## **TIBET**

When I was an 8-year-old boy my parents asked me what I wanted for Xmas? My answer was: "a spherical map of the world". That sphere, made of wood and the size of a ball to play football, has lost its shiny tone but I still have it well in view in my home.

When I received it, I started looking at the map to the various European countries but few days later I was becoming quite familiar with the shapes of the Far Eastern ones. Actually, it is from those days that came my dream of seeing the Far East and definitely visiting TIBET, that country standing on top of the world.

The first time I went to Tibet the country was already in a transition period and in full effervescence, the people were handling the move towards a more modern world. Since that time, like in the whole Far East, the changes have been tremendous.

Back to geology, what impresses the most there are the high mountains reaching 7000m or more. Farming areas are found in the valleys at about 2000m. There is a large platen area in the north extending to Sichuan. To link the various valleys the roads are climbing passes reaching commonly 5000m.

But today people of Lhasa are driving cars, enjoying traffic jams and pollution like in every big city of the world, as can be seen here:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/kj5i7musyzuu3z8/TlBET.mp4?dl=O

However Tibet is still unique and worth to be discovered.

**Bernard LEROY**