



EUROPEAN SANGHA WEEKEND

WON KWANG SA TEMPLE, APRIL 2010

TEACHERS MEETING MINUTES



PRESENT:

Zen Master Wu Bong
Zen Master Bon Yo
Zen Master Bon Shim
Chong An Sunim JDPS

Mukyong JDPSN
Andrzej Piotrowski JDPSN
Hyon Gak Sunim JDPS
Muchak JDPSN

Jo Potter JDPSN
Ja An JDPSN
Oleg Šuk JDPSN



CHANGES

THE KUSZE HEAD TEACHER IS REPLACED BY TEACHERS COUNCIL

Zen Master Wu Bong will be functioning solely as the spiritual head of the European Kwan Um School of Zen Sangha as of immediately. Additionally he will live in Korea for an extended period of time starting in September 2010. As a result of this change, the teachers have voted for a council of 4 teachers to lead the Kwan Um School of Zen in Europe, to represent the entire Teachers Group and to take on the administrative duties that Wu Bong SSN, Head Teacher for Europe KUZ formerly acted upon.

The Council is comprised of:

Zen Master Bon Yo *Zen Master Bon Shim* *Mukyong JDSPN* *Jo Potter JDPSN*

- ~ Zen Master Bon Shim will head the Council from April 2010 until April 2011. The position as head of the council will change every year.
- ~ The members of the council will serve for three years. Thereafter the Teachers Group will vote again for a new council.

The council will:

- ~ Work closely with the entire Teachers Group.
- ~ The Teachers Group in its entirety will be the ultimate address for all issues in the Kwan Um School of Zen Europe.
- ~ The council will represent the entire Teachers Group in Europe as well as globally.
- ~ The council will directly address situations and problems of the Kwan Um School of Zen in Europe, which cannot be resolved at the Guiding Teacher level.

- ~ The council will meet regularly to respond as quickly as possible to arising situations in the Sangha Europe wide. The Teachers Group in its entirety will be notified twice yearly of the Council's work. Extremely serious issues will be brought to the entire Teachers Group immediately.
- ~ The council can be reached at: council.kuszeu@gmail.com. All four teachers have simultaneous access to this email account. Each of the teachers on the council can also be reached personally.

ZEN MASTER WU BONG

Wu Bong SSN transfers all administrative duties to the newly formed council (mentioned above). He will be spending the majority of the coming 2 years in Korea in a Korean Zen temple. He has been ordained as a monk. Additionally he will be leaving his positions as guiding teacher for Russia and Israel. These Sanghas have begun to consider different guiding teachers.

As a result of his commitments in Korea, Wu Bong SSN will not be touring Europe in September as had been planned. But the European Office is nevertheless planning a wonderful tour for the beginning of the year 2011 which will also be visiting many Sanghas in Europe. Stay tuned :o)



GUIDING TEACHERS REPORTS

ZEN MASTER WU BONG

RUSSIA

The Abbot of **St. Petersburg** Sangha, Olya Verete, a powerful woman bodhisattva reports that in April, Zen Master Dae Bong led a four day YMJJ, including the Eyes Opening Ceremony for the new Kwan Seum Bosal statue. St. Petersburg Sangha offers daily evening practice in the city center. Daily morning and evening practice is offered in the retreat center **Pavlovsk!** A 10-day YMJJ will take place in July. Zen retreats are being planned in the cities of Rostov and in Samara as well.

At the moment the Sangha is working on their new home page as well as an electronic version of "The Whole World is a Single Flower".

ISRAEL

Gal Vered, Abbot of the Israeli Sangha, reports that they experienced a great cultural experience when Chong An Sunim very recently gave a wonderful Dharma Talk at a Tibetan Center. Chong An Sunim will also be leading a one day workshop for more than one hundred "Coachers" at *Emotion Society* --a coaching school! Gal reported that the Israeli Sangha's vision includes engaging more teachers in joint ventures with other schools and organizations.

At the moment, the Sangha is working actively on a 3-year plan which will include a specific vision of the our school in Israel 3 years from now!

One great thing is the formation of committees which will work on marketing, formation of events, and a book translation team. They are in the process of investigating and evaluating all that it takes to establishing the school legally in Israel! Just Doing It!

Ramat Gan Zen Group had been renting a space for the practice, but now they feel solid enough to go for it and find a space of their own! Kwan Seum Bosal!!!

The Israeli Sangha also is home to Avital Sebbag! Avital is working seriously on putting together a cookbook for the global Kwan Um School of Zen! Included will be recipes from all countries where Kwan Um School of Zen have retreats and Kyol Che take place. Mouthwatering reasons to visit this fabulous Sangha!

ZEN MASTER BON YO

Paris Zen Center is emerging from a very difficult time. However with Bon Yo SSN's strong vision and together with Abbot Federico and Sangha members, Paris Zen Center continues to offer Zen practice in one of the most beautiful Dharma rooms in Europe to new students as well as old students! Paris Dharma in the springtime is a must! Chant the Heart Sutra *en français* and afterwards *une tasse de café au lait, un verre de cabernet sauvignon.....ooh la la!*

ZEN MASTER BON SHIM

POLAND

Warsaw Zen Center has 8 residents at the moment! Zen retreats regularly include up to 30 students. A new and very engaged team of students is working actively on the Warsaw Zen Center restoration project.

Lodz Sangha is an excellent example of teamwork, with Dharma Teachers and two Senior Dharma Teachers working strongly and actively together to offer monthly retreats.

Krakow has a wonderful new big Dharma Room, which is shared with a Tibetan group. Retreats are well attended and include up to 20 students regularly.

A beautiful new home page of the Polish Sangha is in the works! Poland is one of the great Zen “medytacja” places to be in 2010!

SPAIN

Bon Shim SSN reported that **Mallorca** has a new Zen Center in the very middle of Palma, one of the most beautiful old cities ever! After practice, one can walk with the Abbot Tolo Cantarellas to a lovely little restaurant and share a meal over stories about Zen Master Seung Sahn’s famous visits to Mallorca. The Mallorquinos organize their Zen Retreats in a nun’s convent in communion with beautiful natural surroundings. Zen with the fragrance of salty sea air!! *Que maravilla!*

Barcelona Sangha is established in the middle of the city. Dharma teacher Barbara Pardo, who finished a 3-month winter retreat (Kyol Che) recently in Korea, welcomes students warmly to the new Dharma Room. *Ole!*

CZECH REPUBLIC

Prague Zen Center’s Abbot, Braňo Sobotka, just finished a 3-month solo retreat! Surely the clear energy gained from this long retreat, will inject fresh strong energy into the Sangha’s together work!

Brno Zen Center is another example of teamwork. Lately a group of five - Ondráš, Jirka, Mirka, Věrka and Roman are the organizers for Zen events. One body with five faces! It works precisely the way it needs to for now! They use a “fair share” method for taking in money for their events which goes as follows: “These are our expenses, you pay what you want or can, if it is less than the average person, okay. If it is more, we promise to use your gift in the best way possible.”

CHONG AN SUNIM, JDPS

Won Kwang Sa Temple hosted the Kwan Um School of Zen event of the year in Europe with the opening of the new gorgeous Zen Hall. Students and teachers and honored guests took part in a multitude of events including laying the cornerstone for the Great Buddha Hall, an Inka ceremony, Precepts Ceremony and a beautiful flute and harp concert.

The food at WKS ceremonies was top cuisine with 4 magnificent cooks offering everything from Avital's luscious vegan dishes to Ima's fantastic Korean food to Jordana's spicy salads, all working under the loving eye of Bul Hwa HJN.

Honored guests included **Zen Master Soeng Hyang, Zen Master Dae Bong and Zen Master Wu Bong**. Especially wonderful was the visit of the Sudoksa Bangjang Seol Jong Kunsunim, the Hyanchongsa Abbot Boep Jang Sunim and the Sudoksa Chongmu Su Am Sunim. Besides the entire Teachers Group of Europe, several monks from our school were also present--Oh Kwang Sunim, Won Do Sunim, and Myong Haeng Sunim. We appreciate the participation of all our guests, totaling 150 people from all over the world!

Chong An Sunim was assisted by the super team of: Dok Hae Sunim, Soeng Kwang HJN, Bul Hwa HJN, Chong Kwan HJN, Katka Grofova and Erika Piti. All of them worked round the clock to get everything ready--and so they did!

WKS is one hot Dharma spot in the KUSZ world! The new Zen Hall is absolutely fantastic with a curly black roof, which resembles the curly black hair of the Buddha! For pictures go to www.wonkwangsa.net/photo-gallery.



MUKYONG JDPSN

Gisla Blankenburg, the Abbess of the **Köln** Sangha has become a Senior Dharma Teacher (green robe). A marriage ceremony lead by Mukong JDPSN is scheduled for May.

Mukyong JDPSN reported that he was the only teacher in Germany from 2000 until 2008 and now he feels like he is on vacation with the appearance of four other teachers in Germany. No lack of anything Dharma-wise in this country :o)

Vienna Sangha is active, solid and holding steady.

ANDRZEJ PIOTROWSKI JDPSN

LITHUANIA

Jordana Gonzalez is the new Abbot in the **Vilnius** Sangha, Lithuania. She is a professor of Spanish literature and language. This new Abbot speaks Russian, English, Spanish, and Lithuanian. WOW!

An exhibition of rare and beautiful Tanghas sent by the late great Korean nun, Dae An Sunim, to Lithuania will be exhibited in Vilnius and **Kaunas** accompanied by introductions by Won San Sunim and Won Bo Sunim, both students of Dae An Sunim, who recently passed away. Why not visit Vilnius just to see this gorgeous exhibition starting the 17th of April and practice with the Vilnius Sangha?

Andrzej JDPSN lead a Dharma Teacher training in Lithuania.

POLAND

Gdansk Sangha is working actively on gathering new residents. This will make all the difference as to whether or not they can keep the present Dharma room. Kwan Seum Bosal for Gdansk Sangha!

Torun Sangha is growing under the wings of Abbot Piotr Iwanicki!

HYON GAK SUNIM, JDPS

GERMANY

Munich Zen Center is expensive and so the Sangha in Munich is considering how to rent the apartment out to other groups in order to bring in additional finances. Retreats are full and Zen Days are offered monthly. The Munich group under the leadership of Director Sven Precht, along with Hyon Gak Sunim, is investigating finding a larger space because the apartment is bursting at the seams already. But Hyon Gak Sunim and the Munich Sangha has great strong visions and the energy to power through! Good luck!!! We will all come visit for the Oktober Fest! *Jawohl!*

NORWAY

Hyon Gak Sunim is the guiding teacher in Norway and reports that things are progressing but it requires much effort! On the other hand Roy Harald Haukereid will be offering his new home as a Dharma room. It is all in the making at the moment. Roy has been with KUSZE for two years now, but it feels that he has been with us for 10.000 kalpas.

MUCHAK, JDPSN

The **German Sangha** has ratified new and improved bylaws. Their non-profit status has been extended for another 3 years. One of the benefits of the improved bylaws will be the fusion of the five teachers living and teaching in Germany in a dynamic, alive and “single flower” way resulting in the explosion of the Zen path teachings taught to us by Zen Master Seung Sahn.

The **Berlin Zen Center** has a waiting list for residents. Interviews have been reduced to twice monthly, because the students were being “over-konganized” by so many teachers! :o)

Recently Muchak JDPSN is offering once a month **practice of 1000 bows**. How does one do that: one after another. Just do it! Go Muchak PSN!

Sangha meetings are being held monthly in Berlin Zen Center to allow the students to decide which projects will be carried out, and how the Zen center will be organized. As a result of all of this, Dharma Teacher Heike Wildemann collects the news from the all the activities in the German Kwan Um School of Zen Head Temple Berlin and offers an informative and helpful internet newsletter.

The five german teachers will meet on the 28th of April to coordinate teaching ideas and visions for the Sanghas in Germany. It is an exciting time in the German Sangha.

JO POTTER, JDPSN

THE EUROPEAN OFFICE

European Abbot job is a multitasking job--but it has its good sides: being able to contribute towards a balance of clarity/chaos in our wonderful school into more clarity/chaos can be a lesson in putting it down! Actually she is still plugging away at organization and budget. The best way is delegation.

The team working with her is an ace team: **Katka Grofova**--wonder woman from WKS, **Koen Vermeulen**--the Brussels agent, **Peter Voke**--the inimitable English gentlemadman, and coming new to us: **Wilfried Rahn** from Germany. *Alles Klar?????* :o)

Also Jo PSN and the Office team wishes to thank **Matthias Engeliën**, who has left the European Office team and is off to new horizons. Matthias' extremely clear and valuable organizational talents will be very much missed. We hope that he will return regularly for a cup of tea! :o)

Jo PSN reported that the **Paramita Tour** with ZM Soeng Hyang was a great success!

GERMANY

Jo PSN reports that Hyon Gak Sunim did a great job in **Hamburg**, according to Uwe Schmidt, the abbot of the Hamburg Sangha. (Uwe just became a Senior Dharma Teacher!) The Korean community also was very happy with Sunim's visit. Lots of money was gathered and over 18 people sat the retreat.

Dresden Sangha is going strong with Zen Days, movie days and retreats. Dresden Sangha under the wings of Abbot Ronny, has scheduled a myriad of different teachers to teach this year including Wu Bong SSN and Zen Master Soeng Hyang.

JA AN JDPSN

The **London** center is hoping to receive non-profit status soon and is doing the drudge work of collecting documents. Ja An PSN is new at her job but she is going strong. At the moment the center is facing problems but Ja An PSN keeps going straight and just doing it.

OLEG ŠUK, JDPSN

Also a new teacher, Oleg JDPSN reported that **Bratislava** Zen Center under the care of Abbot Lubor Košút, offers daily morning and evening practice along with monthly one-day sittings, regular Dharma talks every second Thursday and introductions for beginners every Tuesday and Thursdays in the evenings.

Košice Zen Center under the care of Abbot Dušan Silváši, also offers a combination of morning and evening practice along with monthly one-day sittings, regular Dharma talks in the "teahouse" Kongan practice, and a magazine, which has appeared since 2001! Twenty-five regular practitioners attend practice in the Košice Zen Center! This is the Zen Center where the first Slovakian JDPSN Oleg appeared. In 2007 this center published the Zen book: "True Zen for True Life; or Why did Bodhidharma come to Slovakia?"

The BIG event is the preparation of the **20th anniversary of the Kwan Um School of Zen in Slovakia** in the Fall this year! The Sangha is working on information campaigns introducing the Kwan Um School of Zen for different groups of people! Slovakia invites Europe to this grand celebration!

The **Žilina** Zen Group under group leader Jaroslav Davidík, is now just forming itself in the martial arts club with great potential! Slovakia is hopping!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW JDPSN!

Arne Schaefer is the new JDSPN on the scene. He originates from the German Sangha. Twenty nine kongan questions were asked of him at his Inka ceremony at Won Kwang Sa, on April 3, 2010. He was “just a little nervous”, he said later. But he did a great job!



He will be training for the next 6 months and after that make sure to invite him to teach your Sangha!

Arne PSN is a psychologist, professional coach and is versed in Conflict Management. He speaks fluent English and German.

He helped to build the Berlin Zen Center and alternated between being Head of the board of directors and being Abbot of BZC, and it is because of him that many of DSSN's books are translated into German!

PARAMITA TOUR WITH ZEN MASTER SOENG HYANG

This was the chance to see Zen Master Soeng Hyang, up close! She is the Head Zen Master for the global Kwan Um School of Zen. The tour was a great success! Zen Master Soeng Hyang touched the lives of almost 700 people during the one -month tour through Europe. Her Dharma talks were attended by over 500 people and are available as recordings for those of us who missed them. You can listen at <http://www.kwanumeurope.org/paramita/gals.php>.

The European Office is planning another wonderful tour for the beginning of the year 2011 which will also be visiting many Sanghas in Europe. Stay tuned :o)

ZEN MASTER SOENG HYANG VOTED IN FOR ANOTHER FIVE YEARS

All the Kwan Um School of Zen Teachers around the globe voted Zen Master Soeng Hyang in November 2009 for a second term as Head School Master. Each term being 5 years, she will be holding this job until 2014! The European Teachers Group acknowledges her second term and welcomes her warmly!

LONG ROBE REMINDER

The long Dharma Robe worn by those who have taken full 10 Precepts, belong to the Zen Center where the Dharma Teacher practices no matter if the student paid for the robe or if the robe was donated to the student or if the robe was paid for by the Zen Center. Wearing the robe implies that a student is ready to help the Zen Center as agreed between the Dharma teacher and the Abbot or Head Dharma Teacher. If a Dharma Teacher takes a break because of illness or studies or work or family etc, he or she must return the robe to the Abbot of the Zen Center where she or he practices until he or she returns.

This does not apply to the short robe or to the brown kasa. These items belong to the student at all times.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER KYOL CHE 2010

The Summer Kyol Che in Warsaw Zen Center takes place from June 19 to September 17.

EUROPEAN SANGHA WEEKEND - AUTUMN 2010

The next European Sangha weekend will take place in Warsaw Zen Center in September, 17 - 19.

WINTER KYOL CHE 2011

The Winter Kyol Che will take place at Won Kwang Sa Zen Temple, Hungary from January 2 to April 1. Because of Chong An Sunim's absence from teaching for 1 year period, including a 3months solo-retreat in Korea, the Kyol Che will be lead by guest teachers. Along with our great European Teachers, some of the great Zen Masters from Korea and the United States promise to come. We will keep you informed. Book this event in your calendars already now!

THE WHOLE WORLD IS A SINGLE FLOWER CONFERENCE 2011

The committee planning the upcoming Whole World is a Single Flower Conference and trip in India is now considering later October 2011 for the time frame. Later October brings better weather, which is very important when visiting India. The details will soon be up in the Internet for all of us to begin planning! The project is headed by Carlos Montero in Miami, George Hazlbauer from various corners of the world and Grace Tam sitting in Hong Kong.



EUROPEAN OFFICE REPORT

NEW WEBSITE DESIGN & CORPORATE IDENTITY

The current KUSZE website went through a technical upgrade. Now the design upgrade is coming. Katka Grofova is working on the new design and Peter Voke will bring the idea into life. Latest by the end of June the website should be fully functional in the new coating :o)

DHARMA SHOP & FORMAL ROBES

A new sector on our upgraded website will be a Dharma shop. If you are searching for a moktak, incense or even a green kasa, this will be the place to go! The Dharma Shop will be physically stored at Won Kwang Sa Temple, managed by Katka Grofova--the KUSZE Office Manager.

A separate area of the Dharma Shop are formal robes. Robes have been a major problem since ever, so Uwe Schmidt, Abbot of Hamburg Sangha simply decided to take this situation on his shoulders and solve it. Anyone interested in updating your old robe or ordering either long robes or short robes and pants, will soon be able to through the European home page. You can choose anything from high-class linen to cotton to polyester blends, depending on whether you wish to look an impeccable zen-warrior or silky Kwan Seum Bosals.

The robes are ordered through a very good tailor in Korea and shipped to your home.

FINANCES FOR THE EUROPEAN WIDE PROJECTS

The beautiful word “dana” integrally implies giving. Giving is part of our practice. And does not necessarily mean money. You can give your time, you can cook for the Sangha, you can translate. Nevertheless, financial help is pure energy. The following report is about energizing the Sangha.

The Office for the Kwan Um School of Zen in Europe needs financial help from all the Sanghas with certain projects, which belong to the European wide Sangha. These projects include:

- ~ Postal costs for sending material such as the Primary Point and books
- ~ Wages to pay the office manager who works enormous hours for the Kwan Um School of Zen in Europe and supporting her work with the home page.
- ~ New Group support: providing help with Dharma room articles for new groups who cannot afford to buy these things immediately. Also helping these groups by funding a teacher to visit them the first or second time.
- ~ Home page costs such as upkeep and updates. Upkeeps and Updates require hours of work. The paid Office Manager would update our homepage but we should pay the person for his/her work. Also paying for internet costs for the European homepage.
- ~ Special Projects such as our part in the WWSF preliminary work or preparing for tours such as the Paramita Tour with ZM Soeng Hyang.
- ~ European Sangha publications. A book fund to help Sanghas translate and publish books.
- ~ Financial aid for the traveling monks and nuns who bring so much Dharma to our local Sanghas.
- ~ Financial aid for our Spiritual Head Teacher Wu Bong SSN. At the moment the German Sangha provides him with lodging and expense money when he is in Europe. But it would be a wonderful gesture when all Sanghas would contribute towards this.

The project managers for the Financial aid to the European Office will be headed by Koen Vermeulen from Brussels Sangha and Wilfried Rahn from German Sangha. They will be contacting each of the local Sanghas for feedback as to how to do this.

They can be contacted through the following addresses:

Koen Vermuelen: koen_vermeulen@yahoo.com

Wilfried Rahn: financeeurope@kwanumzen.de



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