

Dr. Lobsang Sangay became the first elected political leader after His Holiness the fourteenth Dalai Lama's devolvement from political leadership in 2011. First elected to the presidency in 2011, Dr. Sangay won a second term in 2016.

Born in 1968 in a Tibetan settlement near Darjeeling, North-east of India, Dr. Sangay completed his primary and secondary education from Central Schools for Tibetan in Darjeeling

In 1988, after pursuing his schooling from the Central School for Tibetans, Dr. Sangay set out to pursue higher education at the Delhi University where he earned a BA degree in English Literature and an LLB degree. Throughout his time at the Delhi University, Dr. Sangay juggled his academic with student activism and in 1992; he was elected as the youngest executive member of the Tibet Youth Congress.

In 1995, after receiving a Fulbright scholarship, Dr. Sangay entered Harvard Law School to pursue a postgraduate study in Law. In 2004, Dr. Sangay became the first ever Tibetan to earn the Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.) degree from Harvard Law School. His doctorate dissertation: Democracy and History of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile from 1959-2004 was awarded the Yong. K. Kim'95 Prize for Excellence. Appointed as a research fellow at the university in 2005 and then promoted to a senior research fellow, Dr. Sangay continued working at Harvard University until early 2011.

Along with his academic pursuit, Dr. Sangay organized several major conferences and engaged with Chinese scholars and scholars from India and west on China and Tibet, including two unprecedented meetings between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Chinese scholars in 2003 and 2009 at Harvard University.

On 8th August 2011, during the swearing-in ceremony of Sikyong, formerly called Kalon Tripa, His Holiness shared how His Holiness at a young age was handed over the political leadership by then regent Takdrag Rinpoche and today by doing so to Dr. Sangay His Holiness said, "I have fulfilled my long-cherished goal."

Dr. Sangay won a second term in 2016 and during the swearing-in ceremony he unveiled the Five-Fifty vision: Shaping Tibet's Political Future aimed at restoring freedom in Tibet and the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet in the five year term and at the same time embodying the possibilities and strategizing to reinvigorate the Tibet movement for the next fifty years, if needed.

Dr. Sangay's administration has taken major steps to energize the Tibetan people and generate political awareness and social engagement of Tibetans everywhere. Dr. Sangay's efforts to galvanize the Tibetan Diaspora emphasize policies that promote widespread, high-quality education and also youth empowerment.

In order to further strengthen the international community's support, Dr. Sangay travelled intensively to major countries in Asia, North America, Europe, Africa and Australia to garner attention to Tibet through global and multilateral

support. Dr. Sangay has been interviewed by and has written op-eds for The New York Times, International Herald Tribune, Times of India, The London Times, The Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, BBC, Newsweek, TIME Magazine, USA Today, the Boston Globe, Harvard Crimson, among others. His articles about Tibet have been published in the Harvard Asia Quarterly, Journal of Democracy, East Asia and International Law.

Dr. Sangay has been recognized with numerous honours and awards including the Leadership Award by the Regional New England Amnesty International, the Peace and Justice Award by the Peace Commission of the City of Cambridge, and membership on the Advisory Board of the Asian American Civic Association. He was awarded the Gold Medal for Outstanding Contribution to Public Discourse from the Historical Society of the Trinity College.

Among the other recognitions for his contribution towards democracy, peace and the Tibetan community includes; the Presidential Medal by Salisbury University, Takasu Award by the Takusu Foundation, Rataan Samman by Hansraj College and Bharatiya Chatra Sansad (Indian Student Parliament) award for inspiring youth and strengthening democracy. The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) conferred Dr. Sangay with a citation award recognizing and honouring the democratic institution of the Central Tibetan Administration as envisioned by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.