

# TIBET HERITAGE FUND 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

建築文化遺產基金會 2010 年度報告

ཨར་ལས་ཤུལ་བཞག་ཐེབས་ཅུ་ལྷན་ཚོགས་ཀྱི་༢༠༡༠་ལོའི་སྒྲན་བྱ།

## JYEKUNDO EARTHQUAKE



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# Introduction



## **Tibet Heritage Fund in 2010**

2010 saw two major disasters in the Himalayan areas. The 800-year-old town of Jyekundo (Yushu in Chinese) was devastated by an earthquake of 7.1 Richter magnitude in April. In August, after an unprecedented cloudburst, much of Ladakh was hit by flash floods and landslides. Both disasters cost many lives, and destroyed even more homes and livelihoods. At both sites, THF was engaged in relief work, particularly in long-term reconstruction.

In Jyekundo, the historic mud-and-timber house we had just restored in 2009 was one of the few very buildings that survived the earthquake. In Leh, parts of the historic old town restored by THF also went unharmed. This means that the traditional building technologies on the Tibetan plateau have a lot to teach us, and that contemporary planners and builders ignore this knowledge at the peril of the affected communities.

## **About Tibet Heritage Fund**

TIBET HERITAGE FUND (THF) is an international non-profit organization engaged in the field of international cooperation. We work for sustainable development of communities, often but not exclusively within the Tibetan cultural realm.

Projects such as rehabilitation of traditional settlements and restoration of historic monuments are designed to primarily benefit the local residents. Communities, local governments and institutions are important counterparts. THF runs a large vocational training program to build up local capacity, create economic opportunities and to keep traditional building skills and crafts alive. In historic settlements and cities we carry out social surveys and develop rehabilitation proposals. We also research and document traditional Tibetan building technology.

## **The Tibetan Cultural Realm**

Since over a thousand years, Tibetan culture has spread over the entire Himalayan regions, and had a profound effect on Chinese emperors and Mongolian conquerors. In the past, artisans, spiritual masters, pilgrims and traders would travel widely across the Himalayan plateau and adjacent regions. Borders had little meaning for them. The events of the 20th century has led to new borders being drawn, and ancient borders, that for centuries have marked little more than local taxation base, have become impregnable walls separating communities. This is depriving Himalayan culture of its traditional dynamics.

As a result of the advent of modernity, many historic monuments, sites and settlements have disappeared, and traditional skills are in decline. Yet these historic monuments and settlements, and the skills that created them, hold an enormous potential to the future welfare of the people on the plateau. It seems a tragic waste to let all this slip away, so that once-unique Himalayan towns and settlements end up looking like towns anywhere else in Asia. However, it is always dangerous to romanticize, and the inhabitants of the Tibetan cultural realm have legitimate aspirations to reach the same level of comfort and economic progress as people elsewhere. THF assists local communities to find an individual balance that suits them, between tradition and modernity, village life and globalization.

THF's projects are therefore aimed at generating employment and other opportunities for people to improve their livelihoods.

Currently we are trying to work across borders in countries that are part of the Tibetan cultural realm, working with masons from Lhasa, carpenters from Amdo and painters from Ladakh.

The aims and goals portrayed here, and the communities that we work with, need continued support.

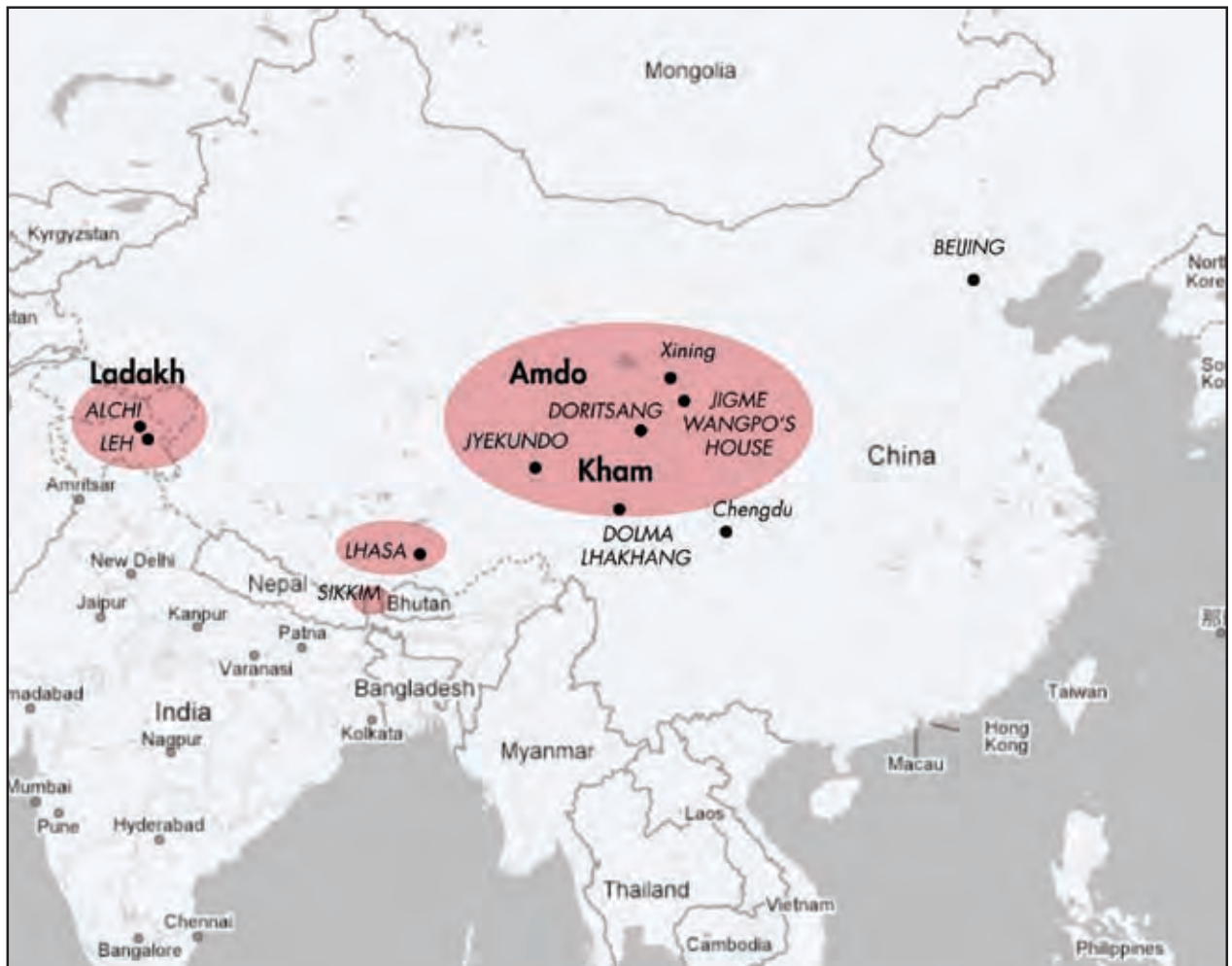
Thanks to all our supporters and donors.





# Map of THF Project Sites

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THF is not responsible for depictions of international borders

# 1. CHINA PROGRAMME

## 1.1 Qinghai Programme

མེ་ཁུ་མདོ་ས་འགྲུལ་བསྐྱར་གསོ།

### 1.1.1 Jyekundo Earthquake Relief

*Location: Jyekundo Town, Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province.*  
*Duration 2006 - on-going*  
*Costs in 2010: € 22,660.81*

A 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck Jyekundo (Chinese: Yushu, 玉树) on April 14, 2010. The quake and a string of aftershocks, the biggest being 6.3 magnitude, toppled houses, and temples, triggered landslides, damaged roads, and cut power and communication lines. More than 10,000 people were reported injured, many were trapped under collapsed buildings. Local sources claim that around 10,000 people died. Monks from all the surrounding monasteries did the immediate rescue work and also cremated the dead.

Yushu County had an official population of 77,000 people living in 16,300 households with an average of 4.6 persons per family unit in the year 2000. All households were affected by the earthquake, and nearly 100% of Jyekundo town's population became homeless.

The Government and several local NGOs started distributing tents to the earthquake victims immediately after the disaster, as about 80% of the buildings are momentarily not inhabitable the temporary shelters had to be transformed into more permanent residences.

The government has announced that reconstruction will take three years. According to plans on public display in Jyekundo, an entirely new land use map has been designed for the reconstruction of the entire town. The government is planning to build new uniform homes of 80 m<sup>2</sup> for the affected families. The reconstruction plan is relocating many households. Many locals reject the reconstruction plan and especially the relocation plans. Buildings that have not suffered damage from the earthquake have since been demolished because the land has been designated a different purpose. Many residents are now losing their land and still more their homes. There is no proper relocation plan so people do not know where to move for the winter or where to store their belongings. The tent city outside of town is further growing until this day.



*Photos on right: Earthquake damage (top: local news media, rest THF), and the tent city.*

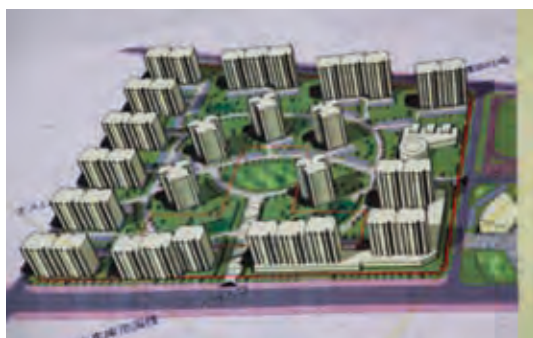




*Top: Gyatsong-tsang House, restored by THF in 2009, still standing after the earthquake.*

*Left: Many concrete-frame structures were severely damaged by the earthquake.*

*Below: the government proposal to rebuild Jyekundo as high-rise town after the earthquake.*



*Below left: Kartsog Lhakhang after earthquake.*

*Below right: Mapping of damaged wall-paintings.*



## Earthquake Relief Work

THF immediately dispatched a mission to the stricken town, headed by Beijing-based architect Miss Nie Yun. She brought some relief goods and contacted our many friends in the region to ascertain their safety and their needs.

After having supplied modest humanitarian aid, we turned our attention to the buildings. The Gyatsong-tsang house, which THF restored in 2009 the previous year of the disaster, was still standing. It had survived the earthquake, and so had all its residents who had been in bed when the quake hit. Our team was very encouraged by this news - proving the quality of work as well as the quake-resistance of traditional buildings.

The THF team, including German architects and students, studied the damages, to understand how and what kind of buildings were affected. We were also concerned about the planned relocation of residents, and assisted families to stay in their homes by repairing them. A report on the post-earthquake conditions is available on the THF website.

Supported by ACCA/ACHR and MISEREOR.

## Kartsog Lhakhang

In August 2010, THF's foreign experts entered the Yushu disaster area and conducted a site study to estimate the actual damages of Kartsog Lhakhang. This is the oldest temple in the town, and the only one whose wall-paintings survived the Cultural Revolution.

One group looked at the structural condition, and the other, headed by French restorer Melodie Bonnat, looked at the condition of the wall-paintings. Detailed documentation (available for download from [www.tibetheritagefund.org](http://www.tibetheritagefund.org)) was carried out in preparation for a full-scale restoration in 2011.

Supported by Trace Foundation.







## Gongnatsang House

Before the earthquake, the Gongnatsang House was the most significant and prominent building in the old town. Its long traditional façade is along the main entrance road into Jyekundo's old town on the slope, next to a large pile of white mani-stones which is widely used for circumambulation. Its interiors have preserved a wealth of traditional tracery window, sliding doors and painted timber elements. It has a large central courtyard, and in its 130-year history the house has hosted many high ranking guests and travellers, providing pilgrims with free accommodation.

In the earthquake, the main residential part and some of the courtyard-facing rooms were badly damaged. Fortunately, the long façade remained standing. The owners, an old lady and her son (who is monk in Jyeku monastery) obtained permission from the authorities to keep the building, and to restore it themselves, avoiding its demolition and relocation of the family into an 80m<sup>2</sup> pre-fab concrete shelter as happened to 80% of Jyekundo's population.

In 2010, THF secured the site, rescued many of the decorated timber elements, stabilized the façade and reconstructed the residential wing for the Gongnatsang family.

This project was supported by ACCA.



Top row: Gongnatsang before the earthquake.  
Middle: after the quake.  
Right and below: reconstruction in progress of the main building and the THF Yushu Team with local site manager Anna Wozniak.



Costs in 2010: € 37,414.64

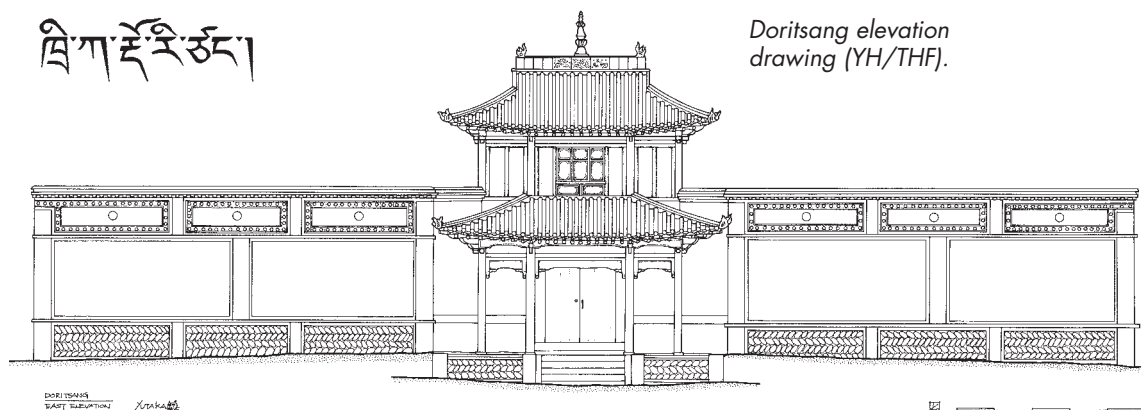
The construction work started in 2010. First came



*Top: work on the platform in front of Doritsang's main hall. Below: our team got substantial help from the Doritsang monks and nuns during the project.*



The east side building was converted into a class room and library with wooden floors and bookcases. The south and west side buildings were converted into accommodation, with dormitories, kitchen and shower room.



*Doritsang elevation drawing (YH/THF).*





The outer wall, damaged by cracks and erosion, was repaired and the foundation was reinforced all around with stones. Original decorative elements in the wall were placed back in position and the traditional lime mortar was used as mortar. In the kitchen a heated-bed platform (like the Chinese *khang*) was built, which warms up by circulating hot smoke from the stove, a common local system. The community provided a solar power shower system and interior fittings. Courtyards and stairs were paved and repaired with granite. The work was completed in November 2010.

As the result of rehabilitation and upgrading, the lower courtyard space was restored from the decayed condition and re-activated as a community school. The community started to arrange the space; they started to prepare furniture, kitchen facilities for accommodation, and also various books stored as well as new collections for their public library. Over the winter 2010, they organized the first teaching in the school. Three teachers were invited and are giving class 5 days a week.

This project was supported by MISEREOR with substantial contribution from the Doritsang community.

*Top: view of completed project.*

*Below: team and community in front of gate.*



*Top: grinding the boiled roots into a pulp, this is spread on a framed mesh and then left to dry.*

## Paper making workshop

THF organized a workshop of traditional paper making with the Doritsang community. The Doritsang temple has a large number of wooden printing block collections, many quite old, with various contents such as religious, philosophy, medical and astrology etc. They have offered the printing service on request. In the past they prepared their own paper for printing, today they simply buy paper from the market. In Doritsang only a few old people remember papermaking from their youth. An old man told us that "the paper made with *ramarechog*, a local plant which contains a natural toxin, is free of insect damage and preserves its colour, slightly brownish, gentle for the eye for long time reading."

THF and Doritsang community developed the idea to revive local paper manufacture. A workshops and trials resulted in a first production. This may become an important income generating tool.

For setting up of the paper manufacture, THF and Doritsang community visited the neighboring Rebkong region. They met craftsman Mr. Pende Gyal, 65 years old, who explained the process and methods step by step. Tibetan paper is often made from tree skin or grass as fiber tissue, depending on availability. In Doritsang, we wanted to use the local *ramarechog* grass.

After the lecture, the team returned to Doritsang village and conducted trials. Finally, a workshop of papermaking was conducted. We successfully completed the first batch of paper. The community was excited about the result of the first trial. Even though the quality can still be improved, it was a great step to restart an old tradition.

This project was supported by MISEREOR.

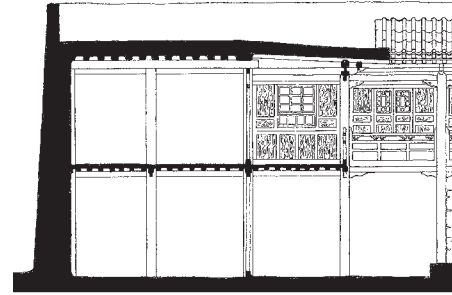
### 1.1.3 Jigme Wangpo's Historic Residence

*Location: Jentsa County, Huangnan  
Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai.  
Duration 2010  
Costs in 2010: € 12,601.47*

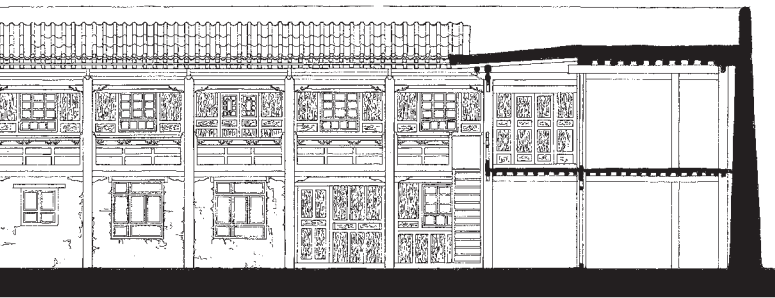
Jigme Wangpo (1728-1791) was born into the family of a local ruler. In 1743, he was officially recognized as the Second Jamyang Sheypa (the reincarnation of the founder of Amdo Labrang monastery) and took up residence in Labrang monastery. His birthplace and local residence has been preserved by his descendants, located at Nangra's "Jambanang" village about 1.3km west from the Serkhang monastery (restored by THF in 2006-2009). The building is a two-storey timber framed structure with wooden panel partitions, typical for the vernacular architecture of the Amdo region. Special elements of the building are the long support pillars that go through two floors, and the gallery with wooden railing and elaborate carvings. This is a masterpiece of 18th century Amdo residential buildings.

Previously, THF already conducted survey and analysis to prepare for the restoration. We bought timber based on our restoration estimation and stored it over the winter for seasoning. In 2010, work started with the removal of the roof. Roof tiles, ceiling boards, rafters and decorative carvings were arranged in order and re-usable items selected and then cleaned.

*Jigme Wangpo House,  
courtyard elevation (JJ/THF).*







Left page, clockwise from far corner:  
THF artisans repairs historic wattle-and-daub wall;  
carpenter master Choetchok replaces roof timbers;  
carpenters reassemble historic roof elements;  
roof is being re-tiled.

This page, from top:  
interior view of kitchen room after restoration;  
view of the courtyard gallery after restoration;  
owners' family and the THF team.

## འཛིགས་མེད་དབང་པོའི་འཁྱུང་ཁང་།

Meanwhile the carpenters worked on the structural repairs, starting to deal with damaged pillars. We temporarily jacked up the structure; the rotten parts were cut off and joined with new wood pieces, and a new stone was added as base for each pillar to prevent future water infiltration. The pillars were brought back into their original position by the experienced carpenters.

Structural work also took place in the interior. The team extended the wooden floor and a "khang" bed platform to improve the living condition. Historic wooden panels, floor boards, panel windows and ornamental carvings were cleaned and repaired where necessary.

A group of Tibetan masons worked on the interior brick partition walls and plastering. One part of the west side wall was rebuilt with rammed earth, and the room of cowshed was reinforced with stones to prevent further damage from humidity. After the carpenters placed back the roof structure, the masons sealed the roof. Roof tiles were placed starting from the eaves piece by piece with traditional lime mortar. A drain system was built with PVC pipes. The courtyard pathway was paved with flat stones, and the open space with blue square bricks.

In June 2010, the rehabilitation work of Jigme Wangpo house was completed.

This unique timber building is a rare example of traditional Amdo architecture, which villagers and artisans have come to see as their common treasure.

Supported by MISEREOR and the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Beijing.







## 1.2 Sichuan Programme

### 1.2.1 Dolma Lhakhang

བླ་མ་ཐང་ལྷ་ཁང་།

Location: Langtang, Sershu county, Kardze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan.

Duration 2009 - 2010

Costs in 2010: € 22,546.43

The Langtang Dolma Lhakhang is one of the 12 temples built by emperor Srongtsan Gampo in the 7th century to pin down the demoness described as underlying Tibet. These temples were strategically placed across the Tibetan empire, and their locations seem to define the extent of the empire at that time. The Langtang Dolma Lhakhang is said to have been built on the right hand of the demoness (see above). The present building is a later reconstruction.

THF prepared for the project the previous, and in 2010 started with bundling the *penbey* (*span bad*) twigs. The bundles were cut in middle and the cut ends were colored with red iron pigment, called *za* in Tibetan. *Za* color works as insect repellent and protects from natural weathering. The 1.3m high roof parapet was repaired once in the 1980s, but was sagging already. We removed it piece by piece and selected elements that could be re-used.

The carpenters also carried out structural repairs. One problem found was the lintel above the rapsel window on the façade, which was bent due to heavy roof weight. It had to be replaced and weight was redistributed. After the numbering of wooden parts, wooden partitions and rafters on the roof level were dismantled. The carpenters jacked up the main beams to replace damaged pillars and adjusted their positions. Beams and rafters were re-arranged, and two additional rooms for monks created.







Traditional lattice windows were made to replace 1980s windows.

After completing the external support structure for the parapets, the bundled *penbey* twigs were fixed with *tsalu* wooden nails. The backside was fixed into a rammed earth wall.

Roof drainage was improved with additional spouts.

After the structural repair was completed, the entire building was replastered, wooden elements painted and walls whitewashed.

Finally, a new stand for the dharma wheel and two deer symbol was built.

The monastery contributed with stone paving for the courtyard and external circumambulation path. The monks organized quarrying flat stones for the paving, matched with the restored building and so keeping the historic atmosphere.

This project was supported by Trace Foundation and MISEREOR.

Left page from top: 17th century painting of the Songtsan Gampo temples 'pinning down the demoness', Dolma Lhakhang marked in pink. Head monk Dorje Dundrup displays the statue of Dolma said to date from the 7th century.

Carpenters making the *penbey* bundles (1), creating the overhang structure for the parapet (2) and assembling and condensing the *penbey* wall (3).



This page from top: THF carpenter team restoring the timber frame on the roof; restored roof gallery; facade of Dolma Lhakhang before, during & after project.



# 2 LHASA RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

ལྷ་ས་རྫོང་གི་ལྷ་ས་གྲྭ་པོ་

## 2.1 Lhasa Clinic Project

*Location: Lhasa Prefecture, Shungseb Nunnery.  
Costs in 2010: € 7,554.71*

THF built a clinic for traditional Tibetan medicine and basic health care at Shungseb Nunnery, south of Lhasa.

Tugged away in the mountain range between the Lhasa valley and the Yarlung Tsangpo River lies one of Central Tibet's most respected nunneries, Shungseb. Founded in the 19th century, the monastery also serves as social support centre for the neighbouring villages. Previously, there was no health care facility in the area.

According to the monastery's wishes, the clinic was built attached to one of the main prayer halls, which itself was being rebuilt after destruction during the Cultural Revolution.

This project was funded by the German Embassy in Beijing.

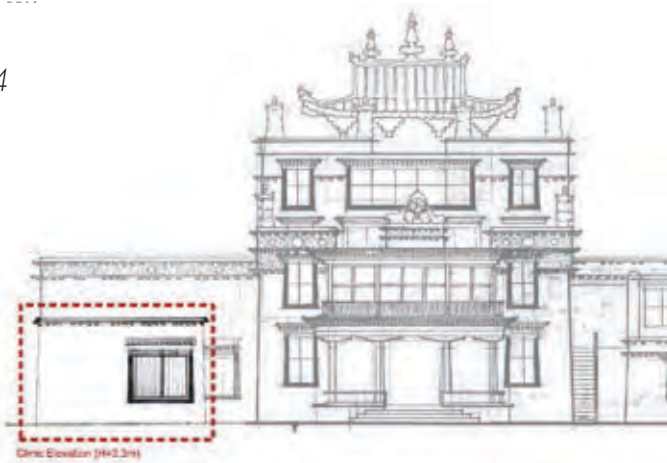


*From top: Shungseb Nunnery is located in the mountains above Chushul.*

*All the building materials for the clinic were transported up the mountain by local villagers free of charge.*

*Left: the clinic is attached to the newly-built main assembly hall.*

*Below: details of the construction with local volunteers.*





# 3 INDIA PROGRAMME

ལ་དྭགས་སྤྱི་ཁོང་རྒྱུ་སྤྱོད་

## 3.1 Ladakh Programme

### 3.1.1 Ladakh Flood Relief

Location: Leh, Ladakh, India.

Costs in 2010: € 2,851.41

On August 5, Ladakh was hit by mudslides and flashfloods triggered by a cloudburst. Affected were lower Leh, Choklamsar, Sabu, Shey, Basgo, Nyemo, Skorbuchen, Dhar Hanu and other villages, causing untold destruction and so far about 200 confirmed deaths.

In a phenomenon dubbed “the second Tsunami” by people in Thailand, large numbers of NGOs arrived in Leh with money to construct shelters, whereas most affected Ladakhis were able to move in with relatives and were requiring help to secure new land for safe construction of a home or preventive measures. THF/LOTI advised institutions and NGOs about adequate construction and landslide prevention.

THF/LOTI became active in Choglamsar, a Tibetan settlement area south of Leh. Residents approached us for help, and in cooperation



Top: the mud slide devastated Leh's New Busstand area.



Below: scenes of devastation in Choglamsar.





with the SOS Tibetan Refugee Children Village's director a list of affected family homes in the area was chosen. We successfully repaired six damaged houses in Choglamsar, and three other houses in Leh old town, and prevented collapse of other damaged buildings. The team also worked at removal of soil settled inside buildings after the flood.

These emergency works were executed with funds from ACCA (Asian Coalition for Community Action).



Top: satellite image of central Choglamsar, marked in yellow the homes of PUNCHOK Dolma Thaduk, Wangchuk, Karma Dargyel, Tashi Lhamo, Gapa Tubtan Tenzin and Tsewang Dolma repaired by THF.

Right and below: Repair of damaged family homes in progress.





### 3.1.2 Leh Old Town Project

*Location: Leh, Ladakh, India.*

*Duration 2003 - on-going.*

*Costs in 2010: € 30,042.07*

The historic town of Leh was for centuries the seat of the kings of Ladakh. Since the fall of the monarchy and the changing economic fortunes following regional border conflicts, the old town has lost some of its importance and has fallen into decay.

Due in part to the efforts of THF and its local branch LOTI (Leh Old Town Initiative), there is growing local interest in preserving the historic town. Since 2003, THF/LOTI's old town preservation project has won several awards.

In 2010 we worked on three ancient buildings in Leh, built new drainage, and conducted a clean-up drive.

*Left: restoration of Khargokpa House in progress (top) and nearing completion (center).*

*Below: restoration of the stupa and the adjacent Roqia Bano House (left); facade of Roqia Bano House during restoration (center) and after completion (right).*

#### Roqia Bano House 2

This is a small building, owned by the same family as Roqia Bano 1 (restored in 2009), and located to the west of an ancient stupa.

In 2010, the restoration of the stupa was completed, and the Roqia Bano House 2 was rehabilitated.

Funded by ACCA, co-financing by owner.

#### Khargokpa House (above)

The family owner, originally from Domkhar, settled in Leh old town in this ancient four-storeyed house. After heavy rains, the top two floors collapsed. THF/LOTI provided building materials and labour, windows and doors supplied by the owner.

Funded by ACCA.



### 3.1.3 Central Asian Museum Leh and Research Library

*Location: Leh, Ladakh, India.*

*Duration 2008 - on-going.*

*Costs in 2010: € 46,467.65*

Since 2008, THF has been working on behalf of the Ministry of Tourism, Jammu & Kashmir State, to design and build the Central Asian Museum Leh (CAML). The museum, the first of its kind in Ladakh, will tell the history of Ladakh's place on the Silk Road, and how Ladakhi culture has been influenced over many many centuries

by constant cultural and economic exchanges conducted along caravan trails.

Designed by THF's André Alexander, each floor has architectural features of a different region important: the ground floor is built in Ladakhi style, level 2 in Kashmiri and level 3 in Tibetan style, and the top level will be in the style of Baltistan.

During the 2010 season, the Tibet floor (level 3) was built.



*Top: In 2010, work began on the third level of the museum, the Tibet Floor.*



*The designs of the carvings on pillars and capitals were inspired by traditional Lhasa houses.*



*Master carpenter Tsering Dorje and his team laying the roof beam grid. Below: the museum in May 2011.*



*The nearly-completed Tibet Room.  
Below: the museum in October 2011.*

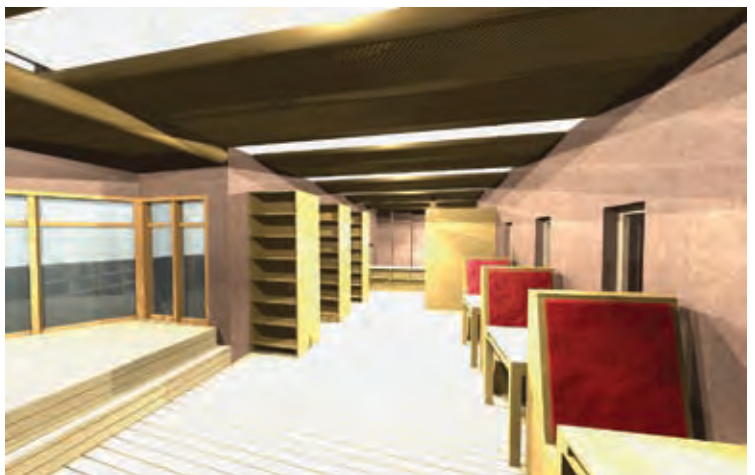
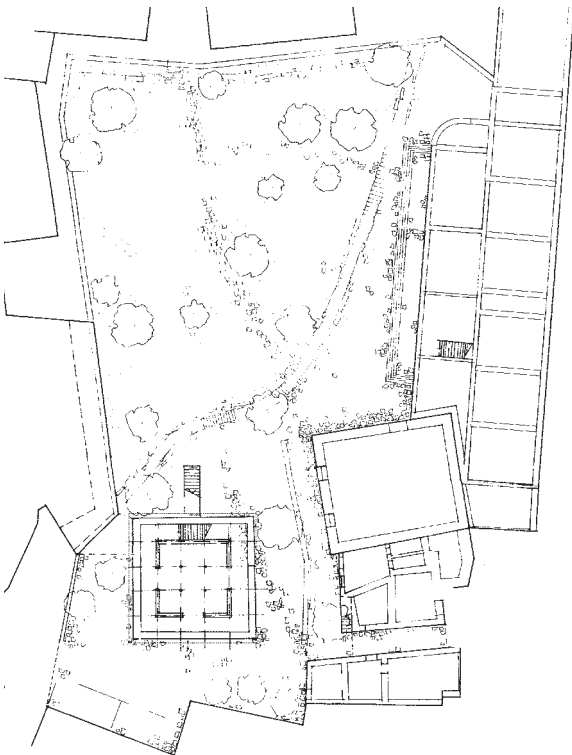




## Trans-Himalayan Research Library

Ladakhi scholar Abdhul Ghani Sheik offered to donate his private book collection if a library could be built as part of the museum complex. With funding by the Embassy of Finland and the J&K Ministry of Tourism, his dream could be realized, and the library building was completed in 2010.

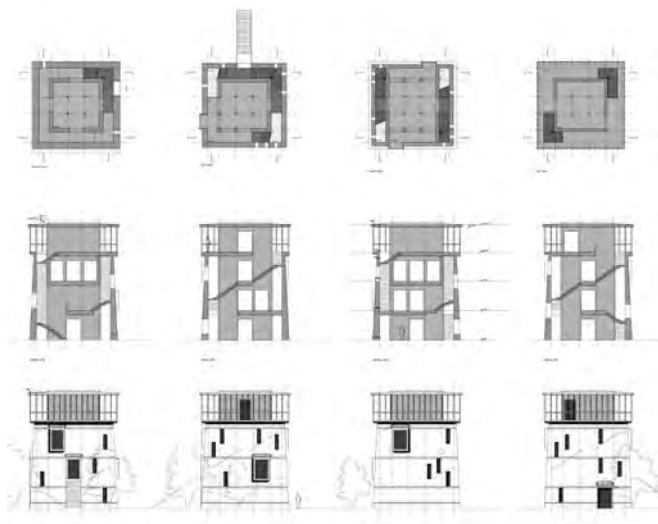
*From top: reading room in progress;  
completed reading room;  
3D simulation of the furnished reading room.*



*Left top: site plan of the Tsa Soma museum complex.*

*Left below: the museum plans.*

*Below: exterior of the completed library building.*



### 3.1.4 Various

#### Water & Sanitation

THF/LOTI continued their long-term project to pave all the major alleyways in the Old Town and fit them with covered drainage. This year, a section close to the White Maitreya Temple was completed.

#### Kaoo House

Work began on the transformation of this historic building into a cafe.

#### Clean-up Drive in Leh Old Town

The clean-up campaign was led by a group of women in the Gogsum area of the old town. Workers were also sent to clean all streets in Old Town. Ninety local residents participated.

#### Solar Electrification Project

THF/LOTI sent a proposal for subsidy of a solar energy plant for the Chutayrangtak neighbourhood, incl. the Central Asia Museum, Research Library and Tsa Soma Mosque.

*Right: mason Tsering Blue paves an alley with local slate stone; welders fit the newly-built drain with removable metal covers*



### 3.1.5 Exhibitions at Lala's Café (Leh Heritage House)

Café/Gallery income 2010: € 3,057.37  
Café/Gallery operating costs: € 3,057.49

In 2010, THF/LOTI organized two new exhibitions in the historic Sankar Labrang converted into a gallery-cum-cafe..

Local student Dhundup showed a selection of his pen and ink drawings of Ladakhi landscapes and monuments. The executive director of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Council was invited as the chief guest.

*Below left: young guest at Lala's Cafe.  
Below right: artist and student Dhundup.*



Thai architect Ms Vipavee Kunavichayanont showed a series of 13 impressionist photos and photo montages featuring prominent locations such as New York, Bangkok and Europe. Instead of familiar landmarks she pictures shadows and reflections creating dream-like landscapes.

Ms Vipavee is a graduate of Harvard University (US) and the Asian Institute of Technology (Bangkok). She has recently founded Design for Disasters, a non-profit research and design initiative focusing on disaster risk management through design.

This was the first time an artist from Thailand exhibited work in Leh.





## 3.2 Sikkim Programme

འབྲས་ལྗོངས།

Sikkim is a former independent kingdom, nestled between Nepal and Bhutan. Tibetan religion and culture have dominated Sikkim since the 13th century, and in the mid-17th century, three Tibetan lama-s crowned the first king, a Tibetan from Minyak in Kham.

In 1975 it became a State of the Indian Union under controversial circumstances. Strong shifts in population patterns have led to a decline of the Sikkimese language (a Tibetan dialect similar to Bhutanese) and culture. Nevertheless, the region preserves over a hundred Buddhist temples and monasteries.

Because of the wet climate (6 months rainy season) historic buildings and wall-paintings are particularly vulnerable. Over the past 25 years, a large number of historic monasteries have been reconstructed in concrete, and conservation has been unheard of.

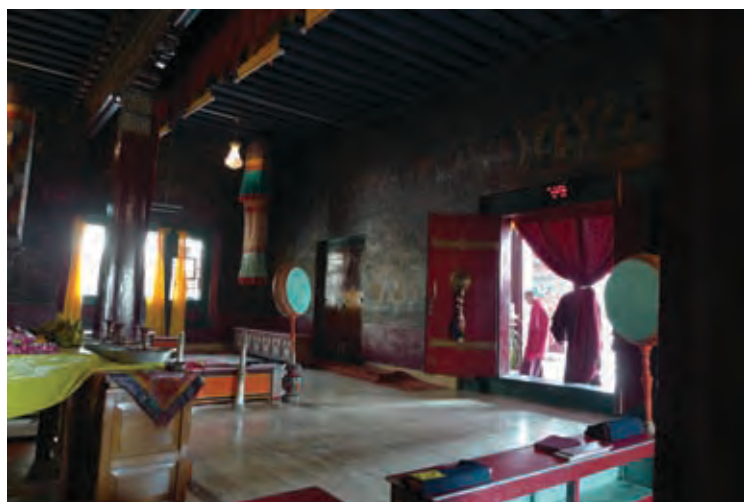
HRH Princess Hope Leezum of Sikkim initiated conservation of Sikkim's heritage, and invited THF's Andre Alexander to the capital, Gangtok.

Close to the former royal palace (today a residence for lama-s) stands the Gangtok Tsuklakhang, the central Buddhist temple of the town.

It was built in the 1920s, and the wall-paintings were done by some of the best painters of Tibet, sent by the Tibetan government. After 1975 palace and temple were transformed into a non-profit trust.

The wall-paintings have become extremely soiled from soot (butter lamps) and because a varnish applied decades ago has darkened.

A project to restore the paintings of the Tsuklakhang, as first restoration project in Sikkim, is planned for 2011.



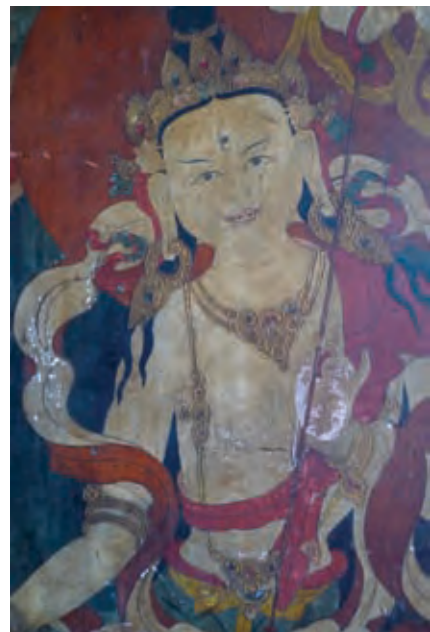
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From top:  
Gangtok Tsuklakhang, monks' quarters in the back.

Interior of the main Dukhang (assembly prayer hall) with darkened wall-paintings.

THF's Andre Alexander with HRH Princess Hope Leezum and local architect Kailash.

Detail of the wall-paintings, damaged by cracks (left) and flaking paint (right), and covered by soot and yellow varnish.



## 4 WALL-PAINTING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

### 4.1 Ladakh Wall-Painting Conservation

ཐེངས་འཁོར་གྱི་སྐབས་སུ་

#### Alchi Tsatsapuri

Duration: 2007-2010

Costs 2010: € 31,546.49

The Tsatsapuri temple complex is located in the upper part of Alchi village. It consists of three shrine buildings and a ruined residential building grouped around a central courtyard. The three buildings are a two-storey teaching and meditation building, a single-storey stupa-hall with lantern, and a three-floor assembly hall. Painting styles, inscriptions, carbon dating and architectural designs suggest that the buildings on the west and north date to the late 13th century, with the eastern building attached as late as the 15th century. The art is comparable to some of the temples in the famous Alchi Choskor, like the Lhakhang Soma.

In 2010, THF completed the four-year conservation project. The three-storey assembly hall for Ridzong monks, known as Chenrezig Lhakhang, had its wall-paintings consolidated, cleaned and partly retouched. The structural faults, caused by a modern rooftop lantern, were corrected. The lantern was rebuilt and fitted with new murals on request of the Ridzong monks.

Painting conservation work was done by German restorer Patrick Jürgens, Anna Kronewirth, and students from the Universities of Applied Sciences of Erfurt and Potsdam. Training of Ladakhi restorers Yangchen Dolma, Sonam Dolma, Skarma Lotos and Tsering Choral continued.

On August 3, the German Ambassador to India, H.E. Mr. Matussek, has inaugurated THF's Tsatsapuri restoration project in Alchi village, Ladakh. The project has been funded for the past three years by the Cultural Section of the German Embassy in India. The event was covered by the local Ladakhi TV news channel.

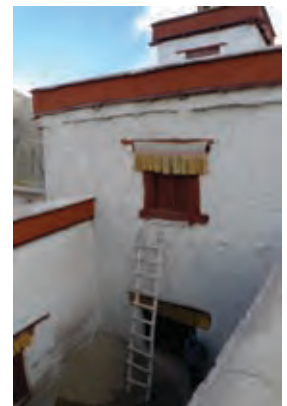
Funded by the German Embassy in Delhi.



From top: restoration of the three-level Chenrezig Dukhang in progress (2) and complete (on the right).

Below left: German Ambassador Thomas Matussek inaugurating the completed temple.

Below right: the Ladakhi team retouching the conserved paintings under German supervision.







*Experienced THF carpenters correct structural settlement in the Chenrezig Dukhang.*



*Tsering Chorol restores the face of a Vajrapani image damaged by roof leaks.*

## Leh White Maitreya Temple

This temple, located in Leh's historic old town, preserves 15th century iconographic details. THF conserved the wall-paintings, which had been damaged over the years because of leaking roofs. THF repaired the roof, and German volunteer restorers Svenja Böhm & Lilly Billesborn consolidated the paintings.

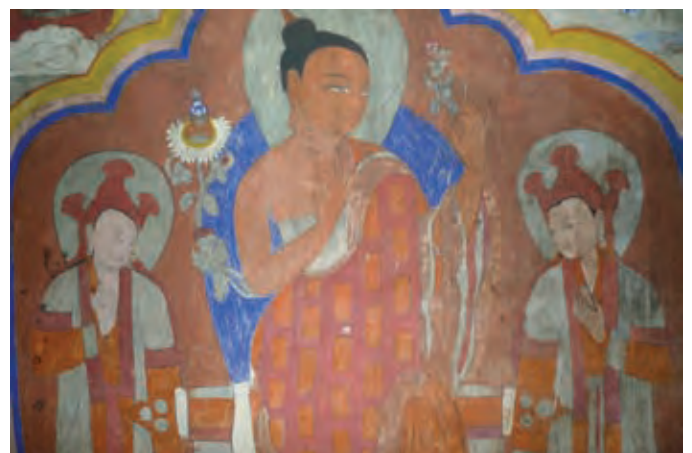
*Right: Svenja & Lilly conserve wall-paintings next to the huge Maitreya Buddha image.  
Below: example of 15th century iconography preserved in the Maitreya temple.*



## 4.2 Tibet Wall-Painting Conservation

### Jyekundo

In the earthquake-devastated Tibetan town of Jyekundo, a THF team made an assessment of the damaged historic wall-paintings in the Kartsog Lhakhang (see page 6 of this report).



## 5. CONFERENCES, TALKS & MEDIA

དཔུང་ཞིག

### 5.1 Conferences

#### Chiangmai

On 12-16 June 2010 THF participated in the Asian Community Architects Meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Organised by ACHR and part of the Asian Coalition for Community Action (ACCA) programme, the meeting brought together 125 participants from 23 and was hosted by Chiang Mai University's Faculty of Architecture.

Participants shared their experiences and projects working to help disadvantaged communities from across Asia and the Pacific. One result of the meeting was the formation of a network of community architects to support each other and to create a big new space for professionals/architects/planners to work with and provide support for urban poor communities.

#### Vancouver

The Twelfth Seminar of the International Association of Tibetan Studies (IATS) was held at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, from 15 to 22 August 2010. The Seminar was convened by Professor Tsering Shakyas. IATS is the premier academic association in the world for Tibetan Studies. IATS organizes the world's major conference for Tibetan Studies every three to four years.

THF's André Alexander organized a panel on Architectural Conservation and Restoration, jointly with Maggie Hui from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He also presented his research paper, called "Demoness, Architecture and Empire - Songtsen Gampo's border-taming Temples".

As member of the Committee for the Study and Conservation of Traditional Tibetan Architecture of the IATS, Alexander gave a presentation to the plenary session of the conference about the current status of preservation of historic architecture on the Tibetan plateau.

THF's Chiangmai delegation (from left): André Alexander, Chiangmai student and volunteer Nimnim, Pimpim de Azevedo, Anna Wozniak, Ken Okuma, Nie Yun and Chiangmai student and volunteer Luntom. Missing from the picture is Stanzin Dolker from Ladakh.



Top: the THF's team presentation, using a drawing made one-the-spot by Pimpim de Azevedo.

Second from top: all participants gathered on the last day, first for a group photo and then for a session of singing.





## Thimphu

The Bhutanese government organized the INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE – LIVING IN HARMONY WITH THE FOUR ELEMENTS, Thimphu December 12-14, 2010, inaugurated by the prime minister of Bhutan.

One of the invited speakers was THF's André Alexander. His presentation featured THF's recent experience with the Yushu earthquake (where a building restored by THF withstood the earthquake) and the flashflood that hit Ladakh in 2010.



## 5.2 Talks & Presentations

While in Sikkim, THF's André Alexander gave a presentation at Rachna Gallery in Gangtok, about THF's work and traditional Lhasa architecture on 6 November. The talk was attended by many local architects, and led to a number of collaborative projects.

## 5.3 THF in the Media - BBC Heritage Hero

THF's André Alexander was selected as one of 12 BBC Heritage Heroes. The THF Ladakh project was featured in the series, broadcast on July 24 and 25. The Ladakh episode can still be watched on YouTube, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojfUuqiO3Yk>.

*From top: inauguration of the Bhutan Disaster Management Conference;  
second day of the conference;  
announcement of the Sikkim talk;  
BBC Heritage Heroes feature (© BBC).*

**MIND THE CONCRETE**  
ANCIENT LHASA AMONG SKYSCRAPERS

friends @ rachna presents  
**André Alexander**  
"author of *The temples of Lhasa*"  
for a talk in a word of mouth event.

THE FIRST FLOOR at RACHNA, Gangtok on the 6th Nov 2010 5:30 pm sharp.

entry - 200/- students - 100/-

André Alexander is one of the founding directors of Tibet Heritage Fund, an international NGO engaged in preservation of architectural heritage in the Tibetan Cultural Realm, including Mongolia and Ladakh. Alexander is also a guest lecturer and researcher at the School of Architecture, Berlin University of Technology, and the author of (among others) "Temples of Lhasa".



## 6. WHO ARE THF

TIBET HERITAGE FUND (THF) is an international non-profit organization founded 1996 in Lhasa and Berlin. THF's aims are to support preservation of cultural heritage and environment; improvement of living conditions for disadvantaged communities, particularly in the sectors employment, education and health; and sustainable and community-based development of communities in fragile and endangered environments.

THF is a registered non-profit organization in Germany, with branches or partner organizations in Hong Kong (China), India and Mongolia.

THF is directed by André Alexander, Pimpim de Azevedo, and Yutaka Hirako; Sylvester Kaben is the treasurer, and Anna Wozniak the site manager in Jyekundo. In Ladakh, the team is supported by draftsman Tsewang Gurmit (Gyurmed), work site manager and accountant Stanzin Dolker and staff Sonam Gyatso.

### Contact THF

info@tibetheritagefund.org

In Ladakh, visit us between April and October at Lakruk House, Stalam, Leh, below the old royal palace.

In China, visit us on Lantau Island in Hong Kong. During work season we move around between Amdo, Kham and Lhasa, and currently with a base in Jyekundo.

In Sikkim, we have set up headquarters in the residential quarters of the Gangtok Tuskla khang.

## THF མཆོམས་སྤྱོར་མཛེན་བསྟུན།

### THF aims and principles

- Assisting poor and disadvantaged communities in both urban and rural settings in their needs for economic development, cultural preservation, health and education
- Conservation with and for local communities (ICOMOS living cities principles).
- Conservation of buildings and of building technology.
- For residential buildings: priority on livability, owner/occupants participate in planning process, protection of tenants.
- For monuments (incl. monasteries): authenticity desired, building history respected, owners participate in planning process.
- Maximum retaining of historic elements (UNESCO Venice charter).
- Accommodation of local demand for pragmatic usability of sites.
- Compromise and Negotiation are routine.

THF is non-political and committed to promote understanding and co-operation between different cultures and nations to benefit world cultural heritage.

THF projects are based on a participatory approach, centered around preservation of indigenous heritage and traditions. Our water and sanitation program is aimed at improving people's living conditions.

THF trains local people in technical skills, such as traditional building skills, architectural design and survey work, mural conservation and general restoration skills.

THF's Ken, Pimpim and André with ACHR's general secretary Somsook Boonyabancha in Chiangmai.





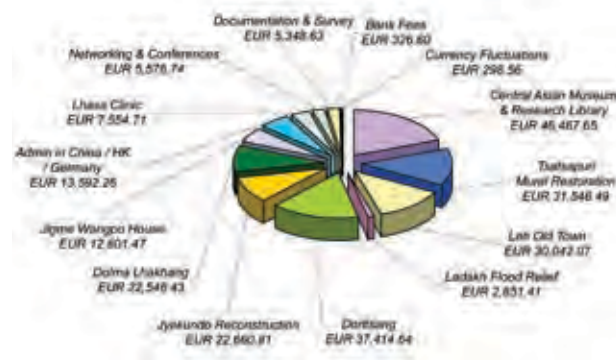
## 7. FINANCIAL REPORT

ཐོག་མཐའ་ལྟར་

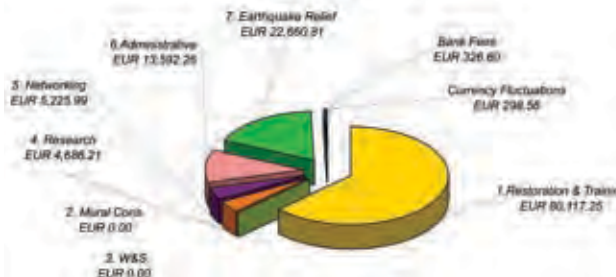
### THF Incoming Funds 2010: EURO 266,394.90

Carry-over from 2009	€ 39,393.51
MISEREOR (Germany)	€ 53,400.00
ACCA (ACHR Bangkok)	€ 40,778.45
German Embassy Delhi	€ 37,628.19
Max Ma, Hong Kong	€ 22,609.09
Finland Embassy Delhi	€ 14,353.02
Anjuman M.u.I. Leh	€ 8,464.53
German Embassy Beijing	€ 8,110.74
Shelley & Donald Rubin F. NYC	€ 7,685.69
Wong How Man CERS, HK	€ 7,563.62
Virginia & Wellington Yee, HK	€ 7,528.83
Co-financing, Leh residents	€ 4,164.55
J&K Tourism & Culture Ministry	€ 4,158.03
Emergency Relief for Leh	€ 2,851.11
Private Donations by M. Vernier, H. Schrader & HK friends R. Chu, G. Demokan, A. Tang, J. Soeryadjaya Kerr & V. Firth	€ 4,470.46
Membership fees & Leh Gallery	€ 3,202.37
Bank interest	€32.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 266,394.90</b>

### Expenses by Projects



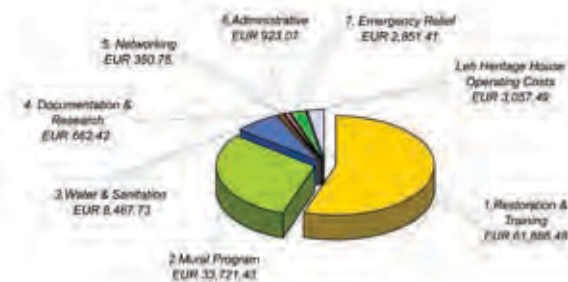
### Tibet Projects



### THF Outgoing Funds 2010: EURO 238,828.42

Central Asian Museum + Research Library Leh	€ 46,467.65
Alchi Tsatsapuri	€ 31,546.49
Leh Old Town Project	€ 30,042.07
Ladakh Flood Relief	€ 2,851.41
Doritsang Monastery	€ 37,414.64
Jyekundo Reconstruction	€ 22,660.81
Dolma Lhakhang	€ 22,546.43
Administrative China/Berlin	€ 13,592.26
Jigme Wangpo House	€ 12,601.47
Lhasa Clinic	€ 7,554.71
Networking & Conferences	€ 5,576.74
Survey & Documentation	€ 5,348.63
Bank fees	€ 326.60
Losses due to currency fluctuations: 0.001%	€ 298.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 238,828.48</b>
carry-over 2011	€ 27,566.42

### Ladakh Project



A very big thanks from all participants and local partners and beneficiaries to everyone who has supported our work. Contact THF to find out how to support our current projects.

# LADAKH FLASH FLOODS



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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THF CHINA: G/F, 4 TSENG TAU SAN TSUEN, MUI WO, LANTAU ISLAND HONG KONG

TAX-FREE BANK A/C: TIBET HERITAGE FUND 813-310919-838 CODE 004

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