Executive summary English text – International Council meeting 2016

**Page one: header**

International Council Executive Summary 2016

**Page two: Who was there?**

The 4th International Council meeting

Was held at adhisthana from 1 – 8 August 2016

It brought together 37 International Council members and 6 guests

And delegates from 11 countries

Representing Triratna’s 3 strands: the Preceptors College, Order and Movement.

**Page three: who was there?**

It was the biggest and most representative meeting yet

A total of 43 people attended

15 of them were new to the meeting

Only 3 people couldn’t make it

Just 2 places for representatives hadn’t been filled

**Page four: Who was there?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | India | USA and Canada | UK and Ireland | New Zealand & Australia | Spain and Latin America | Mainland Europe | Steering group | Team & guests |
| College | Vijaya | Karunadevi | Dhammamdina | Maitripala | Paramachitta | Kulanandi | Amrutdeep  Ratnadharini | Maitrisara  *facilitator* |
| Yashosagar | Viradhamma | Paramabandhu | Purna | Moksananda | Mahamati | Saddhaloka  Dhammarati | Candradassa  *BCO* |
| Order | Karmavajra | Amala | Sucimani | Vidyatara | Jnanadakini | Advayasiddhi | Parami | Munisha  *Liaison office* |
| Ratnashri | Shantinayaka | Bodhivamsa | Dharmananda | Vajranatha | Akasasuri | Lokeshvara | Prajnaketu  *Young person’s* *coordinator* |
| Movemt | Abhayaraja | Viveka | Dassini | none | Viryakirti | Jnanacandra | Viveka  Jnanacandra | Dhammamegha  *staff* |
| Nagaketu | Dharmasuri | Jnanadhara | Vajrajyoti | none | Arthakusalin | Vajrajyoti |  |

**Page five: Gathering the topics**

Image

India / Latin America and Spain / Mainland Europe / North America / New Zealand and Australia / UK and Ireland

----- Steering Group --- whole Group Topics –

The needs of the World / the System of Practice / Unity & working with conflict.

**Page six: Topics from the Areas**

**Steering Group**: What is a Triratna Centre. Ethical guidelines.

**Australia and New Zealand**: Dharma Teaching: Communicating and exemplifying the radical nature of the dharma in a way that is attractive to men, younger people etc. Ordination Process: regionalisation and the costs of attending ordination retreats for preceptors and people getting ordained.

**India**: Dr Ambedkar: To celebrate his 125th birthday and the 60th anniversary of the mass conversion. To include mitra study of Bhante’s Ambedkar and Buddhism in the West.

**Latin America and Spain**: Order Training: Effective and continuous training for Order members in Latin America by experienced senior Order members on dharma, meditation, KM Chapters and leading study and ordination training. Financial Support: for Order members in Latin America to attend courses at Adhisthana and other Triratna venues.

**Mainland Europe**: Meditation: reviewing how we teach it at urban centres and retreat centres. Deepening our understanding of Kalyana mitrata.

**North America and Canada**: Teacher training: How to, sharing, kalyana mitrata and impact of technology. Growth and Development of Triratna: encouraging cultures of cooperation and kalyana mitrata.

**UK and Ireland**: Climate Change: The main issue of the time, dharma contribution and bringing dharma alive to new people. Harmony in the Order and movement: Looking towards tangible action to be a harmonious sangha into the future.

**Page seven: topics**

The topics from the Area Councils were grouped together into three major themes:

World needs

The System of Practice

Unity and Working with conflict

**Page eight: The Programme**

The facilitation team developed the programme for 8 days of discussions, practice and planning. Aside from themed plenaries, the Strands and Areas each met three times. Each day began with meditation, had a practice theme and ended with a puja or community practice.

Monday 1st Welcome and dedication

Tuesday 2nd Connecting and setting the scene

Wednesday 3rd World needs day

Thursday 4th The System of Practice day

Friday 5th Strand and open space day

Saturday 6th Conflict resolution and Areas meeting

Sunday 7th Envisioning the future and setting priorities

Monday 8th Planning for action and closing

**Page nine:**

These other Open space topics emerged during the gathering:

1. Newcomers who aren’t new
2. Conflict resolution
3. Star teachers and team teaching
4. Triratna groups
5. Experimentation v tradition
6. What is a Triratna centre discussion

**Page ten: Priorities**

Following the practice of previous years

The international Council will prioritise

More depth and better follow-through

On a few priorities under the three main themes

**Page eleven: For the Steering Group**

**1 World needs**

Highlight the need for diversity, access and inclusion across the three stands.

Support the development of Triratna responses to climate change

Work with the Sikkha project to develop tools and training for diversity at Centres.

**2. The System of Practice**

Provide oversight so that the Sikkha project is focussed and uses International Council resources well

Develop diversity teaching resources

Initiate a Dr Ambedkar mitra-study module

Sikkha centre team workshops

**3. Unity and Working with Conflict**

Proposal for procedures for dealing with disharmony and conflict

Tools and Skills building for conflict resolution

Steering group to provide kalyana mitrata in situations of conflict between areas

Experiments in offering support

**Page twelve: Order Priorities**

**Consultations:**

Discussions about future patterns of conventions

Consult to recruit new Order convenor after Parami’s retirement.

Increase Order dana.

**Communication:**

Review Shabda and other means of Order communication

Contact private preceptors to find out who is out of contact with the Order

Coordinate the 50th anniversary of the Order celebrations in 2018

Order survey 2017

**Kalyana Mitrata**

Relaunch regular metta waves

Promote diversity in the Order

Resources and provide skills for Order members to work with conflict.

**Page Thirteen: Movement Priorities**

**Movement strand organising:**

Develop a world-wide movement strand infrastructure pilot project

One or more people to have a mythic world tour, offering workshops on the international movement, sharing toolkits on diversity and young people, enquiring about centre and Area needs, initiating consultations & building confidence

**Groups**:

Develop guidelines for the establishment and working of groups in Triratna

Liaise with the ECA Groups’ Board

Work to develop resources and kalyana mitrata for group leaders

**Communication with Centres:**

Share topics and resources from the International Council meeting

Support the 50th anniversary of the movement celebrations in April 2017

Start consultations and communication on chairs’ terms

*What is a Triratna Centre* and ethical Guidelines

**Page fourteen: College Priorities**

Present a summary of the College of Preceptors’ discussions about Sadhana

Support for review and development of eth system of training

Initiate discussions about presidents’ roles

Support for Area Councils after *What is a Triratna Centre?* Document

**Page fifteen: For Area Councils**

**Communication and Consultation**

Disseminate and discuss model Ethical Guidelines and safeguarding policies

Communicate what happened on the International Council meeting & circulate Executive Summary

**The Sikkha Project**

Centre Teaching Teams to take part in workshops

**What is a Triratna Centre?**

Disseminate the *What is a Triratna Centre?* paper

Chair’s 10 year term consultation

**Page sixteen: What is a Triratna Centre?**

The 2014 meeting raised the question of what makes a bona fide Triratna centre

Principles and practice were collated into a document titled *What is a Triratna Centre?*

There was widespread consultation through chairs and Area Councils across the world

The August 2016 meeting unanimously gave its full blessing to the final document

This is the first time we have agreed on the principles of our lineage of responsibility

It’s the fullest and most successful consultation the movement has conducted

<https://thebuddhistcentre.com/internationalcouncil/what-triratna-centre>

**Page Seventeen:**

For links to documents and media coverage from the 2016 meeting:

<https://thebuddhistcentre.com/tags/international-council-2016>

For more on the work of the International Council:

<https://thebuddhistcentre.com/internationalcouncil?display=latest>