

Dr. Padma Gurmet Speech:

Hon. Bikshu sangh, Most respected chairperson of the inaugural session Shri Pramod kumar patak ji, Additional Sec. Ministry of AYUSH (Govt. of India), guest of honor, Hon. Pema la (Speaker, Tibetan Govt. in exile), Choekyong Wangchuk la, Minister of Health (Tibetan Govt. in exile) and Acharya Phuntsok la (Deputy Speaker) is also present here. And Hon Amchis from all over country for gathered here for this significant day to celebrate the first Sowa-Rigpa day.

First of all I would like welcome you and congratulate all of you for being part of this first Sowa-Rigpa day in India. Indeed it is a welcome move from Central council for Tibetan Medicine to celebrate this auspicious day as Sowa-Rigpa day. I hope they will continue this process in coming years also to mark the respect for practitioners of Sowa-Rigpa as well as most importantly, the significant contribution made by His Holiness the Dalai Lama to promote and preserve Sowa-Rigpa after coming to India in exile. Indeed, August and September is very important for Sowa-Rigpa, particularly in India. I remember all the important decisions for Sowa-Rigpa was held during this period only. First of all it is already mentioned that why this day is celebrated today as Sowa-Rigpa day. Because after coming to exile in India, when His Holiness the Dalai Lama thought the importance of Sowa-Rigpa, then he tried to re-establish this important part of Tibetan culture as well as Himalayan culture in India. So he invited some scholars who came with him in exile in India and decided to first to small set up, that is Men-Tsee-Khang. I still remember the story my teachers used to tell me who were the first batch students or second and third batch students of Men-Tsee-Khang they just started in the tin shed I think in 1961 or 1962 and gradually this Men-Tsee-Khang developed into such a now massive organization not only in India, Internationally, they presents all over India. And the major another decision was to establish Central Council of Tibetan Medicine. Because the regulation is one of the key elements to practice any system of medicine, because before setting up of this organization, Central Council of Tibetan Medicine, There was not any mechanism to register and to regulate the practitioner of Sowa-Rigpa. So that is rightly decided by the Tibetan government in exile, to set up this Central Council of Tibetan Medicine, that is only helpful not only for the Tibetan Community, it was also very helpful for the practitioners of Sowa-Rigpa in India. So these two are very welcome initiatives plus now these days also very significant from Indian point of view, because all the major decision for Sowa-Rigpa was also taken during this time, because most of the time I have been playing a bridge between the government of India and Sowa-Rigpa community Tibetan as well as the Indian communities living in this Himalayan regions. So it was initiated long time back that from Ladakh we have started to organize Sowa-Rigpa practitioner and if you look in Indian scenario, the biggest presents of Sowa rigpa practitioners are in Ladakh. So we have almost 300 to 400 practitioners who came from this guru shishya parampara or we call it gyud-zin in Tibetan language. So after that when first, I still remember in 2009, when I first invited His Holiness The Dalai lama for a workshop in Leh, that time there was senior authorities from ministry of AYUSH also present in the meeting and he clearly requested Govt. of India to take of Sowa-Rigpa. He said the origin of Sowa Rigpa is from India, So, it is Indian duty to preserve and promote Sowa-Rigpa. That time luckily within one month you can say in September 9th or 10th I think The Union cabinet decided that we will be recognizing the Sowa-Rigpa. It was again September month. Then later in 2010 again it was around August and September that this entire move in parliament that it was first in Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and it went to panel of experts and again it was recognized around August or September. So it was again a significant time for us. Plus now I feel since here all the important stake holders of this Sowa Rigpa system are present here, so it is our

duty to take forward Sowa-Rigpa further more to establish on scientific parameters and plus with preserving our tradition. That is the biggest challenge for most of the traditional medicines now. Because since I am working in the ministry of AYUSH, we discussed each other you know even while we are processing through this recognition process, most of the eminent Indian Vaidyas, they said please preserve your cultural entity. Because this is the biggest challenge for traditional medicines, because when we start thinking about regulations, then most of the time tries to impose all the parameters of Allopathy and Modern science and the lost side of our own cultural heritage. So after recognition, I think now we have completed most of the regulations. Particularly, since now I am member for Central Council for Indian Medicine, we have put in place regulation for UG course and Curriculum plus we are also now initiating PG course and Curriculum plus now five Institutions are recognized under CCIM, i.e. Men-Tsee-Khang obviously then Chagpori medical Institute Central Institute for studies, Plus Saranath is also a recognized institute and now fifth one we have recently inducted Namgyal Institute of Tibetology. I myself visited there and they have established a good set up there and now they coming up with good infrastructure there, and I hope this will be again a very good Institute for particularly in North Eastern region for Sowa-Rigpa presences quite kind of since it is a traditional medicinal region, but somehow they have lost their tradition. So again re-establishing Sowa-Rigpa in this region, you say major responsibility now is on Namgyal Institute of Tibetology. So now since this Sowa Rigpa day is celebrated this day particularly I think we have to also take how can we further take the Sowa-Rigpa system in this modern scientific world, with our this strong cultural and traditional root in this new age. So rightly here now we have most senior official from ministry of AYUSH, Sir Parmod Kumar Pathak ji is here and he is additional Secretary, and now understanding the significant of Sowa-Rigpa, he has given charge of Sowa-Rigpa also. So we will all together request him to kindly pursue Sowa-Rigpa issues more kind of sympathetically. Because we are minority medical system plus we are also on infant stage. We have to grow further and other systems are well established (Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha others are established). So we have yet to start our Institutions. Particularly one significant thing I should mention here is in August month itself, Honorable prime minister of India.... two times in the name of Sowa Rigpa. On 8th of August he mentioned about the significance of Himalayan plants as well as the medical system prevailed in this Himalayan region. And he also particularly took the name of plant *Solo* and after these lots of this media attention was given to follow. He even had given the name of Sanjeevni to follow. Likewise he said that there is abundance of medicinal plants in our Himalayan region and we have the knowledge. So this is first time and in second time is on 30th August, he precisely announced that Sowa-Rigpa is the sixth system for AYUSH and now plus now ministry of AYUSH is in process to establish an International Centre, earlier we were pursuing for national Institute for Sowa-Rigpa. He went further and he said now we want an International Centre for Sowa-Rigpa in Leh, So we hope that now since Sir is here all together we will make this Institution workable and in real sense it will may International Institute. Since I had been allocated only five minutes, I will not take much of your time and once again I would like to express my thanks to honorable dignitaries on the dice and off the dice and again congratulate you all and particularly this is day for Dr. Tamdin, because he won the Yuthog Award and rightly he has contributed his life for Sowa-Rigpa. I personally know him for the last many years and he is also a classmate of my teacher I know and dedicatedly most of his classmates went abroad, but he is still contributing for Sowa Rigpa in Men-Tsee-Khang as well as in India. So I congratulate you once again and thank you very much for your contribution for Sowa-Rigpa.

Thank you all once again.