

Dalai Lama awarded the Templeton Prize

[14 May 2012] Hundreds of people queued in the rain to have the opportunity of witnessing the Dalai Lama receive the hugely valuable Templeton Prize in St Paul's Cathedral. Prior to his entrance the cathedral was filled with the sound of Tibetan monks chanting, setting the tone for a very special and unique occasion.

The Templeton Prize is awarded to outstanding individuals who have devoted their talents to expanding the vision of human purpose and spirituality. Sir John Templeton established the annual Prize in 1972 to identify, in his words, "entrepreneurs of the spirit", though it celebrates no particular faith tradition.

In his acceptance speech the Dalai Lama spoke of the power of compassion, kindness and trust. He urged people to increase their positive emotion and share good thoughts and deeds saying, "If a thousand people make such efforts, it will multiply and bring much change."

The Dalai Lama donated the £1million prize to charity. The majority of the money was given to Save the Children, and the rest to two charities which provide research and education in science and Buddhism.

Prior to the ceremony there was a media panel discussion chaired by Jonathan Dimpleby held at St Paul's, where the Dalai Lama was joined by two eminent scientists to discuss spiritual progress.

Further links:

[Guardian: The ceremony in pictures](#)

[Guardian: Dalai Lama's message at St Paul's prizegiving](#)

[Huffington Post: Why Tibet Matters by Bianca Jagger](#)

[BBC Radio 4, Today: The Dalai Lama interviewed by Sarah Montague \(12 mins\)](#)

[More about the Templeton Prize](#)

[China criticises Cameron for meeting the Dalai Lama](#)

[15 May 2012] Prime Minister David Cameron has been strongly criticised by China for meeting the Dalai Lama whilst he was in London to receive the Templeton Prize. The Chinese government has made a formal protest to the British Ambassador in Beijing and in a public statement Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei urged the "UK to respond to China's solemn demand and stop conniving and supporting Tibetan separatists".

Read more:

[Guardian: China unhappy at Cameron's meeting with Dalai Lama \(15 May\)](#)

Bloomberg: Cameron's Dalai Lama Meeting Damages Ties, China Says (15 May)

China cancels top official's visit to UK in protest

[25 May 2012] The Chinese government has cancelled the upcoming visit to the UK of top official Wu Bangguo in protest over David Cameron's meeting with the Dalai Lama last week. Wu Bangguo is the Chair of the National People's Congress and is China's second highest political figure, outranked only by President Hu Jintao. The cancellation follows China's admonishment of the British government last week. Chinese officials stated that Cameron's meeting with the Tibetan spiritual leader had "harmed" Chinese-British relations and had "hurt the feelings of the Chinese people".

Further reading:

Guardian: China cancels UK visit over David Cameron's meeting with Dalai Lama (25 May)

BBC: Top Chinese official cancels UK visit over Dalai Lama meeting (25 May)

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