

Minutes

KUSZ Teacher Meeting of the European Teacher Group

April 6th - 8th 2007 in Paris

Participants: ZM Wu Bong, ZM Bon Yo, ZM Bon Shim, Chong An Sunim JDPS, Andrzej Piotrowski JDPSN, Mukyong JDPSN

Absent: Myong Oh Sunim JDPS

Topics

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

- Debrecen Zen-Group in Hungary is about to dissolve.
- New start of the Riga Zen-Group in Latvia.
- New Zen-Group appeared in Donieske, Ukraine.
- Warsaw Zen Center has vacant rooms for residents.
- Brussels Zen Center has shifted to a new place at Koen Vermeulen's house.
- London Zen Center has developed into a full Zen Center with daily practise.
- Brno Zen Center has to change its location. The Sangha is strong and growing.
- Gdansk Zen Center moved to a calmer but smaller place. Their new abbot is Adam Helinski.

2. Reading the minutes from our previous meeting in Warsaw, September 2006

- nothing to report

3. Vote for a Vice School Head Teacher

- ZM Bon Yo was voted and appointed as the new Vice School Head Teacher, who will be acting as head of the European Sangha during ZM Wu Bong's absence.

4. Changes of appointment processes and appointments of new Guiding-Teachers and Abbots through the EU Head Teacher

- It was clarified that the national Sanghas may recommend whom they want as their Guiding Teacher. But it is the Teacher Group and the Head Teacher who decides and appoints the Guiding Teachers.
- The Head Teacher decided that the abbots of the national Head Temples are appointed from now on by the Guiding Teacher and not through the Head Teacher any more. The national Sangha Abbot is still appointed through the Head Teacher. All other Zen Center Abbots and Group Leaders are appointed through the Sangha Abbot.
- ZM Bon Yo was appointed as Guiding Teacher in Slovakia.
- Namhee Chon was appointed as Sangha Abbess in Germany
- Alvidas Turkis was appointed as Sangha Abbot in Lithuania.

5. Forms in Europe - changes and clarifications

- There will be two Chukbee hits when there is more than one sitting period: On the first Chukbee we stretch our legs, and after 20 - 40 seconds everybody stands up at the hit of the second Chukbee for walking meditation.
- On retreats which last longer than 3 days optional exercises like Yoga can be integrated. It should be led by qualified instructors.
- During walking meditation the next one in line after the ZM or JDPSN will continue to lead, in case the ZM or JDPSN leaves the dharma room. The Head Dharma Teacher will only lead the walking meditation, in case no ZM or JDPSN is present right from the beginning.
- Outside the approved form of the KUSZ any other practise should not be part of the daily Zen-practise, in retreats or at Kyol Che. Individual special practises should not be introduced as regular formal practise.
- In case the ZM or JDPSN is not present during special chanting, the Head Dharma Teacher hits the Moktak.
- Senior Dharma Teachers or Dharma Teachers don't get paid when they lead a retreat, except for their travel expenses.
- Every morning before bows the Zen community should do one prostration in front of the teacher (ZM or JDPSN).

6. Ceremonial Forms

- We discussed the "Zen Mourning Ceremony" and it has been approved (attachment A). However we decided to create standardised ceremonial forms which will be put together in a booklet. Chong An Sunim will introduce his recommendations on our next meeting.

7. The Won Kwang Sa Project

- Chong An Sunim JDPS presented two documents which settled all questions concerning the legal organisation structure of WKS.

8. Development of an European Administration of our School

- Taking into consideration the suggestions from the Board of Representatives (BoR) it was decided to create an Executive Board besides the existing Teacher Group and BoR. The Executive Board will be the administrative arm of our European School and will be led by the Abbot of the European KUSZ. Mukyong JDPSN has been appointed as the abbot through the Head Teacher and the Teacher Group. He will form the team of directors, who together with him will work for the integration of the European School (see also Topic 10).
- The newly created Executive Board supports and advises the national Sanghas in Europe. It has administrative power over all national Sanghas. It reports to the BoR and to the European Teacher Group regularly. Only the ZM's or JDPSN's can veto its decisions (attachment B).

9. Whole World is a Single Flower Conference 2008

- ZM Bon Shim outlined the financial budget of the conference and proposed the itinerary. The outline of the programme of the conference is attached (attachment C).

10. Meeting with the Board of Representatives

- There was an intensive exchange mostly regarding the newly formed administration of the European School.
- Referring to the previous discussion of the BoR in the googlegroup-network, we agreed about the following goals for our European KUSZ:

The European KUSZ will spiritually foster and administratively coordinate the different national Sanghas in Europe and Israel. The purpose is to create an environment between and within the national organizations of the Kwan Um School of Zen in Europe and Israel that helps to make the teaching and practise of ZM Seung Sahn and his dharma-heirs available to the people in Europe and Israel.

11. Planning the next Summer Kyol Che

- Next Summer Kyol Che will be from June 26th - Sept. 22nd 2007 at Warsaw ZC.
Guest Teacher: Andrzej Stec

12. Soen Doek Sunim “Senior Monks”

- We discussed the proposal of our Korean Sangha regarding Soen Doek Sunim, and are in accordance with their ideas (attachment D).

Our next Teacher Meeting will be on Sept 21st - 23rd 2007 at Warsaw ZC.

Prospective topics:

- Ceremonial Forms
- Whole World is a Single Flower

May 11th, 2007

written by

Mukyong JDPS

Abbot of the Kwan Um School of Zen of Europe

read and approved by

ZM Wu Bong

Head Teacher Kwan Um School of Zen of Europe

Attachments

A)

Zen Mourning Ceremony / Ceremony for the Departed

- Opening of the Altar
- Opening Bell
- Opening Speech
- The Threefold Refuge
- Proclamation (*together*):

In this transient world of constant change, we offer this ceremony to ... and to all of our loved ones who have departed from this life. With profound reverence and gratitude we invite ... and our departed ones to be guided by the Buddha's brilliant light and to be present among us in order to receive our Dharma Offerings.

With great sincerity we invite ... and all our relatives from countless previous lives, all beings who have passed away and all those spirits whether above us or below us; whether they have found peace or are still wandering restlessly, also all tormented spirits and spirits of the lowest underworlds.

We ask all these Beings to be present at this ceremony:

Come and award this ceremony your attention!

- Recital of "Coming Empty Handed, Going Empty Handed" (*together*)
- Sitting Zen (*three minutes*)
- Ji Jang Bosal recitation (*with the big drum, all together, standing; during the Kido everybody comes one by one to the altar, makes two prostrations and lights one incense stick or a small candle or gives a flower*)
- Memorial speeches from those present. (*Anyone who wishes comes forward*)
- Burning of the names from the departed (*written before hand on rice paper and placed on the altar together with a photo*)
- Recital of the Mantra of Farewell sung during the burning: (*together*)
Om biro gitse sabaha
- Recital of the Mantra for a favourable rebirth:
Om mani dani hum hum ba tak sabaha (*three times, together*)
- Three full prostrations together
- Heart Sutra
- Four Great Vows
- Closing Remarks

C)

Preliminary Programme of the Whole World is a Single Flower Conference in Europe 2008

Friday, Sept 19 th	Warsaw: guests arrival and transfer to the ZC and Hotel
Saturday, Sept. 20 th	Conference at Hotel Boss
Sunday, Sept 21 st	Dharma Talks afternoon: city tour in Warsaw
Monday, Sept 22 nd	departure to Cracow by bus and city tour
Tuesday, Sept 23 rd	morning: visit to Auschwitz (site of the Nazi Concentration Camp) afternoon: transfer to Praha by plane
Wednesday, Sept 24 th	city tour Praha evening: transfer to Budapest by plane and to the hotel
Thursday, Sept 25 th	tour to Won Kwang Sah and return to Budapest

Friday, Sept 26th

city tour Budapest

End of the first part of the programme. Guests may leave home through Warsaw or continue the itinerary to Paris

D)

Proposal for Soen Doek Sunim

Zen Master Dae Bong

The Kwan Um School of Zen has a way to recognize and use older dharma teachers with the position of senior dharma teacher, but there is no similar way to recognize Sunims who have a lot of experience and much to offer younger students. Korean temples have numerous ways to do that. One is the position of Soen Doek Sunim. "Soen Doek" literally means "Zen Virtue," a senior monk who can counsel, teach and help our students. Below is a proposal for such a position in the KUSZ.

Requirements to become Soen Doek

1. Fifteen years as a Sunim (dated from taking the novice precepts).
2. Great familiarity with the teachings, practice forms and style taught by Zen Master Seung Sahn and practiced at our zen centers.
3. Completed at least ten 90-day Kyol Che retreats sponsored by KUSZ.
4. Successful completion of at least one of the traditional training programs required of Sunims in the Jogye Order -- either Haeng Ja Gyo Yuk, Bhikkhu Gyo Yuk, a kyol che in a traditional Korean Soen Bang, or the higher ordination trainings.
5. Basic Knowledge of Buddhist teachings common to most schools of Buddhism.
6. Behavior and personal comportment that encourages others to have faith in Buddhism, Buddhist practice and our school.

How one becomes Soen Doek

1. The title will be conferred by the Kwan Um Soen Rim monastic Sangha (Sangha of Kwan Um School of Zen Sunims), with the approval of the regional Zen Master.

Duties, Responsibilities, Recognition of Soen Doek

1. Help the Guiding Teacher and Abbot of a Zen center run practice, teaching programs of the Zen center and teach Zen center students.
2. Responsibilities – can give consulting interviews, Dharma talks, help run retreats and other Zen center teaching programs and provide a good example of a practicing person.
3. Seating position next to the Zen Center Zen Master or Ji Do Poep Sa.