

**Solar Electricity Generating Panels  
for  
Impoverished Tibetan Households**

**Final Report  
to the  
AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY-BEIJING**

Fifty Solar Electricity Generating Panels for Lianyi Tibetan Village, Gongbu Township,  
Derong County, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province  
*PR China*

*from*

**Sonan Jetsun (Curtis)** བསོད་ནམས་སྐུ

ལ་མཚོ་འཇེ་རུ་གྲོ་འཇེ་རུ་གྲོ་

*13 June 2009*

**Thanks Letter**  
(*translation*)

Dear Australian Embassy,

We are impoverished Tibetan people who live on the agriculture presented by our ancestors. We are far from cities and modern ways of life. Therefore, not to mention using modern electricity, many people in this area are even unaware of TV and DVDs. They rarely have seen technical products. For many years, we have had to struggle and sacrifice ourselves to heavy labor and a miserable situation in life; still we are only able to get enough food to eat and scarcely have adequate warm clothes to wear. In addition, it is impossible for us to purchase certain necessary living utilities. Now, because of the solar electricity generating panels provided by the Australian Embassy, we have gained bright light amid darkness and our life is filled with shining lights and happiness. Here, on the behalf of all Lianyi Tibetan villagers, I thank you for your compassionate assistance and generosity.

Nima (village leader)

16 May 2009

## Final Activity Report

**Project Name:** Solar Electricity Generating Panels for Impoverished Tibetan Households

**Project Location:** Lianyi Tibetan Village, Gongbu Township, Derong County, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province

སི་ཁྲུ་ན་ཞིང་ཆེན་དཀར་མཛོལ་ས་བོད་རིགས་རང་སྐྱོར་རྫོང་ཁུལ་ལ་ཕྱེ་རོང་རྫོང་གོམ་མོ་ཞང་ལན་ཡིད་གྲོང་

四川省甘孜藏族自治州得荣县贡波乡联谊村

**Project Donor:** Australian Embassy--Beijing

**Applicant:** Sonam Jetsun

**Executing organization:** Sanchuan Development Association

**Supervisor:** Mr. Zhu Yongzhong

**Local Contribution:** 2,500RMB (50RMB contribution per recipient family)

### Aims:

- To provide a sustainable income-generating stream for the 50 poorest families in Lianyi Village by reducing the amount of money families currently spend on candles (approximately 600RMB/year/household) and by increasing the amount of butter families have to sell (by eliminating the need to burn butter in lamps) and to eat (thus improving the local diet),
- To enable children to study at night under bright electric light, rather than the current situation of children studying under dim butter lamps and candles at night,
- To reduce health problems from using flame-based lighting, e.g., less smoke inhalation, and
- To provide residents a dependable, easily transportable lighting system when families move to the grassland and live in tents during the summer. Wind and breezes move through the tents and easily extinguish candles and butter lamps.

**Project site:** Lianyi Tibetan Village, Gongbu Township, Derong County, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province, PR China

**Executing organs:** Sonam Jetsun

**Project Period:** April-June 2009

**Responsible People:** Sonam Jetsun

**Australian Embassy Contribution:** 50,000RMB

## Project Activities

### 1. Activities planned in the framework of the project:

- purchase solar panels in Xining
- meet with Lianyi villagers and choose fifty poorest families to give solar panels
- collect 50RMB per family before giving a solar panel to a recipient family
- give each of the fifty recipient families and give instructions on panel use and care
- ask recipient families to send their children to school
- take photos to document the project to include these in the final report.
- after giving these solar panels to the fifty poorest families in Lianyi Village, I will visit every family every year for three times to make sure they are using these solar panels and that they have sent their children to school. In that way, I could find how this project helped the local people.

### 2. Activities realized in the framework of the project:

- 4 April 2009: bought the solar panels in Xining
- 3 May 2009: solar panels transported to Derong County Town
- 6 May 2009: transported panels to Lianyi Village (200RMB)
- 7 May 2009: met with Lianyi villagers and chose the fifty poorest families as recipients. The fifty RMB local contribution was also collected before giving the solar panels to the recipient families.
- On 8-15 May 2009: visited each recipient family and gave them a solar panel, demonstrated how to position the panel, how to use it, and how to care for it. Families were asked to send their children to school. I also took photos to document the project to include in this final report.
- 20-27 May 2009: I returned to Xining from Lianyi Village
- 29 May 2009 I paid a transportation fee of 1,600RMB and bought the following items at Xining Tianyu Solar Panel Factory and sent them to Lianyi Village:

| <i>Item</i> | <i>Quantity</i> | <i>Price RMB</i> | <i>Total RMB</i> |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Bulbs       | 50              | 3                | 150              |
| Batteries   | 50              | 10               | 500              |
| Switches    | 50              | 1                | 50               |
| Total       |                 |                  | 700              |

The village leader gave these materials to families that had received the panels.

- 1 June 2009: started work on the final report
- 13 June 2009: completed the final report and sent to the Australia Embassy with photos and receipts

## Village Description

### **Location:**

Lianyi Village is located 200 km southwest of Derong County Town, 550 km from Kangding City, the capital of Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, and 1,040 km from Chengdu City, the capital of Sichuan Province. The village has eighty households (560 Tibetans). Each family has an average of seven members, representing three generations. Most villagers are were born before 1955.

### **Income:**

Lianyi Village is predominately a community of Tibetan farmers. In 2002, due to the threat of deforestation and increased environmental degradation in the region, the local government provides a small annual stipend to families of about 150 RMB per *mu*; the average family in Lianyi Village owns around five *mu* and thus receives approximately 750RMB in cash annually from the local government, which is used on household expenses, including food, clothing, school costs, and medical expenses. During summer and fall, many villagers go to the county town to earn money from various part-time jobs in non-agricultural enterprises to supplement the government stipend. Only about four village residents have found permanent, government jobs in the local county town.

In Lianyi Village, certain families tend yaks, sheep, goats, horses, pigs, and cows. They use animal products for their own subsistence or sell a portion of those products (butter, wool, quilts made of animal hair, dried cheese, yak hair) for profit. Families who own only a small number of livestock primarily consume animal products on a subsistence basis.

### **Education:**

Approximately ninety-five percent of the villagers have never attended school. Only about ten percent of villagers are able to read some Tibetan. Some villagers studied Tibetan and mathematics for four to six years at the local primary school (grades one to six). Very few of the older generation continued education beyond primary school because their families needed their children's assistance with farming and the middle school was located in the county town 200 km away. Even today, only about two to four students who complete the village primary school continue studying in middle school. Poverty prevents most students from leaving the village to obtain more education.

### Receipt for Australian Embassy Contribution

**入库单** 0212184

09年4月3日 单位或姓名 西宁天宁太阳能电源厂

| 品名  | 规格      | 单位 | 数量 | 单价   | 金额 | 备注 |
|-----|---------|----|----|------|----|----|
| 太阳能 | 25A-16W | 个  | 50 | 1000 |    |    |
| 合计  |         |    |    |      |    |    |

共款: 50000元

制表

第一联: 存根

### Receipts for Local Contribution

**出库单** No 0160124

2009年5月29日 单位或姓名 西宁天宁太阳能电源厂

| 名称        | 规格 | 单位 | 数量 | 单价 | 金额    | 备注              |       |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|-------|-----------------|-------|
| 灯         | 泡  |    | 50 | 3  | 150元  | ②<br>收货人        |       |
| 电         | 池  |    | 50 | 10 | 500元  |                 |       |
| 开         | 关  |    | 50 | 1  | 50元   |                 |       |
| 合计金额 (大写) |    |    |    |    | 2300元 | 西宁到 西川海井破井, 得策县 | 1600元 |

制表

**收据** No 收据0729

2009年5月6日

收到 今起 50台太阳能从得策县到联保村

收到 200元

收款人



On 3 May 2009, the fifty solar panels reached Derong County from Xining City. Nima (second right), the village leader, unloaded the panels from the truck with several Lianyi villagers in Derong County Town.



Recipient families.



Recipient families.





Recipient families.



Acu (left) and Jiyan Quzha (right). There are six people in Acu's family--his parents, his wife, and two children. His parents and his wife are often ill. Jiyan Quzha and his wife have no livestock and very little farm land.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The satellite receiver in the background is at the village leader's home, where recipients collected the solar panels. A few, richer families have small water-powered electricity generators.



There are six people in Cile's (right) family including her parents and three children. Her husband was killed in a traffic accident. Yixicuo (left) has an ill husband who needs constant care. In addition, she must do all the house and farm work.



This family of five includes the parents, two sons, and a child (left). The child's mother died while giving birth to a second child.

# Recipients

*(Contribution of 50RMB from each family)*

| 姓名      | 上交金额 | 捐款 |
|---------|------|----|
| 阿 楚     | 50元  |    |
| 甲 乙     | }    |    |
| 日 保     | }    |    |
| 田 郎 彭 措 | }    |    |
| 花 阿 朋 吉 | }    |    |
| 措 玛 措   | }    |    |
| 桑 布     | }    |    |
| 男 哇     | }    |    |
| 波 列     | }    |    |
| 中 波 卡   | }    |    |
| 阿 翁     | }    |    |
| 岩 勉     | }    |    |
| 男 松 普 甫 | }    |    |
| 王 达 龙   | }    |    |
| 格 次 尔   | }    |    |

姓名 金额 指纹

多杰桑布 50元

新部次白

甲央曲扎

新部次梅

格桑扎巴

姓 名 ~~袁金顺~~ 指纹

自 理 50元

昆 璋 松 布

波 台 措

洛 再

丁 真

格 松 措

波 登

彭 翁

明 措

曲 龙

达 美

波 自 志 玛

益 再 措

用 巴

龙 扎

|      |     |    |
|------|-----|----|
| 姓名   | 坎金銀 | 指紋 |
| 四節姆  | 50元 |    |
| 根    | 暉   | :  |
| 昆    | 瑪   | :  |
| 桑    | 措   | :  |
| 自瑪西統 |     | :  |
| 波灯伊吉 |     | :  |
| 格松波乍 |     | :  |
| 洛松吉村 |     | :  |
| 扎西措  |     | :  |
| 拉姆   |     | :  |
| 登登   |     | :  |
| 扎西波乍 |     | :  |
| 阿珠   |     | :  |
| 阿西   |     | :  |
| 波桑   |     | :  |