

## **About the Palpung congregation**

The seat of the succeeding incarnations of the Tai Situ Rinpoches is the Palpung monastery in Dege, Eastern Tibet. It is also the the Karma Kagyu mother monastery in Eastern Tibet. "Pal" means glorious, "Pung" means to gather. Palpung means glorious union of study and practice.

Palpung was founded by the 8th Kuanding Tai Situ Rinpoche in 1727 and developed into one of the most prestigious centers in Tibetan history. Its students are talented and trained in many fields: meditation, studies, art, ritual, retreat practices, etc. Since then, students from Palpung's branch monasteries have been traveling to the main seat to study all the various aspects of religious life and hence return to their monasteries and centers.

Palpung once hosted more than thousand monks and was endowed with the leading monastic university (shedra) of the area. It was known for its huge library with its more than 324 000 texts and a collection of 10 150 thangkas (religious rolled paintings). Palpung was leading in the art of spiritual painting and Situ Rinpoche is the founder of Karma Gadri style of painting. During the time of 11th Tai Situ Rinpoche, Palpung enjoyed best reputation in spiritual, studios and artistic excellence and authority. During the late 1950s, the monastery was destroyed. The reconstruction is still under its way.

The 12<sup>th</sup> incarnation of the Kuanding Tai Situ Rinpoche fled to India at the age of six where he received the entire transmission of the lineage from H. H. 16th Gyalwang Karmapa in Rumtek. At the age of 22 years, he started to establish his seat in exile, Palpung Sherab Ling, in Himachal Pradesh, Northern India. The project allies four aspects – spirituality, education, health and culture. Currently, about approximately 750 monks are living in Sherab Ling, 250 study at the monastic university, facilities for three-year-retreats for nuns and monks are built within the compound.

The Palpung congregation consists of more than 180 branch monasteries and temples throughout several Chinese and Tibetan districts and additionally several branches in Europe, USA, Oceania and Asia.