

NOVEMBER 12-13 2022

FOREVER TIBET

PROGRAMME



Unione
Buddhista
Italiana



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Gaden Phodrang Foundation
of the Dalai Lama



**The Italian Buddhist Union
presents**

FOREVER TIBET

A conference dedicated to educational, environmental, and political issues in contemporary Tibet, and to the Italian premiere of *Never Forget Tibet*, the new film by Jean-Paul Mertinez narrating the Dalai Lama's exile.

November 12 and 13 2022

Giangiaco­mo Feltrinelli Foundation
Viale Pasubio 5 Milano

DAY 1 Saturday November 12th

MORNING

Press Conference presenting the documentary film *Never Forget Tibet*

9:30-10:00 a.m.
Guests reception

10:00-10:10 a.m.
Message from **His Holiness the Dalai Lama**

10:10-11:00 a.m.
Jetsun Pema, former President of Tibetan Children's Villages and sister of H.H. the Dalai Lama

Jean-Paul Mertinez,
Director of the film

Filippo Scianna, President of the Italian Buddhist Union

With a contribution by **Deepak Chopra**, Indian-American author, alternative medicine advocate, and friend of H.H. the Dalai Lama

11:00-11:30 a.m.
Coffee break

11:30 a.m.- 01:00 p.m.
Press screening of *Never Forget Tibet*

AFTERNOON

The Political Question

2:30-2:40 p.m.
Greetings and introduction to the conference: **Filippo Scianna**, President of the Italian Buddhist Union

2:40-3:00 p.m.
Claudio Cardelli, President of Associazione Italia-Tibet;
Screening of an introductory video by Associazione Italia-Tibet

3:00-3:15 p.m.
Luciano Nobili, Former Coordinator of the Italian pro-Tibet inter-parliamentary group

3:15-3:30 p.m.
Augusta Montaruli, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of University and Research

3:30-4:00 p.m.
Thinlay Chukki, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama - The Tibet Bureau (Geneva)

4:00-4:30 p.m.
Kelsang Gyaltsen, Former envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for Sino-Tibetan negotiations

4:30-5:00 p.m.
Coffee break

5:00-5:30 p.m.
Kai Mueller, Executive Director, International Campaign for Tibet/Germany

5:30-6:00 p.m.
Marco Del Corona, Deputy director of the culture pages of *Corriere della Sera*; former correspondent from Beijing

6:00-6:30 p.m.
Michael van Walt van Praag, Executive President and co-founder, Kreddha Foundation; international lawyer specialized in intra-state conflict resolution

6:30-7:00 p.m.
Q&A with audience

Moderator: **Claudio Cardelli**

7:30-9:00 p.m.
Guest screening of *Never Forget Tibet*
With an introduction by:
Jean-Paul Mertinez, Director of the film
Filippo Scianna, President of the Italian Buddhist Union

DAY 2 Sunday November 13th

MORNING

Environmental Concerns on the Tibetan Plateau

9:30-10:00 a.m.
Guests reception

10:00-10:10 a.m.
Message from **His Holiness the Dalai Lama**

10:10-10:20 a.m.
Introduction by **Silvia Francescon**, Head of the Ecology Agenda of the Italian Buddhist Union

10:20-10:50 a.m.

Wangpo Tethong, Executive Director, ICT Europe, and Head of the ICT office in Amsterdam and Brussels, introduced by a video by **Sonam Wangchuk**

10:50-11:20 a.m.
Günther Cologna, Head of Department, Education & Training - Eurac Research, a centre dedicated to energy, environmental, health and social issues based in Bolzano; Member of the Board of Directors of the International Tibet Network (ITN)

11:20-11:50 a.m.
Kai Mueller, Executive Director, International Campaign for Tibet/Germany

11:50-12:20 a.m.
Francesca Tarocco, Professor of Buddhist Studies and Chinese Religions; Director of The New Institute Center for Environmental Humanities (NICHE), Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

Moderator: **Silvia Francescon**

AFTERNOON

Educational Projects and the Refugee Crisis

2:00-2:10 p.m.
Introduction by **Giovanna Giorgetti**, Vice-president of the Italian Buddhist Union

2:10-3:00 p.m.
Jetsun Pema, former President of Tibetan Children's Villages and sister of H.H. the Dalai Lama in dialogue with **Piero Verni**, journalist, writer and documentarist

3:00-3:30 p.m.
Kasia Smutniak, President of Fondazione Pietro Taricone - The Mustang Project, Nepal

3:30-4:00 p.m.
Coffee break

4:00-4:10 p.m.
Tenzin Sewo, Secretary of Gaden Phodrang Foundation of the Dalai Lama

4:10-5:00 p.m.
Geshe Negi, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Center for Contemplative Science and Compassion-Based Ethics at Emory University; Coordinator of SEE Learning - Social, Emotional, and Ethical Learning

5:00-5:30 p.m.
Debbie Carrani, Responsible for Tibetan Refugees Camps

5:30-6:00 p.m.
Q&A and conclusion

Moderator: **Filippo Scianna**, President of the Italian Buddhist Union

Never Forget Tibet The Dalai Lama's Untold Story

Over sixty years after China's Most Wanted Man escaped from occupied Tibet, *Never Forget Tibet* narrates the story of the Dalai Lama's journey into exile, told in his own words and through exclusive access to the the previously unknown private diary of the Indian political officer who led him to safety, Har Mander Singh.

Incorporating interviews with the Dalai Lama's family, the Tibetan Community living in exile and those with historic ties to Tibet, this culturally significant story offers insights into the importance of our shared worldwide humanity and reveals the incredible details of the Dalai Lama's escape and his wider message of compassion.

Produced by Compassionate Films.
Directed by Jean-Paul Mertinez.
Executive Producers: Red Rock Entertainment, Templeheart Films, Gavin Patterson and Rani Singh.
Inspired by the book *An Officer and His Holiness* by Rani Singh.

Jean-Paul Mertinez is a producer, writer and director. He is founder and managing director of Compassionate Films, his London based production company. He is currently working at a number of major feature documentaries, the first of which is *Never Forget Tibet. The Dalai Lama's Untold Story*.

Italian Photographers for Tibet

The **exhibition** features a selection of photographs from the collection of the **Associazione Italia-Tibet** covering nearly eighty years of history: shots of Tibet before and after the Chinese invasion and images of Tibetan communities in exile in India and Nepal. A chance to cast a glance, albeit a quick and circumscribed one, on some aspects of an ancient civilization in danger of disappearing.

Italian Buddhist Union

Ever since its foundation in 1985, the Italian Buddhist Union (UBI) represents the Buddhist movement in the Country as a whole. Driven by compassion, wisdom and respect for all living beings, the UBI supports humanitarian and social projects to help the most vulnerable people, and work for the affirmation of human rights and dignity, in Italy and abroad.

International Campaign for Tibet

Inspired by the vision of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the International Campaign for Tibet promotes human rights, democratic freedoms and self-determination for the Tibetan people. Since 1988, ICT has fought to get the international community to take action for Tibet. They work with elected leaders and citizens throughout the world to provide political and humanitarian support for Tibetans. Through these efforts, they have helped pass groundbreaking laws and have supported the release and rehabilitation of Tibetans who were imprisoned for their political and religious beliefs. They also provided programs to assist the Tibetan community, such as the Tibetan Youth Leadership Program and the Rowell Fund for Tibet. ICT is chaired by actor Richard Gere.

Associazione Italia- Tibet

Associazione Italia-Tibet is an independent nonprofit organization. Founded in 1988, it aims at supporting the work of the Dalai Lama and his Government-in-Exile, so that the Tibetan people are granted the right to self-determination and are guaranteed fundamental civil rights and liberties.

Gaden Phodrang Foundation of the Dalai Lama

The Gaden Phodrang Foundation of the Dalai Lama was founded by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso in the year 2015 and is based in the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland. It aims to promote basic human values, mutual understanding among religions, peace and non-violence and the protection of the environment. It helps to preserve the unique Tibetan culture and supports the Tibetan people, but also other people in need, regardless of nationality, religion and origin.

Tibetan Community in Italy

The Tibetan Community in Italy is a non-profit association composed of Tibetans living in Italy dedicated to preserving and promoting Tibet's rich cultural identity and raising awareness of Tibet's political situation. It also serves as a reference for Tibetans residing in Italy.

Giangiaco Feltrinelli Foundation

One of the most accredited European research centres, the Foundation owns an immense documental heritage about historical, political, economic and social sciences. Its new project on Viale Pasubio was founded with the specific aim of becoming a platform of debate between public and private institutions, universities and research centres, companies and associations, creating a national and international network, enabling critical thinking.

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