

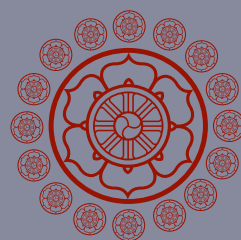


European Sangha Weekend

September 18-20,

Sangha Meeting

Report / Announcements



KWAN UM SCHOOL OF ZEN
IN EUROPE



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REPORT FROM THE STUDENTS MEETINGS

Though we did not have enough time to discuss everything, thanks to great moderation by Arne, we got lots of results and many new ideas for further discussion.

We talked about the way to improve next meetings, so that we can move forward more effectively. We agreed that the next Sangha Weekend should be longer (3 days) and with more time spent all together - teachers and students. We want to have less formal events and more time spent in discussions, games, workshops, having enough time to share things with friends in the Sangha. We will learn how to moderate discussions, so that we know how to work in smaller groups. We will choose the two most important topics for discussions, so that we can focus our attention and get things done.

If you can, please come for the next Sangha weekend and experience togetherness, bring more ideas and inspiration to others and also for yourself.





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DISCUSSED TOPICS

FUNDRAISING

INTERNAL FUNDRAISING

- Identifying the needs of the Sangha
- Finding ways for fundraising - regional and european possibilities
- Registering local Sanghas in order to be able to ask for grants, state support, financial advantages
- Find out more about tax reduction when donating percentage of an income (country specifics)
- Using the professional business skills and experience of Sangha members to make Sangha projects become reality -> provide the Sangha with sufficient information
- Starting with small projects first so that the Sangha can build trust in the process, that we can succeed and make things happen.

EXTERNAL FUNDRAISING

- Make good and effective promotion that helps fundraising - showing that we can be useful for society - calligraphy lessons, yoga, sutra classes, tea ceremonies, korean language lessons, etc.
- Organising fundraising events
- Google Promotion (Google AdWords, Google AdSense)
- Connecting with other organisations so that we can use government support

Team leaders: Koen Vermeulen & Bogusia Malinowska JDPSN



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HOW TO MAKE THE ZEN CENTER A MORE ATTRACTIVE PLACE

- Learn how to take good care of newcomers. Giving introduction in more personal way, according to different peoples' needs. Not only talking about forms, but most of all about the meaning of forms and what Zen is about.
- Take away the delusion that in Zen we do not talk about practice. Learn how to talk about Zen, without always repeating the same phrases - being "good" zen students.
- Taking care of each other in the Sangha, sharing tea after practice, doing together action outside the Zen Center. Having an opportunity to experience "one mind", "don't know mind", "trying mind" in other ways (outdoor activities, workshops, physical activities...)
- Together action encouraging people to get involved in work - What do you like to do? What can you do? May be you would like to do this for the Sangha, too? The Zen Center is a common place.
- Encouraging constructive criticism, coming up with solutions, suggestions, appreciating feedback - creating possibilities in an informal way and place (pub, café -> neutral ground)
- Information flow within the Sangha (sending mails to all members about events, about meetings, keep them informed, even when they cannot come to practice for some reason)
- Having more consulting interviews, especially in places where there is no residential teacher
- Asking Sangha members and beginners for feedback - what they want? what they do not like?
- Clarifying whether the focus of our school is to help people to practise (and in this if we want to include more people) or if it is most important to keep the original teaching forms of DSSN as strictly as possible even if this means excluding people who are uncomfortable with some of our forms. (The "zen is not everyone" approach - elitism). If we practise Mahayana we ought to want to help more people!
- Do not be afraid to rely on yourself, using and offering your skills to the Sangha.

Team leaders: Haydée Winkler & Matthias Engelen



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COOPERATION WITH GOVERNMENT AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- Showing people another way of spiritual development (making the community aware of us)
- Co-operating with public institutions:
 - providing vegetarian food in prisons / hospitals, etc.
 - leading meditation in prisons / hospitals, etc.
 - helping Sangha members to avoid from being taken to the army

Team leaders: Jakub Kowalski

INFORMATION FLOW

- KUSZE Website will be only in English
- Local webdesigner can receive help in setting up their websites
- Retreat Booking System
 - Retreat News Info on European Website
 - Information will be shared on local websites too
 - Standard format of YMJJ information mail / announcement
- Newsletter System
 - Local Sangha input
 - PDF Newsletter sent out by email every three months
- Online audio / video deposit
 - All in one location
 - Transcriptions of Dharma Talks
 - Recordings
 - Links to local websites
- Virtual Sangha

Team leaders: Peter Voke & Katka Grofova



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NEXT SANGHA WEEKEND - APRIL 2 - 5, 2009

The next Sangha Weekend will take place at the end of Winter Kyol Che at Won Kwang Sa Zen Temple, Hungary.

The Sangha Weekend is scheduled for 3 days - from Friday evening to Monday afternoon. We warmly invite you to add this event to your calendar, so that hopefully you will come and use this opportunity to meet with our teachers and many Sangha friends; to share experiences, know-how and also to have lots of fun together.

We want our school to be a truly living organism. That is why your feedback is very important for us. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please write us. For any matters connected to KUSZE organization, finance, public relation, events, etc. use our new e-mail address: office@kwanumeurope.org. Thank you very much!

**This report has been prepared for you by Katka Grofova, and has been approved by Jo Potter, JDPSN.*