



Report from the European Teachers Meeting

April, 6th - 8th 2012 in Paris

Participants

Zen Master Wu Bong, Zen Master Bon Yo, Zen Master Bon Shim, Zen Master Ji Kwang, Andrzej Piotrowski JDPSN, Muchak JDPSN, Jo Potter JDPSN, Bogusia Malinowska JDPSN, Oleg Suk JDPSN, Arne Schaefer JDPSN

Agenda

1. Updates about our Sangha from the Guiding Teachers

- ZM Bon Yo became Guiding Teacher for Argentina and Jo Potter became Guiding Teacher for Mexico; consequently they become members of the American Teachers Group.
- ZM Dae Jin is proposing to help the St. Petersburg Sangha with finding a new place. We would like to clarify that this should go through their Guiding Teacher and that the new place should belong to the Russian Sangha. Besides this the European KUSZ would like to be informed about activities in Europe by teachers belonging to the Asian or American Teachers Group.
- ZM Bon Yo announced that when the European KUSZ will be legalized the ownership of Paris Zen Center will be transferred to this new legal entity.
- Munich Group has been closed after the split from Hyon Gak SN.
- Vrazne Zen Center is legally owned by the Czech Sangha (KUSZ in Czech).
- Jo JDPSN will inform us in six month about the remaining Zen groups in Hungary; until then they will be listed as groups of the European KUSZ.

2. News about Won Kwang Sah

Discussion and decisions:

- Chong An Sunim rejected the basic condition posed by the ETG which was to express to the Sangha a sincere wish to return to the KUSZ. Since he has not met the basic condition and he has actually told us that he wishes to leave, the ETG acknowledges officially that Chong An Sunim is no longer a member of the KUSZ.
- Chong An SN has made a decision together with the directors of the WKS-foundation and the Hungarian Sangha representatives to transfer Won Kwang Sah Temple to the Sudok Sah Temple in Korea, who now owns the place.
- The ETG will issue an official statement that WKS has been transferred to Su Dok Sa. After the announcement, those who donated financial aid to WKS can write to Chong An Sunim and ask for their donation to be returned. There is a 60 day deadline from the moment that the ETG makes the official announcement! Those who donated must write to Chong An Sunim within the deadline!
- European guiding teachers of each Sangha will inform the Sangha members and those who donated about this deadline. Also the council will inform the North American Abbot and the Asian Sanghas about informing the donors in those regions since many donations came from other countries. Donators may ask to have the money returned directly back to them, or they may elect to send their donation further to fund projects in the European KUSZ. Donations furthered to the European KUSZ can be sent to the European KUSZ account situated in the Head Temple for the European KUSZ based in Berlin Germany.

- The ETG wishes to clearly inform donators that Won Kwang Sa does not belong to the KUSZ as of the time that the official statement is issued and that donators have the right to ask for their money back if they wish to support the KUSZ projects rather than a temple which no longer belongs to KUSZ.

3. The future development of our retreat place in Europe

Discussion and decision:

- All donations which will have been taken out of WKS will be used solely for the new project of developing our retreat place in Europe
- The ETG decided that we want to initiate the development of a new European retreat center. For the time being it may be necessary to extend our retreat center in Falenica, Poland, in order to archive an appropriate standard. In any case we want to invest our resources into the development of a well equipped retreat place in Europe.
- Therefore we formed a committee: Present members of the Retreat-Place-Committee: ZM Bon Shim, Roland JDPSN and Jo JDPSN; we will encourage students and experts to join the committee.

4. How do we want to use the remaining money from the Novgorod donation?

Decision:

- We will use the remaining money for starting the European-Retreat-Place-Project

5. Voting-system for Guiding Teachers

Exchange and decision:

- ETG decided to abandon the voting system, because of a lack of clear standards for an election process in the Sanghas. Furthermore popularity contests must be avoided.
- ETG decided that they will appoint new Guiding Teachers for a group or a Zen Center after consulting with native teachers (if existing in the country) and with the group leaders or Zen Center abbot, who may suggest and name a favorite candidate to become their Guiding Teacher

6. Affiliation of groups/centers; confirmation of GT and appointment of GT for new temples/groups/centers

Decision:

- VRAZNE, Czech: ZM Bon Shim
- KO BONG SAH Zen Group, England: ZM Ji Kwang
- JURMALA Zen Group, Latvia: Oleg Suk JDPSN
- WON MUN SANGHA Zen Group, Pierrefitte-ès-bois, France: ZM Bon Yo
- ŠAKIAI ZEN CENTER "Son Kwang Sa", Lithuania : Andrzej Piotrowski JDPSN
- KLAIPEDA Zen Group, Lithuania : Andrzej Piotrowski JDPSN
- The membership-status of DONETSK Zen Group "Bul Do" in Ukraine will first be clarified by Oleg Suk JDPSN
- Israel Sangha: no change; ZM Wu Bong will remain their GT for the time being; he will be in close touch with the Israeli Sangha to find a new GT in the near future
- Jo Potter JDPSN had been confirmed as the GT for Hungary
- Arne Schaefer JDPSN had been confirmed as the GT for Dresden
- ZM Bon Yo was nominated as GT for Gdansk Zen Center (to be confirmed)

7. Sangha Weekend Warsaw

Information:

- We formed a committee to organize the upcoming Sangha Weekend in Warsaw on September 22nd / 23rd; members: Arne Schaefer JDPSN and Igor from Lodz; ZM Bon Shim will help that more members join

8. Vote for a new Council, if wished so (end of 3 year term)

Decision:

- The present Council has been confirmed. No new vote was necessary.

9. Revision and approval of the new bylaws for the European KUSZ

Discussion and decision:

- The new bylaws had been discussed and approved with minor changes.
- ETG decided that the Regional Head Zen Master of the European KUSZ has veto power.
- After clarifying § 6 (9) and other minor changes by the Bylaws-Committee the bylaws will be sent out to inform the Sangha and to hear their proposals.
- It is planned to form the European KUSZ officially during the Sangha Weekend in Warsaw this year

10. New edition of Dharma Mirror

Exchange and decision:

- ETG decided to suspend the new Dharma Mirror, and that we will not use it for the time being, because of changes that occurred in Europe which have not been included, and mainly because of major changes in the book, which have not been coordinated with the ETG.
- The "Berlin-Committee" (Muchak JDPSN, Jo Potter JDPSN and Arne Schaefer JDPSN) will work on the issue and will present a summary of topics to the Council.
- The Council will then contact the American Teachers Group and inform them about our inputs for the new edition.

11. Teachers fees in East Europe and clarification about the fees for YMJJ and Kyol Che in East and West Europe

Exchange and decision:

Following is the new list with all fees

- Kyol Che in East and West Europe per week:
 - Zen Master 200,-- €
 - JDPSN 170,-- €
- YMJJ in East Europe per day:
 - Zen Master 120,-- €
 - JDPSN 85,-- €
- YMJJ in West Europe unchanged:
 - Zen Master 150,-- €
 - JDPSN 100,-- €
- These fees are the minimum fees; the alternate calculation has to be applied when half of the profit is higher than the minimum fee; then the profit has to be divided equally between hosting center and teacher.
- Dharma Talk honorarium in East and West Europe:
 - Zen Master 70,-- €
 - JDPSN 50,-- €

12. Clarification of forms

Exchange and decision:

- ETG decided that one can enter the Dharma room also while the Moktak-Master opens the altar.
- ETG decided that one can unfold the bowls for formal meals irrespective of the teacher's presence in the Dharma room.
- New JDPSN's cannot lead Precepts Ceremonies during their time of training and during their first year of teaching (totally 18 months).
- JDPSN's can participate in the distribution of the food during formal meals. Zen Masters job is to remain sitting on their cushion.
- It is our rule that we bow together after the Chukpi when the last sitting meditation is finished. Accordingly we bow together when we return from a walk and if there is no sitting afterwards. If there is sitting after the walk, bowing is not necessary.

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