



THE DALAI LAMA

## MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that a meeting of the "Save Tibet Asia Pacific Forum" is being held in Tokyo from 1st to 3rd July with representatives of Tibet Support Groups, including Parliamentarians from Australia, Taiwan and Japan attending the Forum.

Tibet today is passing through a very critical period with the very survival of the Tibetan people at stake. The situation in Tibet continues to be grim. The recent demonstrations and protests throughout Tibet are a clear manifestation of the Tibetan people's deep-rooted dissatisfaction over the situation prevailing across the Tibetan plateau. China's current unremitting efforts to assimilate Tibet are eroding the Tibetan people's distinct cultural and spiritual heritage. For this reason it is important for the international community to speak up on behalf of the Tibetan people.


On our part, we remain committed to resolving the issue of Tibet through dialogue and discussion in finding a mutually acceptable solution, that is, within the constitution of the People's Republic of China. During my meetings with representatives from the Chinese media as well as at a gathering of members of the Chinese community in Australia recently, I also assured them that we are neither anti-China nor anti-Chinese and we have great admiration for China and its people. It is extremely important that we reach out to the Chinese brothers and sisters, wherever possible.

Incidentally, the seventh round of formal discussions between my envoys and the representatives of the Chinese leadership are taking place in China at the same time as this Conference of yours. This latest meeting has come at a crucial time. I hope this seventh round of talks will contribute in making some marked improvement in our discussions.

I am happy to learn that Mrs. Kesang Y. Takla, the Kalon for our Department of Information and International Relations, is the main speaker at this conference. She will provide you with more details of our efforts to resolve the Tibet issue with the Chinese side.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the organizers of the "Save Tibet Asia Pacific Forum" and the participants for their unstinted support in our nonviolent struggle for freedom and justice. As I have said time and again, we treasure your valuable support, especially coming as it does from the Asia Pacific Region. I also take this opportunity to wish you every success in your deliberations.

With prayers and good wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'L. (Name)', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

30 June 2008