



**Empowering the Vision** is a non-governmental organization set up in 2007 in New Delhi to work on youth empowerment. The vision of the organization is to see self-reliant and dynamic Tibetans, who are fully engaged members of the global community.

Empowering the Vision broadly has four programmes: Tibetan Career Services; Building Bridges; Global Tibetan Professional Network and Tibetan Entrepreneurship Fund.

## Tibetan Career Services

Empowering the Vision Project [ENVISION] offers career related services to all young Tibetans (15-35yrs broadly) who register with us through Call/Email. Under Tibetan Career Services, Our Objectives are: To create awareness of career options / to provide counseling and job placement assistance / To support career aspirations and goals – through Fellowships/ Assist in discovering interests and skills. In 2016-17, 240 youths and students benefited from ENVISION's career related services including career and admission workshops in schools and universities.

Since November, we started Walk-in workshops every Thursday 3-5 pm on CV writing, editing current resume as per job profile, mock interviews/ interview preparedness and other related services. We have also introduced a live-chat option on our website to encourage young Tibetans looking for any services to reach us through the chat everyday between 4-5pm.

ENVISION in the last six months has improved services for its clients through active and thorough internship/job search strategies. These services include guiding young job aspirants toward internships to gain experience and ensuring enough jobs in the job bank sourcing from various sites. We have on an average 4- 5 jobs and internship listings on our facebook page every week.

### Message from the Director

Welcome to the first edition of our Annual Report! Empowering the Vision Project (ENVISION) has been working in the field of self-development, career and exposure for the past 10 years with the mission to empower Tibetan youth to become self reliant and dynamic. In addition to our ongoing career guidance sessions, workshops and conferences, ENVISION Fellowship and Entrepreneurship fund were launched in 2015 to further support career aspirations and goals of Tibetan youth.

ENVISION primarily target youth in the age group of 15-35. During this year, ENVISION was able to outreach 648 Tibetan youths through its various services and programmes. Of these direct beneficiaries, 482 were school children, 87 university students, 21 unemployed youth and 58 GTPN members.

Some of the event highlights of 2016 are Compassion in Action Talks and Exhibition, Leadership Workshop, Educational visit of Tibetan Journalists to Indian Media Houses, GTPN Role Models school outreach and monthly mentors interactions with school children.

On behalf of ENVISION, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tibet Relief Fund, UK (our core funder), Trustees, volunteers and supporters who have made it possible for us to work towards our vision.

Youdon Aukatsang

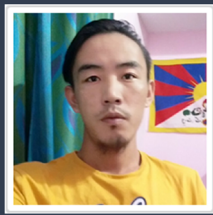
## Recipients of ENVISION Fellowship 2016-17



**Chime Youdon**

Phd European Studies-JNU  
(Aug. – Oct. 2016)

3 months internship as Research Scholar – Centre for Science & Environment, Delhi



**Sonam Tseten**

XII finished this year  
(Apr. 2016- Mar. 2017)

One year certificate course on Networking and Hardware at Jet King, Mysore



**Tenzin Palden**

Post Graduate in International Relations-JNU  
(Sept. 19 – Dec. 19 2016)

3 months internship at TCHRD, Dharamshala



*Often times I have felt like being a refugee is a drawback because we don't have even a piece of land to call our own let alone bringing changes at the macro level. The beautiful environment of support and inclusion at ADAPT, Mumbai, has given me a great opportunity to learn, experience, exchange ideas and build my knowledge to be the 'Change'.*

*Tenzin Dadon, ENVISION 2016 Fellow  
(Special Needs Education course)*

# ENVISION Fellowship 2016

Empowering the Vision Project (ENVISION) initiated a Fellowship programme to support career goals of young Tibetans residing in India. The general criteria for fellowship applicants are that they must be enthusiastic, committed and motivated with a strong sense of responsibility.

In the financial year 2016-2017, we had five ENVISION Fellows. Three were Internship candidates and two short-term courses.

This year in January, Ms. Tenzin Dadon one of the five candidates started her short-term course in Special Education at ADAPT Mumbai and completed her intensive training. She is now on her three-month field study, which finishes in July. Sonam Tseten discontinued his short-term course Fellowship since he had to return to Tibet due to a family emergency.



*"Through this Internship, I got many opportunities to learn, practice and grow. I now know how to approach/deal with prospective clients; how to give priority in handling multiple projects; how to file design works digitally and excel in designing with new concepts and ideas. I am confident I can handle any kind of graphic work that clients would want me to do for them."*

**Tsering Namgyal** –ENVISION 2016 Fellow  
(Design Internship)

Each Fellow wrote a blog documenting their experience – short-term course or Internship- and the importance of the ENVISION Fellowship in the pursuit of better career prospects. Their blogs were shared on ENVISION website and social media site which helped spread the word about such an outreach as meaningful and much needed for our youths.



# ENVISION University Outreach Activity

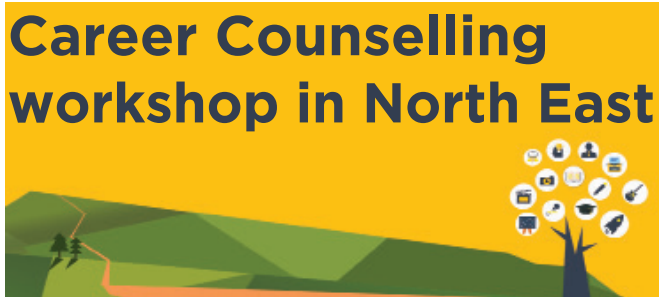
An informal interaction with Tibetan students pursuing undergraduate and post-graduate studies in JNU and Delhi University was organised to discuss ENVISION's youth programmes, and how they could be availed by and also benefit as many deserving students possible.

The interactive gathering led to a lot of information exchange on different ways to support young Tibetans in pursuit of better education and career opportunities. Feedback and suggestions on ENVISION's ongoing programmes and future initiatives were also encouraged during the discussion. The predominant concern was over lack of counseling and career guidance in Tibetan schools.

The gathering held in JNU campus with the support from JNU Tibet Forum on 11th February saw over 27 students in participation, while the one held for Delhi University students in SOS Youth Hostel on 7th March had over 40 students in attendance.

The University Outreach activity was a much-needed discussion

with our target group – young Tibetans. We are certain participating students have been made aware of the various opportunities and programmes that ENVISION extends. At the same time, we are enriched by their feedback and suggestions that will help us serve our target group much better.



ENVISION partnered with Tibet Forum-JNU to outreach young Tibetans in the North east of India. After deliberations on the nature of outreach and deliverables, a mix (different fields and streams) of six students representing Tibet Forum-JNU visited the east - Darjeeling, Sonada and Kalimpong in December 2016 to conduct workshops on "Career Counselling and College Admission".

143 students in total from CST Kalimpong, Tibetan Refugee Self Help Centre Darjeeling, and CST Sonada benefitted from this outreach. The team has had an interactive and engaging discussion with all the participating schools and the Self Help Centre camp in Darjeeling.

Most students in these Tibetan schools lacked awareness about career options; scholarship opportunities provided by CTA both domestic and international; various professional courses; college admission processes and procedures in Delhi and across India. The visiting team helped students with all kinds of doubts, queries and expectations - once they step out for graduate education- in choosing both subjects and universities/colleges. The Counselling Group realized the fact that this sort of counseling/college admission workshop was first to many students and hence very timely and needed.





# Building Bridges Programme

Building Bridges Project is designed to bring together young people from the Tibetan and Indian communities to foster better understanding of cultures and develop respect and encourage learning and sharing. Under this project, we facilitate school outreach/exchange programmes, school and youth exposure visits. Over 150 Tibetan students were reached through this programme.

## Leadership Workshop at Tarabling Institute, Dehradun

ENVISION's annual programme- Leadership Workshop: The two-day workshop for Class XII students of TCV Selakui (58) and STS Poanta Sahib (62) was primarily structured and themed around exploring the self through the arts, goal setting and identifying career aspirations.

The first day of the workshop focused on exploring the self through theatre, creative writing and art facilitated by Theatre activists Jaya Iyer and Zubair Idrisi, Poet/Author Bhuchung D. Sonam, and emerging artist Gyurmey Dorjee. The next day's theme was exploring career aspirations and Goal Setting. Mr. Vikram Dutt, Chief Advisor for ENVISION's mentoring programme led the session on Goal setting and ENVISION's volunteer mentors facilitated the session on Exploring Career Aspirations.

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*The workshop session on Art, Creative Writing and Theatre really helped me get in touch with who I am and helped build my confidence.*

*-Tsering Thermo, STS Paonta (Class XII)*

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## School Outreach Programme



Every year, a new batch of Class XII students get initiated into our school outreach programme through the Leadership Workshop in April and continues with monthly interaction which concludes in November.

The workshop concluded with each student writing and sharing their commitment to a goal which will make a difference in their lives, using the SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound) criteria.



## ENVISION Annual Mentoring Programme

The final mentoring programme of 2016 concluded with a picnic for the students joined by the mentors and ENVISION coordinators at Dakpathar, a popular picnic spot situated near Dehradun. The students from STS Paonta and TCV Selaqui were escorted by the school counselor and even the Principal of STS Paonta participated. During the first half of the day, mentors interacted

with the students on regular theme on career aspirations and interests. This was followed by games and activities around team building, boosting confidence, and improving communication skills.

The picnic ended with all the students leaving for their respective schools happy and motivated.



## ENVISION School Mentoring Programme Review Meeting

ENVISION's Director and Deputy Director visited the two partnering schools STS Paonta and TCV Selaqui on November 8th for an informal review of the efficiency and impact of the two-year school mentoring programme. The team discussed the programme with the administration and counselors in both schools. The team met with the students of class XII in both the schools to gauge their understanding and feedback on the programme. A questionnaire was distributed to assess the impact of the programme on the students. The team also sought their feedback and suggestions for the Programme.

Prior to visiting the two schools, the team met with the Chief Advisor of the Mentoring Programme and with the Volunteer mentors where the scope of the project was discussed and feedback received.

Based on the review and feedback received, we are changing the approach to the programme to be launched as a pilot starting the 2017 academic year. This year, the focus will be on making the mentoring programme more impactful and ensuring the students are benefiting from such an exposure. Most of the topics and theme of discussion/interaction will be oriented towards the skills sets we intend the students to imbibe like critical thinking, interpersonal communication, self-awareness, assertiveness, ethics and a sense of responsibility. This will be subjected to review end of the year.



## TCV Selaqui Students participate in Model UN Conference in Delhi



ENVISION works closely with TCV Selaqui School through various programmes aimed at building students' confidence, exposing them to different ideas and making them aware of the opportunities and challenges that lay ahead.

Six young dynamic students from TCV Selaqui were invited by Delhi Metropolitan Education to participate in a Model UN Conference on 5th-6th November. This was facilitated by Principal Delhi Metropolitan Education Mr. Vikram Dutt who is also the Chief Advisor, ENVISION School Outreach Programme. ENVISION shared the board and lodging costs of the students and also arranged and accompanied the students on an education tour to the National Science Centre, Delhi.

## 22nd Annual National Youth Conference

Annual Youth conference also known as 'Lets Make a Difference' is a national level event organized by 'Initiatives of Change' (IoC) at Asia Plateau, Panchgani, Maharashtra every year. Asia Plateau has been conducting this conference since 1995 for young people between the age group of 16-35 years. This is an eight-day residential training programme from 1st to 8th June, every year focusing on building responsible, dedicated citizens and individuals working for development of the nation and mankind.

Since 2008, Empowering the Vision Project has been supporting the participation of Tibetan University students in this National Youth Conference. Ten Tibetan university students are selected every year to participate in this conference. Last year too ten Tibetan students from different parts of the country Delhi (7), Chandigarh (1), Kerala (2) along with ENVISION staff Ms. Tenzing Migmar as coordinator represented ENVISION at the National Youth Conference.

120 youth (including Tibetan students) from across the country converged in Panchgani, Pune to participate in the Conference. Throughout the eight-day conference, group discussions and interactions played an important role in encouraging personal sharing and bond building amongst the participants. It was an exciting moment for the Tibetan students when one of them Mr.

Norbu Lhagyal was selected as one of the Star Performers from amongst the 120 participants. Everyone left the Conference with new friendship and with the hope to be change-agents for personal as well as collective goals.

Upon return LMAD 2016 ENVISION candidates wrote a report on their participation

and experience which was shared as blog on ENVISION website and social media sites.

*This conference has shaped my life in a unique manner. I have adopted a whole new approach to life and learned to acknowledge my past mistakes and found ways to address them, unknown to me earlier.*

*Lobsang Dolma, BSc. DAV College, Chandigarh*





# Compassion in Action: Legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and HH The Dalai Lama

## Panel Discussions and Exhibition at India International Centre (July 6-8)

As a finale to the year-long celebration of "Compassion in Action: the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and HH the Dalai Lama", ENVISION organized exhibition of the children's works on the theme of Compassion in Action and held parallel Panel Discussions.

On the inaugural day on July 6 coinciding with the 81st birth anniversary of HH Dalai Lama, HH 17th Karmapa was invited to give the inaugural address and open the exhibition. HH Karmapa delivered the inaugural address 'Working towards a Compassionate Society' to an audience of over 200 Tibetans and Indians and a few eminent personalities in attendance, listening to his every word earnestly.

Exhibition and Creative workshops were organised at Alliance Francaise's Galerie Romain Rolland on 7th and 8th July. Displayed at the exhibition were paintings, audiovisual

materials, and creative writings from children of more than 10 participating schools collated by the Compassion in Action team. Students from seven schools (which comprised of more than 400 students) visited the exhibition with their respective teachers and participated in the creative workshops –magic show, image theatre, treasure hunt and story telling.

Running parallel to the Compassion in Action- Exhibition and Workshop on 7th and 8th July were the Panel Discussions on 'Compassion & Social Movements' and 'Compassion & Education' at the India International Centre Annexe.

Panelists were eminent personalities - Thinkers, Social Activists and Educationists - for the two discussions.



# Global Tibetan Professionals Network (GTPN)

Global Tibetan Professionals Network (GTPN) is a platform where Tibetan professionals from diverse backgrounds can network with each other and find creative ways of contributing to the community, mentoring young Tibetan aspirants academically or professionally. Under GTPN this year 58 professional (new and old members) were engaged through various activities while 262 school students benefitted through the GTPN role models visit.



In 2016 to revive and give new direction to Global Tibetan Professional Network of ENVISION, new faces/members were initiated into the programme. More professionals have been reached and encouraged to engage in our GTPN Role Models school visit and a successful visit was organized in March 2017. Going forward ENVISION will ensure two GTPN Role Model visits annually to the two partnering schools and other Tibetan schools possibly.

## ATJ Educational Visit

As part of ENVISION's ongoing support and capacity building efforts for young Tibetan professionals, an educational tour was facilitated to Media groups/offices in Delhi NCR for a delegation of Association of Tibetan Journalist (ATJ). This is the third such visits for ATJ members facilitated by ENVISION.

ATJ delegation (14 members) in May 2016 visited India Today Group (Noida); BBC India (New Delhi); Associated Press (New Delhi); and The Indian Express Group (Noida). They were exposed to the daily workings/operations of these media houses. Arun Kapur, Trustee Chair of ENVISION helped facilitate the meeting with India Today Group.

ATJ members expressed that the tour to these national and international media agencies really helped them understand the different and important aspects of news reporting. They are also committed to sharing the knowledge gathered from such tours with their colleagues back home and also to practice it in their daily profession.





## Interaction with Tibetan Contemporary Artist Tashi Norbu

ENVISION had the opportunity to facilitate an interaction with Tashi Norbu, an exceptionally talented Tibetan Contemporary Artist based in Amsterdam on the 14th of April at The Egg Art Studio and Gallery, New Delhi. Tashi Norbu is a member of ENVISION's Global Tibetan Professionals Network (GTPN). The gathering at the Egg Art Studio was small yet lively and interactive and Tashi Norbu spoke about his work, inspiration, his Tibetan heritage and his evolution from a traditional Tibetan Thangka artist to Contemporary Artist.



## GTPN Role Models School Visits

ENVISION engaged GTPN members as role models to help inspire and motivate young Tibetan students to explore and excel in different academics/careers.

Two schools that we work closely with through the year STS Paonta and TCV Selaqui were our natural choice for this programme. Four professionals – three GTPN members, Ms. Kalsang Yangzom, Mr.



The visit to STS Paonta was organised on 25th March afternoon, and to TCV Selaqui on 26th March morning. At both the schools, the meet started with a brief introduction of the professionals by ENVISION Deputy Director who also shared the purpose of the visit and the expectations from all stakeholders – ENVISION, School Administration, GTPN members and the Students – towards enabling young Tibetan students to become the best they can. Following this, each visiting professional shared a few words about their background and current profession. They encouraged the students to think beyond academics as well and stressed the importance of understanding what they want and how they should match it with the skills, and avenues they have. Soon after, students were divided into four groups based on their interests/career choices, while one professional per group attended to all their queries, doubts, and expectations. Students made the most of this opportunity to hear and learn from their own, successful Tibetan professionals.



Tenzin Tashi, Dr. Tenzin Tsundue and one guest mentor, Mr. Rigzin Wangtak an Engineer from Ladakh, living in Delhi – accompanied by ENVISION Deputy Director Nima Choden, contributed to making the visit a success.

# TIBETAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP FUND

Empowering the Vision Project created Tibetan Entrepreneurship Fund with seed money from Tibetan entrepreneurs to help young Tibetans who have the vision, drive and idea to set up or enlarge a business that is socially responsible, economically beneficial, culturally sensitive and environmentally friendly. The selected two applicants receive a loan of between 1 lakh to 2 lakh Indian Rupees. The loan is returned in five years with repayment starting from the third year.

Tenzin Wangdu Sithar and his partner Tamding started Gen la Tractor Service in Dhondenling Tibetan Settlement in 2015 with the primary purpose of easing the exhaustive and time consuming agrarian work of the Tibetan farmers. Gen la Tractor Service aspires to be a one-stop shop for all services and needs, related to a tractor. Tenzin Wangdu Sithar applied for the entrepreneurship fund and was granted INR 100,000. Genla tractors used the Envision Entrepreneurship loan to expand their services and also improve efficiency of their service, mainly giving their tractors for rent. The INR 100,00 was used

immediately to buy and service the parts of Genla Tractors' second hand tractor that required immediate attention.

In December 2016 ENVISION released an additional grant of INR 100,000 to Tenzin Wangdu of Genla Tractor Services. Considering the recipient's good record in keeping with the expectations of updates, reports and business plan, ENVISION approved the additional grant to Genla Tractor Services.

Tenzing Wangdu said that the additional loan approved by Envision was very helpful. The money was invested in easing the setback to the farmers due to demonetization in November 2016. He has also used it to cover the late repayment from farmers resulting out of demonetization and weak harvest owing to scant rains in the region. "We are all waiting for the rains. Some customers are only willing to render our services if it rains or hope of getting their investment back from their fields. We hope and pray to God that rains will come. That said, hopefully our business will pick up in the month of June and July", expressed Tenzin Wangdu in his recent report to ENVISION.

*With ENVISION'S assistance, Genla Tractors has made tractor equipment easily available to the Tibetan farmers who is able to timely grow their crops, right before the rains without any delay. As a result, crop output will increase significantly. This I believe will certainly lead to the prosperity of the Tibetan farmer, which definitely will have a trickle effect on the Tibetan economy in Kollegal Dhondenling leading to inclusive growth.*

*Tenzin Wangdu, Founder of Genla Tractor*

service







Dorjee Palden

As per his last oral report, the business hasn't taken off much as he anticipated this year. He said he is struggling with the fall in scrap prices and is currently behind in his profit margins.

ENVISION's other entrepreneurship fund beneficiary Dorjee Palden took a loan of two lakh rupees in 2015 to expand and scale up his already established scrap dealing business in Mundgod Tibetan Settlement. His business involved collecting wastes, unwanted furniture, refrigerators, television, bicycles, and plastic water bottles and selling them to the concerned buyers for recycling.

With the two Lakh entrepreneurship loan from ENVISION, he spent approx. INR

60,000 rupees on wholesale purchase of metal scraps and about INR 40,000 on renovating and repairing his ware house for storage.

The remaining fund was invested in the running the business like collecting scrap. His warehouse has been renovated now for better storage and services especially during rainy seasons. He also managed to get his old tractor serviced for efficient mobility in collecting scraps around town.

## ENVISION GTPN Picnic

ENVISION organizes annual GTPN picnic every year in November to celebrate GTPN's launch anniversary (1<sup>st</sup> November). This year it was held the weekend of 6 November 2016 in the picturesque Lodhi garden. The picnic is also a way of getting Tibetan professionals living and working in Delhi come together, to celebrate the common Tibetan/Himalayan heritage and discuss ways to extend our collective commitment and responsibility toward our community.

Over 18 GTPN members (mostly from Delhi) gathered at a pre-chosen spot in Lodhi Garden. There was food for everyone, games/activities played and enjoyed, gorshay (Tibetan dance) performed while networking amongst each other in the beautiful landscape of Lodhi Garden.



## Interface with Machik Co-Founders

Empowering the Vision Project hosted an informal interaction of Machik (an organization that works for social development and innovation in Tibet and based out of Washington DC, US), with Tibetan youths living in and around Delhi. Moderated by Apa Lhamo, ENVISION's Senior Programme Officer, founders of Machik Dr. Losang Rabgey and Dr. Tashi Rabgey made presentations about their work and the upcoming initiatives in India to the young audience.

Stories of their struggle, and experiences of strengthening communities inside Tibet through their rigorous and unwavering grass root social works for the past 18 years inspired the audience.



# STAFF TRAINING & EXPOSURE



## Capacity Building Training

ENVISION applied for the SOIR-IM Capacity Building fund for two capacity building trainings, Communication Skills and Project Management. Both the training proposals were approved and fund was released by SOIR-IM immediately. Communication Skills and Project Management - both these training areas were chosen by ENVISION after feedback from staff and collective assessment on the areas that needed improvement. On approval and release of the grant in July, ENVISION after a thorough study approached 'IMPACT-Partners in Social Development' in Delhi, as the consultancy to undertake the two trainings.

All of ENVISION staff underwent the Capacity building training on Communications. Staff were trained on effective communication aspects, new communication tools and use of social media in informing, advertising ENVISION's work and areas of intervention.

The training on Project Management focused mainly on project strategies, monitoring and evaluations for the entire staff while a day training on organizational and individual performance standards was attended by the management.

The learnings from the two trainings is being institutionalised through our ongoing programmes and new initiatives.

ENVISION is grateful to SOIR-IM for the fund and support.

## Staff Exposure Visit to UK

Tenzin Tsundue, ENVISION Financial Administrator and Tibet Relief Fund (TRF) Liaison officer visited London, UK for an official exposure visit on invitation from TRF, UK Office from 24 July till 10 August 2016.

During his visit Tenzin Tsundue also met Susan Robinson, Senior Project Officer and some other student volunteers of Leeds University. In the past, students from the University volunteered at Ngoenga School for Tibetan Children with Special Needs, Dekyiling, Dehradun. He also attended the WOMAD Festival where TRF has been participating with a Tibet stall that promotes and creates awareness about the Tibetan people, their life in Tibet and in exile.

Tsundue had the opportunity to meet and learn from the team at the TRF UK office about the programme and their work in UK and abroad including India.



Patron: His Holiness The 14th Dalai Lama

**Empowering The Vision Project**  
First Floor  
C-72, East of Kailash  
New Delhi-110065  
India

**Telephone:** +91-11- 46783331  
+91-11-46548495

**Email:** [envision@empoweringvision.org](mailto:envision@empoweringvision.org)  
[www.empoweringvision.org](http://www.empoweringvision.org)  
[facebook/empoweringthevision](https://facebook.com/empoweringthevision)

### Staff Contacts:

Executive Director: Youdon Aukatsang  
Deputy Director: Nima Chodon  
Senior Programme Officer: Apa Lhamo  
Financial Administrator & TRF Liaison Officer: Tenzin Tsundue  
Digital Manager: Tenzin Topchen  
Programme Co-ordinator: Kelsang Choedon  
Executive Assistant: Tenzing Migmar