

# **Project proposal: Development of a community center in the Netherlands**

## **Introduction**

With over 70 years of systematic repression by the authoritarian government of the Chinese Communist Party, the very survival of Tibetan culture, language and religion is at great risk. The level of control and state interferences in the lives of Tibetans have been getting stronger each year, especially under the administration of President Xi Jinping. Amidst such situations, Tibetans in Tibet place their hope of preserving their unique culture, language and identity on Tibetans living in exile – those living with democratic rights and freedom to practice what they wish.

Netherlands is one such country that has provided Tibetans a new home – a home with a freedom and democratic rights to preserve their identity. There are over 1,000 Tibetans living in Netherlands and have been contributing to the four values of Netherlands – freedom, equality, solidarity, and work. In working towards preserving their culture and passing it on the younger generation, the community have come together to form an organisation– registered as Tibetan Community in Netherlands.

The Tibetan Community in Netherland was founded in 2005 based on key principles highlighting the importance of maintaining non-sectarian and non-regionalism attitudes within our own community. The main responsibility in general is to look after the welfare of Tibetans living in the Netherlands by organizing a platform for them to celebrate their heritage and unique culture and get together as a family.

The Tibetan Community Organization with a formal body of elected board members and executives (President and Vice-President), it has set a structure required to plan and

implement activities required for the preservation of Tibetan culture in exile. However, the challenge remains a lack of physical structure to support its activities. The organization, to make a real impact in fulfilling its goal of preserving Tibetan language, culture and religion, hopes to develop a community center for 1,000 Tibetan-Dutch living in the Netherlands.

### [Urgency and Relevancy](#)

The development of the community centre in the Netherlands is the most important project initiated by the board members and everyone has been working hard to fulfill the goal. The reason behind the urgent needs of community hall is to meet the demands of in growing numbers of newcomers and young Tibetan kids in the Netherlands. It is our top priority goal to create a cultural hub where we can preserve and practice our tradition, language and cultures. There are indeed different Buddhist religious centres in the Netherlands, but our goal is to establish a multipurpose Tibetan community centre to facilitates and maintain the identity and build the community engagements.

The language plays an important role in establishing your identity, appreciating your heritage, and create a sense of community. As a result, we established Tibetan school to facilitates the Tibetan young kids to learn their language and make them appreciate their heritage. But it has been a difficult task in terms of facilitating proper classrooms and other amenities for the students. We have had to change number of locations for the school as the classed were held on a rent and it was definitely a difficult mission without a proper school of our own. It's getting difficult with the in growing numbers of students each year, so it is urgent to establish a community centre to preserve and cherish our own identity and cultures.

We have had a good relationship with other Tibetan Community, local government and organisations supporting the cause of Tibet. We are fortunate and blessed to have a great deal of assistance from Tibet Support Group and International Campaign for Tibet (ICT)

for all these years. We have had all sources of help and a great teamwork with them. The Tibetan community is deeply indebted for their support, assistance and guidance.

**Vision:** To be a reliable and multipurpose Tibetan Community centre in Netherlands to develop and build community engagement for the promotion of universal sense of oneness, happiness, and compassion by sharing the value of distinct Tibetan arts, culture, and heritage.

**Mission:** To preserve, promote and share the distinct Tibetan culture while learning and practising the four key values of Netherlands.

**Objectives:**

- To preserve the distinct Tibetan culture and tradition by establishing a community centre to allow the Tibetans to meet and celebrate the different occasions in a year.
- To facilitate the younger Tibetan generation by opening a regular Tibetan school and to meet the needs of ingrowing Tibetans in the Netherlands in terms of the preservation of our own language in Dutch society.
- To provide cultural, spiritual, recreational, and educational programs and opportunities by creating an awareness and understanding of the unique Tibetan culture and Tibetan values of altruism, loving-kindness, compassion, and non-violence. The community will promote the harmony and friendship in the multicultural inclusive Dutch society.
- To establish a network to help newcomers and build a bridge between local Tibetans and different government organisations especially those working with the refugees. The community will encourage an active participation and integration within the Dutch society.
- To serve as multipurpose Tibetan office for community engagement in different areas

### Timeframe for the project

1. The project was first initiated by fifth executive/ board members of Tibetan Community Netherlands in 2019.
2. After the completion of their terms in February 2021, it was further carried out by sixth board members of the Tibetan Community and the project is aimed to finished by 1st of February 2024.
3. The reason for this date of completion is that the project was being undertaken by the sixth board members of Tibetan community in the Netherlands and they were assigned to complete the project before their term end in 2024.
4. If the project was not able to be executed by 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2024, the 7<sup>th</sup> board members will take the responsibilities and further carry the remaining task of the project. Refer document .....for the detailed information about the whole process of the transferring project involving the board members and a special committee for the project of Tibetan community hall.

### The usage of the community hall

The community hall will be used for the following purposes:

- As a venue for the Tibetan school, facilitating young people on subject matters including Buddha dharma, Tibetan cultural knowledge, Tibetan spoken and written language, as well as ethics and moral studies, which is beyond the normal spiritual teachings of Buddhism, also to be used when facilitators including Gurus, Geshe, Scholars etc. are invited to facilitate workshops.
- To be gradually established as an institution, where the complete information is to be imparted on subjects including deeper knowledge around Tibetan politics, culture, and spirituality.

- To facilitate a space for the office of the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) in the Netherlands.
- The community hall can be used as a common space and meeting point for every Tibetans living in the Netherlands. There will be a Tibetan canteen for the refreshment and a stall which sells Tibetan items.
- The hall could be used to organize different entertainments events, fundraising activities that is within the confines of what is allowed within local laws and regulations.
- A community hall which could be used as the office of the Tibetan Community and the address of the hall could be used as the official address of the Tibetan Organisation.
- A non-sectarian Buddhist centre which functions on the principals of non-sectarian values and a culture institution promoting the culture and traditions of Tibetan is to be established.
- A community hall to host the meetings and speeches by the delegates of the Central Tibetan administration, India and the members of the NGOs working for the Tibetan cause.
- Gradually, it could become a facility that could be rented out to others to host events.

### Strategies to pay back the loans on time

- There will be some incomes earned through the activities mentioned above.
- To know the total expected income earned from the above-mentioned activities per year and how many total years it will take to pay off the loan completely, refer the Chapter; Expected income for paying off the loan completely in first three years (Page.....)

### The proposed size of the community hall and the facilities

- Between 800 to 1000meter square.
- The size of the hall that could be used for an assembly of up to 350-500 people.

- Where the classrooms are available.
- Amenities such as toilets, kitchen, and meeting rooms in good condition.
- A hall that has sole legitimate ownership by Tibetan Community in Netherlands without any shareholders and influencers. A valid document was needed to be issued by the housing agencies and respective notary.
- The best option would be to have property issued by the Netherlands Government.

### **Being in accordance with local rules and regulations**

- To make sure that everything is conducted or carried out according to the local rules and regulations, a qualified housing agent and a lawyer relevant to the activities is to be hired as an adviser at appropriate time.
- We will seek advice and consult both Tibetan parliamentarians and the representative of CTA.
- We will seek guidance from few resourceful and well-informed local people to advise us at an ongoing basis like Tsering Jampa and Nachungma etc...

### **Key people that would support the project and provide important instructions**

- The above-mentioned people.
- Support letters from two Tibetan representatives.
- Support letter from Brussel Representative of CTA.
- Support letters from Departments of Central Tibetan Administration.
- We plan to include a support letter to purchase the property from Local government.

Please refer document..... for the support letters

### Expenses for the Community Hall

Numbers	Explanation	Total amount in Euro
1	According to a recent research and enquiries of some similar properties which fits in with what amenities are required in the property we require. It would cost...	€ 1,050,000-/-
2	Expected expenses related to the fees of real estate agency and production of relevant legal papers (notary) would cost....	€ 12,000-/-
3	For the cleaning and painting of the property, it would cost....	€ 10,000-/-
4	For facilities such as heaters and restoration fees, it would cost...	€8,000-/-
5	Toilets and other items to be fixed would cost....	€ 23,000-/-
6	Small expenses here and there for this project	€ 10,000-/-
7	Tibetan Mural	€ 12,000-/-
8	Expenses for the tables and chairs for the classrooms and community hall	€ 9,000-/-
9	Other items for classrooms	€ 4.000-/-
10	Renovation and other required necessities for the Kitchen	€ 21,000-/-
11	Dharma text, religious articles, Tibetan books, and altars for offerings	€ 30.000-/-
12	Tax expenses for the building	€ 8,000-/-

Total expenses for the community property/hall    Euro1,197,000-/-
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**Expected Income for paying off the loans completely (First Year)**

Number	Explanation	Total amount in Euro
1	From three main events excluding Losar <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Birthday of His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama</li><li>• Nobel Peace Prize Day</li><li>• Tibetan Democracy Day</li></ul>	€23,000-/-
2	Income and fund received for the Tibetan school	€7,000-/-
3	Income from selling foods on special occasions	€8,500-/-
4	Income from general fundraising activities such as selling foods and drinks and small organised games	€7,200-/-
5	Income from religious and ritual activities	€8000-/-
6	Income from small events like birthday celebrations etc.	€6000
7	Income from various activities and specific donations for the community hall	€22,000-/-
8	Income from the Tibetan stalls	€5,000-/-
9	Income earned from Tibetan New Year- Losar celebration	€10,000-/-

Total Income    € 96,700-/-
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### Expected Income for paying off the loans completely (Second Year)

Numbers	Explanation	Total amount in Euro
1	From three main events excluding Losar <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Birthday of His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama</li><li>• Nobel Peace Prize Day</li><li>• Tibetan Democracy Day</li></ul>	€ 24,000-/-
2	Income and fund received for the Tibetan school	€ 12,000-/-
3	Income from selling foods on special occasions	€ 15,000-/-
4	Income from general fundraising activities such as selling foods and drinks and small organised games	€ 7,200-/-
5	Income from religious and ritual activities	€ 10,500-/-
6	Income from small events like birthday celebrations etc.	€ 10,000-/-
7	Income from various activities and specific donations for the community hall	€ 35,000-/-
8	Income from the Tibetan stalls	€ 8,000-/-
9	Income earned from Tibetan New Year- Losar celebration	€ 10,000-/-

Total Income € 133,700-/-
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### Expected Income for paying off the loans completely (Third Year)

Numbers	Explanation	Total amount in Euro
1	From three main events excluding Losar <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Birthday of His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama</li><li>• Nobel Peace Prize Day</li><li>• Tibetan Democracy Day</li></ul>	€ 25,000-/-
2	Income and fund received for the Tibetan school	€ 15,000-/-
3	Income from selling food on special occasions	€ 8,500-/-
4	Income from general fundraising activities such as selling foods and drinks and small organised games	€ 20,000-/-
5	Income from religious and ritual activities	€ 13,500-/-
6	Income from small events like birthday celebrations etc.	€ 12,000-/-
7	Income from various activities and specific donations for the community hall	€ 50,000-/-
8	Income from the Tibetan stalls	€ 8,000-/-
9	Income earned from Tibetan New Year- Losar celebration	€ 10,000-/-

Total Income Euro: 144,000-/-
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### Current Budget for community hall

Total budget in Euro	€ 300,000/-
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#### 12) Executive committee responsible for the project

- Adviser: Ex-representative of CTA for Brussels Hon. Ngodup Dorje
- Adviser: Nachungma
- President: Dawa Tsering
- Vice President: Karma Ngawang
- Tibetan Secretary: Lob Phuntsok
- English secretary: Pashi Tsomo
- Treasurer: Tsultrim
- Accountant Pema: Lithang Lobsang
- Community relation officer: Pasang Dolma
- In charge officer: Ngawang Dhondup

Tibetan Community Nederland