

Summary of Kwan Um School of Zen / Europe Meeting of Members

16 - 17 August 2014: Warsaw Zen Center, Poland

Participants: Seven Teachers and three more represented by proxies. 33 Zen Centers and Zen Groups' representatives for Poland (10), Czech Republic (5), Germany (3), Slovakia (2), Spain (2), Israel (4), Lithuania (2), England, Paris, Vienna, Brussels.

Chairman: Igor Piniński JDPSN; **Minutes:** Jacek Sikora; **Summary:** Peter Voke

1. The business and treasury reports of the Council and the European Office (EO) were approved by the Meeting of Members (MoM).

2. The Council's and European Office's (EO's) actions were formally approved by MoM.

3. Amount of the Membership Contribution

After discussing the documents on Options and Proposal on banking / use of contributions, the option of paying 10% from the local membership revenue was approved by 44 votes to 1 with 6 abstentions.

4. MoM endorsed the power of the votes of the members.

5. Proposed Changes to Bylaws

5.1 It was proposed that the Council "consists of three (or more) teachers elected by the Board of Trustees every three years. The Council shall be endorsed by the Meeting of Members." (§ 10.1 of the Bylaws.) This was voted on but did not get the required 2/3 majority, so the vote was retaken with the voting requirement clarified and was then passed by 40 votes to 10 with 5 abstentions.

5.2 It was proposed that references to national sanghas and national corporate bodies to be made clear throughout the Bylaws with respect to voting power. (National corporate bodies do not have separate votes independent of their constituent centers and groups.) This was approved by 46 votes to 3 with 6 abstentions.

5.3 It was proposed that the teachers have the right to vote during MoM through their proxies, under the condition that one proxy can represent only one teacher. Approved by 39 votes to 6 with 10 abstentions.

6. New Council

The Chairman announced that the Board of Trustees elected the Council and would like to obtain MoM's approval of its members: Ji Kwang SSN, Andrzej PSN, Ja An PSN. The new Council was endorsed by the MoM by 46 votes to zero, with 9 abstentions.

7. Future European Retreat Center and the Kyol Che Retreats Committee

There was a long and detailed discussion of the options, with most centers and countries contributing to the discussion. The meeting supported the view that the Kyol Che was an important part of our tradition and should be continued over 13 weeks, but there was little support for creating a new European Retreat Center in the short term. Some speakers recommended this as an important long-term aspiration. Many representatives spoke in favor of one or other of the existing retreat centers continuing to hold long retreats, and the "distributed model" under which several centers in various countries hold long retreats, non-overlapping, in the summer.

A compromise proposal (recommendation to Council) was put forward and adopted without a vote:

7.1 MoM recommends to establish a KUSZ/E committee to:

- support the development, renovation and use of the network of existing and future local retreat centers;

- investigate and develop a plan for a European Retreat Center, focusing on residents, staffing and project team, teaching provision, location and access, funding and resources.

7.2 MoM asks the Council and EO to:

- coordinate the Kyol Che retreats and longer (two weeks+) retreats, ensuring that we avoid competition and clashes of retreats.

8. The MoM endorsed the Dharma Teachers' Compact.