

Report to the Sangha from the European Board of Trustees (BoT) Meeting

March, 29th - 31st 2013 in Warsaw

Participants: Zen Master Wu Bong, Zen Master Bon Shim, Zen Master Ji Kwang, Andrzej Piotrowski JDPSN, Muchak JDPSN, Jo Potter JDPSN (only Saturday), Bogusia Malinowska JDPSN, Arne Schaefer JDPSN, Igor Piniński, JDPSN

1. Updates about our Sangha from the Guiding Teachers; new groups/centers

Czech Sangha

- 🕒 Vera Hrusova has become the new abbess of the Prague Zen Center
- 🕒 in April there will be a meeting concerning joining the KUSZ /Europe
- 🕒 Litomerice Zen Group has been dissolved
- 🕒 there is a new Zen Group in Liberec

Spain

- 🕒 Barcelona ZC is ready to join the KUSZ /Europe
- 🕒 Barcelona ZC has a new center in the city
- 🕒 they have also opened a new meditation center in the mountains near Barcelona
- 🕒 Palma de Mallorca ZC is willing to join the KUSZ /Europe, but they have to decide officially
- 🕒 Palma de Mallorca ZC has published a new Spanish chanting book and according to Jo JDPSN it's excellent and should become the chanting book for all of the Spanish speaking countries
- 🕒 Palma de Mallorca ZC will be in charge of sending out the next issues of the Primary Point to the whole European Sangha

Germany

- 🕒 Cologne ZC is planning to cooperate more with Paris and Brussels for organizing retreats and events
- 🕒 Berlin ZC has a new vice abbot: Alexandra Hoffmann SDT
- 🕒 the German KUSZ has a new Board of Directors
- 🕒 the German KUSZ has joined the KUSZ /E

England

- 🕒 the Peak Zen Group is growing: Peter Voke develops the temple according to the new Project Guidance
- 🕒 there are also Dharma activities in the cities of Derby and elsewhere in the Midlands
- 🕒 Peter is extending the place: a new Dharma Hall will be built. Ji Kwang SSN will be there in August
- 🕒 London Zen Centre has developed connections with Ivy Hall which is the nearest community centre on the same street, where they have plans to organize workshops and Dharma talks

Austria

- 🕒 Vienna ZG is going to move to a new location, which will be in Jo JDPSN's apartment
- 🕒 no news about joining the KUSZ /Europe so far

Lithuania

- 🕒 members of the Lithuanian Sangha will translate the European Bylaws soon, and will then be ready to join the KUSZ /Europe
- 🕒 Bo Haeng Sunim is active there doing exhibitions and is very popular in the Sangha

Hungary

- 🕒 the Hungarian Sangha does almost not exist at the moment
- 🕒 Won Do Sunim is active there
- 🕒 a former member of our school, Antal, is also active. Jo JDPSN reports that he was willing to help our Sangha
- 🕒 Jo JDPSN is planning to visit Budapest regularly for practices, and thus start rebuilding the Sangha again

Israel

- 🕒 everything works well

Poland

- 🕒 Gdańsk ZC has a new abbot: Paweł Petasz
- 🕒 Kraków ZC has also a new abbot: Sławek Golanski
- 🕒 Łódź ZC has moved to a new location

Russia

- 🕒 the Russian Sangha wants to join the KUSZ /E, but they can't do legally and officially as an organization because of the Russian law. BoT agrees that they join as a national Sangha or as

Zen Centers and groups individually without signing any papers and thus avoiding any legal involvement of the Russian authorities

- ⌚ Dae Jin SSN may come to Russia and stay there for a minimum of one year. It has to be clarified, if Dae Jin SSN will become a guiding teacher in Russia and consequently joins the BoT
- ⌚ Wu Bong SSN will go to Russia and will evaluate the situation

2. Appointment/confirmation of GT's

- ⌚ Jo Potter JDPSN has become the new guiding teacher for the Vienna ZG
- ⌚ Ji Kwang SSN has become the new guiding teacher for the entire Israeli Sangha and Brussels ZC
- ⌚ Arne Schaefer JDPSN has become the new guiding teacher for Hamburg and Bad Bramstedt Zen Groups
- ⌚ Olek Suk JDPSN has become the new guiding teacher for Riga, Latvia
- ⌚ Bon Shim SSN has become the new guiding teacher for Paris ZC

3. The bylaws for the KUSZ /Europe and voting system; Foundation of the KUSZ /Europe

- ⌚ BoT decides to register the European KUSZ as soon as possible - with no transition period
- ⌚ those Sanghas who have not decided yet to join, can do so later
- ⌚ Council will ask the Bylaws Committee to check § 3. 6 and make sure that it will not cause a problem
- ⌚ the representatives of the Sanghas will meet during the next European Sangha weekend in 2014 and will elect a new Council
- ⌚ BoT suggests that we may need to add to § 12: "BoT decides when and where a Sangha Convention will take place"
- ⌚ BoT has decided that if there will be any changes in the bylaws that will have to be made in the process of the registration at the magistrates court, the Council should get authorized to make these changes and inform the Sangha afterwards
- ⌚ BoT decides to delete from the "Protocol about Weighted Power Votes" in no. 2: "temple" (see attachment 1)
- ⌚ all present teachers of the BoT decide to become members of the KUSZ /E
- ⌚ BoT agrees to the following proposal by Peter Voke:

"Groups and centers that are unable to sign the bylaws in their countries for legal reasons, but which adhere to all the principles including having a guiding teacher who is authorized by the BoT, shall be considered part of the Kwan Um School of Zen /Europe for internal purposes, including exercising all rights and responsibilities of a KUSZEU group / center within the school."

This will make it possible for the Russian Sangha to be treated as members of the KUSZ /E (see no. 1)

- ⌚ BoT approves the bylaws with the proposed changes stated above (attachment 2)
- ⌚ BoT also approves the financial report presented by Koen Vermeulen JDPSN; we would like to make this report public (attachment 3)
- ⌚ the International Council has yet to approve the bylaws before the registration

4. New retreat center for Europe

- ⌚ Wu Bong SSN presented his view of the present situation of Vrajne Zen Center
- ⌚ Falenica Zen Center has “green light” from the local authorities to develop the estate, which means that we can rebuild and extend the present buildings
- ⌚ BoT decides that the European Retreat Center will either be developed in Falenica or in the Warsaw area
- ⌚ BoT decides that the European Retreat Center will host both winter and summer Kyol Che
- ⌚ it is essential that the European Retreat Center project and the Vrajne project do not compete with each other
- ⌚ the next steps in developing the European Retreat Center project are:
 - the Retreat Center Committee will prepare a detailed plan with all the needs the facility should meet
 - an architect will prepare a detailed plan according to the guidelines from the Retreat Center Committee with estimated costs
 - having the architects plan and estimated costs BoT will make the final decision whether we develop/rebuild the Falenica Zen Center or look for another location

5. Impact of the “Project Guidance”

- ⌚ BoT approves the Project Guidance with two changes:
 - The Project Manager shall inform and consult with the overseer before using any amount over 1000 (originally 500) Euros. Together they shall inform and consult with the governing board, the Council and the EO before using any amount over 5000 Euros.
 - Quarterly (originally Regular) brief financial reports shall be prepared and sent to the Council for those projects that are under construction and are using sums of money over 5000 Euros per annum, summarizing income and expenditure.
- ⌚ the Project Guidance will be published on the website and be announced

6. New edition of Dharma Mirror

BoT recommends and approves the changes in the new edition of the Dharma Mirror suggested by the Dharma Mirror Committee, and will send this to the KUSZ /Americas for further editing work; the final version should be done together with the KUSZ /Americas and possibly also with KUSZ /Asia.

7. Clarification about how to become a monk

If a person is interested in becoming a monk/nun he/she should contact Dae Bong SSN at Musangsa, Korea. At the moment all candidates do a one year Haeng Ja training at Hwa Gye Sah, and afterwards a four years training before they become a Bikkhu/Bikkhuni, and may return to their temple.

8. Dharma Teacher Compact (presentation of the draft)

BoT would like to ask Eduardo and/or Peter to expand the Dharma Teacher Compact together with Muchak JDPSN and add all the materials, like Dharma Teacher guidelines, requirements etc, and merge it in one booklet.

9. Donation for chanting requests

BoT decides to publish information about chanting requests:

- it is common to give Dana Paramita each time somebody asks for special chanting
- therefore if someone asks for chanting “Kwanseum Bosal” or “Jijang Bosal” for an individual purpose Zen centers or groups may decide to ask for donations
- when someone asks for special chanting through the international homepage, they should get informed by e-mail that they can give Dhana Paramita to any center or group of their choice

10. Vote for the European Head Teacher and Vice Head Teacher

- 🕒 BoT decides that The European Head Teacher and the Vice Head Teacher will be elected for 5 years
- 🕒 therefore Wu Bong SSN resigned from his position as lifelong Head Teacher
- 🕒 BoT has elected him again for the next 5 years
- 🕒 BoT has voted for Bon Shim SSN as the European Vice Head Teacher

11. Contribution to our European Retreat Center

BoT decides to support the European Retreat Temple with a contribution of 50 Euro per month in order to pay the abbot and the Office Director. This will be shared by the whole European Sangha.

12. Appreciation

- 🕒 BoT would like to express its gratitude to Eduardo del Valle Pérez for his donations to the European account. He helped with the Primary Point, paid for the computer repair, digitalized previous issues of Primary Point, and is doing plenty of other work for the European Sangha.
- 🕒 Great thanks also to Peter Voke, Koen Vermeulen JDPSN and Pablo Bernardo Baragaño for their wonderful work in the European Office.
- 🕒 BoT would also like to express its gratitude to the Warsaw Zen Center staff for their great hospitality, wonderful food and drinks.

Written by

Igor Piniński JDPS

Edited and approved by the Council

Bon Shim | Ji Kwang | Andrzej Piotrowski JDPS