



Geshe Pema Dorje is the Director of the Bodong Research and Publication Centre in Dharamsala. He has been deeply involved in the organization and development of educational institutions in the Tibetan refugee community in India and Nepal. With a Geshe degree from the Tibetan monastic educational system, Pema Dorje has been the Principal of the Tibetan Children's Village School as well as the School of Buddhist Dialectics in Dharamsala. He has also been the Director of India Sarah College for Higher Tibetan Studies. He has been a driving force in the establishment of schools for teacher training and higher education in the refugee community, traveling extensively and co-operating with schools and universities all over the world. During the last few years he has worked intensively with the re-establishment of the Bodong tradition in Tibetan Buddhism.

The first Bodong monastery was established by Kadampa Geshe Mudra Chenpo in 1049 AD. At that time it was one of the dominant Buddhist learning centres in Tibet. It's most famous teacher is perhaps Bodong Panchen Chogley Namgyal (1376-1451). One of the things that differentiate the Bodong tradition and Bodong Panchen Chogley Namgyal's teaching from mainstream Tibetan Buddhism is its more gender equal practices.

By the time of the Chinese occupation of Tibet in 1950 the tradition was already weak. After the Lhasa uprising in 1959, a small group of exile Tibetans set off to Tibet to bring back a complete set of Bodong Panchen Chogley Namgyal's collected work to India. On their journey back to Nepal some of the members were detained by the police in Kyirong, and the texts they were carrying were confiscated. These texts were kept as rubbish in Kyirong until 1974, when they were destroyed. It is still unclear how much of the set that was lost in this incident, nor if there is another complete set in existence.

Under Geshe Pema Dorje's directorship the Bodong Research and Publication Centre is now making every effort to find the missing texts.

Another primary objective of the Centre is to reconstruct an authentic teaching lineage, and education of ordained monks and nuns enabling them to uphold both the lineage and principles of Vinaya as well as to organize future teachings and practice in this tradition. The Center also supports a doctoral researcher at Delhi University.

More information at: <http://www.bodong.info>