



## Information for the Media

The Tibet Institute Rikon celebrates its 50th Anniversary

### **The Dalai Lama will come to Switzerland in September**

**Rikon, March 26, 2018: *This year, the Tibet Institute Rikon will celebrate its 50th anniversary. From September 21 through 24, 2018, His Holiness the Dalai Lama will participate in several events held in Rikon, Winterthur and the Hallenstadion Zürich, bestowing a unique character on all of them.***

#### **The Dalai Lama and the Tibet Institute Rikon**

Following a suggestion of the Dalai Lama, the industrial family Kuhn paved the way to the inauguration of the Tibet Institute Rikon in 1968. His Holiness assumed the role of the monastery's patron. He chooses the Abbots and assigns the monastery its major tasks. Among them, providing for the religious and cultural needs of Tibetans of all traditions in Switzerland is of key importance.

#### **The Tibet Institute on its 50th Birthday**

According to His Holiness, the Tibet Institute should be a place of mutual teaching and learning. Here, both for Tibetans and non-tibetan people, but especially for the younger generations, the task is to preserve, but also to enliven a religious and cultural heritage and to open it up to new horizons. With this mandate, the Tibet Institute moves ahead into the coming decades.

In the course of the past decades, new tasks have been added to the Institute's agenda. A scientific library was built up as a means to preserve Tibet's spiritual heritage. It serves as a basis for research at all scientific levels, and – being part of the Zürich Network of University Libraries – is accessible to the general public through internet.

The list of educational events published annually by the Institute runs up to about 100 talks and seminars on Tibetan culture and religion. The offer attracts some 2000 visitors each year, as well as some thirty classes from public schools, who visit Rikon in the framework of their interdenominational religious studies.

#### **Dialogue between East and West**

Following a suggestion by the Dalai Lama, the Tibet Institute, since many years, participates in the efforts to familiarize monks and nuns in Tibetan monasteries with Western scientific reasoning. Swiss scientists, supported by Tibetan interpreters, teach in numerous exile monasteries, but also in Rikon itself. The project is inspired by the Dalai Lama's concept according to which Tibetan Buddhism must be open to dialogue with other philosophies if it is to further develop and to contribute to a better world. At the same time, His Holiness shares our view that the Western World will be greatly enriched if it can open up to dialogue with Buddhist philosophy and spirituality.



**50 YEARS | 2018**  
**TIBET INSTITUTE RIKON**  
**WITH H.H. THE DALAI LAMA**



### **Four Events with the Dalai Lama**

Taken as a whole, the four events reflect the major human and cultural commitments of His Holiness which also serve as guidelines for the activities of the Tibet Institute. Among them we mention the Dalai Lama's efforts to enliven the potential of peace and non-violence contained in Tibetan culture, his promotion of religious harmony and his untiring commitment to those fundamental human values which can unite all humans irrespective of whether they adhere to any specific religion or not.

Friday, 21.09.2018, 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon, Tibet Institute Rikon

#### **H.H. the Dalai Lama visits the Tibet Institute Rikon**

Religious ceremony with H.H. the Dalai Lama to celebrate the 50 years jubilee of the monastery. (For invited guests as well as for visitors in the garden)

Saturday, 22.09.2018, 09.30 a.m. to 14.00 p.m., Eulachhallen Winterthur

#### **Celebrating "50 Years Tibet Institute Rikon"**

Official Function with H.H. the Dalai Lama to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Tibet Institute, followed by lunch and musical conclusion. (Public event)

Sunday, 23.09.2018, 09.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon, Hallenstadion Zürich

#### **Teaching of H.H. the Dalai Lama**

H.H. the Dalai Lama teaches on three of his favorite texts. (Public event, organized by Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein and Tibet Institute Rikon)

Monday, 24.09.2018, 09.15 a.m. to 11.45 a.m., Kongresshaus Liebestrasse Winterthur

#### **Symposium "Universal Human Values and Education"**

Academic Programme with H.H. the Dalai Lama. (For members of the ZHAW, organized by the ZHAW, the Gaden Phodrang Foundation of the Dalai Lama and the Tibet Institute Rikon)

### **Further information and tickets**

[www.tir50.ch](http://www.tir50.ch)

Tickets for Official Function (22.09.) and Teaching (23.09.) starting from 29.03.2018

### **Accreditation**

Accreditation forms will be published from July 2018 on [www.tir50.ch](http://www.tir50.ch)

### **Media coordination**

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