

Information from the

KUSZ Teacher Meeting of the European Teacher Group

May, 1st - 4th 2008 in Berlin

Participants: ZM Wu Bong, ZM Bon Yo, ZM Bon Shim, Chong An Sunim JDPS, Mukyong JDPSN, Andrzej Piotrowski JDPSN, Hyong Gak Sunim JDPS, Muchak JDPSN (only on Sunday), Jo Potter JDPSN (only on Sunday)

Guest: ZM Soeng Hyang

Absent: Myong Oh JDPSN

Topics

1. Guiding Teachers about their situation and news from their Sanghas

- Situation in Israel: The national Sangha there has a new Decision-Making-Board for their three groups.
- Situation in Denmark: The Danish Zen Center has lost contact with us. Mukyong JDPSN will contact them and find out about their activities and their status in the school.
- Situation in Oslo: The Sangha there has started new. Hyong Gak Sunim JDPS will be helping there.
- Situation in Gdansk: Myong Oh JDPSN is on leave of absence. Therefore the Sangha there should follow Andrzej Piotrowski JDPSN who is the guiding teacher.
- Progress of the Won Kwang Sah construction: First priority is to raise 38 000 Euro to purchase another piece of land in order to unite the land and to be able to get a clearance for the planned building of the temple. Meanwhile the activities continue in the main house and in the newly constructed social building. Two houses in the close neighbourhood are being used as the men and women dormitories. Chong An Sunim JDPS will prepare a subtract of the budget for our next meeting and for the donors. During summer Won Kwang Sah will host a *Hwa Om Soeng Jung Kido*.

2. News and announcements from the European Head- and Vice Head-Teacher

- The European Head Temple has been shifted from Paris to Berlin.
- The start of a vision process for the European KUSZ has been postponed to 2009.
- It was decided that decisions in our Teachers Group will be approved with a 2/3rd majority of the teachers present. The European Head Teacher has veto power.

3. Decision making processes during the absence of the European Head Teacher

- During the Head Teachers absence in Europe he will communicate very clearly to the Vice-Head-Teacher and to the Teachers Group who will be in charge.

4. Situation of Myong Oh JDPSN

- Myong Oh JDPSN is resting her nuns-precepts and is continuously on leave of absence as a teacher.

5. Situation of Hyon Gak Sunim JDPS

- Hyon Gak Sunim will regularly take part at Kyol Che's in Korea. Besides this he will spend much time in Europe.
- He is welcomed to help us in our teaching activities here. Therefore we decided to accept Hyon Gak Sunim JDPS as a member of the European Teachers Group for the transition time of one year.
- Meanwhile he will make clear with ZM Dae Bong and with the Asian Teacher Group where he will remain a full member in the future.
- Next year we will review his status in Europe again. We hope that he will be able to make clear to the Teacher Group and to the Sangha, where he will be teaching and take over responsibilities.

6. Appointments of new Guiding Teachers and Abbots

- Chong An Sunim JDPS has been appointed as Guiding Teacher in Latvia.
- Hyon Gak Sunim has been appointed as Guiding Teacher at Oslo ZC for the period of one year.
- Senior Dharma Teacher Dariusz Krupa has been appointed as Abbot at Paris ZC.
- Bon An Sunim has been appointed as Abbot at Warsaw ZC.

7. News and updates from the School Abbot and the Executive Board

- European Finances: The outline of the planned *Membership System*, *Membership Fees* and *Membership Share* have been approved in general. However, improvements and modifications have been suggested which will be given into the Executive Board for evaluation. It was mentioned that the introduction of *Supporting Members* and *Honourable Members* might be added. The Teacher Group directs the Executive Board to continue with the project and introduce it soon to the European Sangha.
- Decision making: It was decided that only the Head Teacher can veto activities which belong to the assignment of the Executive Board. However, the Executive Board along with the European Abbot have to report regularly to the Teachers Group and to the Sangha through the Board of Representatives. Newly introduced projects with great impact to the whole Sangha continue to need approval through the European Teacher Group first.
- Proposal for the WWSF Conference 2011 in India (attachment): All teachers voted in favour of the idea. We hope that the Teacher Groups in Asia and North America will also decide about the issue soon so that we can come to a conclusion.
- Report of the financial help to Novgorod Zen Center: The international support for the burned down ZC was well organised. Totally 6142,87 Euro could be sent to our Novgorod Sangha so far.

8. Pension Fund for Zen-Masters

- Postponed to a time when our administrative and financial resources will allow us to set up a support system.

9. WWSF-Conference in Warsaw Sept. 2008 and itinerary in East-Europe

- Organisation and planning are inside the time-table. Information is available through the special webpage on www.singleflower2008.org/ and on www.kwanumzen.eu.

10. Scheduling Summer and Winter Kyol Che 2008/09 in Warsaw/Won Kwang Sah

- The host ZM and JDPSN of our Kyol Che's will get in touch with the teachers, and will thus organise the retreats independently. A short list will be sent to the European Teacher Group and then will get published on the webpage.

Decisions

1. The annual European budget outline 2008 has been approved.
2. An Ethics-Committee in Europe will only be established when it is needed.
3. We decided not to send another teacher into the Foundation of Won Kwang Sah.
4. The Executive Board has been assigned to work out a unified *Dharma-Teacher-Curriculum* with coordinated topics and *Dharma-Teacher-Trainings-Programmes* in Europe.
5. The Founders' Day Ceremony should be celebrated in Europe. We suggest that each Zen Center and groups independently schedule such an event on beginning of August of each year.

Berlin, June 2008

written by

Mukyong JDPSN

Abbot of the European Kwan Um School of Zen

approved by

ZM Wu Bong

Head Teacher of the European Kwan Um School of Zen

Attachment

Proposal:

The Whole World Is A Single Flower

Pilgrimage to Buddha's Primary Point: India, October 2011

program

Sat.

- arrival in Delhi, transfer to Hotel
- afternoon: Delhi sightseeing tour
- together diner

Sun.

- transfer to airport and departure to Patna/Gaya by flight
- transfer to Bodhgaya by bus (arrival late evening)
- stay at hotel/tempels in Bodhgaya

Mon.

- morning: pilgrimage to various Buddhist Tempels in Bodhgaya
- late afternoon: Ceremony „Buddhas Primary Point“ beneath the Bodhitree
- stay at hotel/tempels in Bodhgaya

Tue.

- departure to Vultures Peak and Kushinagara by bus
- check in hotel/guest houses
- mediation/Dharma Talk

Wed.

- departure to Buddhas Birthplace, Lumbini
- check in hotel/guest houses
- mediation/Dharma Talk

Thu.

- departure and one day journey to Benares, Sarnath by bus

Fri.

- stay in Sarnath
- museum
- dear park

Sat.

- morning until afternoon: sightseing Benares
- evening: closing talk and together diner in Sarnath

Sun.

- flight from Benares to Delhi and back home
- end of the trip

optional individual or group extensions:

- from Benares: Bhutan (flight)
- from Delhi: Agra and Taj Mahal (train)
- from Delhi: Rishikesh and Western Himalayas (bus)
- from Benares or Delhi: Goa (beach and chill out) (flight)
- from Benares or Delhi: South India (flight)