



Local Sangha Reports

- *Warsaw, Autumn 2010*

Ramat Gan Zen Center

Israel (report from Gal Vered)

2 months ago, the Ramat Gan Zen Group **moved to a space of its own.**

The new Dharma room is flooded with light as a result of huge windows and has a parquet floor! It is situated in a renovated clinic. The members donated generously and the money was used to buy a fridge, a stove top and furniture.

We added an evening practice and are now holding **7 practice sessions a week.**



Holon Zen Group

Israel (report from Tom Vered)

The Holon Zen Group **is one year old!** Our Sangha has just moved into a new place and after all the work we will be back to action next month!

In April, **Chong An Sunim JDPS** visited **us** and taught us kongans! Over 20 people came and practiced sincerely. Afterwards we got together and had a great time with talking and eating delicious food cooked by Noa Naor. It was a beautiful sunny day.

Later that month we had an Israeli Sangha fun day with family and friends of the Sangha members and we were treated with gourmet food prepared by the talented Avital Sebbag.



Pardes-Hanna-Karkur Zen Group

Israel (report from Boaz Franklin)

We started formal practice about one and a half months ago, thanks to the support of our gracious teachers, school and practitioners. We received a wonderful start-up kit from the European office which really helped put wind in our sails.

Since the Sangha is very young and taking its first steps, every new event is big, every new face **coming to practice feels like Bodhidharma coming to China.**

First we had the challenge of finding a practice place, after looking at a few places, there was one that felt just right, then we needed to get something to sit on - each of the Israeli Sangha offered help and we got it. Then we put up a website so that people have a clear direction of how to reach us.

Now we are half a dozen, some with practicing experience, some new, doing together action and sitting together for all beings, **it is truly a wonderful feeling.**

Lots of dogs are barking - woof woof, sun is setting.

Pardes-Hanna-Karkur Zen Group



London Zen Center

Great Britain (report from Ja An JDPSN)

The Zen Center in London **has moved to Ja An PSN's apartment.** The Center is in the same area as before--not far from the North London tube station. This area is wonderfully multicultural and alive. The London Zen Center is traditionally a place for people from all over the world as well as the English. Although Ja An PSN's apartment is small, she shares it generously with the Sangha. At the moment there are **2 residents.**

Practice takes place every morning and evening practice is on Wednesdays and Sundays with introductions for beginners on Wednesday evenings.

Ja An PSN is working on **connecting with the local library and community centre** where she could offer monthly Zen workshops. Ja An PSN wishes to thank all the teachers and most especially Bon Yo SSN and WU Bong SSN, who brought the Dharma and helped the center to grow for the past 5 years. She invites everyone to come!

London Zen Center



Košice Zen Center

Slovakia

- Morning and evening **practice 6 times a week**
- Public Dharma Talks twice a year (always at spring and autumn)
- Lectures for beginners (after public Dharma talks and every Wednesday)
- Publishing a magazine
- Organizing **YMJJs** (this year with **ZM Wu Bong and Oleg Šuk PSN**)
- Celebrations of main buddhist events; we always invite other buddhist schools in Košice (Buddha's Birthday, Buddha's Enlightenment Day)
- Together sport-culture activities (bowling, billiard, movies)
- **All-day meditation** (every first Sunday in a month)

Košice Zen Center

- Oleg Šuk JDPSN became the guiding teacher for Slovakia on April 1, 2010.
- This year we celebrated **10th Anniversary of the Slovak Sangha**.
Zen Master Wu Bong, Zen Master Bon Yo, Oleg Šuk JDPSN and 70 guests took part in the ceremony. It was a wonderful atmosphere!



Oslo Sangha

Norway

(report from Mariusz Suchanecki)

- At the moment Mariusz and Ewa are practicing together in Oslo, in Mariusz's apartment. Last year they spent **over 3 months in Zen retreats** and on Kyol Ches in Europe and Korea.
- They hope for a formal **re-opening of Oslo Zen Group** soon and have the idea to rent a bigger place in Buddhisforbundet Center in Oslo where they can offer weekly practice and monthly retreats.



Saint Petersburg Zen Center & Pavlovsk

Russia (report from Olya Veret)

- Last 6 months we had **4-days YMJJ with Dae Bong Sunim** and **10-days YMJJ with Wu Bong SSN and with Oleg Suk JDPSN**.
- We have weekend YMJJs every month and even without a teacher, about **12-22 members take part** in these retreats.
- We offer daily practice in two places - in Saint Petersburg in Buddhist's Temple and in Pavlovsk's retreat centre.
- Every Saturday, there is an introduction practice for beginners.
- Our center in St. Petersburg has a **new website** and a very nice **new altar!**
- Pavlovsk's retreat center has a **new bathroom**.
- We have a increasingly better and a more **harmonious relationship** within our Sangha here. We are practicing and working together for all beings. We are coming to understand one another more and better.

Saint Petersburg Zen Center

- More people from others cities in Russia and Ukraine are coming to us, we are meeting and practicing together. We are very happy!



YMJJ with Wu Bong SSN and with Oleg Suk JDPSN

Riga & Jurmala Zen Center

(Latvia)

- We practice together with Jurmala group in Riga Zen Center, where we have a **new place**. We attended several international buddhist meetings and retreats.
- Group leader, Aleksander Lahtionov and his family are leaving in October for one-year trip to India. **Tatjana Tracevska will replace him** for that time.
- This summer was remarkably warm in Latvia, so our group leader Aleksander Lahtionov took us for early **morning meditations at the sea** in Jurmala. It was a great chance to enjoy the glory of beautiful sunrises.
- We also organized a **Sangha weekend in August**. Eleven people with their families gathered together for the weekend and one-day trek in Kemeri National Park. Lead by Tatjana and the local map, **people crossed remote forests** and swamps, watched birds on the lake and appreciated beauty of their country.

Riga & Jurmala Zen Center

(Latvia)



Mallorca Zen Center

Spain

(report from Pablo Bernardo)

- **Six members** of the Palma Zen Center in Mallorca **attended one week of the Kyol Che** in Warsaw Zen Center this summer. They returned vitalized with Dharma energy and shared this with the Sangha and families!
- One great „together action“ activity included watching movies with Buddhist themes or spiritual aspects and sitting together to discuss the themes over a cup of tea afterwards. It was a great positive and fun way to be with each other.
- This August (just like every August), we went to Manel's house. Manel is our “event organizer”. Our Sangha enjoyed a delicious meal in the coolness of the evening in a quaint little village in the interior of Mallorca.
- This October we will celebrate the birth of Teo Bernardo with a **Baby Ceremony led by Jo Potter, JDPSN**. Teo is our sweet newcomer and is the son of Pablo, the director of the Zen Center and his beautiful wife Esther.

Mallorca Zen Center

Spain

(report from Pablo Bernardo)

- We are very happy that **Eduardo del Valle has returned to Palma Sangha** to practice with us again. He is a long time student. Eduardo has translated the book: „The Whole World is a Single Flower; 365 Kong Ans for Everyday“ from English into Spanish.



Vienna Zen Center

(Austria)

- The Vienna Sangha is small but we practice steadily. We still **rent the room** from the Naikan center, which is comfortable and works fine for us. After regular practice we usually fill up our stomachs with lots of cookies and occasionally with Korean food.
- We had a **YMJJ** at the end of June **with Mukyong PSN**, which was great and very inspiring. The only drawback was that we had very few people at our YMJJ although we advertise our retreat well. Maybe next time we can coordinate it better with other Sanghas, so that there are no retreat overlaps.

Prague Zen Center

Czech Republic

(report from Brano Sobotka)

- This year we had **two YMJJs**. One in Prague ZC, lead by Oleg Šuk PSN, with 14 people. The other YMJJ with Precepts Ceremony took place in Cernosice near Prague; it was lead by Andrzej Piotrowski PSN and 30 people attended. There are **two more YMJJs** are planned for this autumn.
- From the beginning of this summer, we are having **1-day retreat every two weeks**. Usually from 3 to 8 people attend these retreats.
- We have evening **practice four times a week**. Morning practice twice a week or on demand.
- Right now are **we are looking for a resident for our ZC**. Any of you is most welcome!

Prague Zen Center



YMJJ with Andrzej Piotrowski JDPSN in Cernosice

Opole Zen Center

Poland (report from Henryk Kulik)

- On January 3, 2010 we held a **New Year's Kwan Seum Bosal Kido**. Together with our friends from Katowice we were 13 of us, gathering strong wonderful energy.
- On February 21 we organized a **Zen Day**. After all day of sitting we shared a delicious meal together.
- On May 11 we dedicated practice to all victims of the air-plane crash near Smolensk. We chanted Ji Jang Bosal mantra.
- On May 6 we had a **public Dharma Talk** given by **Zen Master Bon Shim** the Opole University, in the main aula. From May 7 to 9 we had a weekend YMJJ.
- On May 26 we organized an workshop about introducing Zen practice to beginners.

Opole Zen Center

On August 15 the Zen Center **was flooded** due to a water-system brake-down two floors above. Most of the equipment of the Zen Center was damaged - walls, carpets, floors, mats & cushions, furniture and doors.



Katowice Zen Center

Poland (report from Marek Barcikowski)

- We have **practice three times a week** and once a month, on Saturday, we do 1-day sitting meditation.
- Every year we organize a Zen workshop lead by Andrzej Piotrowski and 1-day retreat lead by Zen Master Bon Shim or Andrzej PSN. Our center is too small for longer retreats.
- Our Zen Center is located in the very heart of Katowice in an old stone house. It is a special house, because we have historical fire-staircase and two fire-extinguishers!
- The Sangha works together in a wonderful manner, we always collect money that are necessary for paying rental fee. We also organize auctions of Zen books or improvise in many other ways :o)

Katowice Zen Center

Poland (report from Marek Barcikowski)



Brno Zen Center

Czech Republic

(report from Ondras Pribyla)

- The most important event was the **workshop weekend with Jo Potter JDPSN**, which we organize regularly in June. This time we focused on speaking about practice and the sessions helped not only to find the words to express one's experience with practice but also made us all think deeply about our motivation. This workshop had a deep effect on all participants, which could be seen on their faces even weeks after.
- Beside that, on February 5 - 7 we had a **YMJJ with Jo Potter JDPSN** and a **100-day Ceremony** for three babies in our Sangha - Martin Kutalek, Valentynka Kosourova and Anezka Kollarova.
- Since August, there is a **new baby** in the Sangha - Vojtech Foff!



Brno Zen Center

Paramita Tour 2010 - Seong Hyang SSN



Workshop weekend with Jo Potter JDPSN



Bratislava Zen Center

Slovakia (report from Lubor Košút)

- Bratislava Zen Center celebrated the **20th anniversary** of Kwan Um School of Zen of Slovakia. After celebration ceremony lead by Wu Bong SSN and Bon Yo SSN in Košice we were happy to enjoy a family atmosphere of YMJJ lead by Oleg Šuk JDPSN in June 25-27.
- During the summer weeks we kept everyday morning and evening practice, chanted Kwan Seum Bosal for people affected by flood in many parts of Slovakia and having bi-weekly dharma talks by the elder students.
- We plan to participate at the autumn retreats in Košice, Brno, Prague and WKS, then organize **December YMJJ lead by Oleg PSN** following by the Buddha's Enlightenment Ceremony.
- In March or **April 2011** we will invite **Bon Yo SSN** to Bratislava wishing to organize a Public Talk in down-town, YMJJ and Precepts Ceremony with her.

Bratislava Zen Center



Lithuanian Sangha

(report from Jordana Gonzales Cruz)

- Our Vilnius Zen Center is doing well. In March, **Jo Potter JDPSN** visited us for the first time. We were very happy after the retreat. An interview with Jo Potter JDPSN was published in one of the most important newspapers of Lithuania.
- In Lithuania we are very lucky, because we were the first to host the **Taenghwa collection** donated to the European Sangha by Dae An Sunim. Won Bo Sunim and Won San Sunim prepared and brought the whole material from Korea. Lithuanian Sangha organized an exhibition of these paintings, with a name “BEYOND WORDS AND SPEECH”. It took place from April 20 until May 3 in an important art gallery in Vilnius. Many people attended the exhibition; they also had the opportunity to learn the meaning of the scenes and colors of the paintings. Two more Koreans nuns attended, Soek Yun Sunim and Kwan Wu Sunim. They helped to lead the following 3 workshops: 1. Sutra Printing and Tile Rubbings, 2. Taenghwa Line Drawing, 3. Dancheong Painting.

Lithuanian Sangha

- We also published a **book about Korean Buddhist Art** in Lithuanian and Korean languages, compiled by Won San Sunim. The home of several of the paintings is already known. In Vilnius and Kaunas you can appreciate several of them. The others were transported to Warsaw Zen Center. They are to be donated to other KUSZ centers, following Dae An Sunim's wishes.
- At present we have a lot of work in Vilnius Zen Center. Recently we have received as a donation a plot of land of almost one hectare. We have formed an initiative group, to create the project that preliminary we have called: **Vilnius Zen House**. We already have the architectural planes for the house and now we are preparing a website with details about our project. We find ourselves swimming in the Lithuanian ocean of bureaucracy! It is hard work but our Vilnius Zen Center needs its own space, a place where all of you are welcome to practice together. Kwan Seum Bosal!

Lithuanian Sangha

Taenghwa Exhibition with nuns



Heart sutra coping workshop



Canoeing with the nuns



The first Buddhist wedding in Vilnius Zen Center



Lithuanian Sangha

- Last two weeks of July we organized the summer retreat in Vepriai. First week was lead by Hyon Gak Sunim and the second week was lead by Andrzej Piotrowski JDPSN. Four students from Germany were with us for the whole two weeks. It was wonderful experience!



Plock Zen Group

Poland (report from Ala Pelkowska)

- Our group has seven members, plus some new people coming from time to time.
- This spring we had the honor to host **Bon Shim SSN**. Together with Association “Time of a woman” we organized a Public Dharma Talk.
- We had also a very inspirational visit from **Chon Mun Sunim JDPS** (Darek Gorzewski). We practiced together, had Dharma Talk, cake and tea.



Berlin Zen Center

Germany

(report from Nick Über)

- **Muchak JDPSN**, our new guiding teacher, **brings a fresh wind** and encourages tons of new activities. Amongst other things she has organized meetings with teachers in Germany and students to create a vision for the Berlin Zen Center.
- Zen workshops for beginners are offered once a month. Muchak PSN leads the courageous into **1000 bows!** Kongan interviews are offered twice a month and consultation interviews with Muchak PSN once a week. Also offered are YMJJ's without teachers, which was a hit with the participants. This turned out to mean more than YMJJ!!!
- The Center is continually filled with residents.
- **Mukyong PSN** lead a **YMJJ** and Precepts Ceremony recently.

Berlin Zen Center

Germany

(report from Nick Über)

- **Zen Master Soeng Hyang's visit** in February was a huge success. 160 people came to the public talk and YMJJ was packed.
- GREAT NEWS: **Arne Schaefer became a JDPSN** in April in Won Kwang Sa. The German Sangha celebrated the new JDPSN with a grand party afterwards in Berlin ZC.
- Muchak JDPSN gave a **Dharma talk at the Vesakh festival** held in the Chinese Temple Fo Guang Shan.
- In August a group of **people with alcohol addiction attended** an introductory Dharma talk and took part in the practice. The participants were grateful for the opportunity to practice Zen meditation and receive help for their everyday lives.

Berlin Zen Center

Germany

(report from Nick Über)

- In June we hosted a 6-day-YMJJ with **Zen Master Wu Bong** followed by a ceremony and **birthday party** in honor of Wu Bong SSN who turned 60 in the year of the Tiger! Zen Master Bon Yo held a slide-show featuring Wu Bong SSN's life. It was fantastic: theater, music, salsa dance instructions for everyone, a magician and dancing until late in the night! Hyune Fischer led a Kim Chee workshop! Delicious! HAPPY BIRTHDAY WU BONG SSN!
- This October the German Sangha will host the **annual Dharma Teacher Workshop**, where all dharma teachers of Germany and anywhere else, will come together to deepen their understanding of the forms, share ideas, and have a great time with each other!

Won Kwang Sa - New Zen Hall



Won Kwang Sa Temple

Hungary (report from Katka Grofova)

- This year we held our third **Winter Kyol Che**. Several teachers came including **Zen Master Soeng Hyang**, and more than 70 people participated.
- By the end of January, the Zen Hall construction was finished. We held the **Opening Ceremony** on April 4. Many teachers, monks and guests from Europe, USA and Korea attended this special event, altogether 150 people. The space was shining with Dharma energy and the appreciation for the wonderful Three Precious Jewels that we have taken refuge in.
- At the beginning of June, we started a **100-day Summer Kwan Seum Bosal Kido**. Many people used the opportunity to spend their holiday in the nature, practicing, working and enjoying life with Sangha friends.
- In July we had an fusion retreat called **Sangha Wellness Week**.
- From September 12 we have 49-day Autumn Kwan Seum Bosal Kido and from November 5 we have a 49-day Winter Kwan Seum Bosal Kido.

Won Kwang Sa - Winter Kyol Che & Construction



Won Kwang Sa - Zen Hall Opening Ceremony, April 4



Won Kwang Sa - Winter Kyol Che 2011

Week 1	January 4 - 8	Arne Schaefer JDPSN
Week 2	January 8 - 15	Arne Schaefer JDPSN
Week 3	January 15 - 22	Muchak JDPSN
Week 4	January 22 - 29	Mukyong JDPSN
Week 5	January 29 - February 5	Jo Potter JDPSN
Week 6	February 5 - 12	Zen Master Soeng Hyang
Week 7	February 12 - 19 (intensive)	Zen Master Soeng Hyang
Week 8	February 19 - 26	Zen Master Bon Yo
Week 9	February 26 - March 5	Oleg Šuk, JDPSN
Week 10	March 5 - 12	Zen Master Bon Shim
Week 11	March 12 - 19	Zen Master Dae Bong
Week 12	March 19 - 26	Zen Master Dae Bong
Week 13	March 26 - April 1	Zen Master Dae Bong

More information on www.wonkwangsa.net/kyolche2011.

České Budějovice Zen Group

Czech Republic

(report from Vít Erban)

- Since last year our number increased rapidly and we have now a **heart-warming Sangha family**. We get together regularly in a rented space in the city center. We meet once a week for 2 hours sessions.
- We always travel together to join the retreats in Prague Zen Center. Sometimes we invite a Senior Dharma Teacher for consulting interviews.
- Recently we started a **connection with a tibetan group** of Rangjung Yeshe Gomde lineage and together, we celebrated **Vesak**.
- **We are** currently **extremely happy** and cannot complain about anything :o)



Krakow Zen Center

Poland (report from Krzysztof Labedzki)

- This time is great for us and our city zen center, the best in the past years. We are **renting a huge flat** in the old town district, near the bank of the Vistula river. The place itself and the surrounding are very beautiful.
- Our sangha grows, many people come to practice and take care of the zen center together. Sometimes even **18 people** come to sit in the afternoon! :-)
- We meet **four times** in the evenings every week (Mon, Wen, Fri, Sat) and stay for the night practice every Friday and for the morning practice every Saturday.
- We have organized few **strong retreats** and meetings with our teachers:
YMJJ with Bon Shim SSN (02.2010 and 05.2010), with Andrzej Piotrowski JDPSN (11.2009), with Wu Bong SSN (08.2010), Precepts Ceremony with Bon Shim SSN (05.2010) and excellent Zen Workshop with Jo Potter JDPSN (07.2010).

Krakow Zen Center

Poland (report from Krzysztof Labedzki)

- We had the great opportunity to spend **two weeks** in August **with Wu Bong SSN**. That was a magic, wonderful time of growth. Many of us were staying all that time in ZC, we were practicing every morning and evening, talking, asking, walking, working hard and resting together. Many people came for public meeting, private interviews, formal practice and the powerful YMJJ. Now the “team spirit” in the Krakow`s Sangha is very strong. We are totally grateful to WuBong SSN for the great “**Dharma infusion**” into Krakow Sangha mind and body :-) We also appreciate our families (especially wives :-) for their understanding and help.
- We are planning to develop our ZC constantly as the conditions are good now, but we depend on the building owner decisions so everything could change rapidly. We dream about the own Krakow Zen Center apartment some day.. We invite everybody to visit Krakow Zen Centre and “**only doing it**” together!

Krakow Zen Center



fot. Krzysztof Zgoła

Krakow Zen Center





Many thanks to all
who contributed to this presentation.

Your European Office