between Nepal and Tibet, so that the trade stopped for long time. This brought on the decrease of the total value of imports and exports in border trade. During April to May 2015, there were many strong earthquakes in Nepal, and many areas in Tibet also were influenced, triggering landslides. The traffic and infrastructure suffered serious damage. It had significant impact on the border trade between China and Nepal.

In 2014, the Tibet Autonomous Region carried out border trade with 99 countries and regions. Of them, the total trade value with Nepal was 12.209 billion Yuan, accounting for 91.2 percent of total foreign trade value. Nepal has ranked first among

the major trade partners with Tibet for nine straight years.

Excluding Nepal, Germany, America and Belgium held the first three places among other trade partners of Tibet, with border trade value of 369 million Yuan, 233 million Yuan and 228 million Yuan respectively, down 7.5 percent, 78.8 percent and up 77.9 percent respectively. In 2014, contracted foreign direct investment (FDI) reached US$59.4786 million, and paid-in FDI reached US$158.5462 million. 12 FDI projects were approved.

Finance

Tibet has already formed a financial management system under which the People's Bank, the China Banking Regulatory Commission Tibet Supervision Bureau, the Securities Regulatory Bureau, and the China Insurance Regulatory Commission Tibet Bureau co-exist. It has also formed a financial institution system comprising branches of the China Industrial and Commercial Bank, Agricultural Bank of China, China Construction Bank, China Development Bank as well as the Bank of Tibet, and the People's Insurance Company of China, Ping An Insurance, China Life Insurance Company and Tibet insurance companies. Its service network covers the whole region, and its capital market expands in scope. There are now 10 listed companies. By the end of 2014, the total market value of the ten listed companies amounted to 81.386 billion Yuan, raising all together 13.18 percent.

The CPC Central Committee and the State Council held the 5th National Conference on Work in Tibet in January 2010, which decided to give Tibet more favorable aid than previously. The financial institutions in Tibet are encouraged to use the deposits mainly to support local economic development. A sound policy environment has thus been created for the sustainable development of the financial industry of Tibet. In May 2012, Tibet Bank formally went into operation, the first local commercial bank.

Tibetan financial institutions earnestly implemented the macroeconomic control policy of the Central Government. They carried out special preferential financial policies given to Tibet, adjusted credit structures, improved financial services and intensified risk management to ensure smoother development and steadily increase profitability.

In the past, due to backward technical means and inconvenient traffic, the bank staff members in some remote areas had to spend several days carrying money there in winter when heavy snow sealed the mountain passes. Moreover, most rural towns in Tibet were outlying and some rural areas had no financial facilities. Farmers and herders there had to get to the towns with banks after one or two hours' ride to withdraw money, transfer accounts or complete other transactions. In response to this situation, Tibet is accelerating banking services covering counties, towns, townships as well as agricultural and pasture areas. By the end of 2014, 11 new financial institutes wee set up, and 1,053 new ATM service points convenient for farmers were installed. The financial service coverage for townships and administration villages reached 92.39 percent and 37.13 percent respectively.

According to plan, by the end of 2015, all the administrative villages in Tibet will have access to electronic banking services. Then, farmers and herders can enjoy the financial services in their own villages.

As financial service outlets continue to cover more rural areas, the loan business

Bank clerks explaining how to use ATM for herdsmen. Nowadays, many Tibet's farmers and herdsmen use bankcards.

of farmers and herders also increased rapidly. Small-amount loan is available for more than 95 percent of rural families, while the national average level is only 36 percent. More than 80 percent of the population live in agricultural and pasture areas. In order to accelerate their construction, Tibet's financial institutions actively supported the development of basic industry and pillar industries such as farming products with local characteristics, and tourism. In 2014, the Region's balance of agriculture-related loans was about 29.726 billion Yuan, an increase of 14.72 billion Yuan or 98.09 percent in comparison with the same period of last year.

In 2014, Tibet saw stable financial operation and rapidly growing deposits and loans. The outstanding balance of deposits of all financial institutions totaled 308.919 billion Yuan at the end of 2014, up 23.5 percent. Of this total, individual deposit increased 12.8 percent to 55.928 billion Yuan. The outstanding balance of loans denominated in Renminbi and foreign currencies of all financial institutions amounted to 161.946 billion Yuan, up 50.2 percent.

In 2014, the premiums received by insurance companies totaled 1.276 billion Yuan, representing a year-on-year growth rate of 11.6 percent. Of this total, the property insurance premiums increased 13.2 percent to 901 million Yuan; motor vehicle insurance premiums grew 21.0 percent to 632 million Yuan; life insurance premiums totaled 109 million Yuan, up 16.4 percent; personal accident insurance premiums were 147 million Yuan, up 4.5 percent; and health insurance premiums stood at 118 million Yuan, up 5.1 percent from the previous year. In 2014, a total of 606 million Yuan was paid by insurance companies as indemnities, up 8.4 percent.

Local GDP

Unit: 100 Million Yuan

Year	Local GDP	Primary Industry	Secondary Industry			Tertiary Industry	Per-capita GDP (Yuan)
				Industry	Building Industry		
1978	6.65	3.37	1.84	0.61	1.23	1.44	375
1980	8.67	4.64	2.18	0.80	1.38	1.85	471
1985	17.76	8.87	3.08	1.23	1.85	5.81	894
1990	27.70	14.10	3.57	1.92	1.65	10.03	1276
1995	56.11	23.48	13.24	4.10	9.13	19.39	2358
2000	117.80	36.39	27.05	10.17	16.88	54.37	4572
2001	139.16	37.54	31.97	10.88	21.09	69.65	5324
2002	162.04	39.75	32.72	11.65	21.07	89.56	6117
2003	185.09	40.70	47.64	13.82	33.82	96.76	6893
2004	220.34	44.30	52.74	16.10	36.64	123.30	8103
2005	248.80	48.04	63.52	17.48	46.04	137.24	9036
2006	290.76	50.90	80.10	21.71	58.39	159.76	10422
2007	341.43	54.89	98.48	27.62	70.86	188.06	12083
2008	394.85	60.62	115.56	29.48	86.08	218.67	13824
2009	441.36	63.88	136.63	33.11	103.52	240.85	15295
2010	507.46	68.72	163.92	39.33	124.19	274.82	17319
2011	605.83	74.47	208.79	48.18	160.61	322.57	20077
2012	701.03	80.38	242.85	55.35	187.50	377.80	22936
2013	807.67	86.83	292.92	61.16	231.76	427.92	26068

Financial Revenues

Unit: 10,000 Yuan

Year	Total Income			Total Expenditures	Balance of Income and Expenditure
		Local Financial Revenues	State Subsidies		
1959	13302	2190	11112	7010	6292
1965	14044	2239	11805	11313	2731
1970	16203	-2142	18345	10613	5590
1975	26194	-2985	29179	24026	2168
1980	54131	-5973	60104	46602	7525
1985	99735	-6037	105772	102941	-3206
1990	128470	1810	126660	129242	-772
1995	334940	21500	313440	348749	-13809
2000	699222	63265	635957	616108	83114
2001	1018566	73790	944776	1062067	1045690
2002	1398795	87325	1311470	1398904	-109
2003	1387906	100342	1287564	1481966	-94060
2004	1479554	119899	1359655	1360690	118864
2005	2058670	143330	1915340	1891612	167058
2006	2229029	172682	2007860	2023024	206005
2007	3101337	231437	2804127	2793631	307706
2008	3864431	285872	3578559	3840173	24258
2009	5018573	309108	4709465	4711288	307285
2010	5676453	424679	5309980	5625834	50619
2011	7787811	645270	547647	7756827	31050
2012	8999260	956285	8042975	9339713	-340453
2013	10129122	1104234	9024888	10490647	-361525

Investment in Fixed Assets

Index		2000	2005	2010	2012	2013
Total Investment (10000 Yuan)		**665044**	**1961916**	**4632585**	**7099822**	**9184830**
Divided According to Economic Types	State-Owned Economy	630208	1499411	3337026	4730059	6708235
	Collectively Owned Economy	7723	67369	30332	147424	81891
	Rural Areas	6090	3474	29909	112783	38179
	Private Economy	12436	143964	209378	320375	320228
	Rural Areas	2253	40920	199603	247666	203640
	Shareholding Economy	8846	115654	458886	836061	761743
	Foreign Investment	156	3115	8339	13694	8415
	Other Economies	1531	3115	570044	994852	1261213
Divided According to Source of Capital	State Budgeted Investment	374105	1146377	3220359	4217320	6112260
	Domestic Loans	29975	62256	98774	254866	161191
	Use of Foreign Capital	25091	3241	14403	65898	18519
	Self-raised Investment	189713	384389	1588139	2029335	3655416
	Other Kinds of Investment	126255	437676	261798	813709	661359
Divided According to Management Channel	Towns	558743	1901593	4054318	6069290	7555444
	Rural Areas		60323	578267	1030532	1629386
	Real Estate Development	9771	60207	89634	68719	96777
Divided According to Composition	Construction and Installation Projects	597335	1713405	3979621	6173604	8035290
	Purchase of Equipment and Tools	46695	166113	534928	636545	821643
	Other Kinds of Expenses	21014	82398	118036	289673	327897
Divided According to Nature of Construction	New Construction Projects	418036	1150969	3081541	5459207	7584999
	Expansion Projects	37308	404421	498751	590923	430469
	Renovation Projects	155880	206410	255785	508831	356564
Construction Area of Buildings (10000 sq.m)	Construction Area	285.97	953.59	1298.7	1434.06	710.72
	Area of Buildings Completed	231.96	646.83	518.7	433.93	258.92
	Residential Housing	133.71	336.60	408.1	345.48	198.81

Number of People Employed by Various Economic Sectors

Unit: 10,000 People

Index	1985	1990	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total	**105.72**	**107.88**	**124.18**	**143.60**	**173.39**	**185.55**	**202.06**	**205.54**
Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Husbandry and Fishery	85.58	87.08	90.98	86.39	92.96	93.40	93.60	92.82
Mining	0.47	0.41	0.35	2.96	3.53	3.32	3.87	4.09
Manufacturing	1.92	1.60	2.87	1.75	2.49	2.78	3.35	3.15
Production and Supply of Power, Gas and Drinking Water	0.50	0.45	0.57	0.80	0.96	0.99	1.06	1.19
Building Industry	1.99	1.67	3.56	8.10	11.86	15.48	18.82	20.50
Scientific Research, Technical Service, and Geological Survey	0.35	0.27	0.23	0.54	0.83	0.81	0.90	1.32
Communications and Transportation, Warehousing, Posts and Telecommunications	2.31	3.26	3.31	0.43	5.03	5.28	5.79	6.14
Wholesales and Retail Sales	3.65	3.31	7.33	8.91	16.72	19.72	25.01	23.64
Finance and Insurance	0.35	0.34	0.62	0.61	0.85	0.97	0.86	0.99
Real Estate Business				0.20	0.22	0.27	0.38	0.44
Residential and Other Services	0.73	0.52	0.98	11.35	2.68	3.24	4.09	3.75
Health, Social Security and Social Welfare	1.19	1.44	1.24	1.33	1.61	1.65	1.78	1.82
Education	1.97	2.19	3.24	3.22	3.96	4.27	4.43	4.45
Public Management and Social Organization	3.38	4.23	5.73	6.78	8.83	10.02	11.73	13.21
Culture, Sports and Recreational Business				1.29	1.68	1.91	2.11	1.92

Per-Capita Economic Indexes

Year	Tibet's GDP (Yuan)	Agricultural Output Value (Yuan)	Industrial Output Value (Yuan)	Grain Production (kg)	Retail Sales of Consumer Goods	Balance of Bank Savings (Yuan)	Per-Capita Net Income of Farmers and Herders (Yuan)	Per-Capita Wages of Workers and Staff (Yuan)
1965	241	194	17	214				940
1970	247	187	25	197				798
1975	307	203	67	266				794
1980	471	289	81	274	123		274	1025
1985	894	550	107	268	406	80	535	1963
1990	1276	899	171	256	551	180	582	3181
1995	2358	1508	382	302	1021	807	878	7382
2000	4572	1988	710	373	1650	1558	1331	14976
2001	5318	2017	763	375	1859	1917	1404	19144
2002	6094	2102	814	370	1991	2647	1521	24766
2003	6950	2170	887	358	2140	3401	1691	26931
2004	8034	2288	1036	350	2304	3919	1861	29292
2005	8939	2434	1209	336	2631	4423	2078	28950
2006	10285	2493	1421	327	3184	4946	2435	31518
2007	11898	2782	1758	327	3924	5561	2788	46098
2008	13588	3043	2055	327	4473	6363	3176	47280
2009	15008	3175	2237	308	5324	7697	3532	48750
2010	17027	3381	2537	306	6217	8963	4139	54397
2011	20077	3624	3151	311	7257	10566	4904	55845
2012	22936	3847	3443	308	8278	13130	5719	58347
2013	26068	4131	4061	310	9464	16010	6578	64409

Number of Capital Construction Projects Under Construction or Already in Operation (End of 2013)

Trade	Projects Under Construction	Completed Construction Projects	Rate of Projects Going Into Production(%)
Total	**4052**	**3003**	**74.1**
Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Husbandry and Fishery	616	515	83.6
Mining	54	40	74.1
Manufacturing	189	128	67.7
Production and Supply of Power, Gas and Drinking Water	195	129	66.2
Communications and Transportation, Warehousing and Posts and Telecommunications	443	329	74.3
Wholesale and Retail Sale Business	114	96	84.2
Hotel and Restaurant Business	107	74	69.2
Finance and Insurance	22	15	68.2
Real Estate Business	161	106	65.8
Residential and Other Services	47	30	63.8
Health, Social Security and Social Welfare	108	83	76.9
Education	342	250	73.1
Scientific Research, Technological Service and Geological survey	61	47	77.0
Public Management and Social Organization	861	624	72.5
Culture, Sports and Recreational Business	139	103	74.1

Number of Female Workers

Year	Total (Person)	State-owned Economic Units	Urban Collectively Owned Economic Units	Other Economic Units	Proportion in Total Number of Workers (%)
1980	66085	58936	7149		34.2
1985	57614	50945	6637	32	34.6
1990	50428	46673	3677	78	32.0
1995	54539	49989	4050	500	33.5
2000	59623	54604	3522	1497	33.3
2001	59572	54082	3220	2270	34.3
2002	55840	52301	1639	1900	33.2
2003	57827	54350	1604	1873	33.8
2004	61467	58247	1280	1940	35.6
2005	63870	60125	1490	2255	35.1
2006	62495	59142	1278	2075	33.0
2007	69165	64718	1782	2665	35.2
2008	70899	66586	1845	2468	34.9
2009	80727	76360	1697	2670	37.8
2010	79573	74243	2345	2985	35.8
2011	82362	76540	2283	3539	35.3
2012	90488	87298	1379	1811	35.9
2013	109575	95468	1501	12606	35.3

Output Value of Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Husbandry and Fishery

Unit: 10,000 Yuan

Year	Output Value of Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Husbandry and Fishery	Agriculture	Forestry	Animal Husbandry	Fishery
1959	14417	4704		9713	
1965	26420	8522	20	17878	2
1970	28028	8671	12	19340	5
1975	34030	13364	106	20550	10
1980	53215	24846	765	27597	7
1985	108875	50999	2274	55562	40
1990	195023	98138	3250	93573	62
1995	358961	177927	7151	173782	101
2000	512185	263649	13130	235282	124
2001	527791	276113	12849	238695	134
2002	558874	290759	12221	255772	122
2003	586339	252779	53084	270867	78
2004	627373	265638	57186	291197	87
2005	677408	298887	56997	300498	136
2006	704765	304974	60191	316975	1762
2007	798309	359382	63078	349108	1073
2008	884518	396962	67971	389629	2804
2009	933807	390575	71155	442880	2049
2010	1007685	462822	24602	488612	2268
2011	1093675	496152	23929	541123	2181
2012	1183267	533863	25577	590193	2220
2013	1279967	579235	26534	641557	1762

Number of Major Farm Machinery (Year-End Figure)

Index	Unit	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013
Power of Farm Machinery	**kw**	**1145276**	**2308583**	**4119871**	**4450898**	**4994835**	**5783259**
Ploughing Machinery							
Large and Medium-Sized Tractors	Piece	2025	6658	22946	26761	36074	43068
	kw	126960	190768	531847	747127	782093	942540
Small and Walking Tractors	Piece	30999	79020	119621	133805	141512	156020
	kw	332177	898755	1547424	1826992	1952234	2140591
Farm Tools of Large and Medium-Sized Tractors	Piece	1033	2531	8484	25493	9233	11033
Farm Tools of Small Tractors	Piece	11450	14405	37260	48768	52221	79702
Power of Drainage and Irrigating Farm Machinery							
Diesel Engines	Piece	2608	2744	4313	4055	4168	4259
	kw	24469	26187	47257	49275	51980	53794
Electric Machines	Piece	1476	2979	2908	1632	1861	1421
	kw	14610	39223	36940	30666	28719	27187
Water Pumps	Piece	627	790	395	528	508	436
Harvesting Machinery							
Combine Harvesters	Piece	129	2853	4138	3917	3536	4012
	kw	2354	46142	74164	91516	72640	90965
Electric Threshers	Piece	6859	16457	27968	35032	40310	45696
Transport Machinery							
Agricultural Transport Vehicles	Piece	3665	14512	20496	22110	24938	33670
	kw	139727	1038476	1453403	1677221	1879611	2242338

Output Value of Agriculture

Unit: 10,000 Yuan

Year	Agricultural Output Value	Output Value of Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Husbandry and Fishery	Output Value of Rural Industry	Output Value of Rural Building Industry	Output Value of Rural Transport Business	Output Value of Rural Commerce
1985	177142	106316	1233	3410	3106	3077
1990	182283	170347	2055	2712	3433	3736
1995	389605	358961	5857	5447	8957	10383
2000	570808	512185	13307	14546	17086	13684
2001	577709	527791	14244	12407	13274	9993
2002	618802	558874	11707	14788	20832	12601
2003	675553	586339	20033	23995	26120	19106
2004	757243	627373	26536	40567	41556	21211
2005	823658	677408	27207	43925	45077	30041
2006	877722	704765	27802	64743	47445	32967
2007	1021216	798309	29411	103807	53065	36624
2008	1150468	884519	30385	126476	59854	49234
2009	1236703	933807	28520	150398	67243	56733
2010	1351837	1007685	35194	154366	82109	72483
2011	1469501	1093675	40599	151534	95565	88128
2012	1650604	1183267	58446	185357	113415	110119
2013	1790707	1279967	61561	208761	130753	109666

Cultivated Area

Unit: 1,000 hectares

Year	Year-End Cultivated Area			Decrease of the Year		Increase of the Year
		Dry Land	Paddy Field		Farmland Occupied by the State for Capital Construction	
1985	223.55	223.14	0.41	4.76	0.13	2.97
1990	222.50	221.86	0.64	1.31	0.10	1.20
1995	224.47	221.68	0.79	0.31	0.08	2.17
2000	230.83	229.76	1.07	0.39	—	0.06
2001	230.22	229.15	1.05	1.40	0.25	0.77
2002	229.89	228.90	1.00	2.45	0.66	2.15
2003	225.34	224.38	0.96	6.22	0.79	2.77
2004	222.74	221.77	0.97	4.03	0.35	1.46
2005	223.01	222.03	0.98	1.55	0.37	1.83
2006	223.01	222.03	0.98	1.55	0.37	1.83
2007	228.23	227.26	0.97	1.27	0.68	1.95
2008	225.92	224.95	0.97	0.44	0.09	1.58
2009	229.57	228.49	1.08	0.83	0.04	5.06
2010	229.53	228.43	1.10	1.53	0.09	1.49
2011	231.57	230.44	1.13	0.71	0.14	2.04
2012	232.57	231.34	1.23	0.75	0.19	1.74
2013	233.05	231.81	1.24	0.72	0.43	1.21

Electrification of Farming, Use of Chemicals and Water Irrigation

Index	Unit	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013
Electrification of Farming							
Number of Small Rural Hydraulic Power Stations		231	356	296	272	280	277
Electricity Power Consumed in Rural Areas	10000 kwh	3392	6354	7623	8745	10149	10894
Electricity Generated	10000 kwh	2127	9343	8576	9016	10739	9968
Installed Generating Capacity	10000 kw	1.57	3.85				
Use of Chemicals for Farming							
Chemical Fertilizers Used	ton	24955	42073	47351	47915	49876	56959
Nitrogenous Fertilizer	ton	11610	17969	19185	14768	16931	19699
Phosphate Fertilizer	ton	5359	12688	10677	12002	10210	12323
Potash Fertilizer	ton	1721	1176	4423	5196	5524	5601
Compound Fertilizer	ton	6266	10240	13066	15949	17211	19335
Chemical Fertilizers Applied to Each Hectare of Cultivated Land on Average	kg	108	188	206	207	214	244
Plastic Film Used for Agricultural Purpose	ton	128	720	734	852	1153	1336
Amount of Pesticides Used	ton	651	725	1036	963	923	1031
Pesticides Applied to Each Hectare of Cultivated Farmland	kg	3	3	9	4	4	4
Irrigation Situation							
Effectively Irrigated Farmland	1000 hectares	157.03	153.01	167.04	169.03	178.32	173.56
Farmland Irrigated With Electric Pumps	1000 hectares	8.05	6.21	9.55	9.51	10.78	8.45
Proportion of Effectively Irrigated Farmland in Total	%	68.00	68.61	72.77	72.99	76.70	74.47
Proportion of Effectively Irrigated Farmland in Land Devoted to Grain Production	%	68.00	65.12	69.59	70.01	73.10	69.82
Proportion of Pump-Irrigated Farmland in Effectively Irrigated Farmland	%	5.10	4.06	5.71	5.63	6.34	4.87
Farmland That Ensures Stable Yield Despite Drought or Excessive Rain	1000 hectares	87.58	83.72	78.83	80.76	82.22	74.03
Proportion of Farmland That Ensures Stable Yield Despite Drought or Excessive Rain in Cultivated Land	%	37.90	35.63	32.84	33.45	33.70	30.11
Irrigated Grasslands	1000 hectares	722.10	1210.82	550.56	426.92	574.39	473.79

Output of Major Crops

Unit: ton

Year	Grain Production	Rice	Wheat		Qingke Barley
				Winter Wheat	
1959	182905				
1965	290725				
1970	294916				
1975	445827	2278	127284	96820	236357
1980	504970	2210	181085	143830	237230
1985	530669	2488	118519	72621	333736
1990	608280	3264	164271	115911	369294
1995	719605	4731	249366	187865	380922
2000	962234	5517	307288	245319	597094
2005	933918	5452	255506	171172	613548
2006	923688	5884	265315	209286	592000
2007	938634	5460	264859	206941	610845
2008	950343	5140	257556	193002	618196
2009	905330	5172	245617	194763	595192
2010	912289	5932	242373	197811	602570
2011	937290	5960	249064	191653	621886
2012	948963	5446	245716	184297	637102
2013	961506	5480	242373	187660	656577

Tea Plantation and Orchards, and Output of Tea and Fruit

Index	Unit	1990	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013
Area	**hectare**						
Area of Tea Plantation		149	48	184	224	163	223
Area of Orchards		629	1235	1139	1860	2024	1975
Apple Orchard		508	1051	742	1375	1324	1130
Pear Orchard		41	112	82	81	89	105
Output	**ton**						
Output of Tea		66	1	3	8	31	40
Output of Fruit		5445	7418	11078	9484	9745	12264
Apples		3696	5299	5674	5124	4442	5496
Pears		319	803	836	1228	1150	1367

Forest Production

Index	Unit	1990	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013
Forest Construction							
Forest Built in the Year	hectare	5977	14101	27425	28793	36092	41370
Timber Forest	hectare	193	2293	2910	1019	1077	303
Economic Forest	hectare	15	398	2725	2451	1631	1561
Protection Forest	hectare	440	2721	8894	25292	33323	39285
Charcoal Forest	hectare	18	299	135	30	61	5
Output of Major Forest Products							
Rosin	ton	8		642	611	504	138
Walnuts	ton	98	1829	2024	3011	4241	4296
Chinese Prickly Ash	ton	1	35	81	119	140	155
Timber	10000 cubic meters	13.13	13.39	24.86	23.12	22.86	17.04
Bamboo	10000 pieces	45.68	170.31	124.12	100.14	127.39	126.72

Output of Animal By-Products

Year	Meat Output (10000 tons)	Milk Output (10000 tons)	Pork (10000 tons)	Beef and Mutton (10000 tons)
1978	4.71	9.34	0.19	4.52
1979	5.12	9.50	0.19	4.93
1980	4.75	9.87	0.24	4.49
1985	7.07	10.28	0.28	6.79
1990	8.78	15.75	0.50	8.28
1995	11.21	17.61	0.56	10.65
2000	14.93	20.40	0.79	14.14
2001	16.01	23.05	0.83	15.17
2002	17.21	24.30	0.92	16.29
2003	18.98	25.13	0.86	18.12
2004	20.82	26.20	1.04	19.78
2005	21.46	26.98	1.22	20.23
2006	22.70	27.61	1.19	21.51
2007	23.48	28.94	1.08	22.40
2008	24.46	29.46	1.11	23.35
2009	25.52	29.43	1.25	24.27
2010	26.31	30.25	1.26	24.15
2011	27.67	31.35	1.17	26.5
2012	28.95	31.69	1.13	27.82
2013	29.21	32.52	1.01	28.20

Industrial Output Value

Unit: 10,000 Yuan

Year	Total	Divided According to Economic Type			Divided According to Light and Heavy Industries	
		State-Owned Economy	Collective Economy	Other Kinds of Economy	Light Industry	Heavy Industry
1959	4344	4243	101		164	4180
1965	2349	1797	552		892	1457
1970	3734	2857	877		1419	2315
1975	11306	8649	2657		4296	7010
1980	14894	13818	1076		4600	10294
1985	21247	13950	1958	5339	10765	10482
1990	37200	25395	4230	7575	14518	22682
1995	90816	65679	13909	11228	28479	62337
2000	183036	94970	44529	43537	68814	114222
2005	336462	133805	44358	158299	136300	200162
2006	401641	135733	53667	212241	158267	243374
2007	504375	166871	28471	309033	187171	317204
2008	597153	184919	27994	384240	227571	369582
2009	657970	191361	20251	446358	271729	386241
2010	756144	225250	18063	512831	276447	479697
2011	950805	298104	25378	627323	369933	580872
2012	1059120	369199	30444	659477	406740	652380
2013	1258348	397547	30403	830398	481087	777260

Output of Major Industrial Products

Year	Chromite (ton)	Electricity Generated (10000 kwh)	Cement (ton)	Timber (10000 cubic meters)	Traditional Chinese Medicine (ton)	Edible Plant Oil (ton)	Garments (Piece)
1959		88		6			
1965		2782	10600	7			
1970	300	5302	3600	7			
1975	200	10488	34000	17			
1980	50300	17459	52200	21	101		
1985	14101	24668	46668	21	82	2434	154261
1990	93120	31582	132345	13.13	55	1917	25576
1995	109882	48343	219952	14.09	222	1562	100900
2000	196628	66075	493200	13.39	591	1020	441900
2001	159446	69690	495900		697	342	63600
2002	124222	79650	590800		995	352	36400
2003	155796	101600	889100		889	192	17900
2004	142251	116469	959800		1090	1126	15500
2005	116679	133389	1372800	24.86	1210	1121	20900
2006	121758	151514	1666659	35.56	1296	1231	1600
2007	128637	169072	1596600	35.68	1176	1156	17300
2008	101690	184537	1684952		1465	1482	19230
2009	124461	220275	1898671		1366	1354	10800
2010	201000	241593	2191200	23.12	1249	1202	12056
2011	120500	271357	2349100		1589	1236	12695
2012	123544	262150	2866712	22.86	1657	1344	13689
2013	132900	291400	2960000	17.04	2102	1526	13986

Production of Construction Enterprises

Index	Unit	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013
Number of Enterprises	Piece	141	168	174	175	164
Output Value of Building Industry	10000 Yuan	168178	406118	1218763	864044	821141
Construction Projects		153122	374757	1201636	814843	710153
Installation Projects		10099	7554	11641	31304	27896
Added Value of Building Industry	10000 Yuan	45811	97400	277279	218917	208732
Output Value of Commissioned Projects	10000 Yuan	133086	293228	941158	410465	358476
Area of Housing Under Construction	10000 sq.meters	86.98	151.33	272.42	198.82	211.87
Area of Housing Commissioned	10000 sq.meters	81.06	114.37	128.25	138.34	119.85
Area of Housing		27.53	50.67	56.33	52.06	53.30

Major Economic Index of Above-Scale Industrial Businesses (2013)

Unit: 10,000 Yuan

Index	Number of Enterprises (Piece)	Industrial Output Value (Price of the Year Concerned)	Total Assets	Business Income of the Main Products	Business Profits
Ferrous Metals Mining and Dressing	4	39577	355552	38318	-1785
Non-Ferrous Metals Mining and Dressing	11	24232	1384390	209210	57053
Non-Metallic Ores Mining and Dressing	1	2291	7164	2291	448
Non-Metallic Products	15	216641	284741	214037	38460
Food Processing	3	14742	46791	13837	-1854
Textile Industry	2	6668	15362	6309	85
Pharmaceuticals Industry	8	110746	265150	118437	29005
Power and Thermal Production and Supply	4	140523	2606916	139616	-205026
Tap Water Production and Supply	1	11279	23489	6337	-429

Total Value of Imports and Exports

Year	RMB(10000 Yuan)			US$10000		
	Import and Export Value	Export Value	Import Value	Import and Export Value	Export Value	Import Value
1965	693	110	583	243	39	204
1970	474	35	439	190	14	176
1975	1760	144	1616	898	73	825
1980	2463	381	2082	1650	255	1395
1985	5422	1494	3928	1844	508	1336
1990	14267	6581	7686	3022	1394	1628
1995	53726	24942	28784	7052	3494	3558
2000	113352	98597	14755	13029	11333	1696
2001	78416	68178	10238	9482	8244	1238
2002	107775	67070	40705	13032	8110	4922
2003	133271	100613	32658	16115	12166	3949
2004	184876	107584	77292	22355	13009	9346
2005	166366	133909	32457	20539	16532	4007
2006	256152	173332	82820	32840	22222	10618
2007	287422	238408	49014	39348	32638	6710
2008	531798	491348	40450	76543	70721	5822
2009	274507	256296	18211	40202	37535	2667
2010	565890	521942	43948	83594	77102	6492
2011	856047	745460	110587	135861	118310	17551
2012	2167236	2123587	43649	342397	335501	6896
2013	2055765	2024588	31177	331939	326905	5034

Value of Border Import and Export Trade

Year	RMB (10000 Yuan)			US$10000		
	Import and Export Value	Export Value	Import Value	Import and Export Value	Export Value	Import Value
1970	257	35	222	103	14	89
1975	355	144	211	181	73	108
1980	761	381	380	500	255	245
1985	1647	819	828	559	278	281
1990	4026	2475	1551	902	524	378
1995	4806	4059	747	579	489	90
2000	94430	88644	5786	10854	10189	665
2001	67078	62951	4127	8111	7612	499
2002	50786	46792	3994	6141	5658	483
2003	64150	59883	4267	7757	7241	516
2004	74860	70816	4044	9052	8563	489
2005	98982	93806	5176	12220	11581	639
2006	137420	133832	3588	17618	17158	460
2007	181827	179584	2243	24892	24585	307
2008	166391	164487	1904	23949	23675	274
2009	169872	167468	2404	24878	24526	352
2010	338847	336884	1963	50055	49765	290
2011	586192	582329	3863	93033	92420	613
2012	1067474	1061721	5754	168648	167739	909
2013	1191504	1185354	6150	192389	191396	933

Bank Deposits of Financial Institutions

Unit: 10,000 Yuan

Year	Total Bank Savings	That of Enterprises	Financial Bank Savings	Bank Savings in Urban and Rural Areas
1959	10182	2827		975
1965	23029	2897	9572	2514
1970	41210	6942	15557	2960
1975	60568	8165	27002	3213
1980	87234	14612	31703	6054
1985	133799	33316	37260	15974
1990	212611	80335	32722	39961
1995	716307	329620	171699	193747
2000	1449755	734012	74919	404807
2001	2129002	1256992	96742	501778
2002	2829653	1705832	62803	703825
2003	3208709	1816101	47630	918982
2004	3617220	2074667	97697	1074935
2005	4551139	2196389	158668	1230959
2006	5445494	2471416	454718	1398071
2007	6424371	2953682	468457	1595615
2008	8278506	3860619	734226	1848908
2009	10272388	4397700	1052153	2263699
2010	12955418	3275738	1361434	2671317
2011	16612392	11512309	1698574	3188288
2012	20505784	14744651	1640168	4039065
2013	24990839		991134	4960316

Loans of Banking System

Unit: 10,000 Yuan

Item	2012	2013
Total Loans	6637578	10766900
Short-term Loans	1267701	2597698
Lndividhal Loans and Overdrafts	176186	327470
Indivdual Consumer Loans	83871	220251
Per Unit Loans and Overdrafts	1058946	2164359
Busines Loans	1042787	2121129
Fixed Asset Loans	16159	43230
Medium and Long-term Loans	4644136	7595470
Lndividhal Loans	1141067	1481573
Indivdual Consumer Loans	694979	807670
Per Unit Loans	2933381	5375077
Busines Loans	1408882	2791038
Fixed Asset Loans	1524499	2584039

Economic and Technological Index of Insurance Business

Item	1995	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013
Amount Insurd (1000Yuan)	**1703029**	**687201**	**5586017**	**15351919**	**84074683**	**80283220**
Property Insurance	1516061	215207	1449461	6134752	12497331	19139087
Enterprise Property Insurance	88023	102170	137831	1134711	1864496	2650511
Family Property Insurance	20395	47293	68725	23654	2011261	2559788
Liability Insurance	5427	61354	1103836	4165740	2486194	5412365
Personal Accident Insurance			3237580	4805247	29736832	31545621
Vehicle Insurance	175051	462684	874501	2556848	5124760	6901431
Goods Transport Insurance	11917	9310	4198	40026	34550	26967
				50585	**95371**	**114309**
Property Insurance	735	1491	2125	8828	65154	79598
Enterprise Property Insurance	296	488	545	2009	2288	2362
Family Property Insurance	30	187	276	72	2914	3319
Liability Insurance	19	796	762	3427	6133	8715
Personal Accident Insurance			908	3045	12659	14084
Motor Vehicle Insurance	2075	5432	12604	31398	5124760	6901431
Goods Transport Insurance	84	87	52	72	34550	26967
Premiums Insurd (1000Yuan)	**2894**	**7010**	**15699**	**50585**	**95371**	**114309**
Property Insurance		7011		41123	65154	79598
Enterprise Property Insurance	296	488	545	2009	2288	2362
Family Property Insurance	9	31		46	2914	3319
Liability Insurance		796		3428	6133	8715
Personal Accident Insurance				3084	12659	14084
Motor Vehicle Insurance		5432		31398	42570	52242

07

Transportation, Postal Services, and Telecommunications



Highways

Aviation

Railways

Pipeline Transportation

Postal Services, Telecommunications and the Internet

07 Transportation, Postal Services, and Telecommunications

Due to the backward feudal serfdom and special geological, geographical and climatic conditions, the traffic of old Tibet was extremely poor. Commodities were completely carried by men or livestock. The social development was in a stagnant state. After the peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951, with the strong support of the Central Government and people across the country, Tibet's transport undertakings have seen great development. Now, Tibet has a modern integrated transport system involving highway, aviation, railway and pipeline.

Post and telecommunication facilities are important infrastructure to guarantee the effective operation of the society and economy. From the 1950s, the State attached great importance to the construction of Tibet's post and telecommunication facilities. After 60 years of construction, the post and telecommunication trades of Tibet have

achieved rapid development.

In 2014, the total freight traffic volume reached 23.9754 million tons, up 3.6 percent from the previous year. Of this total, freight traffic volume of highways rose to 18.71 million tons; that of railways went up to 5.0871 million tons; that of air transportation reached 24,600 tons, and that of pipeline transportation increased to 153,700 tons.

In 2014, the total passenger traffic volume increased 6.8 percent to 19.3455 million persons . Of this total, that of highways rose 6.2 percent to 14.08 million persons; that of railways went up 1.3 percent to 2.1141 million persons; and that of air transportation went up 14.2 percent to 3.1514 million persons.

Highways

Before the peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951, Tibet had no road in the modern sense. Mules, horses and yaks transported goods on the primitive post road, the only passage into and out of Tibet. A round trip to Tibet took at least one year. Coupled with complex and harsh natural and climatic conditions, people and livestock often died of cold and hunger on the dangerous post road.

After the peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951, in order to develop Tibet's economy as soon as possible, the Central Government decided to build roads to radically improve the transport conditions in Tibet. Thanks to the generous investment from the Central Government and hard work of builders, Sichuan-Tibet Highway, Qinghai-Tibet Highway, Xinjiang-Tibet Highway and Yunnan-Tibet Highway were built in succession. Moreover, the section of Sino-Nepalese Highway in China was also open to traffic. From then on, materials provided by the State to aid the construction of Tibet and the civilian production and living supplies needed by local people were continuously transported into the snow-covered plateau. Over the past years, 95 percent of cargo used for the State support of economic construction of Tibet was transported by highways. The 43 key projects aiding Tibet, 62 aiding construction projects and large equipment for key projects such as construction of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway were also transported by highway. The smooth traffic transportation and strong material aid effectively supported the building undertaking of Tibet and the requirement of elevat-

Improved highway conditions help promote the social and economic development of Tibet.

ing the people's livelihood. Thus, the first factory, the first school, the first farm, and the first hospital and the first power plant in the modern sense were successively built in Tibet. Tibet witnessed rapid economic and social development.

So far, the investment in road building still possesses a large proportion in the infrastructure investment in Tibet. Such investment is still completely made by the State, which is exclusive in the whole country.

Today, Tibet has formed a highway framework with Lhasa as its center, based on 20 State highways and provincial highways, as well as 74 special highways and many rural highways, thus covering economic areas including middle Tibet, eastern Tiber and western Tibet. The highway framework links it with Sichuan and Yunnan Provinces to the east, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to the west, Qinghai Province to the north and India and Nepal to the south. A highway network connecting the provincial-class highways and linking its prefectures, counties and townships is basically formed. Highway technology grades and driving conditions have been constantly improved.

Restricted by poor geographical and climatic conditions, as well as frequent

natural disasters such as landslides, mud-rock flows, ground collapse and heavy snow blocking roads, the cost of road construction and maintenance is high. Moreover, the highways constructed are of comparatively low grade and long distance transportation involves high cost, thus increasing the costs of socio-economic development. There has been rapid development of the transportation industry of Tibet; however, restricted by poor geographical conditions, transportation bottlenecks cannot be removed radically.

In order to meet the growing need of the rural passenger transport market, motor vehicles with 70 percent of the mileage completed in the rural areas shall be given the regional finance insurance subsidies for three years; per seat shall be given 100,000 Yuan of Motor Carrier s Cargo Liability Insurance; and subsidies for their rural passenger transport fuel costs. In addition, motor vehicles running on township and county roads gain monthly subsidies amounting to 1,400 Yuan.

The past 10-odd years has seen rapid development of the transportation industry of Tibet. From 2002 to 2014, a cumulative investment of 81.5 billion Yuan was made in highway construction. At the end of 2014, the total length of highways amounted to 75,470 km, a year-on-year increase of 4,878 km. Now, all the counties and townships are accessible by highway. In 2015, the total length of highways in the region is expected to exceed 80,000 km

Aviation

Owing to its special geographical position, Tibet - “the roof of world” – has very high requirements on aircraft, air traffic control facilities, navigation equipment and flight technology. It was regarded as a "Forbidden Zone" in aviation until about half a century ago. After two trial flights in 1956 and 1960 respectively, Beijing-Chengdu-Lhasa Air Route was formally open to traffic. Through years of construction, five civilian airports - Gonggar (Lhasa), Bamda (Qamdo), Milin (Nyingchi), Gunsa (Ngari) and Peace (Xigaze)- have been constructed. Now 48 international and domestic air routes operate connecting 29 domestic cities including Beijing, Chengdu, Hong Kong and Katmandu with Lhasa.

According to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), an airport located at an altitude of 1,500 meters (4,900 feet) or above is classified as plateau air-

port, while that located at an altitude of 2,438 meters (8,000 feet) or above is classified as high plateau airport. All of Tibet's airports are high plateau airports. Different from common routes, high plateau flights face more safety challenges due to high plateau and thin oxygen, so that a series of admittance standards were established by the ICAO. China now has 15 of the 42 high plateau airports in the world, about 36 percent of the world's total, ranking first in the world in terms of numbers of high plateau airports.

In 2014, the construction of Nagqu Airport was started. At an elevation of 4,436 meters, it is about 100 meters higher than the current highest Qamdo Airport (4,334 meters above the sea level). It is planned to be completed with an investment of 1.8 billion Yuan and put into operation in three years. In the future, all the prefectures and cities in Tibet will have their respective airport.

From May 2014, the aviation fuel can be transported to Tibet by railway, reducing the transport costs of aviation fuel and thus the air transport cost.

Due to complicated landform and climatic conditions, the cost of building and maintaining highways in Tibet is comparatively large. Such natural disasters as mudslide and landslide often result in temporary road closure. Hence, the demand of economic and social development for air transport will further increase, which provides a broad space for the further development of air transport in Tibet.

With the support of the State and Tibet Autonomous Region, Tibet's first airline - Tibet Airlines - was established in May 2010. By May 2015, the Tibet Airlines boasts 13 passenger planes. By the end of 2015, the company will open the air routes to all capital cities and economically developed cities in the rest of China as well as the international flights from Lhasa to Southeast Asia and Europe.

In addition to the construction of basic hardware facilities, the State also focuses on the training of Tibetan talents in civil aviation. As early as 1973, the State recruited the first group of ethnic minority pilots including Tibetans. In 2000, Civil Aviation Administration of China recruited the first group of Tibetan stewardesses in Tibet. From 2001, they worked on the Chengdu-Lhasa air route. In 2001, Civil Aviation Flight University of China began to enroll and train Tibetan pilots. Through strict learning and training, these Tibetan students obtained driving license. From 2006, Tibetan pilots began to fly airplanes. At present, the work of training Tibetan talents

Civil aviation transportation develops apace in Tibet. Picture shows Tibetan stewards.

in civil aviation has been carried out steadily. A large number of Tibetan professionals have gradually begun work.

For years, Tibet has seen rapid development of its civil aviation. In 2014, Tibet transported 24,600 tons of goods, a rise of 9.8 percent from the previous year, and 3.1514 million passengers by air, an increase of 14.2 percent.

Railways

The operation of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway has greatly improved conditions, reduced traffic costs, increased goods supply capability and eliminated the transport bottleneck in Tibetan economic and social development. The amount of goods transported has increased by a large margin. The railway provides the steel artery for great-leap-forward development of Tibet's economy and society and lays a solid material basis for sustainable development. Today, an increasing number of products with distinctive Tibetan features have been transported out of the plateau by rail and subsequently sold

With easy access to railways, Tibetans find it easier to travel today.

around the world. Thanks to the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, Tibet has constantly expanded its arena for economic development.

Since the railway, which involves a government investment of over 33 billion Yuan, was opened to traffic, its strong freight capability has steadily emerged. With low transport price and convenient and rapid transport routes, it has been swiftly favored by enterprises inside and outside Tibet. Now, over 70 percent of materials needed by Tibet are transported in by rail, while its products for the hinterlands all go by rail. In the section from Golmud to Lhasa alone, goods transport cost per ton can be reduced by as much as 200 Yuan. In 2014, Tibet transported 5.0871 million tons of cargo by rail, and 2.1141 million passengers.

Tourism is one of industries that has distinctive Tibetan features; after the Qinghai-Tibet Railway was opened, tourism develops apace in the region. There used to be a saying that "it is more difficult to enter Tibet than to go abroad." Now tourists are

flocking in by rail to enjoy the stunning sights of the plateau.

Construction of the Lhasa-Xigaze Railway began in 2010 and was open to traffic in August 2014. It has a total length of 253 km, including bridges and tunnels totaling 115.7 km (45.7 percent). Total investment was estimated to be 13.3 billion Yuan. After its completion, the annual freight traffic volume is expected to surpass 8.3 million tons. As the first extension of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, the Lhasa-Xigaze Railway will add an additional means of transport to the southwestern part of Tibet that has only been served by roads until now. This will help cut transport costs and be a great boon for the Tibetan economic and social development. In case it would influent interfere with the migration of wild animal, the main section of the Lhasa-Xigaze Railway all are elevated railways to leave the migration of wild animal.

With gradually deepening railway construction, Tibet's railway network will gradually improve, with Qinghai-Tibet Railway, Lhasa-Xigaze Railway and Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway as the Y-shaped trunk and feeder railways ramifying to the surrounding areas.

Pipeline Transportation

The Golmud-Lhasa oil pipeline is the only one in Tibet. Built with a total investment of 233 million Yuan, the 1,080-km-long pipeline passes through the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau at an average altitude of over 4,500 meters. It is the first long-distance oil transportation route designed and built independently by China and also the highest oil transportation pipeline in the world passing through complicated and difficult areas.

The pipeline, complete with 11 pumping stations and one oil diversion station, is used mainly to transport gasoline, light diesel oil, jet fuel and kerosene for lamps, with an annual transportation capacity of 230,000 to 250,000 tons. Since it went into operation in October 1977, the pipeline has become the major transport artery after the Sichuan-Tibet Highway and the Qinghai-Tibet Highway. It has played an important role in the region's transportation despite the bad climate (the temperature is minus 40 degrees Celsius in some sections in winter) and the 560 km-long permafrost area through which it passes. The pipeline underwent technological upgrading in 2010. It is now subject to information control, a technology that leads other parts of China. In 2014, 153,700 tons of oil was transported, up 3.1 percent

compared with the previous year.

The population of Lhasa is about 830,000, accounting for over 25 percent of the total population of the Tibet. Due to a poor economic base and lack of energy resources, Lhasa was the only capital city without urban pipeline gas and heating system, and the citizens of Lhasa mainly adopted propane cylinders for cooking and cattle dung, coal and natural gas cylinders for heating, causing environmental pollution to a certain extent. Some residences with better economic conditions used air conditioners, but it was uncomfortable and cost more. After Tibet included the strategy of "introducing gas into Tibet" into the 12th Five-Year Plan, Tibet began to pave pipelines. China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) built the Phase I Project of Lhasa Natural Gas Station. Then, another investment was made to build Golmud Liquefied Natural Gas Plant, and natural gas was transported to Lhasa via highway. Besides the residential and commercial use of natural gas, the heating demand of Lhasa in winter can also be satisfied to a certain extent. The heating project reduced the emission of traditional heating pellet contamination, and reduced the destruction of vegetation and grassland

Central control room of the Qinghai oil and gas transportation station. The Central Government will invest in construction of the Lhasa-Qinghai natural gas transportation pipe.

ecology by traditional heating including chopping wood and collecting cattle dung, thus protecting Tibet's environment to a certain extent. Statistics for 2014 show the heating project totally reduced about 180,040 tons of carbon dioxide emission, some 1,652 tons of sulfur dioxide, about 510 tons of nitrogen oxides, 2,544 tons or so of fumes and 13,900 tons of slag in effect.

In the future, Tibet will build Qinghai-Lhasa natural gas pipeline with a total length of 1,200 km. By 2020, the rate of gasification of the pipeline natural gas in the urban areas of Lhasa is expected to reach 85 percent.

Postal Services, Telecommunications and the Internet

In 1959, Tibet had only 276 primitive telephones, mostly located in large and medium-sized cities like Lhasa. The earnings of postal and telecommunication services then totaled only 990,000 Yuan. At present, Tibet has had a network of optical fiber cable, satellite and long distance call, covering the whole region. All the counties basically have access to 3G communication technology, all the towns have access to broadband and all the villages have access to telephone.

As the investment in the postal and telecommunication sectors of Tibet is further increased and the construction scale and information and Internet technologies are enhanced, the postal and telecommunications business volume has soared. According to statistics, as of the end of 2014, the number of Tibet's fixed telephone subscribers was 359,000. This included 352,000 urban subscribers and 7,000 rural subscribers, both down than the previous year. The decrease of the number was caused by the increasing popularization of mobile phone and the function of traditional fixed telephone is less than that of smartphone. There were many fixed telephone subscribers changed into mobile phone subscribers. In 2014, the total capacity of mobile phone switchboards reached 3.93 million lines. Mobile phone subscribers numbered 2.918 million by the end of 2014, with 363,000 new subscribers in the year. The number of fixed-line and mobile phone users totaled 3.277 million, an increase of 220,000 compared with the end of 2014. Phone coverage is 106.6 sets per 100 persons.

Modern information technology greatly facilitates the production and life of the

Mobile phone is very popular among the Tibetans, including those living in the remote areas.

people of various ethnic groups. A number of aspects of Tibet, including economy and society, have also witnessed rapid development by dint of the information superhighway. In 2014, the number of Internet users reached 2.17 million, and the number of fixed Internet broad band users accounted for 32 percent of the total number of households in Tibet. At present, 668 townships, accounting for 97.0 percent of the total in Tibet, have access to optical fiber cable and 3,816 administrative villages, accounting for 72.0 percent of the total in Tibet, have access to optical fiber cable. In 2014, the mobile communication signals have covered all administrative villages in Tibet.

In 2015, over 98.0 percent of the total townships in Tibet is expected to have access to optical fiber cable, and over 80.0 percent of the total administrative villages in Tibet have access to optical fiber cable with new 396 administrative villages have access to optical fiber cable. The popularization and application of the Internet contributed to Tibet's economic and social development.

With the great development of electronic postal services in recent years, the

public now has access to three major functions—information transmission, goods delivery and funds transfers. New services such as ad letters, mail etiquette, mail order and postal savings have continuously emerged. However, since the logistics and express delivery industries are flourishing, the traditional postal services face fierce market competition. The traditional telegram and mail delivery services are close to being phased out.

In 2014, total turnover of the postal and telecommunications sector was 4.704 billion Yuan, up 15.9 percent. Of them, the telecommunications business volume was 4.54 billion Yuan, a 14.6 percent increase; the total turnover of the postal services was 164 million Yuan, up 5.7 percent.

Highways, Bridges and Ferries

Year	Mileage of Highways Opening to Traffic (km)	Opening to Traffic in Fine and Rainy Days	Highway Maintenance (km)	Bridges (Piece/Meter)	Ferries (Piece)
1959	7343	7343			
1965	14721	5713	5792	631/11286	6
1970	15098	6995	5792	643/13741	7
1975	15852	7247	6342	658/15420	7
1980	21511	20663	7944	712/18358	10
1985	21660	20733	17863	730/19845	10
1990	21842	20978	17981	777/21697	10
1995	22391	20988	17081	882/23988	10
2000	22503	8895	17981	1011/29472	7
2001	35537	17317	12419	1293/35240	5
2002	39760	18455	12419	1293/35240	
2003	41302	17104	13129	1528/42106	5
2004	42203	16762	39243	1831/47328	5
2005	43716	10916	39501	2012/59514	5
2006	44813	16766	42645	3507/96062	1
2007	48611	21299	45488	4265/115526	1
2008	51314	24317	47239	4452/118548	1
2009	53845	29658	49592	4906/133932	1
2010	58249	43774	55856	5545/147050	1
2011	63108	48179	57548	5971/157216	1
2012	65198	65198	60518	6437/170288	1
2013	70591	65374	65836	7320/187689	1

Number of Passengers Transport and Volume of Goods Transport

Index	Unit	1985	1990	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013
Total Volume of Passengers and Goods Transport	**10000**	**43.48**	**202.65**	**310.08**	**479.47**	**8308.24**	**4053.00**	**4735.77**
Highway		35.48	192.84	257.00	385.00	8066.0	3739.00	4358.00
Civil Aviation		8.00	9.81	53.08	94.47	154.04	221.70	275.89
Railway						88.20	92.03	101.88
Total Number of Passengers Transport	**10000 people/ km**	**16682**	**38966**	**62016**	**228266**	**429389**	**472899**	**543799**
Highway		6858	26220	32125	184209	227669	232044	275938
Civil Aviation		9824	12747	29891	44057	107308	138334	153847
Railway						94412	102521	114014
Goods Transport	**10000 tons**	**87.01**	**162.74**	**209.30**	**369.61**	**996.37**	**1144.00**	**1328.07**
Highway		79.00	153.55	196.00	356.00	952.00	1042.00	1240.00
Civil Aviation		0.01	0.16	1.30	1.61	1.47	1.65	2.24
Pipelines		8.00	9.03	12.00	12.00	13.00	15.74	14.91
Railway						29.90	84.63	70.92
Total Volume of Goods Transport	**10000 tons/km**	**60458**	**84027**	**91981**	**419315**	**417558**	**496470**	**569676**
Highway		52200	75051	80912	407134	265607	278732	321131
Civil Aviation		18	209	310	633	1700	2040	2217
Pipelines		8240	8767	10759	11548	13153	16174	15114
Railway						137098	199524	231214

Postal Business Volume

Year	Postal Business Volume (10000 Yuan)	Letters (10000 Pieces)	Passals (10000 Pieces)	Papers and Journals (10000 Copies)	Year-End Urban Telephone Subscribers	Year-End Rural Telephone Subscribers
1959	99	273	0.2	3	276	
1970	151	363	1	2	1007	
1975	176	534	2	9	1851	66
1980	269	576	6	23	3923	529
1985	813	657	5	30	5981	280
1990	1713	792	12	25	9056	307
1995	5740	1653	16	22	26230	300
2000	38431	1349	31	40	105005	620
2005	164833	343	36	27	495313	30396
2006	215134	350	32	36	649680	32513
2007	308899	301	37	26	678500	11693
2008	417265	384	30	26	695000	27000
2009	521235	536	35	26	512100	27200
2010	638381	291	19	42	419142	19602
2011	270424	237	22	47	390000	15000
2012	344116	287	23	54	391000	14000
2013	405937	368	21	50	400000	10000

08

Environmental Protection

08 Environmental Protection

Serving as the important ecological safety barrier in China, Tibet's role is significant not only in Asia but on a global level. In recent decades, Tibet has avoided development at the expense of the natural environment. Instead it has followed a sustainable development path.

Over the years, both Central and regional governments have made overall planning for eco-environmental protection and economic construction of the Region , have

Happy children. Tibet is one of the regions in the world with best environment.

worked out and implemented a series of plans for eco-environmental protection and construction, and have also further intensified efforts in eco-environmental protection by way of legislation.

Both the Central and regional governments have adopted quite a number of strict measures for environmental protection. Projects have been carried out to protect natural forests, to reforest cultivated land, and to restore grassland by prohibiting grazing, as have grassland ecological environment improving programs like conservation and recovery of natural grassland, settlement of nomads, man-made grassland, and deteriorated pastureland improvement. A national fund was launched to compensate costs of public forest management. Efforts are being made in the areas of desertification control, water and soil conservation, comprehensive control of the drainage basins of small rivers, and prevention of geological disasters. Tibet's regional government is very prudent in developing industry, imposing strict constraints on industries that are heavy consumers of energy, and those which cause severe pollution or issue heavy emissions. It advocates the use of clean energy, and endeavors to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. The Central and regional governments have adopted strict measures to prohibit exploitation of mineral resources. In 2013, the Tibetan government issued and began implementing regulations on supervising eco-environmental protection, regulations on supervising the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources, and measures on evaluating environmental conservation, further controlling the access to mineral development licenses through stricter environmental standards. The autonomous region has brought exploration and exploitation of mineral resources under its unified management, and vetoes any project that fails to meet the environment standards.

Currently, its nature reserves, which amount to 413,700 square km, or 33.9 percent of the total land area of the Region, lead the whole country. Its forest coverage rate reaches as high as 11.91 percent, and the Region tops the whole country in total growing wood stock. Tibet boasts 6 million hectares of wetlands, leading all the other areas of China. All the Region's 125 species of wild animals and 39 wild plants under state protection are well cared for in the established nature reserves. Tibet has 85.11 million hectares of natural grassland in total, of which 69.1 million hectares was available for grazing.

Tibet remains one of the areas with the best environmental quality in the world, with most parts of the region maintaining their original natural state. It has a clean and transparent atmospheric environment, and similar contents of pollutants to the South Pole and the North Pole. Tibet has few types and low concentrations of pollutants, compared to other places.The major rivers and lakes in Tibet maintain fine water quality, which have not been polluted by human activities. The content of heavy metals in Tibet's soil inherits the parent material, with no marked change during the 30 years from 1979 to 2009.

In 2014, Tibet's expenditure on environmental protection reached 2.923 billion Yuan, an increase of 65.2 compared with the previous year.

Discharge and Treatment of Waste Water, Waste Gas and Solid Wastes

Item		1995	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013
Waste Water							
Total Volume of Industrial Waste Water Discharged	(10000 tons)	4200	5204	4572	736	352	400
Total Volume of Industrial Waste Water Treated	(10000 tons)	1400	1615		217	556	722
Waste Gas							
Total Volume of Industrial Waste Gas Emission	(10000 cu.m)	18500	12000	132960	158138	1139600	1147100
Volume of Industrial Dust Emission	(tons)	14600	7380	1773	845	955	1005

09

Education, Science and Technology



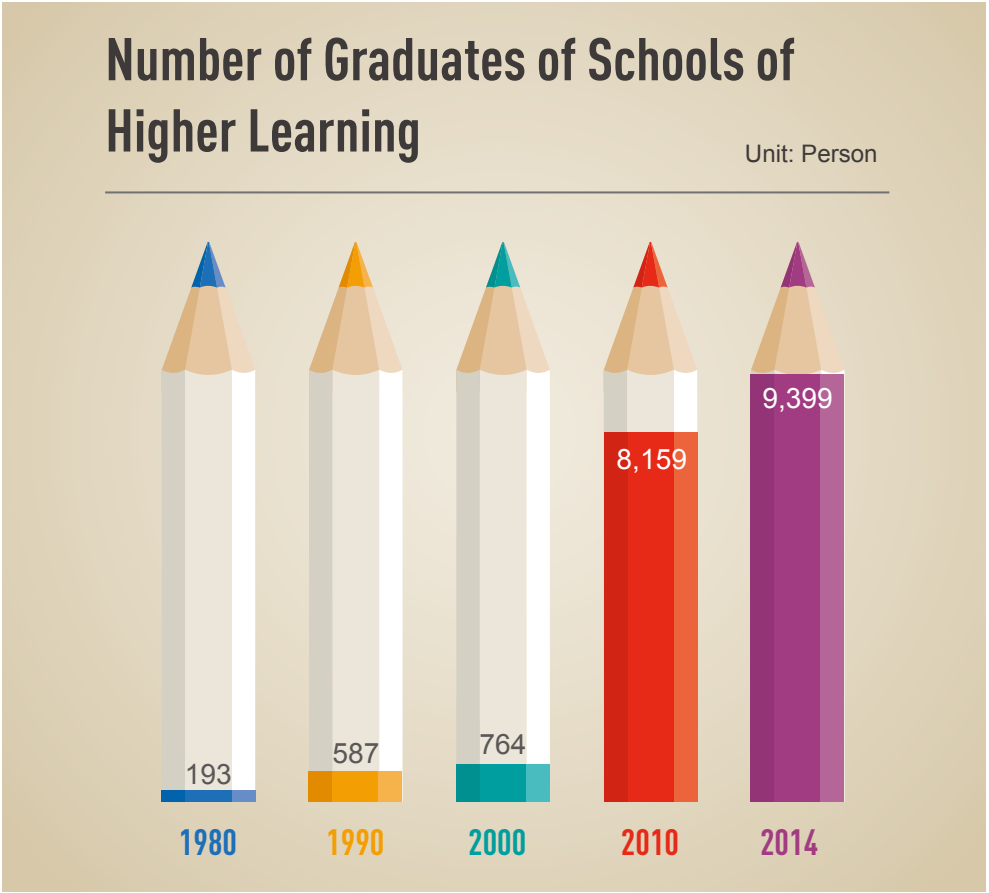
Education

Science and Technology

09 Education, Science and Technology

Education

Before the peaceful liberation of Tibet, the educated were mostly aristocrats, while serfs and slaves, accounting for 95 percent of the total population of Tibet, had no right to education at all, and the illiteracy rate among young and middle-aged



people was 95 percent. Now, Tibet has established a modern education system covering pre-school education, basic education, vocational education, higher education, adult education and special education. Since 1985 China has covered all tuition, food and boarding expenses for students from farmers and herdsmen's families in the stage of compulsory education, raised the subsidy standard 12 times and benefited 510,400 people. In 2007 Tibet became the first place in China to enjoy free nine-year compulsory education, and in 2012 the first place in China to enjoy 15-year free education (three-year preschool, six-year primary school, three-year junior middle school and three-year senior middle school).

In order to deal with the problems of the shortage of Tibet's teachers' resource and education resource, in China 26 senior and junior middle schools in 20 provinces and municipalities directly under the Central Government have classes specially for Tibetan students; 60 key senior middle schools enroll students with registered permanent residence in Tibet; 48 state-level demonstration secondary vocational technical schools and 170 institutions of higher learning enroll students from the Tibetan classes. These schools and universities have accumulatively enrolled 42,040 junior middle school students, 47,492 senior middle school students (secondary vocational school students), and 16,100 undergraduate students. Currently, inland Tibetan classes have 42,460 students. The campaign to get rid of illiteracy has reached all population in Tibet, the illiteracy rate among young and middle-aged people has decreased to 0.8 percent, and the average length of education for people above the age of 15 has reached 8.1 years.

Tibet has succeeded in preserving the spoken and written Tibetan language. The region enacted three provisions in 1987, 1988 and 2002, respectively, to provide a solid legal base for the study, use and development of the Tibetan language and script. Bilingual education, with Tibetan as the principal language, is widespread in Tibet. Primary schools in all farming and pastoral areas and some urban areas use both Tibetan and Chinese in teaching, but mostly Tibetan for the major courses. Middle schools also use both languages, and Tibetan classes in middle schools in inland areas also have Tibetan language course. In the national college entrance exams, it is permissible to answer questions using Tibetan script. In the national college entrance exams, the Tibetan and other ethnic minorities enjoy preferential policy that awards bonus points.

At present, Tibet will provide wireless LAN for the campus and wide band for

The Central Government has since 1985 covered all tuition, food and boarding expenses for children of farmers and herders. School bus is sent to take these Tibetan pupils to the school.

the rural schools, further enhance the infrastructure for the educational informationization, use the Internet to offer improved educational resources to teachers, students and student's parents and actively carry out the national-level training for the teachers in the agricultural and pastoral areas to enhance their ability of applying information technology.

At the end of 2014, the six universities in the region had 9,579 new students, including 484 postgraduates and 9,095 undergraduates. They had a general education enrollment of 34,902 students, including 1,428 postgraduates and 33,474 undergraduates. All together 9,399 students graduated from the six universities, with 290 getting master's degrees or above and 9,109 getting bachelor's degrees or college certificates. The nine vocational secondary schools in the region had 16,719 enrolled students, 6,874 new entrants, and 6,294 graduated students. There were 125 secondary schools in the region, including 25 senior secondary schools, 7 whole secondary schools and 93 junior secondary schools. The senior secondary schools had 55,669 enrolled stu-

dents, 18,398 new entrants, and 16,182 graduated students. Students enrolled in junior secondary schools totaled 124,295, including 42,697 new entrants, and 41,873 graduated students. The 829 primary schools in the region had a total enrollment of 295,142 students, including 50,885 new entrants, and 46,306 graduated students. There were 656 students enrolled in special education schools, with 115 new entrants. Kindergartens accommodated 81,123 children, an increase of 7,718 students over the previous year. The enrollment rate of school-age children reached 99.64 percent, 0.05 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

In May 2014, the government of Tibet introduced a subsidy policy for college students with registered permanent residence in Tibet: as for full-time college students majoring in teacher education, agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, water conservancy, geology and mining, an annual subsidy of 5,600 Yuan shall be provided for each of them, including 2,800 Yuan as tuition, 800 Yuan as boarding fee and 2,000 Yuan as cost of living allowance; as for those who have been admitted to colleges but come from financially strapped families, an one-time subsidy of 1,000-5,000 Yuan shall be provided for each of them; and for the undergraduates from financially strapped families, student grant and scholarship shall be provided. At present, the standard of student grant is 3,000 Yuan per person per year; and that of scholarship 5,000 Yuan per person per year.

In 2014, expenditure on education in Tibet stood at 14.2 billion Yuan, an increase of 30.1 percent over the previous year.

Science and Technology

Before its peaceful liberation in 1951, Tibet had no scientific research institutes or staff in the modern sense except in the areas of Tibetan medicine, astronomy and the calendar.After the peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951, the Central Government set great store by the development of science and technology in Tibetan areas. Large numbers of scientists were sent from the hinterland in succession to help Tibet build scientific research institutions and develop scientific and technical undertakings. Meanwhile, great importance was attached to the training of Tibetan scientists. According to the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, the state helps the ethnic autono-

mous areas train large numbers of cadres at different levels and specialized personnel and skilled workers of different professions and trades from among the ethnic groups in those areas. A contingent of scientists and technicians with Tibetans as the main body has been formed, doing a lot of work in scientific research and technology promotion and making remarkable achievements.

Now, Tibet has 33 State-owned independent scientific research institutes, ten private scientific research institutes, and 184 agricultural and animal husbandry science and technology promotion organizations at the autonomous region, prefectural (municipal), and county (district)levels; 29 agricultural science and technology parks and key laboratories at the national and autonomous region levels; 27 State-level new and high-tech enterprises and 46 autonomous-region-level small and medium-sized sci-tech enterprises, and five State-level innovative enterprises and corporate technology centers.

Currently, Tibet has 65,798 technical professionals, of whom from ethnic-minority groups, accounting for about 80.0 percent. All these people play an active role in scientific innovation and application in agriculture, animal husbandry, industry, Tibetan medicine, new energy, tourism, cultural creativity, ethnic handicrafts and other fields. In 2014 the contribution rate of science to economic growth reached 35 percent, to agricultural and animal husbandry growth 45 percent, and the popularization rate of science and technology 85 percent.

Tibet has made remarkable achievements in science and technology, especially in the fields of cosmic rays observation, plateau atmospherics, deep geophysical exploration of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, prevention of geological hazards such as mudslides, development and utilization of clean energy including geothermal and solar energy, plateau medicine, etc.Certain achievements have taken the lead not just nationwide but even worldwide.

The large-scale astronomical observation station in Ngari is under construction, which will attract both domestic and foreign astronomers. After completion, this will be the first astronomical observation station with an altitude of over 5,000 meters in the Northern Hemisphere, where observation of the celestial bodies could be made around the clock. The station is expected to be the first world-class one in Asia.

Tibet boasts the richest solar energy resource. Since 1990s, the research, devel-

Yangbajain Cosmic Ray Observatory: China has made remarkable achievements in the study of cosmic rays observation.

opment and utilization of solar energy in Tibet have developed rapidly. Now, there are seven county-level solar power plants and over 300 township-level solar and wind power plants. Since green energy technologies are widely applied, Tibet now enjoys the highest rate of solar energy application in China.

Progress has been made in development of Tibetan medicine. Thus far, great progress has also been made in the study of high altitude medicine.

The 20 Tibetan drug manufacturers registered in Tibet produce over 360 types of Tibetan medicine. Their products are sold in China and some foreign countries. The total value of their products reaches 100 million Yuan or more. Traditional Tibetan medicine has gone beyond Tibet, and is now serving more and more people, both in China and around the world.

Given the concrete conditions in Tibet, efforts have been made to conduct research into protection of the eco-farming and eco-environment. Construction of the

Members of the Tibetan survey team do field work in Nagqu.

Xigaze Agricultural Science and Technology Park, the Lhasa National Agricultural Science and Technology Demonstration Park, and the High-tech Industrial Park is in full swing.

The construction of information network in Tibet is being accelerated, with more and more people having gained access to broadband network. This proves to be a boon for Tibet's economic and social development and helps increase the income of farmers and herdsmen. E-commerce has started, and Tibetan language mobile phone and office-software are in service.

In 2014, Tibet made a total investment of 1.138 billion Yuan in scientific research and technical service, registering an increase of 11.2 percent from a year earlier.

Educational Undertakings

Index	Unit	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013
Number of Schools	**Piece**	**956**	**1022**	**1006**	**991**	**977**
Schools of Higher Learning		4	4	6	6	6
Secondary Schools		110	128	128	128	130
Professional Schools		12	10	6	6	6
Ordinary Middle Schools		98	118	122	122	124
Primary Schools		842	890	872	857	841
Full-Time Teachers	**People**	**19042**	**24450**	**33731**	**34494**	**34889**
Ordinary Schools of Higher Learning		813	1187	2195	2369	2472
Secondary Schools		5048	8996	12635	13272	13738
Professional Schools		742	835	591	632	652
Ordinary Middle Schools		4306	8161	12044	12640	13086
Primary Schools		13181	14267	18901	18853	18679
In-School Students	**People**	**381099**	**507551**	**532850**	**521850**	**525061**
Ordinary Schools of Higher Learning		5475	18979	31109	33452	33562
Secondary Schools		61817	161075	202333	196382	196700
Professional Schools		6585	7027	22613	18291	17491
Ordinary Middle Schools		55232	154048	179720	178091	179209
Primary Schools		313807	327497	299408	292016	294799
Number of Graduates	**People**	**51822**	**91142**	**124490**	**125331**	**120132**
Ordinary Schools of Higher Learning		764	3172	8266	8580	9139
Secondary Schools		14019	40010	65582	69214	64875
Professional Schools		1895	2930	7312	9350	6412
Ordinary Middle Schools		12124	37080	58270	59864	58463
Primary Schools		37039	47960	50642	47537	46118

School Students Enrolled

Unit: Person

Year	Total	Schools of Higher Learning	Professional Secondary Schools	Ordinary Middle Schools	Primary Schools
1965	1790	910	455	425	
1975	6783	772	1902	4109	
1980	70075	233	334	8196	61312
1985	33367	530	615	6940	25282
1990	46670	645	1171	6516	38338
1992	64077	683	1303	9352	52739
1993	65148	1193	1306	9909	52740
1994	76845	1095	1531	10731	63488
1995	75084	1175	1707	12239	59963
2000	88908	2320	2957	25662	57969
2001	97305	2420	2089	33823	58973
2002	104318	3414	2107	37973	60824
2003	112330	4279	2203	46935	58913
2004	122073	6009	4223	52715	59126
2005	121938	7589	2856	56828	54665
2006	121796	8359	2336	58237	52864
2007	133604	8046	6654	67014	51890
2008	129636	8526	5219	64954	50937
2009	137666	9020	11038	63926	53682
2010	129696	9213	7319	62418	50747
2011	125710	9519	5368	61287	49536
2012	130538	10132	7901	60953	51552
2013	127598	9404	6471	60156	51567

Rate of Graduates From Middle and Primary Schools Who Study in Higher or Middle Schools and Rate of School-Age Children Who Study in Primary Schools

Unit: %

Year	Middle School Graduates Going to Study in Higher Schools	Primary School Graduates Going to Study in Middle Schools	School-Age Children Going to Study in Primary Schools
1981	38.1	29.6	76.0
1985	49.4	44.9	46.0
1990	36.2	62.1	67.4
1995	43.2	67.7	70.4
2000	82.5	55.0	85.8
2001	73.3	67.0	87.2
2002	77.3	71.1	88.3
2003	72.1	82.9	91.8
2004	61.7	92.3	94.7
2005	50.5	91.7	95.9
2006	42.5	92.0	96.5
2007	58.0	97.1	98.2
2008	48.8	93.8	98.5
2009	55.2	98.4	98.8
2010	46.3	93.5	99.2
2011	48.6	92.2	99.4
2012	51.6	91.4	99.4
2013	54.1	92.0	99.6

Number of Professional and Technological Personnel

Unit: Person

Index	1985	1990	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013
Total	23537	26751	36587	42332	52686	62269	65798
Engineering Technological Personnel	1735	2367	4093	3487	2221	2999	3435
Agricultural Technological Personnel	1838	1578	1852	1559	2750	4561	5139
Scientific Researchers	324	360	352	509	428	300	342
Health Technological Personnel	6019	6530	7304	7062	8687	10991	10681
Teaching Staff	7699	8869	17323	25415	35453	37735	38673
Accountants	3447	2671	1956	856	229	264	310
Statisticians	773	533	162	88	14	24	107
People Involved in Journalism, Publication and Radio Broadcasting Work	361	492	689	889	1037	1842	2135
Translators/Interpreters	79	310	391	403	202	262	289
PE Coaches	50	48	42	42	171	43	114
Economics Workers	370	1755	870	305	61	102	171
People Involved in Library and Archives	118	364	509	430	268	426	816
Industrial Art Workers	8	16	2	24	10	71	152
Artists	716	800	471	924	1029	1328	1312
Lawyers and Notary Public		58	66	29	13	17	43

10

Culture, Health and Sports



Culture

Medical Treatment and Health Care

Sports Undertakings

10 Culture, Health and Sports

Culture

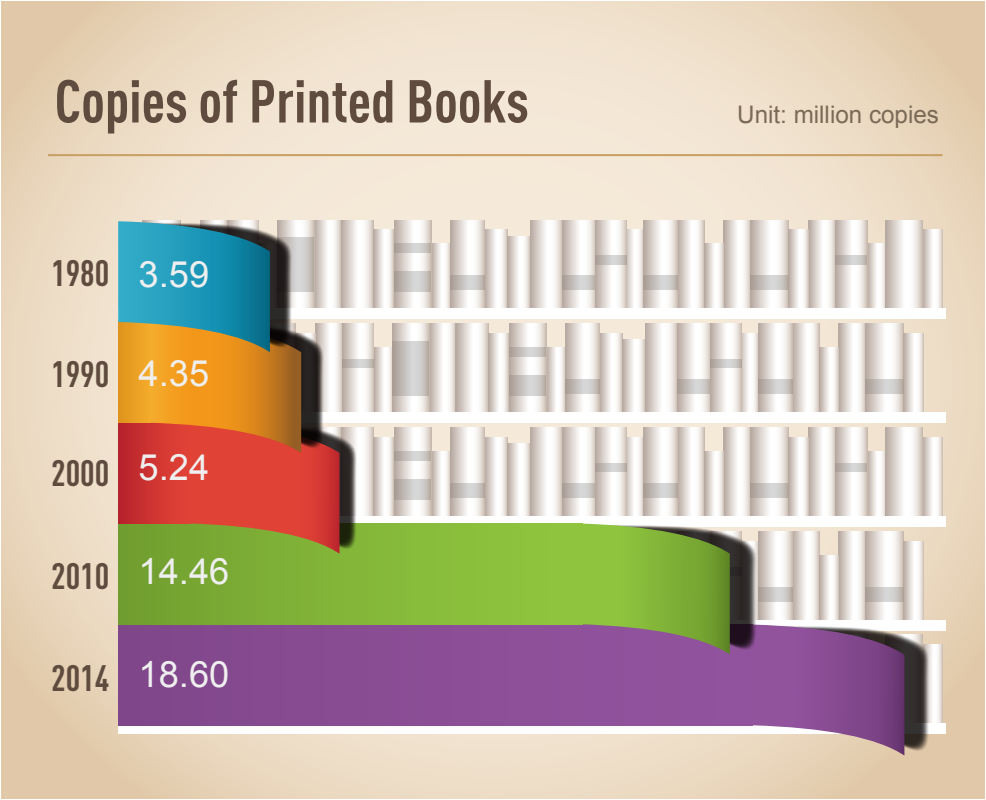
The Central and regional governments always attach great importance to carrying on, protecting and developing the excellent traditional culture of the Tibetan ethnic group. The study, use and development of the Tibetan language are protected by law, and the Tibetan script has become the first ethnic-minority script in China that has international text coding standards for information exchange.

Press and Publishing Industry

For thousands of years, the Tibetan language has been an important communication tool of the Tibetan people and the key carrier of the Tibetan culture. With the wide application of the computer software in Tibetan language, there will be more and more people using the Tibetan language enjoying the convenience of the information society.

Before 1951, there was no genuine news or publishing industry in Tibet, and the materials printed by the few wood-block printing houses were almost all religious texts. Though there were extremely exquisite Eight-Treasure scripture books and a tremendous amount of woodcut sacred scrolls stored in the monasteries of Tibet, the ordinary serfs accounting for over 95 percent of the total population had no chance to read them. Until the mid-20th century, publishing and printing was mainly done in a few wood-block printing houses.

Since 1951, however, under the care and guidance of the Central Government and the local government of Tibet, the traditional sutra printing houses of the monasteries in the region have seen great development. There are nearly 60 large traditional printing houses in Tibet, producing 63,000 different sutras per year, available at 20 non-government-funded sales outlets. These engraved editions greatly meet the de-



mand of both regular religious activities and religious followers.

Since 1959, the Tibetan publishing industry has witnessed remarkable development on the basis of inheriting an excellent traditional culture and maintaining the cultural characteristics of the Tibetan ethnic group. It is principally embodied in the following aspects: the main body of the Tibetan publishing industry has changed fundamentally, meaning that the whole Tibetan population can inherit, develop and enjoy their culture together; profound changes have occurred in the connotation of the Tibetan publishing industry, reflecting the changed life of the general populace and the new demands resulting from social development with correspondingly new content and style; and substantial changes have occurred in the developmental trend of the Tibetan publishing industry, facing both modernization and the outside world. Thanks to the years of development, the latest publishing and printing technologies and equip-

Tibet has strengthened its cultural exchange with foreign countries in recent years: The China Tibetan Culture Week being held in Berlin, Germany.

ment have been widely adopted. A printing technician team with Tibetans as the main body and a relatively high cultural quality has thus taken shape.

The publishing industry has seen great development, forming a network of book distribution with the State-owned Xinhua bookstores as the main channel, supplemented by collective and privately owned bookstores.

The newspaper and periodical industry features ethnic characteristics, with constantly enriched varieties and higher overall quality. A newspaper and periodical publishing network featuring complete varieties, rational layout and harmonious proportion has been formed.

Basing itself on the region, Tibet Audio and Video Publishing House produces excellent audio and video products and film and TV works mainly in the Tibetan language and with the cultural characteristics of the Tibetan ethnic group, in the process winning a series of national prizes.

Remarkable achievements have occurred in terms of copyright protection. Tibet has vigorously conducted education with regard to publication of new works, en-

hancing the consciousness of the whole society in respect of copyright law and protection. The region has actively carried out a special policy of suppressing the production and sale of fake products and protecting intellectual property rights, as well as strengthening the rectification of the printing and copying enterprises, effectively maintaining the economic order of the market and the legal rights and interests of the copyright owners.

Currently, there are 14 kinds of Tibetan magazines and 10 kinds of Tibetan newspapers. In 2014, Tibet published 18.6 million printed copies of books in Chinese and Tibetan. Some 174.193 million copies of newspapers and 2.3008 million copies of periodicals were published, with those in Tibetan rising up over 70 percent.

But the Tibetan press and publication industry also faces many difficulties: because Tibet is inhabited mainly by the Tibetans who use Tibetan language and worship Tibetan Buddhism. Of more than three million of the population in Tibet, more than 90 percent of the people are of the Tibetan ethnic group; and of the number, 80 percent live in the rural and livestock breeding areas. Newspapers, journals and books published in Tibetan are small in number and the distribution task is heavy. Lack of funds and talents have become a bottleneck for further development of the industry.

In addition, in the world, along with the breakthrough made in digital media, smart phone business develops apace. This, in turn, backfires to exert impact on the traditional publishing business.

At present, two bilingual websites in both Tibetan and Chinese were opened, completing the work of digitizing a large amount of traditional Tibetan resources.

Broadcasting, Film and Television Industries

Tibet works hard to undertake construction of the broadcasting, film and TV public service system in agricultural and pastoral areas and improve the public financial guarantee mechanism and technical guarantee system, further increasing the broadcasting, film and TV coverage and its quality and steadily promoting the development of the broadcasting and TV industries.

On the base of actively striving for financial support from the State, Tibet completed its broadcasting and TV target by means of direct-broadcast satellite, providing 2,765 villages and 73,898 farming and herding households with access to programs.

In addition, it also incorporated the reconstruction of the access of each household in 1,029 townships and administrative villages into the construction of the new round project of the access of each village to broadcasting and TV programs.

Tibet has accelerated the transformation from a single traditional medium to a combination of traditional and new media. The Tibet People's Broadcasting Station broadcasts programs in Tibetan, Han Chinese and Kham Tibetan through both traditional means and online. It offers 42 Tibetan (including Kham Tibetan) programs and broadcasts 22 hours of news in Tibetan and 18 hours of news in Kham Tibetan per day. Meanwhile, great effort have gone into constructing the web portal of China's Tibet Broadcasting Network (Tibet Information Port) and building the Tibet branch of the China Satellite Mobile Broadcasting Corporation, realizing the operation of a mobile multimedia broadcasting in six areas.

The China Tibet Radio, Film and TV Program Translation and Production Center was officially opened. The Center is equipped with language recording room, effect room, film recording studio, teleplay translation and dubbing room as well as literature and art translation working section. More than 10,000 hours of translated radio pro-

Tibetan women love to read newspapers.

grams and 80 translated feature films were produced in and for the region annually. In addition, there are 18 TV program producers (including the non-governmental ones).

To provide access to high-quality films for more farmers and herders, Tibet has realized the digitization of film screening in rural areas. It has also strengthened management of subsidies for commonweal film screening in rural areas and promulgated relevant management rules and systems. Commonweal films are currently being screened 130,000 times throughout the region every year.

Tibet has also energetically boosted the digitization development of CATV. On the back of completing the overall transformation of CATV digitization in those organs directly under the regional government, Tibet has popularized cable digital TV in the urban areas of Lhasa .In the meantime, it has accelerated cable digital TV operation in the prefectures and cities and completed the digitization of cable TV in some more outlying areas.

At present, Tibet has two TV stations, six broadcasting and television station and one radio station. The radio and TV coverage rate has reached 94.78 percent and 95.91 percent, respectively.

Tibetan woman at home. TV has become indispensable for the Tibetan families.

Moreover, Tibet built 5,451 small libraries in the countryside and over 1,700 libraries in monasteries, making such facilities accessible in all administrative villages and all monasteries of Tibetan Buddhism. Tibet now has ten professional performing art troupes, over 20 county-level folk art troupes, over 160 amateur performing art and Tibetan opera troupes, and over 4,000 cultural and performing art professionals

At present, Tibet had built eight people's art centers, 77 libraries, two museums, 73 county-level cultural centers, 239 township-level cultural stations, over 500 village cultural rooms. In addition, it had one regional center, 73 county-level sub-centers, 103 township-level stations, and over 3,000 village-level stations as part of the project for sharing cultural information and resources. As a result, a network of cultural facilities has taken shape, from the regional level at the top all the way to the villages at the bottom.

Tibet has enhanced its cultural exchanges with other countries and regions. Over the past 60 years it has sent more than 360 groups or teams of nearly 4,000 people to over 50 countries and regions for visits and for performances in over 110 overseas cities. It has also received over 200 experts and scholars from over 30 countries and regions for performances, lectures and exhibitions.

Protection of Cultural Relics

Since 1951, the Central Government has attached great importance to cultural relic protection in Tibet and generations of Tibetan and Han cultural workers have made joint efforts to develop protection programs.

Tibet has issued the Regulations of the Tibet Autonomous Region on the Protection of Cultural Relics, and issued the Notice of the Tibet Autonomous Region People's Government on Strengthening the Protection of Cultural Relics, in addition to the enactment of various other relevant laws and regulations. Currently, Tibet has 4,277 cultural relic sites, including 55 key cultural heritage sites under state protection, 391 under regional protection, and 978 under city- or county-level protection, as well as three state-level historical and cultural cities (Lhasa, Xigaze, and Gyangze). The Potala Palace, the Norbu Lingka and the Jokhang Monastery are on the World Heritage List. Tibet Museum is a national A-class museum. The Tibet Archives boasts a collection of more than 3 million documents of historic importance. Tibet has 76 items listed as

Ancient buildings receive proper repair and protection in Tibet: Tibetan workers repairing the Jokhang Monastery.

Tibetan Opera is still popular among the Tibetans.

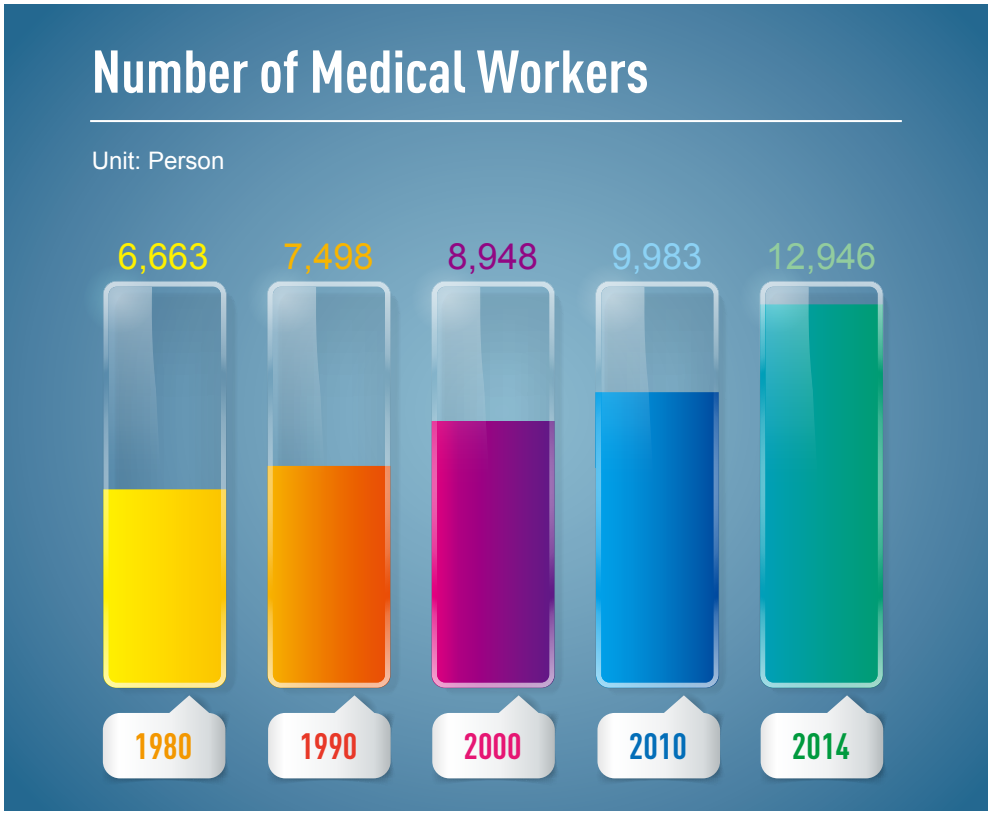
state-class intangible cultural heritage items, 323 as regional ones, 76 as city-level ones, and 814 as county-level ones, in addition to 68 representative trustees of such cultural items at the national level and 350 at the regional level. There are 117 Tibetan opera troupes. Tibetan opera and the Gesar epic are included in UNESCO's Masterpieces of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Every administrative village or Buddhist temple in Tibet now boasts a library appropriate to its needs. In 2011, Tibet set up a special fund to support the development of cultural industries.

Medical Treatment and Health Care

Before the peaceful liberation of Tibet, only Lhasa and Xigaze had government-run Tibetan medical institutions, private clinics and Tibetan doctors, which were small in both number and operating size. Before the peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951, Tibet had no modern medicine system, and worshiping deities or Buddha was the main medicinal way for most people. At that time, the average life expectancy was 35.5 years. Since 1959, the State has financed development of Tibet's medical and health undertakings, and improved the backward medical and health conditions, benefiting all Tibetan people.

Now Tibet has a public medical and health service system combining Tibetan medicine, Western medicine and traditional Chinese medicine that covers all urban and rural areas of the autonomous region with Lhasa as the center, thereby realizing the objective of "one clinic for one village." In 2014, Tibet had a total of 1,432 medical and health institutions, containing 12,024 beds and 12,946 health technicians; the ratio of both per thousand persons reached 3.82 and 4.11 respectively.

Free medical services are now available to all farmers and herdsmen in the autonomous region. The subsidy for these medical services has been raised 11 times, from 5.5 Yuan per person per annum in 1993 to 380 Yuan in 2014. The money mainly comes from Central and local government financing. Moreover, the government of Tibet also provides supplementary medical insurance for major diseases of farmers and herders. Each participant enjoys an annual reimbursement as high as 60,000 Yuan for an initial payment of 20 Yuan. Some 96.23 percent of farmers and herders in Tibet have participated in this program.



In 2014, the financial expenditure of Tibet on the medical expense hit 4.886 billion Yuan, an increase of 24.3 percent.

At present, Tibet has set up 81 disease prevention and control institutions; promoted an immunization program throughout the autonomous region; improved the epidemic disease reporting and monitoring system; basically contained plague, tuberculosis (TB), leprosy, Kashin-Beck disease (KBD) and iodine deficiency disorders (IDD); reduced the incidence of measles, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis and other infectious diseases by a large margin; and basically eliminated IDD, with an iodized salt coverage rate of 96.59 percent. Tibet has been implementing a flexible birth-control policy, which exempts the farmers and herdsmen, who account for over 80 percent of Tibet's total population, from the limit set on the number of children one couple could have. The government encourages late marriage and postponed child-

Tibet has greatly improved the quality of its medical facilities and service. This Nagqu Tibetan Medical Hospital was built with investment from Liaoning Province.

bearing, healthy pregnancy and scientific nurture, and healthy and civilized marriage lives.

Before the peaceful liberation, Tibet's population remained stagnant for a long period of time because of economic backwardness, low survival rate of newborns, poor medical conditions and a large proportion of monks and nuns who were not allowed to marry and have children in the total population. But since the peaceful liberation, Tibet's population increased from 1.1409 million in 1951 to 3.1755 million in 2014, of which Tibetans accounted for more than 92 percent of the total. The average life expectancy there has increased from 35.5 years in 1951 to 68.17 years now; the death rates of infants and women in childbirth have dropped greatly and the people's health has been remarkably improved.

Sports Undertakings

Tibet's sports items include traditional and modern ones.

The traditional sports items of Tibet bear strong Tibetan features and regional characters, mainly including the horse race, arrow shooting, stone holding, wrestling and tug of war. There is no record or historical data on them; they are passed down mostly through oral instruction and performance. After 1951, the physical education department of Tibet vigorously introduced the modern sports items into Tibet while tidying up and tapping the sports items with ethnic characters, with a view to making the Tibetan traditional sports items and modern ones improve and develop vigorously together.

Tibet attaches great importance to carrying on the traditional sports items, energetically tapping and making research on them to work out standard and scientific competition rules. Many traditional sports items have been widely spread among the masses of the people and some of them were introduced to the national games.

The Tibetan traditional sports items are closely related to folk customs and have

A shot of the Lhasa Middle School.

become part of Tibetan people's life. They not only attract visitors from other parts of the world but also present the local economy, culture and folkway and promote the local economic development.

In the first half of the 20th century, modern sports items were introduced into Tibet. In October 1935, the local government of Tibet ever sent a sports team to participate in the basketball and volleyball events of the Sixth National Games. In 1938, gymnastics was introduced into the National Primary School in Lhasa. Since then, gymnastics, basketball, volleyball and other sports items were exercised in Tibet. In 1946 when Xing Suzhi, a Han lama of Drepung Monastery from Zhenjiang, Jiangsu, acted as principal of the National Primary School in Lhasa, he rebuilt the old house of the school into an auditorium and gymnasium with a total area of 180 square meters. That was the earliest gymnasium in the modern history of Tibet.

After the peaceful liberation of Tibet, the Central Government strongly supported the development of Tibet's sports undertakings. Lhasa Stadium built in 1958 was the earliest one in Tibet, which could accommodate 10,000 spectators. Tibet Gymna-

Horse race is a traditional sport of Tibet. Here is a horse race held in Gyangze.

sium built in 1985 had a floor area of 8,000 square meters and a building area of 4,000 square meters with 4,000 seats. It is the first modern multi-purpose gymnasium in Tibet. According to statistics, there are now 1,000-odd sports facilities of various kinds in Tibet.

In addition to the hardware construction, Tibet also attached great importance to the construction of specialized agencies. In November 1958, Tibet Autonomous Region Sports Committee was established. Tibet Autonomous Region Sports Commission was formally established in January 1960 and renamed as Tibet Autonomous Region Sports Bureau in 2000. In 1980s, a number of sports associations were set up in Tibet successively. Tibet Autonomous Region Sports Federation established in 1993 has under it six institutions, including Sports Work Team, Sports School, Mountaineering Team, Mountaineering Management Center, Equestrian Team and Gymnasium. Since 1960, Tibet has trained lots of international and national-level athletes and first-class athletes. Among the modern sports items, mountaineering is the representative item with the strongest Tibetan characteristic as well as the key item of Tibet. Its level ranks in the forefront of the world. Many of Chinese mountaineers come from Tibet.

In 2014, Tibet's athletes won 40 gold, 21 silver and 27 bronze medals in international and domestic sport events, each registering a large increase from a year earlier. The region issued 504 sport instructor certificates, including 200 national first-class certificates, 83 national second-class certificates and 221 national third-class ones. In 2014, sales from the sports lottery amounted to 387 million Yuan, raising public welfare funds of 103 million Yuan.

Culture and Art, Cultural Relics and Publishing Organs, and Workers

Organization	Number of Organizations			Number of Workers		
	2000	2010	2013	2000	2010	2013
Cultural Undertakings	**143**	**377**	**787**	**1683**	**1763**	**3106**
Art Troupes	46	50	92	1255	1335	2381
Art Performance Troupes	10	10	11	816	858	777
Ulan Muqi and Art Performance Teams	16	19	67	234	436	1515
Venues for Performances	20	21	14	205	41	89
Libraries	1	4	78	43	64	107
Mass Cultural Undertakings	94	321	615	333	311	562
Mass Art Palaces	7	8	8	183	154	208
Cultural Palaces	52	74	74	118	100	149
Cultural Stations	35	239	533	32	57	205
Other Cultural Undertakings	2	2	2	52	53	56
Cultural Relics Undertakings	**18**	**79**	**88**	**286**	**346**	**457**
Publishing Business	**71**	**90**	**58**	**376**	**458**	**622**

Publication of Books and Magazines

Year	Books			Magazines					
				Total		In Chinese		In Tibetan	
	Total (10000 copies)	In Chinese	In Tibetan	Variety	Prints (1000 copies)	Variety	Prints (1000 copies)	Variety	Prints (1000 copies)
1978	306	61	245	4	74	4	74		
1980	359	159	200	7	835	4	519	3	316
1985	310	96	214	14	417	8	298	6	119
1990	435	225	210	16	205	7	96	8	106
1995	402	94	308	23	286	12	182	11	104
2000	524	151	373	32	580	17	347	15	233
2001	461	219	235	33	874	19	518	14	356
2002	874	400	474	34	720	14	263	20	457
2003	781	367	414	34	716	20	517	14	199
2004	795	374	421	34	750	20	531	14	219
2005	854	369	485	34	767	20	587	14	180
2006	927	381	546	34	830	20	635	14	195
2007	1206	725	481	34	3903	20	3614	14	289
2008	1286	788	498	34	2808	20	2478	14	330
2009	1351	899	441	34	1327	20	1009	14	318
2010	1446	977	469	34	1605	20	1174	14	431
2011	1790	957	833	35	1678	21	1293	14	385
2012	1354	757	512	35	1859	21	1467	14	392
2013	1200	564	536	35	1855	21	1423	14	432

Publication of Newspapers

Year	Total		Newspaper in Chinese		Newspaper in Tibetan	
	Variety	Total Number of Paper Used (1000 Print Paper)	Variety	Total Number of Paper Used (1000 Print Paper)	Variety	Total Number of Paper Used (1000 Print Paper)
1975		20952		8867		12085
1980		20739		8342		12397
1985	13	16529	6	9035	7	7494
1990	11	13441	5	7493	6	5948
1995	15	27207	8	15593	7	11614
2000	16	28712	9	21987	7	6725
2001	16	34370	10	24470	6	9900
2002	19	51330	11	43953	8	7377
2003	19	45130	11	37722	8	7408
2004	19	53520	11	44737	8	8783
2005	23	53511	13	45632	10	7879
2006	23	56000	13	47754	10	8246
2007	23	76642	13	65507	10	11135
2008	23	88662	13	67372	10	21290
2009	23	122774	13	98978	10	23796
2010	23	140237	13	109232	10	31005
2011	23	175967	13	14405	10	31911
2012	23	196881	13	146945	10	49936
2013	23	206508	13	155443	10	51065

Number of Accomplished Athletes (2012)

Unit: Person

Sports Item	Grade Athletes and Sportsmen	International Master Athletes	Master Athletes	First Class Sportsmen	Others
Total	131	24	7	4	96
Track and Field					
Shooting	14				14
Arrow Shooting					
Wrestling	53	1	6	1	46
Judo	4				4
Football					
Mountaineering	25	23	1		1
Horsemanship	32			4	28
Boxing	1				1
Weight lifting	1		1		

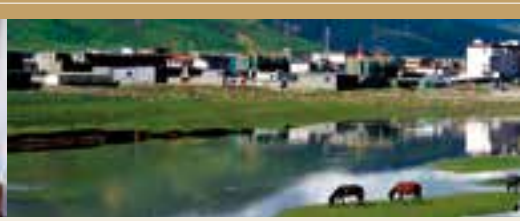
Development of Health Institutions

Item		1980	1990	2000	2010	2012	2013
Number of Health Institutions	**(Unit)**	**832**	**1110**	**1237**	**1352**	**1403**	**1413**
Hospitals		528	742	810	773	777	783
Hospitals		92	83	105	101	104	106
Sanatoriums				1	1	1	1
Clinics		247	548	303	430	473	480
Sanitation and Anti-epidemic Stations		31	80	81	81	82	82
Maternity and Child Care Centers			13	32	55	57	54
Health Supervision Bureau					2	2	2
Blood Gathering and Supplying Institutions		1	1	1	1	1	1
Other Health Care Institutions		20	15	7	1	1	1
Number of Beds	**(Unit)**	**4328**	**5381**	**6348**	**8838**	**10134**	**11036**
Hospitals and Clinics		4261	5015	6156	8439	9666	10461
Hospitals		3719	3361	4426	5444	6653	7292
Sanatoriums			150	120	40	40	40
Maternity and Child Care Centers			9	72	342	415	471
Personnel	**(Person)**	**8382**	**9513**	**11027**	**12269**	**13896**	**14335**
Medical Technical Personnel		6663	7498	8948	9983	11313	11716
Doctors and Assistants		3564	4514	5262	4371	4818	5204
Registered Nurses		1104	1883	1816	1986	2278	2400
Other Technical Personnel		100	185	211	481	867	878
Managerial Personnel		644	584	676	610	596	668
Logistics Workers		975	1246	1192	1195	1120	1073

11

Living Conditions and Social Security





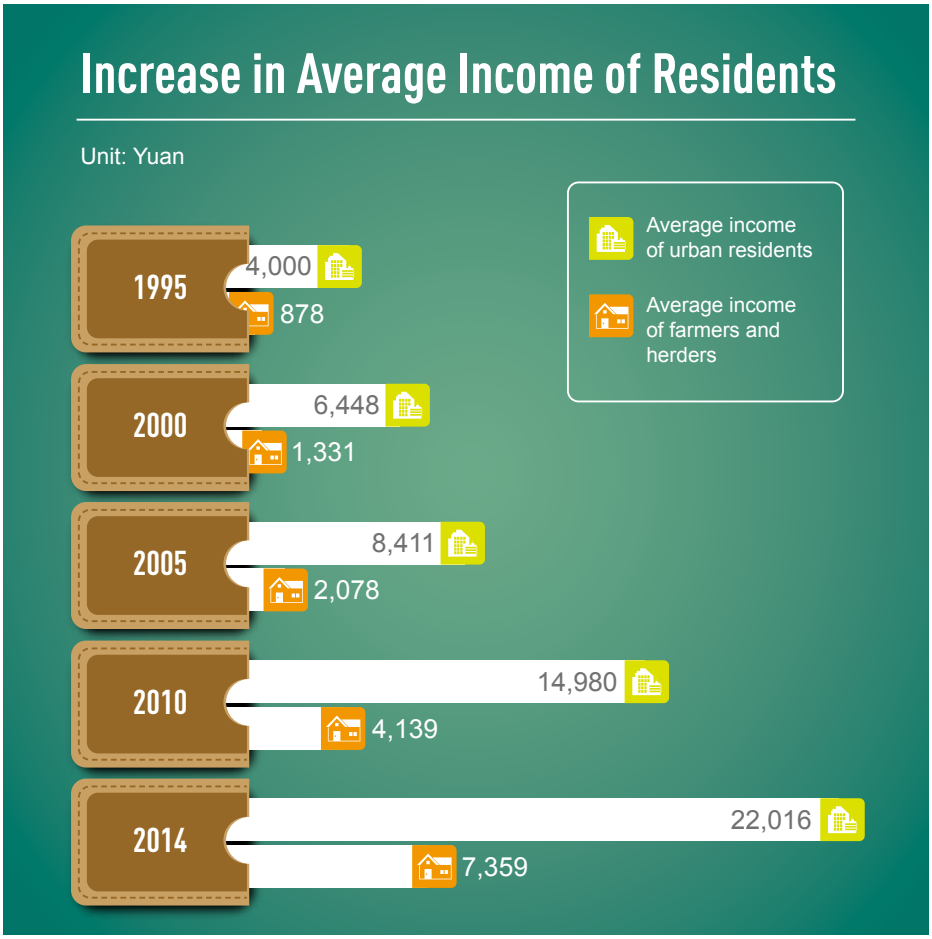
Living Conditions

Social Security and Employment

11 Living Conditions and Social Security

Living Conditions

Before 1951, the economy in Tibet was in a state of stagnation, and the masses lived in dire poverty. Since the peaceful liberation, however, the economy has leapt forward with each passing day.



Urbanization drive gains momentum in Tibet. Picture shows a new dwelling quarters built for Tibetan farmers and herders in Damxung County.

Economic development is an important way to guarantee the basic rights of Tibetan people in particular their right to life and right to development. The developing modern economy of Tibet has laid a solid material foundation for the development of various undertakings. To boost local economic and social growth, the Central Government has adopted a series of preferential policies for Tibet in terms of finance, materials and manpower. It has never taken a cent from Tibet, but constantly increased the central budgetary allotment for the region. With the strong support of the Central Government and the aid of the rest of China, Tibet's economy has taken a historic leap and the life of Tibetans has constantly improved.

Over the past 60-odd years, the Central Government has approved a series of major projects such as 43 projects, 62 projects, 117 projects, 188 projects and 226 projects series concerning Tibet's long-term development and people's livelihood. Highways, railways, airports, telecommunications facilities, energy and other key infrastructural projects have been completed in succession, thus greatly improving Tibet's infrastructure and its people's living and production conditions. Besides, the Central

Government also organizes other provinces and cities to aid Tibet.

Before the peaceful liberation in 1951, more than 90 percent of the people in Tibet had no private housing, nor had they enough food and clothing. Since then, their living conditions have constantly improved. In 1951 the per-capita housing space of urban dwellers was less than three square meters. In 2014, Tibet arranged the construction of 72,000 affordable houses, and most were completed, so that about 100,000 persons benefited from better housing conditions. Besides, the government gave 47.5 million Yuan of house renting allowance to more than 10,000 rural households with low income and difficult housing conditions for settling their housing problems. At present, the per-capita housing space of urban dwellers has reached 28.9 square meters, while the rural rate is 33.8 square meters.

In 2014, the disposable income of urban residents was 22,016 Yuan, an increase of 7.9 percent from the previous year, and the per-capita net income of farmers and herdsmen was 7,359 Yuan, up 12.3 percent, registering double-digit growth for 10 consecutive years.

The consumption pattern of Tibetan residents is becoming increasingly diversified with improvement in their livelihood, and such consumer goods as refrigerators, color TVs, mobile phones, computers, washing machines, motorcycles and automobiles have entered ordinary homes. According to the life investigation jointly held by State Statistics Bureau and CCTV, Lhasa has been elected as one of the cities with highest happiness index in China for years.

In recent years, Tibet has accelerated its urbanization drive, through which, farmers and herders also enjoy the dividends of reform and development. The people of various ethnic groups in Tibet share more fruits from the development of modern civilization. Over 30-plus years of reform and opening up, China's economy has grown rapidly. The Central Government's financial support for Tibet has been continuously increased, providing a good material base for Tibet to accelerate the transformation of urbanization.

Urbanization is a powerful engine for maintaining the sustained and healthy economic development, and the greatest potential for expanding domestic demand lies in urbanization. As the level of urbanization continues to increase, more farmers and herders will increase their incomes through finding jobs in urban areas and enjoy better

public services after turning into urban residents. Thus, the urban consumption group will constantly enlarges and the consumption structure will constantly upgrade, which will also bring huge investment demand for urban infrastructure facilities, public service facilities and residential buildings, thus providing sustainable power for economic development.

By 2014, Tibet's urbanization rate reached 23.7 percent.

Social Security and Employment

Tibet has established a social security system mainly covering basic pension insurance, basic medical insurance, unemployment insurance for urban workers, industrial accident insurance and maternity insurance, which cover all urban and rural residents.

Tibet explored setting up the social pension insurance system in China for the first time. At present, there are some 200,000 old people aged 60 or above in Tibet. As early as in 1987, Tibet began to introduce a pension insurance system, and urban workers began to enjoy basic pensions and unemployment insurance. In 2014, the ba-

The Tibetan old people in Quxu County Welfare House.

sic old-age pension for enterprise retirees in Tibet reached 3,338 Yuan per person per month, about 66 percent points higher than the national average; from 2009, Tibet introduced the new rural insurance system. In 2014, people aged 60 or above could receive a monthly pension of 120 Yuan per person, while the standard of basic pension insurance for urban and rural residences in the hinterland was 70 Yuan per person. Obviously the figure was much higher than the national average. Rural residents reaching the age of 16 are free to choose the standard of insurance premium. The more premium the insurance participant paid, the more pension he/she would receive, and the government provided each person with an annual allowance of 30 Yuan. From 2012, all the lamas and nuns who reach the age of 60 can receive a monthly pension of 120 Yuan per person. Based on the voluntary principle, lamas and nuns could take part in the social pension insurance system of urban residents in the place where the monasteries are located, and could receive a pension from the age of 60 as long as they had been paying premiums for not less than 15 years. Since then, Tibet has realized total

Low-rent apartments have been built for those in need: 40 Yuan per month for this 80-square meter apartment.

coverage of pension insurance. Compared with the rural areas in the hinterland, Tibet's farming and pastoral areas achieved an earlier breakthrough and the service level was relatively higher. The situation in which old lamas and nuns lived on the incomes of the monasteries and nunneries or the donation of the religious followers in the past has now been replaced.

As early as the beginning of 1980s, Tibet provided each farmer and herdsman with an annual medical allowance of five Yuan and in 2014, the standard increased to 380 Yuan per person every year. Each of farmers and herdsmen paid 10 Yuan in premiums, accounting for 3.4 percent of per capita funding level; the per capita funding level of urban basic medical insurance reached 360 Yuan, with 60 Yuan of premiums paid by the individual, accounting for 16 percent, or higher than that of farmers and herdsmen. The newly born could be included in the basic medical insurance for an annual premium of only 30 Yuan. From 2012, not restricted by registered household, lamas and nuns could take part in the basic medical insurance system of urban residents in the place where the monasteries are located based on a voluntary principle. Meanwhile, considering the relatively poor Tibet's medical quality compared with the hinterland, Tibet implements off-site medical insurance service convenient for people in the TAR to go to hospitals in the hinterland. In Tibet's farming and pastoral areas, all of farmers and herdsmen have medical insurance cards. In the past, the medical treatment of lamas and nuns relied on the incomes of the monasteries and nunneries or the donation of the religious followers. The government guarantees the medical treatment of the lamas and nuns today.

Tibet set up the minimum living standard system in China for the first time. From 1996, Tibet began to pilot the minimum living standard system for urban residents, and the standard increased from 130 Yuan person/month to 440 Yuan person/month in 2013. The system benefited 2,348 residents in 1997, rising to 47,033 in 2014, and the government provided 23,152 Yuan of minimum living allowance in all; from 2002, Tibet began to set up the minimum living standard system for rural residents, and by July 2007 the system covered all areas. In 2013, the minimum living standard for rural residences increased to 1,750 Yuan per person per year. In 2014, 320,340 people in Tibet received a minimum living allowance. From 2012, all monks and nuns were included in the social security system, the subsistence allowance for

lamas and nuns being 400 Yuan person/month. Those whose monthly income is less than 400 Yuan can receive a subsidy from the government so as to be ensured of getting 300 Yuan monthly.

Tibet realized public welfare jobs system in China for the first time. 1n 2006, the government officially introduced unemployment aid as part of public welfare. Public welfare jobs are designed to help those facing difficulty in finding regular employment and alleviate poverty in impoverished urban and rural families, especially where no family member has a job, rural unemployed people, those with disabilities but with certain labor ability and a desire to work and unemployed graduates from institutions of higher learning. By now, three batches of such jobs have been provided, and the government financed the program with a total of 370 million Yuan.

Those with abilities will enjoy an advantage in employment, which is a rule in the market mechanism. Impacted by market economic factors, some people, due to relative poor labor skill, physical force and language exchange abilities, will be marginalized to a certain extent in the employment market. This is a common phenomenon anywhere in the world to some extent. However, Tibet's development policy boasts distinct inclusionary aspects. The TAR government introduced a public welfare jobs system sparing no effort to reduce the negative impact of the market economy to the lowest level.

It must be pointed out that the Central Government has attached importance to helping Tibet get rid of poverty and backwardness and support Tibet's development, and provinces or municipalities directly under the Central Government with relatively developed economy and centrally managed State-owned enterprises have been paired up with and made to provide assistance to specific areas of Tibet to implement the Central Government's special preferential and assistance policies. All these embody the State's special care for the border's minority ethnic groups and for all ethnic groups in Tibet. Tibet has not only Tibetan people, but also other ethnic groups including the Moinba and Lhoba people. Any suggestion that the special care and support from the Central Government for Tibet only benefits Tibetans or the population with registered household in Tibet fails to understand the strong emphasis on social equity and justice.

In 2014, Tibet's expenditures on social security totaled 8.597 billion Yuan, posting a rise of 10.2 percent from the previous year.

Improvement of Material Life for People

Index	Unit	1990	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013
Employment							
Number of People Supported by Each Rural Laborer	People	1.44	1.74	1.77	1.59	1.65	1.69
Number of People Supported by Each Urban Laborer	People	2.01	1.89	2.00	2.25	2.09	1.96
Income							
Per-capita Net Income of Farmers and Herders	Yuan	582	1331	2078	4139	5719	6578
Per-capita Disposable Income of Urban Households	Yuan	1631	6448	8411	14980	18028	20023
Annual Average Wages of Workers	Yuan	3181	14976	28950	54397	58347	64409
Consumption Level							
Consumption Level of People	Yuan	734	1823	3019	4513	5340	6275
Farmers	Yuan	485	1144	1532	2653	3098	3874
Non-Farmer Residents	Yuan	2329	4737	9040	10523	12958	14001
Bank Savings							
Balance of Bank Savings of Urban and Rural Residents at Year End	10000 Yuan	48522	404800	1231000	2671300	4039100	4960300
Balance of Bank Savings of Each Person at Year End	Yuan	180	1558	4471	9117	13130	15896
Housing							
Floor Space of Housing Shared by Each Rural Resident	sq.meters	18.94	23.16	19.55	24.03	29.58	30.51
Floor Space of Housing Shared by Each Urban Resident	sq.meters		19.86	19.91	34.72	36.14	42.81
Culture and Education							
Number of Color TV Owned by Every 100 Urban Households	Piece	94	120	135	129	129	128
Number of TV Owned by Every 100 Rural Households	Piece	0.40	13.70	49.40	75.5	108.1	97.3
Rate of School-Age Children Going to Primary Schools	%	67.40	85.80	95.90	99.2	99.4	99.6
Number of In-School Students Out of Every 10000 People	People	857	1467	1832	1818	1696	1683
Health Care							
Number of Hospital Beds for Every10000 People	Piece	23.00	25.20	24.40	3.02	3.28	3.54
Number of Doctors for Every10000 People	People	33.90	34.40	32.20	3.44	4.53	3.74

Consumption Level of the Regional Residents

Year	Consumption Level			Index (Previous Year=100)		
	Regional Residents (Yuan /Person)	Farmers	Urban Residents	Regional Residents (%)	Farmers	Urban Residents
1979	218	147	620			
1980	276	210	635	126.6	142.9	102.4
1985	422	309	1182	117.5	115.3	121.7
1990	735	484	2329	113.6	117.5	112.1
1995	1202	762	3981	108.2	109.8	107.6
2000	1823	1144	4737	109.2	111.0	103.4
2001	1939	1223	4992	106.4	106.9	105.4
2002	2725	1365	8278	119.3	109.2	237.4
2003	2825	1272	9112	103.7	93.2	110.1
2004	2950	1483	8895	112.1	111.8	112.2
2005	3019	1532	9040	102.3	103.3	101.6
2006	2990	1874	7515	112.1	111.8	112.2
2007	3215	1950	7888	107.5	104.1	105.0
2008	3504	2149	8324	105.5	106.1	102.6
2009	4060	2398	9563	113.5	109.7	112.1
2010	4513	2635	10523	107.5	107.7	105.2
2011	4730	2755	11393	103.4	109.7	98.1
2012	5340	3098	12958	109.0	107.2	110.2
2013	6275	3874	14001	116.7	122.4	108.7

Household Situation of Urban Residents

Item	Unit	1990	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013
Number of Households Surveyed	**Piece**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**800**	**800**	**800**
Number of Family Members on Average	**People**	**3.95**	**3.41**	**3.41**	**3.48**	**3.32**	**2.95**
Number of Working People of Every Household	**People**	**1.97**	**1.80**	**1.70**	**1.55**	**1.59**	**1.47**
Working Field of Each Household	**%**	**49.9**	**52.8**	**49.9**	**44.5**	**47.9**	**49.8**
Average Number of People Supported by Each Working Person	**People**	**2.01**	**1.89**	**2.00**	**2.25**	**2.09**	**1.96**
Annual Disposable Income of Each Person	**Yuan**	**1685**	**7426**	**9437**	**14980**	**18028**	**20023**
Average Annual Income of Each Person	**Yuan**	**2120**	**11772**	**10664**	**16539**	**20224**	**22561**
Wages Total of Workers in State-Owned Units	Yuan			10399	14707	17672	19604
Property Income	Yuan	2	5	5	233	418	424
Income on Transferring	Yuan	204	356	212	1203	1563	1820
Income on Lending and Loaning	Yuan		4295	2881	583	799	415
Per-Capita Spending	**Yuan**	**1340**	**5554**	**8673**	**9686**	**11184**	**12232**
Food	Yuan	888	2570	3828	4848	5518	5889
Clothing	Yuan	208	876	1086	1159	1362	1528
Family Equipment and Service	Yuan	122	275	480	376	475	541
Health Care	Yuan	10	265	333	386	467	501
Transportation and Telecommunications	Yuan	12	443	1320	1231	1387	1551
Recreational, Educational and Cultural Service	Yuan	48	419	694	478	550	618
Housing	Yuan	27	340	516	727	845	964
Sundry Goods and Service	Yuan	24	367	417	482	580	639

Year-End Ownership of Durables for Every 100 Urban Households

Item	Unit	1990	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013
Power Vehicles	Piece				5	10	13
Family Cars	Piece			3	16	27	25
Family Computers	Piece		1	19	39	63	48
Hi Fi Combination	Piece		24	32	39	30	21
Micro Wave Ovens	Piece		3	34	27	39	38
Washing Machines	Piece	42	100	95	84	88	84
Refrigerators	Piece	24	74	88	81	86	87
Motorcycles	Piece	1	5	7	12	16	15
Color TV	Piece	88	120	135	129	129	128
Shower Heaters	Piece		12	25	26	33	41
Cameras	Piece	26	54	56	37	48	38
Medium and High Grade Musical Instruments	Piece	8	2	2	1	1	2
Videotape Recorders	Piece			6	6	11	6
Air Conditioners	Piece		3	5	6	15	9
Sterilizing Cabinets	Piece			8	5	6	6
Dish Washers	Piece			2	1	1	3
Body Building Facilities	Set			1	2	3	2
Ordinary Phones	Piece			89	79	67	46
Mobile Phones	Piece		30	112	156	187	186

Rural Households

Item	Unit	1990	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013
Number of Households Surveyed	**Household**	**480**	**480**	**1480**	**1480**	**1480**	**1485**
Number of People Surveyed	**People**						
Resident Population		2787	3255	9264	9271	8424	8186
Per-Household Resident Population		5.81	6.78	6.26	6.26	5.69	5.51
Average Number of Able Bodied and Semi-Able Bodied Laborers		3.43	3.91	3.53	3.93	3.44	3.26
Number of People Supported by Each Laborer (the Laborer Included)		1.44	1.74	1.77	1.59	1.65	1.69
Average Annual Income	**Yuan**						
Total Income		623	1727	2813	5027	6986	7971
Net Income		447	1331	2078	4139	5719	6578
Cash Income		312.90					
Average Annual Expenditure	**Yuan**						
Total Expenditure		485	1477	2174	3311	3968	4332
Family Spending		110	227	415	530	622	577
Spending on Life		341	1117	1562	2503	2968	3574
Cash Spending	Yuan	262	719	1420	2533	3101	3305
Production Cost		63	228	329	509	745	583
Tax Payment and Fees Delivered to the Collective Unit According to Contract Signed		0.46	4.90	2.31	0.14	5.89	
Spending on Life		173	477	1049	1969	2304	2661
Spending in Terms of Bank Deposits and Lending		16	10	186	241	382	253

Per-Capita Income of Rural Families

Unit: Yuan

Item	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013
Total Income	**623**	**1501**	**1727**	**2813**	**5027**	**6986**	**7971**
Basic Income	582	1392	1547	2541	4388	6129	6996
Remuneration of Laborers	1	79	232	549	891	1202	1475
Remuneration of Collectively Organized Labor	1		107	78	99	113	
Labor Remuneration of Enterprises			22	16	38	71	
Labor Remuneration of Other Units		79	102	455	754	1018	
Family Business Income	580	1313	1316	1992	3497	4927	5520
Income on the Transferring and Property	42	109	179	272	639	857	975
Divided According to Income							
Basic Income	582	1392	1547	2541	4388	6129	6996
Labor Income	1	79	232	549	891	1202	1475
Family Business Income	580	1313	1316	1992	3497	4927	5520
Agricultural Income	288	586	517	1004	1625	2199	2328
Forestry Income	15	45	9	89	160	169	155
Animal Husbandry Income	130	307	271	582	1075	1639	1873
Industrial Income	1	10	34	5	25	40	9
Construction Income	9	20	143	41	75	84	156
Transportation Income	22	85	161	150	321	519	602
Commercial Income	11	57	47	72	131	199	303
Service Income	1	13	15	20	44	76	68
Other Incomes	39	148	115	29	40	2	27
Income on Transferring and Property	42	109	179	272	639	857	975
Grouped by Type of Income							
Productive Income	580	1392	1547	2541	4388	6129	6996
Income of the Primary Industry	505	1127	913	1675	2860	4090	4669
Income of the Secondary Industry	18	50	177	506	992	1385	1580
Income of the Tertiary Industry	57	215	458	360	536	654	747
Non-productive Income	42	109	179	272	639	857	975

Per-Capita Expenditures of Rural Households

Unit: Yuan

Item	1990	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013
Spending on Life	**341**	**1117**	**1562**	**2502**	**2968**	**3574**
According to Consumption Types						
Food	253	886	942	1287	1592	1939
Staple Food	114	263	393	526	674	706
Non-Staple Food	91	399	549	653	826	1066
Other Food	48	216	67	108	92	167
Clothing	43	87	222	317	373	371
Housing	20	47	96	308	252	190
Family Equipment and Service	19	40	83	174	173	272
Health Care		16	49	75	83	71
Communications and Transportation		15	106	219	364	523
Cultural Education and Recreational Articles, and Service	2	11	26	51	41	64
Other Commodities and Service	5	14	38	71	90	144
Divided According to Consumption Nature						
Cash Consumption	173	477	1049	1969	2304	2661
Food	87	257	484	771	930	1037
Clothing	43	87	180	304	373	369
Housing	18	36	88	304	249	181
Family Equipment and Service	19	40	78	174	173	273
Health Care		16	49	75	83	71
Communications and Transportation		15	106	219	364	523
Cultural Education and Recreational Articles, and Service	2	11	26	51	41	64
Other Commodities and Service	5	14	38	71	91	144
Consumption in Kind	168	640	513	533	664	913
Food	165	629	458	516	661	902
Housing	3	11	8	4	3	9

Ownership of Durables for Every 100 Rural Households

Item	Unit	1990	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013
Bicycles	Piece	6.80	79.38	28.65	32.64	8.38	3.84
Washing Machines	Piece		2.29	7.03	10.41	27.77	32.93
Motorcycles	Piece		0.20	14.73	46.69	79.86	77.1
Black and White TV	Piece	0.32	4.79	2.03	2.09	1.48	
Color TV	Piece	0.04	8.96	47.36	73.45	106.49	97.3
Camers	Piece	0.04	0.83	1.55	0.95	1.55	0.81
Refrigerators	Piece		0.41	4.39	14.73	32.7	37.1
Telephones	Piece		0.20	13.04	98.04	183.18	176.97
Disc Players	Piece		0.41	21.08	45.27	49.73	41.2

Retail Sales of Consumer Goods

Unit: 10,000 Yuan

Year	Retail Sales of Consumer Goods	Divided According to Areas		
		City	County	Below County
1979	27114	10493	3758	12863
1980	28687	11101	4446	13140
1985	94983	36759	14891	43333
1990	128700	33059	54082	41559
1995	243030	111633	76782	54615
2000	425209	204237	164287	56685
2001	486482	238647	189758	58077
2002	529390	238427	223892	67071
2003	578253	258705	248035	71513
2004	631799	280126	271778	79895
2005	732328	330704	308763	92861
2006	900173	439495	357147	103535
2007	1125992	566576	441876	117540
2008	1299875	647290	513434	139151
2009	1565814	760185	622573	183056
2010	1853000	914085	733047	205868
2011	2190000			
2012	2546433	2117898	1338976	428535
2013	2932151			

12

Tourism



Tourism Resources

Tourist Reception Capability

12 Tourism

Tourism Resources

Tibet is richly endowed with tourism resources. Its varied topography is composed largely of the Himalayas, the southern and northern Tibet plateau lake area, and the eastern Tibet high mountain valley. Its landscape features grassland, wetlands, lakes, river valleys, forests, highland glaciers, snow-capped peaks, geothermal fields and various others. The region boasts more than 50 peaks, each with a height of more than 7,000 meters, and five of which are over 8,000 meters. They include the world's highest, Qomolangma. The area is the source of four major rivers in Asia, and is known as the "Third Pole of the Earth". Tibet is home to three lakes each covering an area of

over 1,000 square km. Tibet's forests and living timber rank fifth and first in China, with the forest coverage rate reaching 9.8 percent.

Historic and cultural sites represented by three world-class cultural heritages - the Potala Palace, Jokhang Monastery and Norbu Lingka in Lhasa - can be found across the whole region. By 2013, Tibet had 67 A-level scenic spots. A tourism development pattern, with Lhasa as the center, Nyingchi, Xigaze and Shannan Prefectures as sub-centers and stretching to Qamdo, Ngaqu and Ngari has been formed.

Tibet's long history has gestated a wonderful culture on the snow-capped plateau. Rich human tourist resources have become a highlight of Tibet's tourism development. The Tibetan New Year, Ongkor (Bumper Harvest) Festival and the Shoton (Sour Milk Drinking) Festival are the most representative. In recent years, Tibet has also developed a great number of tourist products that have local features and ethnic flavor, such as the Yarlung Cultural Festival, the Changtang Horse Racing Festival, the Qomolangma Culture Festival, and the Nyingchi Grand Canyon Tourist Festival. Tibet has been provided with a basis for developing sightseeing, folk-customs and ecological tourism and many tour activities such as walking, rambling, exploration, scientific survey, and pilgrimage are currently available.

Tourist Reception Capability

The Qinghai-Tibet Railway is operational and new airports have been opened to

Many young people like to ride bicycles to travel in Tibet in tourist season.

air traffic in succession. The grade of trunk highways has been constantly enhanced, thus improving the traffic infrastructure of the whole region. Tourists can now enter Tibet in various ways, with travel costs greatly reduced.

After years of development, tourism infrastructure and public service system in Tibet has improved steadily, which can basically meet the needs of tourists at different levels of consumption. Now, Tibet has 242 star-rated hotels, 698 star-rated family inns, 149 travel agencies and 3,235 tourist vehicles.

In 2014, the region received a total of 15.5314 million visits by tourists from home and abroad, up 20.3 percent from one year earlier. Of this total, the number of domestic tourists increased 20.5 percent to 15.287 million visits, and that of overseas tourists increased 9.5 percent to 244,400 visits. Tourism revenues amounted to 20.4 billion Yuan, growing 23.5 percent. Total foreign exchange earnings made from tourism grew 13.2 percent to US$144.69 million.

The National Tourism Administration is working hard to support the development of Tibetan tourism. Given the fact that Tibet previously lacked guides able to speak some foreign languages, the NTA has sent their staff to help receive tour groups. They trained the local guides in order to enhance their professional ability.

With the fast development of the economy, an increasing number of families have been able to purchase a car. As a result, more travelers are driving their own vehicle in order to travel in Tibet. There are even some who ride bicycles for this purpose.

Tourist facilities have been much improved in Tibet. Picture shows a hotel in Lhasa.

During 30-odd years of reform and opening up, Tibet has seen tremendous development in tourism. Currently, the whole industry has about 20 billion Yuan fixed assets with more than 300,000 employees. With rapidly enhanced reception capability, the total number of tourists to Tibet has increased supernormally. The proportion of total tourism revenue in Tibet's GDP rose rapidly to 23.6 percent in 2014.Tourism has become one of the pillar industries in Tibet.

Number of Tourists and Tourism Income

Year	Number of Tourists	Inter-national Tourists	Foreigners	Number of Domestic Tourists	Total Tourism Income (10000 Yuan)	Domestic Tourism Income (10000 Yuan)	Foreign Exchange Income (US$10000)
1980	3525	1059	1004	2466	131		80
1985	71980	15402	15041	56578	399		120
1990	23954	11041	9842	17300	684		145
1995	206598	67814	65428	138784	21375	6340	1130
2000	608335	149441	134539	458894	67462	25834	5226
2001	686116	127148	116440	558968	75053	37053	4638
2002	867320	142279	129617	725041	98777	55899	5166
2003	928639	51120	45685	877519	103723	88028	1891
2004	1223098	95816	88797	1127282	153195	122817	3660
2005	1800623	121308	111018	1679315	193524	157536	4443
2006	2512103	154818	136159	2357285	277072	228929	6094
2007	4029438	365370	338744	3664068	485160	383152	13529
2008	2246447	67997	62934	2178450	225865	204237	3112
2009	561630	174910	162458	5435720	559870	506088	7873
2010	6851390	228321	214136	6623069	714401	644001	10359
2011	8697605	270785	249026	8426820	970568	886341	12963
2012	10583869	194933	174631	10388936	1264788	1198017	10570
2013	12910568	223198	187153	12687370	1651813	1572633	12786

主　　编：李雅芳

编　　著：安才旦
图片编辑：王新森
翻　　译：孙　强　桑一丹
审　　定：MG Murray　王国振

设　　计：谢金宝
排版制作：北京正视文化艺术有限责任公司
印　　刷：北京华联印刷有限公司
督　　印：李振宙

图书在版编目（CIP）数据

西藏：事实与数字
2015. 2015 : 中文 / 安才旦编著 -- 北京:
XXXX出版社, 2015.11
ISBN 978-7-5085-2925-7

Ⅰ. ①西… Ⅱ. ①安… ②王… Ⅲ. ①社会主义建设
成就 – 西藏 – 2015 – 中文 Ⅳ. ①D619.75

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2015)第241989号

西藏：事实与数字 2015

编译制作：北京周报社
出版发行：XXXX出版社
地　　址：
电　　话：
网　　址：
开　　本：16开
版　　次：2015年10月第1版
ISBN 978-7-5085-2925-7
定　　价：RMB 168.00元

Questionnaire

Dear readers,

Thank you for participating in our survey. Please answer the following questions and return it to us.

Your Name _____

Gender: Male ☐ Female ☐

Nationality _____

Educational Level _____

Occupation _____

1. Which is your favorite chapter in this book? Why?

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. Which chapter do you dislike the most? Why?

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. How do you rate the articles?

good ☐ bad ☐ ordinary ☐

4. How do you rate its format?

good ☐ bad ☐ ordinary ☐

5. What do you think of the cover?

good ☐ bad ☐ ordinary ☐

6. How do you rate the charts and pictures?

good ☐ bad ☐ ordinary ☐

7. What contents would you like to see added?

8. Do you have any other advice or suggestions for us?

Please send your completed questionnaire to:

Business Dept.
Beijing Review
24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing 100037, China
E-mail: beijingreview1958@yahoo.com.cn