

Source: www.phayul.com / By Tenzin Pema



Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Chief Representative, South Zone, (right) welcomes Hon. Mr. Suresh Kumar, Minister for Urban Development, Law & Parliamentary Affairs of the Government of Karnataka (center) in Bangalore, December 10, 2010. (Photo: Tashi Tsering)

BANGALORE, Dec 10 – The Urban Development Minister of the Indian state that is home of the largest number of Tibetan refugees in India applauded the Tibetan people, in particular the youth, for preserving their rich cultural heritage, and said -- while presiding over the 21st anniversary celebrations of the conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize in the city -- that the strong ties between Indians and Tibetans can never be destroyed.

Hon. Mr. Suresh Kumar, Minister for Urban Development, Law & Parliamentary Affairs of the Government of Karnataka, who was the Chief Guest for the occasion, said His Holiness the Dalai Lama is today the leader of not just Tibetans, but of all humanity.

He further expressed his wish to have an audience with the exiled Tibetan leader, and said the Dalai Lama's position as a Nobel peace prize laureate recognizes his relentless commitment to non-violence while working for the Tibetan cause.

Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Chief Representative, South Zone, while reading out the official statement of the Tibetan Cabinet of Ministers for the occasion, said "His Holiness... has guided the Tibetan struggle for justice onto to the path of non-violence making it different from other national struggles in the world... (and) has also shown, both in principle and in practice, that all global conflicts can be solved through a non-violent approach."

"Since the (Noble Peace Prize) award was an inspiration and the trust in the non-violent method and an outstanding recognition of the Tibetan struggle for justice, we commemorate it with highest respect and fondness," the statement said.

The celebrations, which comprised of Tibetan cultural performances, were coordinated by the Office of the Chief Representative, with contributions from various student, business and non-profit organizations in the city, including the TCV Youth Hostel, the Dubai Plaza shopping

complex members, sweater sellers association, Federation of Tibetan co-operatives in India and regional Tibetan Youth Congress.

Also present as Guests of Honor were Dr. K.V. Raju, the Economic Advisor to the Chief Minister of Karnataka, and Mr. Gyari Bhutuk, member of Tibetan Parliament-in-exile. As part of the ceremony, Mr. Gyari Bhutuk awarded certificates to Mr. Dorji, Mrs Lhasa Dolma, Mr. Phurbu Tsering and Mrs Tsering Choezom, members and observers of the Regional Election Commission of Bangalore from 2005 to 2010.

In addition, the Tibetan public, the students, and the staff of various Tibetan institutions, including those from the Institute of Small Trade Learning at Neelamangla and Tibetan Medical Centre, came out in full force to ensure the celebrations were a success.