

Record

Teacher Meeting Sept., 24th/25th 2005 in Warsaw

Participants: Wu Bong Soen Sa Nim, Bon Yo Soen Sa Nim, Ola JDPSN ,
Chong An Sunim JDPS, Andrzej JDPSN, Mukyong JDPSN

Absent: Myong Oh Sunim

1. News and updates from the EU Head-Teacher and from Guiding-Teachers

- The Abbot in München resigned. A new Group Leader has been chosen by the German Sangha Abbot.
- Dharma Teachers in Training will receive the same discount and will pay the same dues as full DT.
- If a DT doesn't pay his/her fees, they are automatically on leave of absence and therefore cannot receive DT discount and cannot wear the long robe.

2. Extended basis of appointing Guiding-Teachers

Geography is one of the criteria besides other considerations like cultural background or the sangha's wishes.

3. Possible rotation of non-native / non residential Guiding-Teachers

There will be neither an automatic nor an arbitrary rotation process. Changes are possible if needs occur and will be decided by the EU Teacher-Group and the EU Head-Teacher.

4. Operational relationship of Head-Teacher, Guiding-Teacher, Sangha-Abbot, Local-Abbot

The Sangha-Abbot and abbots of the head temple of a country are appointed by the EU Head-Teacher. Local abbots of other temples, centres or groups are appointed by the Sangha-Abbot. Abbots are representatives of the temples, centres, groups and national sanghas and the head of all administration processes. The Sangha-Abbot together with local abbots support the Guiding-Teacher, who is the head of the teachings and of all teaching matters. The Sangha-Abbot acts closely, in accordance and in harmony with the Guiding-Teacher. Besides this see Dharma Mirror.

5. Proposals concerning the new School Zen Master

It has to be stated that the KUSZ consists of three continental entities: The Asian (plus Australian), the North American (plus Brazil and South Africa) and the European (plus Israel) Kwan Um School of Zen. After the demise of

DSSN it is necessary that the new structure of a leading board and the position of a School-Zen Master take this into account.

The EU Teacher-Group could find a consensus concerning these issues and would like to give the following proposals:

1. There should be three continental Head-Teachers. The existing ones are already appointed for life by DSSN. In the future each of them can be voted by the three continental Teacher-Groups respectively with a 2/3rd majority.
2. The continental Head-Teacher together with the continental Teacher-Group holds the highest authority concerning all matters of teaching and administration in their national sanghas. All veto powers end with the continental Head-Teacher.
3. Each one of the three continental Head Teachers appoints a continental School Abbot.
4. The three continental Head Teachers together form the High Board of Zen-Masters and automatically become Vice-School Zen Masters.
5. The international Teacher-Group consisting of all three continental Teacher-Groups will vote for a School Zen Master.
6. The School Zen Master is elected by a 2/3rd majority vote. If no candidate obtains this majority after the third round of voting, a simple majority will be enough.
7. The School Zen Master will be part of the High Board of Zen Masters. While the continental Head Teachers will be appointed for life, the School Zen Mater is elected every five years.
8. The School Zen Master can be dismissed through a simple majority by the international Teacher-Group.
9. While the European teachers did not take part in electing and/or naming Soeng Hyang Zen Master as the School Zen Master they agreed to accept her in that position until the end of her five year tenure.

6. Inka and Transmission procedures

have been discussed; no specific suggestions for changes were made.

7. Discussion and ratification of KUSZ Ethic Policy

The Ethic Policy drafted by the North American Sangha was adopted with few changes (see appendix)

8. Tithes

were collected and given for the support of the Won Kwang Sa Project. Chong An Sn updated us about the project. 60 % of the land has been purchased already. CD's will be distributed with all kinds of details.

9. European Webpage (www.kwanumeurope.org)

The EU webmaster Peter Voke completed our homepage which can be read now in seven languages. Only Lithuanian, Hungarian and Russian are missing.

8. Whole World is a Single Flower Conference 2008

We are surprised to find out that the next conference 2008 will take place in India according to the North American Teacher-Groups Record. They certainly made this changes without consulting the EU Teacher-Group who until recently planned that they will host the conference in 2008 according to the decisions made during the recent teachers meeting in Paris together with their guests from the North American Teacher-Group (see record of EU teacher meeting April 2005). Nonetheless, this change is accepted, but Zen Master Wu Bong is charged with conveying that in the future such one sided decision making will not be accepted.

11. Zen Master Seung Sahn Memorial Fund

The purpose of the fund should be decided by the periodic vote of the three continental Head-Teachers and the School Zen Master (High Board of Zen Masters).

12. Andrzej Czarnecki

is not a Ji Do Poep Sa Nim any longer and cannot act as a teacher of our school.

13. Soeng Hyang SSN will visit Europe 2006

at the end of the summer Kyol Che. She will afterwards go on a teaching tour to Berlin and the Czech Republic.

14. European Board of Representatives

has been founded consisting of all abbesses, abbots, group leaders and Senior Dharma Teachers. This group may help to improve the communication between the Teacher-Group and the sangha, give advice to the Teacher-Group, and help to develop our European Sangha. It is asked to introduce an EU Zen Centre network and to choose a speaker. It meets regularly during the European Sangha Weekends and is in touch with the European coordinator of our school.

September 28th 2005

written by

Mukyong

Coordinator for the Kwan Um School of Zen of Europe

read and approved by

Wu Bong Soen Sa Nim
Head Teacher Europe