

Minutes of the Meeting of Members
Kwan Um School of Zen / Europe
April 9, 2017. Warsaw Zen Center, Poland

A. Participated Members

- Teachers:

- i. Bon Shim SSN
- ii. Ji Kwang SSN
- iii. Joeng Hye SSN
- iv. Gu Ja SSN
- v. Jo Potter JDPSN
- vi. Ja An (Bogumila Malinowska) JDPSN
- vii. Oleg Šuk JDPSN
- viii. Koen Vermeulen JDPSN
- ix. Igor Piniński JDPSN
- x. Jiří Hazlbauer JDPSN
- xi. Juval Gill JDPSN
- xii. Knud Rosenmayr JDPSN

12 teachers are present: 4 Soen Sa Nims and 8 Ji Do Poep Sa Nims

- Zen Centers and Zen Groups:

- i. **Austria:** Vienna ZC
- ii. **Belgium:** Brussels ZC
- iii. **Germany:** Berlin ZC, Hamburg ZG and Bad Bramsted ZG
- iv. **Czech Republic:** Prague ZC, Vrážné ZC, Brno ZG, Sam Bo Sa (Liberec) ZC, Zlin ZG and Olomouc ZG.
- v. **Great Britain:** London ZC, The Peak Zen Ku Bong Sa ZC
- vi. **Poland:** Warsaw ZC, Łódź ZC, Kraków ZC, Katowice ZC, Toruń ZG, Płock ZG, Wrocław ZG, Walbrzych ZG, Rzeszów ZG
- vii. **Spain:** Palma ZC
- viii. **Slovakia:** Bratislava ZC, Košice ZC

8 countries are present: with 16 Zen Centers and 5 Zen Groups

Agenda

1. Formal opening of meeting and approving the agenda extensions to the final agenda, if any (decision) and vote
2. Approval for the business and treasury reports of the Council and the European Office – vote
3. Budget 2017

4. Formal approval of the Council's and European Office's actions – vote
5. Whole World is a Single Flower Conference in Providence
6. Scholarship Summer Retreat Program – discussion
7. Millennials Report on problems of KUSZ younger generation – discussion

Ad 1.

Agata Sobiecka, head of the European Office (EO) opens the event and welcomes everyone, and specially the Korean guests, and is grateful to the people that are coming regularly to this meeting each year and encourages a fruitful exchange and discussion.

She presents the Agenda of the meeting and ask if anyone has any new subjects to add. No one has new points to add to the agenda.

The number of votes is checked to see if it coincident with the list of representatives:

- 62 votes are reported.

The agenda is approved by 62 votes, with no abstentions and no votes against.

Agata Sobiecka explains that it may seem boring to follow the legal procedure that is part of this meeting, and she explains that the meticulous check of the European Office work and the budget is very a important point because it brings to light the hidden job that many people are doing. She give thanks to Koen PSN and to Robert for their job in the financial area.

Ji Kwang SSN says it is a legal requeriment to follow all the legal procedures even if it is a boring and meticulous task.

Jo Potter PSN: encourages to follow the legal process meticulously because there is always someone is holding the legal responsibility to do this and she agrees with the point of view of Ji Kwang SSN.

Ad 2.

Agata Sobiecka apologizes for the delay of the gathering of fees from the Zen Centers and Groups from the School in Europe and looking into the whole financial situation.

Koen Vermeulen PSN shows the Financial Overview KUSZE. He explains that the KUSZE used to be a beggar in the past: for example Wu Bong DSSN used to collect money from Asia, from Germany and other places to help Europe. But it was decided to have a membership for our School in Europe and 2016 has been a great year because the money came in and no money went out, it is good to have some saved money in case of it is needed. Then he proceeds to explain the content of the document "**Financial Overview KUSZE**".

Ji Kwang SSN wonders if costs of the teaching tour of Wu Kwang SSN costs are balanced in the Budget 2016, and Koen Vermeulen PSN confirms that they are balanced in it.

Koen Vermeulen PSN explains the plans for the Budget 2017 and that in 2017 the whole KUSZE is taking responsibility, also its Sangha is taking the responsibility to organize the Kyol Che. The whole European Sangha will take of all responsibility of budget, and not only Wu Bong Sa. Now the Sangha Weekend is organized by the whole KUSZE and not only by the Wu Bong Sa Sangha. For example some people could not afford the costs of the food or the assistance to the MoM but this time the

loss is not for Wu Bong Sa but for the whole KUSZE.

Jo Potter PSN explains that the work of Bon Shim SSN job is not visible but she represents Europe in the whole world Sangha. She continues saying that this year we would like to honor her by offering additional money from the Budget and from the Kyol Che benefits if there are any left; in order to pay for her job.

Koen Vermeulen PSN explains the document concerning the Budget project for 2017.

Jo Potter PSN explains how monastics give us so much and that we would like to honor them with a donation.

Koen Vermeulen PSN explains that even if it is not much money this donation it is a symbol of our appreciation to Sunims. Then he explains the reserve of money for future investments and that it has been decided to increase the reserve for International Initiative.

Agata Sobiecka ask for questions:

Nikolas asks if the rise in expenses of PP means that we will get more PP.

Peter ask about the students scholarship during 2016.

- **Koen Vermeulen PSN** explains that they had the idea to support students to go to SRP during 2016 but that idea it was not put into practice. But it is planned that during 2017 this program will be put into practice.
- **Robert** explains that the scholarship program was intended to help to provide financial help for people wanting to sit Kyolche for 3 weeks and longer, but only one person benefited the program, so they decided to lower to 2 weeks so that more people could become interested: 7 people were supported included 3 monastics (covering 100 % of the costs) and 4 lay people (covering around 50 % of their costs). In total 1015 euros were invested in that and Wu Bong Sa was under an impression that not everyone got the information concerning the Scholarship.

Apart from that they had another program "HDT support" with 625 euros designated for it. He wonders if the HDT should be paid for their job. This year because there was not many participants in the Kyol Che they could not cover the cost of the whole HDT retreat, but thanks to the KUSZE support they could cover 50 % of their stay.

There also is another support program for Monastics who serve as HDT during Kyolche - weekly collected cash donations from participants.

Yuval Gill PSN: asks about the European teacher tour 2017 and Jo Potter PSN explains there is no one. In 2018 they have asked Hye Tong Sunim to come for a tour in Europe.

Gregorz: ask how a particular group of students who are part of the MoM could influence this Budget and participate in its creation.

Koen Vermeulen PSN: explains that in our legal organization all is decided following our Bylaws and he believes it contains a very balanced solution. First the spiritual head of the KUSZE is Bon Shim SSN, then the group that is really responsible to run the school is the Teachers Group and the Council is responsible for daily operations.

The Teachers Group is responsible for the direction of the KUSZE and Council is the executive side supported by the European office that does a great job. Then as a Whole Sangha we meet in the MoM that approves the decisions only in 2 hours, so there is not much time to discuss and influence the budget.

Jo Potter PSN explains that the sangha convention will be an event in which students can influence and work on important topics creating information in order to advice with their ideas.

Ji Kwang SSN explains that the Sangha Convention function is to have an influence coming from students. Is comparative to the Parliament where a single person cannot decide directly but as convention yes. Who is in charge now? The Council. Also the European Office is run by students that can also influence.

Gregorz ask again who is the group that decides about the budget. **Koen Vermeulen PSN** explains that this budget originated in the MoM of last year

Agata Sobiecka adds that the everyday life of the School is shared by the EO through emails informations to the European Sangha and shows the Millennial report as an example. She explains how students connect with the EO and Council via email. So the information is flowing.

Jo Potter PSN adds that Millennial report will be important part of the Sangha convention

Gregorz explains that many people in other sanghas don't know the system of how budget is decided and he ask that there should be a point in next MoM to discuss how the budget is done.

Jo Potter PSN asks to trust in the Council because the Council knows where the money goes and the because the Council get ideas from MoM

Koen Vermeulen PSN adds that it is time now to give ideas for the Budget 2017 in MoM

[At this moment a representative from Cracow joins the MoM and the number of votes increases now to a total of 64 voting cards]

Agata Sobiecka proceeds to open the voting to approve the point 2:

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Approved by 64 votes

Ad 3.

[As the Budget 2017 has been already explained the MoM proceeds to the next point of the Agenda]

Ad 4.

Lubor Kosut explains the contents of the document **Overview of the Council's and EO's actions**

Agata Sobiecka asks for questions: there is no questions

Lubor Kosut asks to all Abbots to publish their retreats in the European Website Retreat Schedule.

Agata Sobiecka thanks people who made new website, Knud Rosenmayr PSN, Peter Voke, Boaz Frankin and Maya Ya'ari in the EO.

Jo Potter PSN adds that the Council works closely with EO and she welcome new people from Israel Sangha: Tom Vered, Boaz and Gill and she gives thanks to Yuval Gill PSN as guiding teacher of Israel Sangha. She gives thanks to Lubor Kosut for working hard for the SRP. She also thanks about Knud Rosenmayr for being a great head of the EO making a great job and being very clear in his job. The Sangha gives Knud Rosenmayr PSN as a present box of cookies as a symbol of gratitude.

Jo Potter PSN welcomes the new incoming EO director Agata Sobiecka and explains she is happy that Agata is taking the EO into a new direction for the KUSZE. Finally Jo PSN adds that the Council is opening and has invited Agata and Knud PSN to join them from time to time to inform about what the EO is doing, and have a better cooperation between students and teachers. In the future maybe the EO members will be invited to join the Council.

Koen Vermeulen PSN explains that Robert is doing a great job taking care of the European membership, a task that brings a lot of work. Koen PSN explains that the power of the School is in the hands of people who prepare the work, as the EO does, who then presents the work to the Council. So there is much power on students EO shoulders.

Agata Sobiecka presents the **EO is looking for you!** program. She explains that we need a new Communications Director and if anyone is interested please come in. The program team prepared a survey for students, who wish to help out the Sangha with their skills and ideas and EO will publish the survey on the webpage soon.

Ji Kwang SSN remembers about the improvement of the payment discipline of the fees. **Koen Vermeulen PSN** explains that the procedure is improving but it will take 2 more years so that it can run smoothly.

Voting point 4

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Approved by 64 votes.

Ad 5

Jan Sendzimir: explains that 30 years ago Zen Master Seung Sahn gave to us the challenge to put into action the famous Man Gong's sentence: "The Whole World is a Single Flower". This year it will be the 11th time this conference happens. The topic of the WWSF 2017 was raised by Zen Master Tom Pastor. He explains that in the WWSF website you can find a very detailed explanation of the program.

What is the goal of the WWSF? To communicate personally with other members of our Sangha and

to create good connections. Jan was asked by ZM Tom Pastor to organize the program. Jan explains he has been a bridge as a scientist between people who are scientist and people who are no, and that the program is the result of the concern of different sanghas on environment and society.

Jan encourages people to register as early a possible, an advantage of registering early can be to get a room in Providence Zen Center if possible. He asks to have a look at the website and think about how you can contribute to the conference with your questions and concerns. The spirit of conference is that we will be teaching each others.

Jan asks if there are any questions: no questions.

Jo Potter PSN says she is proud that most of European teachers are coming to the WWSF 2017, also she offers a possible scholarship: 18 scholarships has been approved.

Elisabeth Coombs asks about how the WWSF is funded. **Jo Potter PSN** explains she did the budget and Barbara Pardo is in charge for the European people. Now 30 people are involved in running the WWSF 2017.

Jan Sendzimir explains that may be the next WWSF will happen in 5 years and he encourages everyone to go to the conference this year.

Ad 6.

Robert: explains that we have to discuss about the Scholarship for the SRP and that we should discuss if we want to change something about it, and if we would like to sponsor people to participate.

Peter Voke: the top priority should be to support the students that decide to move and travel from place to place in order to retreat. Someone from Israel did that it last year going from country to country joining the different SRP retreats.

Agata Sobiecka says it is important to know that anyone can participate and apply to get the SRP Scholarship.

Robert says the budget is not very big and we can support from 5 to 7 people.

Agata Sobiecka adds that we are searching for a for HDT for next Winter Kyol Che, she encourages to contact your Guiding Teacher and offer yourself as it is a good training to volunteer, then the Council will choose the HDT.

Yuval Gill PSN: offers to have 1 week in Israel for SRP and **Jo Potter JDPSN** asks him to contact the Council and Lubor Kosut for this purpose.

George Halzbauer PSN adds that may be we are in time to include Israel in the SRP 2017.

Ji Kwang SSN: clarifies that the HDT for Winter Kyol Che is not appointed by the Council, the new rule is that it would be appointed by the Retreat Head Master.

Ad 7.

Agata Sobiecka explains that the Millennial report was published in America by people from 20 to 30 years old. Agata explains that it contains guidelines for future developments of School but also the information on needs, limitations and concerns of young people within KUSZ. She says that the

teachers can come up with different guidelines to address these needs.

Bon Shim SSN asks how many people wrote it and Agata answers that 473 answered the survey.

Ji Kwang SSN asks if European people participated in the survey.

Jo Potter PSN says no, and she would like to use the Sangha Convention to work on a similar survey.

Elisabeth Coombs explains she was present during the presentation of the Millennial report and that there was an important implication of young people with it.

Eduardo del Valle: adds that it is important to know that this report reflects the American situation, he suggests to do a report in Europe because the situation of young people here is different. Then to work with the common points of the American and Europe Sanghas and adapt, in each region, the particular situations affecting a concrete region.

Yuval Gill PSN: running in Europe this report having a multicultural organization it is a big matter and will be a challenge to have an European millennial report

Gregorz: maybe we could use the same survey and adapt it for the European situation.

Igor Piniński PSN says we should adapt the report to our situation.

Jo Potter PSN adds that during the Sangha Convention these questions could be discussed.

Ji Kwang SSN explain that to understand clearly what the the Sangha Convention is please read the KUSZE bylaws.

Agata Sobiecka closes the MoM and thanks everyone who spoke, also Knud PSN, the Council and Jo Potter PSN.

Bon Shim SSN wants to give thanks to the EO and Council for its great job and says that teachers feel well informed by this team. She says thank you to everyone that attended the MoM.

-----**Meeting is finished**-----

Piotr reports to me, just when the MoM has been closed, that there has been a mistake in the total number of vote cards they counted and reported during the MoM. He adds that the total real amount **is one less for each voting**, so that it differs in -1 from what it was loudly reported during the MoM and reflected in the above text.

Minutes: Eduardo del Valle

Moderator: Agata Sobiecka

Abbreviations used in the document:

- DSSN: Dae Soen Sa Nim (Great and Venerable Zen Master)
- EO: European Office of the Kwan Um School of Zen in Europe
- HDT: Head Dharma Teacher
- JDPSN: Ji Do Poep Sa Nim (Korean, meaning Venerable Dharma Master)
- KUSZ: Kwan Um School of Zen
- KUSZE: Kwan Um School of Zen in Europe

- MoM: Meeting of Members
- PP: Primary Point
- PSN: Poep Sa Nim (Korean, an abbreviation of Ji Do Poep Sa Nim)
- SRP: Summer Retreat Programm
- SSN: Soen Sa Nim (Korean, meaning Venerable Zen Master)
- WWSF: The Whole World is a Single Flower Conference
- ZC: Zen Center
- ZG: Zen Group