“The Positive Role of China Internet ”

Religion in Digital Culture

# by Rosa Dalmiglio for “World Interfaith Harmony Week 2018”

In the **new century, China has furthered its comprehensive understanding to the natural, social, recognize and psychological sources of religions. Religion is not only a world outlook and spiritual force but also a long and pervasive social force in the world community. Religions relation is one of the five social relations ( party relations, ethnic relations, religious relations, strata relation, and domestic and overseas compatriot relation) concerning the nation’s overall situation in social political life. Efforts are to be made in giving play to religion’s active role in boosting social harmony, encouraging and supporting religious personae to promote the good tradition of loving the country and religion, uniting together for progress and serving for the society. In addition, the government will help religious groups by supporting them to make contributions for national unity, economic development, social progress, social harmony and national reunification, and assisting them to construe the creeds in a way compliant with social progress.**

**As a culture system based on a central belief, religion is special. However , as a social organization, religion should abide by the secular rules and cannot outmatch social order. China has activity boosted legalized and standardized management of religious affairs. The constitution of the PRC amended in 1982 further standardized the citizen’s freedom of religious belief. In Article 36, it clearly says: “ Citizens of the People’s Republic of China enjoy freedom of religious belief. No state organ, public organization or individual may compel citizens to believe in, or not to believe in, any religion; nor may they discriminate against citizens who believe in, or do not believe in, any religion. The state protects normal religious activities. No one may make use of religion to engage in activities that disrupt public order, impair the health of citizens or interfere with the educational system of the state.**

**Today, Tibet is home to 4277 cultural heritage sites including three World Cultural Heritages, two Humankind Intangible Cultural Heritages, 55 National Primary Cultural Heritages, 55 National Primary Cultural Heritages, 76 National Intangible Cultural Heritages, 224 Autonomous Region-level Cultural Heritages, and 323 Autonomous Region-level Intangible Cultural Heritages.**

**The ancient, mysterious and religion-related intangible cultural heritages, such as Thangka, Tibetan incense, Tibetan paper and Lhasa Sho Dun Festival, are displayed and showcase their enchanting traditions. In 2013, the cultural, sports and media expenditures of Tibet hit 2373.98 million yuan including 232.71 million yuan in cultural heritage protection and 117.42 million yuan in supporting literature creation, intangible cultural heritage protection and development of grassroots culture and cultural facilities.**

**In addition, Tibetans’ cultural rights are also respected by the government. Tibet has 14 Tibetan magazines and 10 Tibetan newspapers. Tibetan People’s Broadcast Station has 42 Tibetan (including the Khampa language) programs, 21-hour-long Tibetan news and 18-hour long Khampa program per day. The Tibetan Satellite TV of Tibet TV Station airs programs around the clock. Tibetan is China’s first ethnic group’s character with the international coding standard for information interchange. Thus, Tibetan speakers can proceed without hindrance into the information technology era.**

**Buddhism has the most followers and greatest influence among five most influential religions in China. China has more than 13,000 Buddhist temples, about 200,000 monks and nuns. Of which, the Tibetan Language Buddhist has about 120,000 Lamas and nuns, more than 1700 living Buddhas, more than 3000 temples, and about 7.5 million followers. Taiwan’s religionist and philanthropist Master HSING YUN is fairly venerable in ethnic Chinese. In 2012, Master Hsing Yun founded Secular Buddhism’s Institute which, together with Chinese Cultural Research Institute of Nanjing University, He improve morals, ethos and social orders. However , generally speaking, religions play an active role in promoting social harmony in China.**

**Chinese President Xi Jinping in the second book of China Governance, suggested to build an online platform for cultural exchange and mutual learning. Culture and civilization are enriched through exchange and support to accelerate the building of global internet .**

**The internet is an important carrier to spread the best of humanity’s cultures and promote positive energy. China is ready to build, through the internet, a bridge of international cultural interaction and mutual learning for people of all countries to share the cultures of the world and their thoughts and feelings, and enhance mutual understanding. We will work with other countries to leverage the strength of the internet as a communication platform, so that people in other countries may come to know more about Chinese culture and the Chinese people can learn more of theirs. Together, we will promote the prosperity and development of cyber- culture, which in turn will enrich people’s minds and thoughts, and advance human civilization and progress.**

**As a broad social platform through which millions upon millions of users obtain and exchange information, the internet has a profound influence on the way people acquire knowledge, on the way they think, and also on their values. At present, China Radio International can provide information to the world through new platforms like FM broadcasts, satellite TV, internet and mobile terminals in 64 languages like Tibetan, Uygur and Kazak. The CIBN (created in 2012) transformation from traditional media to new comprehensive international media in modern times.**

**The internet governance system to promote fairness and justice. A platform for all to govern and benefit from the global internet reflects in a more balanced way to development PEACE and HARMONY in the BELT on ROAD project.**