



Tibet Oral History Project

"With my own eyes..." Elders Recount Their Experiences in Tibet

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 2010

CONTACTS:

Marcella Adamski, Ph.D.: (415) 292-3202

Jennifer O'Boyle: (510) 919-8727

Laurie Snyder: (925) 482-4775

Dalai Lama Smiles on Tibet Oral History Project

MENLO PARK, Calif. – His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, spoke this morning with Marcella Adamski, Ph.D., founder and director of the Tibet Oral History Project (TOHP), thanking her for the organization's contributions to the preservation of Tibet's history and culture.

"This is good. This is very good," said His Holiness as he looked intently at the photos of Tibetan elders that Dr. Adamski and her team included when updating him of their progress in fulfilling his request to document Tibetan history for the world before the last of the elders pass away. The materials given to His Holiness also included video footage taken during the interviews with Tibetan elders and the entire collection of transcripts of the interviews completed by TOHP to date.

"His Holiness is very pleased that the Tibet Oral History Project is fulfilling his request to document and preserve the histories of Tibet's oldest people," said Tashi Wangdu, Former Secretary of the Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, New Delhi. Wangdu, a Fulbright Scholar, serves as an advisor to the Project.

The Tibet Oral History Project is making its transcripts and videos available free of charge on its website, including an interview of Tsewang Khangsar, owner of the Little Tibet Gift Shop in Walnut Creek. He speaks of how, thanks to his Buddhist beliefs, he was ultimately able to let go of his anger toward the Chinese for the invasion of his country. In another video, Tsering Wangmo fondly recalls the days when the people in her village sang and danced during festivals and weddings. Radio Free Asia's Tibetan Service is broadcasting these and other interview excerpts worldwide – even in China – on its weekly "Life in Exile" radio program.

Passang Lhamo, son of one of the elders interviewed by Adamski's team said recently, "My father is 75, and his physical and mental state is such that it's quite impossible to record his tale. Had it not been for TOHP, I would not have my parent's story to pass on to my children." Tenzin Yangchen, Outreach Director for the Tibet Oral History Project and a resident of the Tibetan settlement in Bylakuppe, India where TOHP filmed a number of oral histories in 2007, emphasized, "The passing of an elder whose story has not been told is a great loss." Adamski concurred, "We are in a race against time. The elders are now 80 and 90 years of age. But with more support from individuals and corporations, we can ensure that their extraordinary stories will be accessible to the world community forever."

The complete oral history collection will be made available to Tibetan and other library archives worldwide, including the U.S. Library of Congress as funds become available to support translation and outreach efforts. To learn more and to help the Tibet Oral History Project with your donation, visit: www.tibetoralhistory.org.

About the Tibet Oral History Project:

At the request of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Tibet Oral History Project was initiated by Marcella Adamski, Ph.D in 2003 to record the early life experiences of Tibetan elders who were forced to flee their homeland in 1959 following the Chinese invasion and subsequent occupation. The Tibet Oral History Project is committed to making these interviews accessible via the Internet in order to share with the world the hope of the Tibetan people for the future of their country.

Contacts:

Marcella Adamski, Ph.D., Executive Director: +1 415 292 3202; marcy@tibetoralhistory.org

Jennifer O'Boyle, Program Administrator: +1 510 919 8727; jenn@tibetoralhistory.org

Laurie Snyder, Communications: +1 925 482 4775; snyderPR@msn.com

###