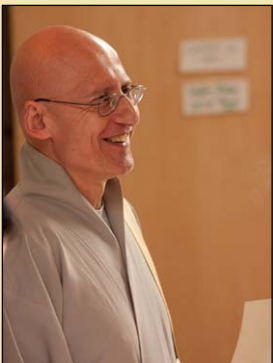




European Sangha Weekend

May 1 - 3, 2009

*Teachers' Meeting
Report to the Sangha*





Teachers' Meeting / May 2009

Report to the Sangha

PARTICIPANTS

Zen Master Wu Bong
Zen Master Bon Shim
Zen Master Bon Yo
Mukyong JDPSN
Hyon Gak Sunim JDPS
Andrzej Piotrowski JDPSN
Muchak JDPSN
Jo Potter JDPSN

Absent:

Chong An Sunim, JDPS
Myong Oh Sunim, JDPS

GUIDING TEACHERS REPORT

NORWAY

Hyon Gak Sunim is the guiding teacher for NORWAY. Interest in Oslo for growth of the KUZ Sangha is very good and Hyon Gak Sunim is excited about what is happening there. Hyong Gak Sunim led a YMJJ and gave a Dharma talk in Oslo in April. Although no Zen centre has appeared, there is great potential. Sunim is supported by former students and mainly through a “zen shop” which also organises meditation events. Mariusz Suchanecki is on leave of absence for one year and is not holding any official position.

PARIS

Bon Yo SSN reported that the financial crisis of the Zen Centre in Paris is being alleviated by the successful sale of some of the studios in the Zen centre. She has been writing a book (with the help of a ghost writer) about her experiences as a Zen Master in everyday life and hopes this book will appear in the Fall. This will be the very first book to appear from the European KUZ Sangha teachers! Bon Yo SSN asked for support during the extremely important Vesakh ceremony in Paris on the weekend of the 16th and 17th of May. She



Teachers' Meeting / May 2009

Report to the Sangha

offered a free overnight in the Paris Zen Centre for those who could come. (Since then, Bon Yo SSN reports that about 16 KUSZ participants attended the festivities.)

WARSAW

Bon Shim SSN explained that the robe room in the Warsaw ZC is literally falling apart and that the situation is urgent. She has received an estimate the costs which totals about 70,000.00 Euros. The robe room has to be entirely replaced.

Suggestions were offered as to how to go about gathering this money.

*coming in contact with Gye Mun Sunim in Singapore for advice on fundraising.

* finding sponsors to offer donations for every hour sat by those sitting in Kyol Che.

Summer Kyol Che will start on the 20th of June. Zen Master Bon Shim will be sending requests to teachers for teaching during the Kyol Che.

GERMANY

BERLIN

An appeal for 900.00 Euros in donations is being made in order to publish translations of the KUSZ books into German. This is called the Book Project. (Since then, a large amount of this money has already been collected.)

HAMBURG

Uwe Schmidt is opening a new Dharma Room close to Hamburg (in a city called Bad Bramstedt) in an attachment he built on to his new home. The opening will be on the 17th of May and will be led by the three German JDPSNs.

MÜNCHEN

The Sangha is actively searching for a permanent place to offer practice. (Since then, they have found a place and will be announcing the date of the opening soon.)



Teachers' Meeting / May 2009

Report to the Sangha

OBERPFALZ

The issue of closing Oberpfalz ZC has been summarized, settled and completed. It is important when opening a zen center, that the abbot or leader has the necessary knowledge of the responsibilities of KUZ school organization and wishes to be a member of the team which is ultimately responsible for keeping DSSN's teaching available.

UKRAINE

Wu Bong SSN stated that the Sangha in the Ukraine is growing rapidly and asked the teachers to support this growth.

WON KWANG SA

Chong An Sunim is in Korea raising funds. Jo Potter PSN reported on her teaching week during the last winter Kyolche in WKS. She experienced a very strong practice environment and a very tight and deep Kyolche. She felt that every attempt was made to offer comfort and good practice conditions for those taking part. At the same time she feels it would be valuable for all the teachers to visit WKS if they have not yet done so. This would be a great support for Sunim's great effort!

OTHER TOPICS

NING

The teachers have asked that there be a **DISCLAIMER** posted on the NING. The disclaimer should state that the KUSZ is not officially represented by the NING. A second request from the teachers regarding the NING was the idea of suggesting **NING PRECEPTS** or guidelines for everyone using the NING. It was agreed that Jo Potter JDPSN would work, together with Katka Grofova, on the composition of these guidelines.



Teachers' Meeting / May 2009

Report to the Sangha

SELECTION OF GUIDING TEACHERS

Again the discussion appeared regarding how Guiding Teachers for each Sangha are chosen. Each local Sangha proposes a first choice and a second choice of Guiding Teacher to Wu Bong SSN the Head European KUZ Teacher who in turn brings it to the attention of the European Teachers Group. The proposal is then ratified by the teacher's group.

UPCOMING ELECTION OF THE SCHOOL ZEN MASTER

Voting regulations were presented and discussed amongst the teachers and each member gave their nomination to Wu Bong SSN.

ZEN FOR CHILDREN

Children can take five precepts from 12 years on after attending one YMJJ. It has been suggested that we could introduce ceremonies for children in which they receive a Buddhist name together with a certificate. In other Sanghas of our school, Children's Clubs are offered where teachers, monks, nuns or Senior Dharma Teachers read Buddhist stories, play games or watch Buddhist films with the children and then discuss together. Any activities towards establishing children activities inside the Sangha are welcomed, but should be supervised by a senior student or a teacher.

HYON GAK SUNIM, JDPS

Hyon Gak Sunim, JDPS announced his decision to become an official member of the European Teachers group. He has resigned his membership in the Asia Teachers Group.



Teachers' Meeting / May 2009

Report to the Sangha

APPOINTMENTS & CHANGES:

EUROPEAN ABBOT

Mukyong JDPSN announced his retirement from the position of European Abbot. He was the very first European Abbot and cited his ever increasing personal workload as a major reason. He mentioned also that this position rotates. (As of yet no set period for the length of rotation has been decided). Wu Bong SSN and the teachers expressed their great gratitude for the groundbreaking work which Mukyong JDPSN accomplished during the last 7 years. He worked tirelessly and often sacrificed family and work time to create a coming together of the European KUZ Sanghas. Wu Bong SSN said the Mukyong JDPSN's dedication and strength made a greater Dharma possible in Europe.

Taking his place and becoming the second European Abbess will be Jo Potter JDPSN based in Berlin Zen Center. She will carry Mukyong JDPSN's line of vision further and will work on the next phase of bringing the KUSZ European Sanghas together.

WWSF 2009 IN INDIA

Mukyong JDPSN has also relinquished his position as Head of organization of the WWSF 2009 in India. He expressed sadness and frustration at what he felt was lack of support in this project. He encourages the new Head of organization to move as quickly as possible and also he asks the world-wide Sangha to support the new person. Zen Master Soeng Hyang has been notified and is actively seeking a new organizer. For suggestions from the European Sanghas on this project please contact Jo Potter JDPSN at the European Abbot Office and she will direct your suggestions, comments and offer to help to Zen Master Soeng Hyang on this very important project.



Teachers' Meeting / May 2009

Report to the Sangha

NEW ABBOTS AND GROUP LEADERS

Warsaw:	Bon An Sunim is the new Abbot
Paris Zen Centre:	Federico Issac Procopio is the new Abbot
Israel (new group):	Tom Vered is a new group leader of Holon KUZ group in Holon, Israel.

NEXT TEACHERS MEETING

Next Teachers meeting will take place during the Sangha Weekend at the end of summer kyolche in Warsaw (Poland), **SEPTEMBER 18 - 20, 2009.**

**This report has been prepared for you by Jo Potter, JDPSN and Mukyong JDPSN, and has been approved by Zen Master Wu Bong.*