

Notes attached on the book *Chagzampa Thangtong Gyalpo – Architect, Philosopher and Iron Chain Bridge Builder* by Manfred Gerner

The Centre for Bhutan Studies has received a letter from Tenzin Chhophag, the 12th Chagzampa, in December 2007.

The letter states that he (Tenzin Chhophag) has been recognized as the 12th Chagzampa by His Holiness Dalai Lama, Dilgo Khyentse Rimpoche, Mingling Trichen Rimpoche and Sakya Tridzin Rimpoche.

The letter went on to state that in a book (*Chagzampa Thangtong Gyalpo – Architect, Philosopher and Iron Chain Bridge Builder* by Manfred Gerner), the Centre for Bhutan Studies has documented Thangtong Gyalpo's lineage up to the 17th incarnation.

First, it has been written that the Late Dilgo Khyentse Rimpoche and Kalu Rimpoche have indicated that Sangay Choedzin, currently the Lama of the Zilukha Nunnery, as the 17th Thangtong Gyalpo, and suggested that the boy must be recognized by Sakya Tridzin.

Second, it has been written that Dalai Lama and Sakya Tridzin have recognized Sangay Choedzin as the 17th Thangtong Gyalpo.

The letter questioned the source of information the Centre has used and suggested further investigation. It demanded that the Centre, which is responsible for printing and distribution [the book], should provide answers to the doubts raised above.

Signed by
Tenzin Chhophag

The Centre for Bhutan Studies would like to clarify that *Chagzampa Thangtong Gyalpo – Architect, Philosopher and Iron Chain Bridge Builder* was written by Manfred Gerner in German and translated into English by Gregor Verhufen. The Centre has published the book for the benefits of the Bhutanese reading public since there is limited information on this important Buddhist saint. The Centre is mainly interested with the book, like any other Bhutanese readers, as a rich social document, not for its documentation of who is and who is not the 12th or 17th reincarnation of Thangtong Gyalpo.

We also would like to clarify that CBS has played no role either in its research or in selecting sources.

One of the Centre's mandates is to generate and disseminate information freely to the Bhutanese through research and publication, and publication of the above book is one effort in fulfilling the mandate.

Thank you.