

BOULDER-LHASA SISTER CITY PROJECT

www.boulder-tibet.org

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2012 Accomplishments

MEETING ON PARASITE DISEASE CONTROL IN SHANGHAI

An International Symposium on Cestode Zoonoses Control was conducted in Shanghai, China, on 29-30 October 2012. Cestode zoonoses are tapeworm diseases that can be passed from animals, whether wild or domesticated, to humans. The symposium was organized by National Institute of Parasitic Diseases (Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention) and Asahikawa Medical University, Japan. With travel expenses paid from his personal funds, Bill Warnock, BLSCP President, attended the symposium and made a presentation on "Echinococcosis Training in Tibet", which describes the BLSCP training exchange in Lhasa during September 2010. The symposium was attended by 96 participants from 13 countries, Chinese Ministry of Health, and World Health Organization. Bill was the only participant from the U.S.A.



Cestode zoonoses are a group of diseases being neglected by the global health community but causing serious health and economic damage to humans and livestock. Global control activities are still insufficient, particularly in Asian countries. The Shanghai symposium was organized to promote further global collective efforts and action for cestode zoonoses control. A total of 39 speakers addressed cestode zoonoses with respect to the current global situation, the status in Asian countries, and recent progress in Asia on epidemiology, ecology, biology, immunology, molecular taxonomy and phylogeny, control strategy, diagnosis, vaccine research, clinical treatment, and public policy related to control.

Most of the presentations were on echinococcosis and taeniasis/cysticercosis in Asia. After the presentations, all participants engaged in a round-table discussion on how to make a systematic assessment of the current epidemic status of cestode zoonoses and control strategy for cestode zoonoses. For the epidemiology and control of echinococcosis and taeniasis/cysticercosis, several "gaps" (missing elements in ongoing work) were identified. One of the gaps for control is "health education", i.e., education of communities where these diseases are prevalent. Education topics include life cycle of the parasite, how humans are infected, prevention methods, and control strategies.

Dr. Li Tiaoying, Sichuan Institute of Parasitic Diseases, made a presentation on "Current status of taeniasis/cysticercosis in Tibetan communities of Sichuan Province, China". Humans are infected with taeniasis by eating raw or undercooked infected meat from pigs or cattle/yak. This can lead to adult tapeworms in the small intestine. Humans are infected with cysticercosis through fecal-oral contamination from (human) tapeworm carriers. Human cysticercosis can lead to cysts (cysticerci) in the brain or eyes, which can cause epileptic seizures or blindness. The taeniasis infection rate of Tibetan farmers in 11 villages of Yajiang County in western Sichuan Province (Kham) was measured to be 21%. The prevalence of human cysticercosis in these villages was measured to be 7%. Risk factors include consumption of raw beef and/or undercooked beef/pork, the use of free-ranging pigs, lack of latrine facilities, lack of meat inspection, poor hygiene, and a poor economy.



To help control echinococcosis in Tibetan herding (nomad) communities and taeniasis/cysticercosis in Tibetan farming communities, parasite education of the community members can lead to improvements in knowledge and behavior. Pictorial diagrams showing the life cycle of the parasite, how humans are infected, prevention methods, and control strategies can be particularly effective.

NAMLING COUNTY SCHOOLS PROJECT

BLSCP continued to be an official sponsor for Namling County Schools Project (NCSP). NCSP was founded in 1991 by Tashi Tsering, project director. More than 50 elementary schools, built by this project in rural Tibetan villages, provide some basic education for local children. These schools are simple earth-brick structures with dirt floors. Job training for young adults at the Ema-Gang Vocational Training School will also help to alleviate poverty. BLSCP has been an official sponsor for this project since 1994. Funds are needed for school facilities, teacher training, and student supplies.

LHASA KUNGSHON LANGUAGE SCHOOL

BLSCP continued to be an official sponsor for Lhasa Kungshon Language School (LKLS). LKLS was established in 1988 by Lhobsang Pandan, school principal. The school provides young adult Tibetans with language and computer classes. Students learn skills which help them to qualify for better jobs. The school has given more than 1,200 scholarships to students with disabilities and financial difficulties. BLSCP has been an official sponsor for this school since 1995. Funds are needed for scholarships, supplies for language classes, and equipment.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

BLSCP has continued to be a resource for the Boulder community, by providing outreach activities on our programs in Tibet and information regarding the geography, climate, high-altitude effects, travel accommodations, and culture of Tibet. BLSCP maintained and updated its own Web site at **www.boulder-tibet.org**. BLSCP continued to participate in Boulder Sister City Alliance, which is an effective, informal organization of Boulder's seven sister city organizations.

IRS Status

BLSCP has maintained a 501(c)(3) status, as a private, non-profit corporation.

Board of Directors

The BLSCP Board of Directors is Boulder-based, with the board elected by the membership, and with no member of the board being a part of any commercial venture in Lhasa. The current Board of Directors is:

Bill Warnock	President
Carol Delker	Vice President
Carrie Hartman	Secretary
Stanley Goldberg	Treasurer

Membership Criteria

Membership in BLSCP is not denied based upon race, religion, nationality, membership in a minority group, membership in a particular social group, or because of the expression of unpopular political opinion.

Fund-raising / Contributions (CY2012)

Solar Electricity Program	0.00
Parasite Medical Program	0.00
Namling County Schools Project	0.00
Lhasa Kungshon Language School	2,000.00
General Use	910.00
Membership Dues	<u>180.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3,090.00

2013 Work Plan

We will work to develop further exchanges on health care, education, environmental protection, science & technology, agriculture & animal husbandry, and culture & art. We will identify the human and financial resources required to implement the most effective exchanges for helping Tibetans in Tibet.

HEALTH EDUCATION TRAINING PROJECT

To alleviate suffering by Tibetan communities in Kham (western Sichuan Province), we plan to conduct a training course in Chengdu on two serious parasitic diseases called cysticercosis and echinococcosis, women's health, and sanitation. Cysticercosis can be prevented through health education for Tibetan farming communities. The trainees will be 18 responsible health care personnel from several counties in western Sichuan Province. Our training materials will include pictorial information on the life cycle of cysticercosis, methods of transmission to humans during daily activities, and methods of prevention. The trainees will then train many others in local villages.

NAMLING COUNTY SCHOOLS PROJECT

We will continue to sponsor Namling County Schools Project.

LHASA KUNGSHON LANGUAGE SCHOOL

We will continue to sponsor Lhasa Kungshon Language School.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We will continue to maintain and update our Web site at www.boulder-tibet.org and respond to the inquiries which it generates.

2013 Budget (estimated)

RECEIPTS

Solar Electricity Program	0.00
Parasite Medical Program	16,500.00
Namling County Schools Project	100.00
Lhasa Kungshon Language School	100.00
General Use	500.00
Membership Dues	<u>300.00</u>
TOTAL	\$17,500.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Solar Electricity Program	0.00
Parasite Medical Program	16,500.00
Namling County Schools Project	100.00
Lhasa Kungshon Language School	100.00
Operating Expenses	500.00
Community Outreach	<u>300.00</u>
TOTAL	\$17,500.00