



# 2012 Summer Enrichment Program

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### ABOUT SEP

Building understanding through learning and shared experience, Machik's Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) is a one-of-a-kind learning program that offers Tibetan youth from across Tibet a dynamic and stimulating learning environment for four weeks every summer. SEP provides a unique service learning opportunity for Tibetan, Chinese and global volunteers. Volunteer teachers offer daily instruction in classes ranging from English as a second language and social entrepreneurship, to participatory filmmaking and science and health. Hailing from across the Tibetan region, from top Chinese schools and from around the world, SEP volunteers learn to appreciate and understand their differences through working together.

### PROGRAM SITE

SEP 2012 was held in Kunming (Yunnan Province) from July 22 to August 18. Although first planned for Gyalthang, the program relocated to the South-West Forestry University in Kunming.

### DAILY SCHEDULE

- Classes: 6 days a week
- Wednesdays: Field trips
- 8:00 am: Breakfast
- 8:50 am: Classes begin
- 6:00 pm: Dinner
- 7:00 pm: Evening activities



Volunteer teacher Miao Lin with music class students

## STUDENTS

A total of 58 students (22 boys and 36 girls) joined SEP this summer. They were mostly middle and high school students, ranging from ages 13 to 18. Included in the group were 15 students from Mother's Wish Foundation — Machik's partner organization in Rebkong, Amdo. The other students were from Xining, Chungba, Dartsedo, Ngawa, Batang and some traveled almost 50 hours by train to reach Kunming. We were also delighted to invite and host 7 visually impaired students from the **Braille Without Borders School** in Shigatse (TAR).

## VOLUNTEERS

The 2012 SEP volunteer team had 27 volunteers: 13 Chinese, 9 Tibetans, and 5 global volunteers reflecting a wide range of educational and professional backgrounds. While most volunteers were university students, the team also included dedicated professionals who were keen to spend their summer teaching and learning from the SEP community. Each volunteer taught 2-3 classes based on their strengths. Volunteers also had the opportunity to study Tibetan language.

This year, we were also thrilled to welcome back 8 former SEP volunteers: Guabum, Wanma Rinzin, Tashi Namgyal, Tenpa, Tsering Dolker, Sonia Jarrett, Patrick Hamilton, and Jade Song. In addition, three former SEP students returned to serve as volunteers: Tseten Drolkar, Thinley Gyal, and Chime Wangmo.

“ *There are many who wondered whether it is possible at all for the Tibetan, Chinese, and the global citizens to work together to solve real world issues on the plateau, and SEP through its resilience against adversities, had demonstrated to them, loud and clear, that yes, it is possible, and yes, you can be part of it.* ”

*- Sijie Xia  
2011 SEP volunteer*

## SEP 2012 Volunteer University Affiliations

- American University
- Beijing Foreign Studies University
- Beijing Language and Culture University
- Central University of Finance & Economics
- China University of Geosciences
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Georgetown University
- George Washington University
- Hamilton College
- Harvard University
- Minzu University of China
- Nanjing University
- Ohio University
- SouthWest University for Nationalities
- Shanghai University of Economics & Finance
- University of Virginia
- University of North Carolina

## CURRICULUM

Although a small number of students at SEP know some English, most Tibetans receive little or no English training at their regular schools. All students learn English and Tibetan at SEP. Additionally, students are exposed to a wide range of subjects through electives such as:

- Tibetan History
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Public Speaking
- Art
- Music
- Drama
- Math
- Health
- Science

“ *SEP provides a 24/7, 4-week environment in which individuals from diverse geographical, economic and cultural and linguistic backgrounds, which usually never cross in a meaningful way, can and do develop friendships and deeper understanding.*

*This work also affects the local communities and political systems – this program will have broad and longterm consequences that none of us can foresee.* ”

*– Michael Becker, 2012 SEP Volunteer*

## ACTIVITIES

Students and volunteers enjoyed various evening activities such as film nights, singing, circle-dancing, and performance competitions. We were also privileged to have these exceptional guest speakers share their knowledge and insight on various important topics:

**Palzang**, a leading Tibetan conservationist, presented 2 powerful lectures on Tibetan led initiatives to reverse grassland desertification in the Dzorge region of Amdo to protect Tibet’s key headwaters.

**Rinzin Dolma**, acclaimed Tibetan singer from Amdo Phari, shared her personal journey as a professional singer who is committed to Tibetan language initiatives for young Tibetans in areas with little Tibetan education.

**Yang Ya**, a local researcher in Kunming, discussed her fieldwork experience focusing on the biodiversity in Gyalthang.

SEP concluded with a Final Performance on August 17 when students displayed their knowledge and skills. They showcased a mix of Tibetan and English songs and dances. The main feature was a theatrical rendition of Milarepa in English by the drama class. The event also included an auction led by students from the social entrepreneurship class that raised over 2,500 RMB!

*Students perform Milarepa in English*



## PLANNING

Planning for SEP is a year-long process and a majority of the work takes place before the program begins. The following timeline provides a brief overview of some of the major highlights leading up to SEP:



## COSTS

A program fee is charged to cover program expenses including room and board. The fee is approximately \$2000 USD for US volunteers and \$750 USD for PRC citizens.\*

*\*2012 program fee subject to change.*

## INTERESTED IN SEP 2013?

Applications for SEP 2013 will be available in late December 2012. We encourage interested individuals to visit our website:

**[www.machik.org](http://www.machik.org)**

or contact us by email:

**[SEP@machik.org](mailto:SEP@machik.org)**

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**DONATE  
TODAY!**

Machik is planting seeds for the future of Tibet by investing in rural education, summer enrichment for Tibetan youth, the Mothers' Wish program for women's education, youth leadership, community development training and much more. Please support our work of building healthy and sustainable communities in Tibet by giving today.