

Cross Party Group on Tibet – minutes
14th January 2015 – Holyrood

Attendees: Linda Fabiani, Anne McTaggart, Roderick Campbell, Max Rollins and 29 members of the public.

Apologies: Jim Hume, Richard Simpson, Alison McInnes, Annabelle Ewing, Margaret Mitchell.

Agenda

- Presentation from Phillip Kirk
- Minutes of last meeting
- Matters arising – *FCA, environment events, EP Intergroup, others*
- AoB

Presentation from Phillip Kirk

Philip presented photographs from his recent visits to the Tibet/Nepal border, as well as his series on Tibetan political prisoners and answered questions from members. CPG noted their thanks to him.

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

Matters arising

Evidence to Foreign Affairs Committee - the letter agreed at the last meeting from CPG to the Foreign Affairs Committee (FAC) is on hold until the FAC opens its inquiry into the 'The FCO's human rights work in 2014'. Based on previous year's inquiries this is expected in April (**Secretary**).

Environment theme events – 1) Dr. Martin Mills and Dr. Samantha May will speak at the next CPG on mining in Tibet on 24 March 2015. 2) Exhibition space is not available in Holyrood until after the summer recess. No dates are yet set, our request is outstanding and dates will be communicated when available (**Iain Thom**). 3) Committee Room 2 is booked for a public talk on Tibet and the Environment on 10th June 2015 to be given by Dr. Martin Mills and Dr. Samantha May.

EP intergroup – CPG noted disappointment that the European Parliament Intergroup on Tibet will not be re-constituted. CPG agreed to write to Scottish MEPs inviting them to join the informal Intergroup once this is live (**Secretary**). Agreed this letter could be passed on to other sympathetic MEPs as identified by Roger Eames (**Roger Eames**).

Other actions outstanding – Write to a general update to APPG Tibet and Tim Loughton MP from Convenor (**Secretary**). Write to invite Cathy Jamieson MP to attend the CPG from Convenor (**Convenor**).

Any other business

Confucius Institutes – recent article in Herald was noted and discussed. CPG agreed to write to universities to inquire about their policies in respect to Confucius Institutes and academic freedom.

HHDL 80th birthday – 6 July 2015 is the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday. Anne McTaggart agreed to a request to write to the Parliament's Corporate Body to see how this anniversary could be celebrated (**Anne McTaggart**).

CPG China – Dr. Martin Mills and Dr. Samantha May are presenting to CPG China on 9th June 2015. All are welcome to attend.

State Visit by China – CPG noted reports that there is likely to be a state visit by China to the UK in 2015.

Date of Next Meeting

25 March 2015 (6-8pm). This meeting will be our AGM.

Subsequent meeting: 10 June 2015 (public event on Tibet and Environment)