

## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

CHARISMA K. LEPCHA has recently completed her master's degree in anthropology from the North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya. She is originally from Bom Busty, Kalimpong and did her bachelor of arts in journalism from Temple University, Philadelphia. Upon graduation, she interned at the U.N. headquarters in New York as a correspondent for United Press International. She freelanced before returning to university for graduate studies. Writing and photography are her primary interests, but she hopes to further pursue her academic interest in anthropology. Her articles have been published in *The Washington Times*, *South Asian Insider*, *The Kathmandu Post*, *Hills and Mountain Today* and the *NEHU Journal*.

HELEEN PLAISIER (PhD, Leiden 2006) is an expert on Lepcha language, literature and culture based in the Netherlands. Her thesis, *A Grammar of Lepcha*, was based on extensive linguistic fieldwork in Darjeeling and Sikkim as part of the Himalayan Languages Project at the Department of Comparative Linguistics, University of Leiden. She is currently compiling a Lepcha dictionary based on manuscript sources from the 1890s.

JENNY BENTLEY is a doctorate student in cultural anthropology at the University of Zürich. Her present research centres on the Lepcha community rituals, their meaning in constructing collective identity and their adaptations to the changing Sikkimese context. She previously studied the cultural revival among the Sikkimese Lepcha during her master's degree program at the University of Zürich and the University of Delhi, where she was admitted as a casual student.

PEMA WANGCHUK DORJEE is a Gangtok-based journalist and has been reporting on Sikkim for the past 14 years. He is the editor of *NOW!* daily and has worked in the past with *Himal* (Kathmandu), *Sikkim Observer* and *Weekend Review*. *Khangchendzonga: Sacred Summit*, a book co-authored by him with Mita Zulca was released in March 2007.

KERRY LITTLE is an Australian writer who is a PhD candidate in the School of Social Inquiry at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS). Her work involves recording traditional and contemporary

Lepcha stories and examining how modernity and globalisation has impacted on Lepchas' connection to their traditions. Her PhD is non-traditional, enabling her to present her narrative-based work within the framework of creative non-fiction.

BRIGITTE STEINMANN is Professor at the University of Lille (France) and research fellow at the Clersé (Laboratory affiliated to the National Centre for Scientific Research, Lille). Since 1979, she has travelled extensively in the Himalayas (mainly Nepal), working among the Tamang populations, and in Sikkim since 1993. She has published, in addition to numerous articles on the anthropology of Nepal and the Himalayas, four volumes about the Tamang and Bhutia populations and political anthropology in Nepal; the last one being: *Le Maoïsme au Népal: Lectures d'une Révolution*, Paris, CNRS 2006. She is presently collecting and publishing essays on the rituals of the Nyingmapa Tamangs of Nepal.

KUNGA YONTEN HOCHOTSANG comes from the Hochotsang family of Derge (Kham), eastern Tibet. He received his early education from private tutors and later studied at Derge Gonchen and Ngor Ewam monasteries in Tibet. He was attached to the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology at Gangtok from 1961 to 1996, initially as a student and later served as Research Assistant, Research Officer and Deputy Director of the same Institute. He was English Language Teacher at Sikkim Institute of Higher Nyingmapa Studies; Senior Tibetan Teacher at Tashi Namgyal Academy and Member of the Tibetan Parliament in-Exile. He is presently the Director, and a founder-member of the Sa-Ngor Chotshog Centre, Gangtok.