



TIBETAN ARTS AND LITERATURE INITIATIVE 2013 ACTIVITY REPORT

1) RECORD NUMBER OF TEACHING WORKSHOPS

During the month of July 2013 TALI was able to provide four workshops reaching close to two hundred teachers. Among them were all kindergarten teachers from Xinghai county, in Xining Province. This is the first time TALI is officially invited by **county local authorities** to train their teachers. Our two most experienced American Montessori trainers, Mr. Hilary Cate and Ms. Jessica Hammes, were in charge of the workshops, although we also had guest lectures by Taiwanese Montessori expert Kevin Tseng and US-trained Tibetan educator Tsering Choedron. As usual, all these workshops were free of charge for the participants. TALI also provided grants to cover travel, food and lodging expenses for the Tibetan attendees.



Jessica Hammes (picture 1) and Hilary Cate (picture 2) providing training in Xining, 2013

2) TWO NEW TALI BOOKS DISTRIBUTED. TALI distributed one more **children book** in Tibetan, *Red Earth, Clear Sky*, and well as the **first Tibetan-language Montessori manual for teachers** to instruct them on how to teach Tibetan language in early childhood education settings. Due to TALI's influence and workshops in Tibetan areas in China, kindergarten education centers are spreading rapidly. We hope this book guides these new teachers in the most efficient techniques to teach Tibetan at an early age.

3) TALI GIVES THREE ADVANCED SCHOLARSHIPS. TALI was able to give two special scholarships to two teachers and one head of school from Tibetan

areas in Qinghai province to advance their studies in early-childhood education in the Chinese city of Suzhou (China) and in Austin (Texas).

Female Tibetan teachers Hongqi and Hua Deji, who have attended several TALI workshops in the past, were selected to attend a Montessori training offered in the city of Suzhou during the month of July. The training focused on classroom management techniques. This was the first time these teachers left their province to attend a highly specialized training in a Chinese city.



TALI Grantee, Hua Deji (on the left), attending a Montessori workshop in Suzhou

Tibetan head of school Sonam Dorje was given a scholarship to intern at our partner Montessori school, The Children School (Austin, TX), in the month of November. Mr. Sonam Dorje, who has opened three kindergarten centers for Tibetan children in Qinghai province and has attended several of our workshops in Tibet, spent two weeks as an intern at The Children School, and had a chance to visit other public and private schools, including special education centers, in the Austin area.

4) MORE TIBETAN LANGUAGES MATERIALS TO BE DOWNLOADED FROM OUR WEBSITE. Our volunteers in charge of TALI's website have translated and uploaded many Tibetan-language materials for Tibetan parents, children and teachers. These materials are downloaded, free of charge, by Tibetans in China and in exile: <http://www.talitibet.org/>

5) TALI'S FIRST TIBETAN LANGUAGE STORY CONTEST FOR CHILDREN. In Spring 2013 TALI conducted its first Tibetan language story contest for children. Many Tibetan children from India and the US submitted their stories and received prizes in different categories (samples were published on our website). With contests like this TALI attempts to promote and reward Tibetan-language literacy among Tibetan children.