



THE DALAI LAMA

MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that the Trans-Himalayan Aid Society (TRAS) will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in June this year. Since the Society was founded in 1962 it has given significant support to Tibetan refugees, undertaking projects to improve their health and education.

The last six decades have been one of the most difficult periods in Tibetan history. In 1959 and the early 60s, when the first wave of Tibetan refugees arrived in India, Nepal and Bhutan, there was a groundswell of sympathy amongst the world community for the Tibetan people resulting in numerous humanitarian initiatives on the part of individuals as well as organizations.

The Tibetan Refugee Aid Society, Canada, which later became Trans-Himalayan Aid Society, was one of them and was founded in 1962 through the initiative of a dedicated couple, George and Inge Woodcock. Organizations like TRAS have contributed much in enabling the Tibetan refugees to overcome the challenges and to build self-confidence and hope.

At the time, the society's help greatly alleviated the suffering of Tibetan refugees rebuilding their lives in a new country. Giving children the opportunity to receive a sound education and a healthy upbringing has far-reaching effects. It provides them with the skills not only to improve themselves as individuals, but also to contribute to the development of society as a whole. We Tibetans in exile have managed to build a community that is viable and cohesive.

I understand that the organization has extended its resources to assisting people throughout the Himalayan region in India, Nepal and Tibet. I would like to express my appreciation of the good work TRAS has done over the last 50 years with my prayers for their continued success in the future.

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