



October 7, 2011

Dear Friends of The Dalai Lama Foundation,

This year has been an important year for the Dalai Lama as he formally relinquished his political role as head of the Tibetan government in exile, and also declared the end of the institutional role of the Dalai Lamas as head of state of Tibet. He told the Tibetan people that the time of “Kings and Lamas” was over, and that their political future depended on democratically elected leadership.

However, he assured everyone of the continuance of his spiritual role, and like the first four Dalai Lamas expressed his intention to commit his and the future Dalai Lamas to remain spiritual figures. More importantly, he made it very clear that despite these changes his three basic commitments in life would remain unchanged: (1) the promotion of human values such as compassion, forgiveness, tolerance, contentment and self-discipline; (2) the promotion of religious harmony and understanding among the major religious traditions of the world; and (3) to continue to act as a spokesperson of the Tibetan people in their struggle for justice until a mutually beneficial solution is reached between the Tibetans and Chinese.

In May the DLF was honored to be a co-sponsor of the Dalai Lama’s visit and public talk at the University of Southern California organized in cooperation with the Student’s Interfaith Council and The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at MIT.

The Missing Peace in a Box, an off shoot of *The Missing Peace – Artists Consider the Dalai Lama*, was recently given a grant through The California Endowment to take *The Missing Peace in a Box* to 14 communities in California where the message of peace through art is going to be shared with students and the larger community.

The *Study Guides* of the Dalai Lama’s *Ethics for the New Millennium* continue to find new audiences. A federal prison is going to use these guides in a new “contemplative practices” program which is being established within the prison system.

Project Happiness, which has had support in many different ways from the DLF and board members, continues to reach out with its educational efforts through the release and screening of its film. It recently received an audience “Eyes Award” at the Seoul International Youth Film Festival.

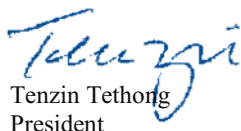
Recently I spoke at the inaugural program of the *Dalai Lama Fellows*, a newly established program for young scholars and activists, and also represented the DLF at the *World Peace Festival* in Berlin for which the DLF was the USA fiscal sponsor.

As you may be aware, our new website and new design have been warmly received by all. We hope to keep improving it and also finding ways to make it more interactive and responsive to those interested in visiting our online presence in the *Learning Zone*.

And so our efforts at the DLF, inspired by the Dalai Lama’s message and his life’s work, continue in the same vein. Our efforts to promote peace and ethics are being carried out through educational means, and we will continue to work with *The Missing Peace* and *Project Happiness* as they reach out far beyond the circle of The Dalai Lama Foundation. We also continue our support for the work of the *Creative Minds International Academy*. In light of the Dalai Lama’s new redefinition of his role, we at the DLF also wish to revisit our role in helping the Dalai Lama with his three main commitments in life.

We will keep you informed, and we look forward to your continued support and to hearing from you.

With heartfelt thanks,


Tenzin Tethong
President