

Second International Council Meeting

16-22 February 2013

Nagaloka, Nagpur, India



Narrative Summary

From 16-22 February 2013, the Triratna International Council (IC) met in Nagpur, India where Dr. Ambedkar converted to Buddhism along with 380,000 followers in 1956. After Dr. Ambedkar died just six weeks later, Sangharakshita arrived as an encouraging friend teaching the dharma to the newly converted Buddhists. This history of solidarity brought 29 Order members to Nagaloka Centre 57 years later.

The assembled IC members represented six Areas around the world and three Strands of our community: 1) Order, 2) Movement and 3) Preceptor's College/ordination process. Two-thirds of the IC members present also attended the first meeting in 2011 where, in the opening circle, Bhante gave the IC his full blessing. He offered us an image of the IC as a bee hive humming with beneficial activity and himself as a retired gardener, pleased to hear the distant buzz from the resting place of his lawn chair.

In 2011 there was a need to meet and much was unknown about how we could actually cooperate in order to be of benefit to our local communities and Triratna as an inter-connected whole.

Dhammarati, IC Chair, compares the 2013 meeting to a rock band releasing its second album. The second time out is a test of whether the group will have lasting importance or amount to little more than an interesting one-off. As a rock band, the IC managed a respectable second album that improved upon the first and showed promise for the future.

All signs indicate a group with momentum and an on-going contribution to make. In the evaluation of the meeting, 86% of participants rated their overall satisfaction with the meeting as "very satisfied" and 14% as somewhat satisfied. Three quarters or more "strongly agreed" and "agreed" that we had 1) achieved the IC's aims, 2) were clearer about the role of the IC going forward and 3) individuals were clearer about their roles as communicators and connectors between their Area/Strand and the wider Triratna Community.

The following Meeting Overview documents the flow and content of what we did over the 6 days of the meeting for the personal recollection of those present; to communicate to the entire Order, the three Strands, our Area Councils, and our sanghas; and to facilitate follow-through on the actions the IC agreed to. The content is an evocative compilation of written summary, photos, and sound and video recordings.

During that period together, there were many times when big and little shifts or transformations of some kind occurred among us. Each IC member would highlight different moments as significant and since leaving Nagaloka, new understandings continue to emerge from the exchanges we had. The rest of this narrative summary offers a glimpse into *what mattered* about what we did together.

Internationality is our practice

I have a better appreciation of Triratna as an international community, inclusive of diverse Areas and across 3 Strands.¹

The IC is cultivating a deepening understanding of Triratna's internationality and aspiring to learn how we can be truly and inclusively connected internationally. Language differences across Areas are one of the most obvious challenges to full participation and connection.

Meeting in India reflects an intention to hold more international sangha gatherings in this part of the world where a very large proportion of Triratna resides and practices and where relatively few Western Order members have much direct experience.

¹ 90% "strongly agreed" and "agreed" to this statement in the meeting evaluation.

Getting to know the Indian sangha in their context (rather than hearing about it from afar) facilitated a deeper appreciation of the strengths and challenges of the Order and Movement in India and helped friends from other parts of the world to be better culturally informed. The IC made time in its schedule to tour Nagaloka, visit a girls' hostel, and learn about the injustice of caste and gender prejudice and the India Dharma Revival.

The first puja of our event was on the theme of internationality. In this ritual we turned our collective awareness to the differences and diversity of cultures, views, experience, and language that are a combined strength of our community - and that sometimes, unacknowledged, may cause misunderstandings. Reciting the puja together was a tangible experience of sharing our practice, aspirations and lives as an inter-connected spiritual tradition.

The IC can now facilitate communication across the whole of our international community

We reflected on and responded to timely topics of importance for the Triratna community as a whole and for each Area and Strand.²

Three months prior to the meeting, each Area Council submitted topics of local importance that would benefit from the IC's collective exploration.

Three topics emerged for the whole group to explore together and we spent a full morning on each: 1) Intensity of Practice – collective and personal, 2) Ethical Standards, and 3) Leadership in Transition.

The IC now knows it is now capable of consulting the Triratna Community regarding matters of importance through the six Areas and three Strands. There is further to go to develop these channels of communications and a two-way flow of communication running from local to area to international and the other way around.

We have, however, tested our basic capacity with good results from the process of identifying topics for the 2013 IC agenda. This is in addition to the successful 2011/2012 IC-led initiative to engage the Triratna Community broadly in an open exploration of the system of spiritual life as taught by Bhante.

Kalyana mitrata is essential to our collective awakening

The first two mornings we explored the topics of intensifying practice and ethics. Both mornings led us to a similar understanding that the Order's spiritual vitality depends on the intensity and integrity of how individual Order members engage with each other.

The discussion on intensifying practice reinvigorated a vision, passed on to us by Sangharakshita and Dr. Ambedkar, of individuals practicing the Dharma, engaged in collective sangha practice, and transforming society with the Dharma.

We reflected that in the past, this vision was sometimes enacted in ways that painfully marginalised Order members for whom involvement in Movement institutions was not a primary life activity. We wanted to learn from past polarisation yet still be able to promote an understanding of our ordination as having a significance and commitment beyond the personal sphere.

While we understood collective practice in different forms as an important support to spiritual vitality, personal reflection also told us that spiritual depth arises from and thrives on non-institutionalised individual practice.

A wish emerged to create conditions in Triratna for the individual and collective to be in a mutually enhancing and respectful creative exchange.

² 90%/81% "strongly agreed" and "agreed" to these statements in the meeting evaluation.

In the realm of ethics, we heard again and again that active kalyana mitrata needs to be at the heart of how we interact. The IC wants to support spiritual friendship to flow more readily, skillfully, and sooner when a member or members of the Order become aware of signs or doubts arising regarding another's actions possibly being harmful to self, others or the sangha.

Kalyana mitrata was exemplified throughout our ethics dialogue, which touched on a wide range of cultural perspectives and how to approach major ethical breaches and long-lasting unresolved conflicts between Order members.

The quality of the IC's interaction around ethics was cause for confidence in our ability as a community to forge a compassionate and wise middle way between the extremes of ignoring and policing our collective life.

Together, the IC can be a unifying factor through Bhante's death

"We felt collectively confident to face the challenges before the Order and Movement."³

The last major topic we reflected upon was how leadership has developed in Triratna and how as a community we are preparing for Bhante's death.

Two stories from other Buddhist traditions helped us name conditions that serve to unite a spiritual community and prevent fragmentation and conflict following the death of a founder. We then asked what role the IC could play in contributing to what will likely be needed. The aims of the IC became much more compelling in relation to the sustainability of the Triratna community following Bhante's death.

Over the course of the meeting, the IC had shown - with the help of our evolving meeting practices - to be effective at: 1) listening sensitively to the concerns of the Order and Movement internationally, 2) responding from personal and spiritual values as well as organisational ones; and 3) seeing next steps for how to respond effectively, in dialogue with the Order, Movement and College in our respective Areas.

There is a high willingness among individual members to do their best to fulfill the meeting's aims and a high confidence in the collective as a whole to be able to step up to help unify our community after Bhante's death.

We are still in the early days of learning how to prioritise actions collectively and developing our ability to carry out the IC aims individually and collectively. The IC will need to pay continued attention to strengthening its spiritual, organisational and communication capacities.

Our actions seek to build on the connections made

In the end, the IC was able to take several days of reflection and discussion and create Priority Action Plans.

We did well in holding ourselves accountable to [identifying a few clear priorities](#) we can realistically focus and follow-through on. Since our first meeting we've learned to make use of existing organising structures within the Order, Movement and College strands to carry out the IC's work.

On the last day, each Strand agreed to lead specific priorities, mapped out a sequence of actions with timeframes, and designated a "driver" who would ensure that actions moved forward.

Now that the meeting has ended, the IC's task is to communicate the meeting to the entire Order and Movement, to conscientiously carry out our collective priorities, and to remain connected to continue the momentum of our service to the Triratna Community.

³ Quote from an IC member's evaluation

Members of the IC hold many responsibilities and it will surely be a stretch to keep the international and Area-level perspective in view once immersed in each of our immediate surroundings. Remembering each other from a distance is an act of sustained imagination. The golden walking Buddha at the heart of the Nagaloka campus may serve as our reminder, “All things are impermanent, with mindfulness strive on.”

The 2013 International Council Steering Group



Meeting Overview



Triratna International Council participants

College	Order	Movement
Dhammarati - <i>Steering Group + Facilitation Team</i>	Parami - <i>Steering Group + Facilitation Team</i>	Vivekratna - <i>India</i>
Saddhaloka - <i>Steering Group</i>	Mahamati- <i>Steering Group</i>	Nagaketu - <i>India</i>
Mahamati - <i>Mainland Europe</i>	Amrutdeep - <i>India</i>	
Yashosagar - <i>India</i>	Saddhajoti - <i>Latin America/ Spain</i>	Amogharatna - <i>Mainland Europe</i>
Karunamaya - <i>India</i>	Vajranatha - <i>Latin America/ Spain</i>	Jnanacandra - <i>Mainland Europe</i>
Dharmakirti - <i>alternate for Latin America/Spain</i>	Parina - <i>Mainland Europe</i>	Vajrajyoti – <i>South Pacific</i>
Varadevi – <i>South Pacific</i>	Nagasuri – <i>South Pacific</i>	Vajragupta – <i>UK/Ireland + Steering Group</i>
Viradhamma - <i>US/Canada</i>	Bodhivamsa – <i>UK/Ireland</i>	Dassini – <i>alternate for UK/Ireland</i>
	Sucimani – <i>UK/Ireland</i>	Dharmasuri – <i>alternate for US/Canada</i>
		Viveka – <i>US/Canada + Steering Group + Facilitation Team</i>

Other participants

Maitrisara (*Facilitator +Facilitation Team*), Candradasa (*thebuddhistcentre.com*), Vidyatara (*Administration + Facilitation Team*)

Non-participating Triratna International Council members

College	Order	Movement
Padmasuri - <i>Steering Group</i>	Aryaketu - <i>India</i>	Sudaya – <i>South Pacific</i>
Moksananda – <i>Latin America/Spain</i>	Vaddhaka – <i>Mainland Europe</i>	Saddhanandi – <i>UK/ Ireland</i>
Vajragita - <i>Mainland Europe</i>	Dharmananda – <i>South Pacific</i>	Viriyalila – <i>US/Canada</i>
Purna – <i>South Pacific</i>	Shantinayaka – <i>US/Canada</i>	Upeksamati – <i>Latin America/Spain</i>
Ratnadharini – <i>UK/Ireland</i>	Amala – <i>US/Canada</i>	
Satyaraja – <i>UK/Ireland</i>		
Karunadevi – <i>US/Canada</i>		

Daily schedule

Time	Activity
7.00am – 8.30am	<p>Meditation (<i>Refuges and Precepts Indian-style with positive precepts in English</i>)</p> 
10.00am – 1.00pm	Whole group session with a 20-30 minute tea break
1.00pm	Lunch and free time
4.00pm – 4.30pm	Home Groups (<i>small groups meeting by Area on Feb. 18, 19 & 20</i>)
4.30pm - 6.00pm	Afternoon session (<i>used for open space on Feb. 18 & 19</i>)
6.10pm	<p>Walking meditation around the standing Buddha rupa</p> 
6.30pm	Dinner
7.00pm - 7.40pm	Facilitation team meeting
7.45pm - 9.30pm	Inspirational and sangha-building activities

Arrival Afternoon – 16 February 2013

Theme: Arriving

Time	Session
4.30pm-6.00pm	<p>Tour of Nagaloka (led by Vivekratna)</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>To familiarize ourselves with the host site - Nagaloka</i> <i>To learn more about dharma work happening in the local area</i> <i>Inspiration and fun</i></p> 
7.30pm	<p>Opening circle (facilitated by Maitrisara)</p> <p><i>Aim: To help people relax and arrive</i></p> <p>Activities: Very short intro and report-in – how does it feel to be here? A few logistics Brief presentation of plan for tomorrow and overview</p>
8.30pm-9.15pm	<p>Shrine room arrival</p> <p><i>Aim: To set our intention and aspiration and dedicate the meeting</i></p> <p>Activities: Reminder of the purpose of this meeting 20 min. talk by Dhammarati. A few quotes from Bhante read by Parami before the Dedication Ceremony Dedication ceremony with Shakyamuni mantra led by Dhammarati</p> 

Day 1 – 17 February 2013

Theme: Connecting & getting 'located'

Time	Session
10.00am – 10.15am	<p>Indian welcoming ceremony</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>To observe local Area culture for welcoming & starting the meeting.</i></p> <p>Activities: Indian IC members present garlands to International Council members and formally welcome them to the Area.</p> 
10.15am – 10.35am	<p>Seeing who is here (facilitated by Viveka)</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>To see who is at the meeting and where people are coming from</i></p> <p>Activities: Physical mapping exercise. Group sits in a circle. Members step into the middle of the circle as the facilitator calls out various categories, e.g. at the 2011 meeting; at the IC meeting for the first time; here on behalf of an IC member who couldn't make it (who?).</p> <p>Who is not here? (Names read out including Area and Strand)</p>
10.35am – 10.55am	<p>Re-mindfulness of our guiding principles (facilitated by Viveka)</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>To establish relationship with guiding principles (or reconnect with them);</i> <i>To create sense of continuity with previous meeting; and</i> <i>To set up skillful communication and working practices.</i></p>

Activities:

- [Guiding principles](#) placed in the center of a circle of empty space
- Time for everyone to walk around and read the principles individually.
- People stop and stand next to a principle that is drawing them now.
- Facilitator asks a couple people next to each principle: “Why are you standing here? What its like here?”
- Ask if anyone else is needed to guide how we work together.
- Address agreements for use of social media and audio and video (proposal is that people share learning but not attribution unless you get the explicit OK for someone to be named or their presentations and comments to be broadcast as audio/video).
- Check for full group agreement to follow our Guiding principles.
- Stand in a circle, cross arms in front of you (right over left, left palm up). Ready to start the circle journey? Grab hands when ready, unwind and go from facing inward to walking outward back to our seats.



10.55am – 11.30am

Establishing and modelling transformational communication
(facilitated by Viveka)

Aim:

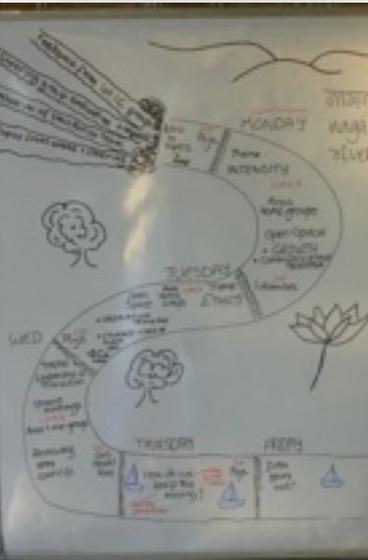
To set up skillful communication and working practices that are conditions for the emergence of transformational karma and dharma niyama processes among us

To introduce a model and skills that may be useful for the meeting and for members to use back in their Areas and Strands

Activities:

- Presentation by Viveka on [Insight dialogue](#) method linked to karma and dharma niyama processes and communication that gives rise to a creative, spiral path: 1) Pause, 2) Relax, 3) Open, 4) Trust Emergence, 5) Listen deeply, 6) Speak the truth/Speak what matters & connects
- Group sits around a triad modelling the method: Maitrisara reports in for 5 minutes and Viveka and Dhammarati engage her in a dialogue for 7 minutes

11.30am– 1.00pm	<p>Insight dialogue reporting-in (facilitated by Viveka)</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>To support people to arrive more fully</i> <i>To establish human connections and a flow of friendship</i> <i>To connect with what matters for people coming to this meeting</i></p> <p>Activities: Personal reporting-in and sharing what matters to connect us in small groups.</p>
4.00pm – 4.40pm	<p>Sharing of the consultation process for identifying “what matters” as the content for the IC meeting (facilitated by Maitrisara)</p> <p><i>Aims:</i> <i>To reflect on and learn from the process of communication with OMs in different areas</i> <i>To remember that the topics being considered by the IC have emerged from trends in our community</i></p> <p>Activities: Area Councils and Steering Group share with the whole group how they did their local consultation to arrive at topics – 5 min. each.</p>
4.40pm – 5.35pm	<p>Introducing and connecting to the topics gathered for our consideration (facilitated by Maitrisara)</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>To be transparent about how the topics have been identified and will be addressed; and</i> <i>Make sure everyone understands what has happened with the information gathered from his or her Areas.</i></p> <p>Activities: Presentation – At its December 2012 meeting the Steering group identified 3 for the full Council to consider and 4 more to be considered in small groups of interested people during open space time when other topics can also be suggested (suggesting a topic means hosting that conversation). The 2 topics raised by India on fundraising and Dharma teaching by Westerners will be added to the options for the open space time on Feb. 18 & 19.</p> <p>7 topics gathered in advance are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 whole-of-Council topics: Intensity of Practice – Personal & Collective, Ethics, Leadership in Transition • 4 open space topics: Ordination Training, Growth and Expansion, Communicating Triratna, Finance and Care of older OMs <p>Connecting to the topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 topic stations set up around the room. • 7 short time slots marked by a bells to move around organically with and share with others at the station, “What about this topic is alive in my Area?”

<p>5.35pm-6.00pm</p>	<p>Presentation of a map for the rest of the meeting (facilitated by Maitrisara)</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>For all participants to have a shared map of the overall journey of the meeting over the next few days; and</i> <i>Make sure we set out on our journey in a unified way</i> <i>To open the “modified” open space.</i></p> <p>Presentation of the meeting plan (drawn as a river journey).</p> 
<p>7.45pm-9:00pm</p>	<p>Short meditation and evening puja on theme of internationality Led by Sucimani</p>



Day 2 – 18 February 2013

Theme: Topics of importance to Triratna/Intensity of Practice – collective & personal

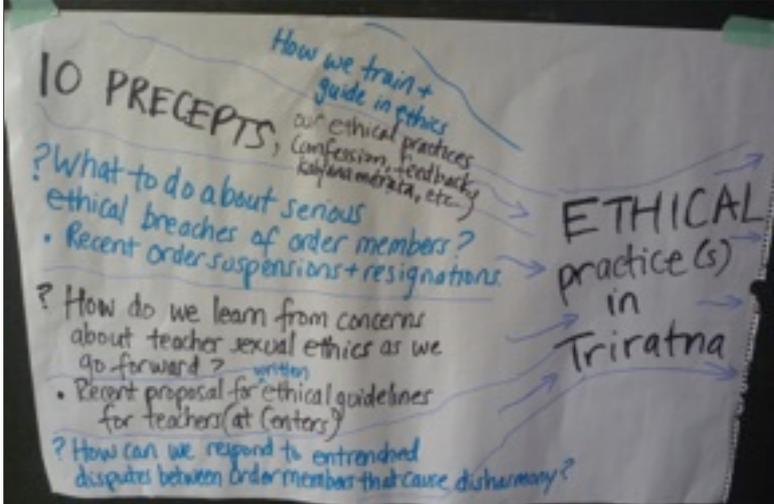
Time	Session
10.00am – 11:30am	<p>Intensity of practice – collective & personal (morning facilitated by Maitrisara)</p> <p><i>Aim (morning):</i> <i>To understand and reflect on the topic more deeply and with greater appreciation of what matters across areas and strands and for the unity and sustainability of Triratna; and</i> <i>To consider how the IC can contribute of benefit (and others).</i></p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min - announcements, getting settled • 5 min. - Introduction to intensity theme – origin of item etc. • 4 x 10 min talks by Saddhajoti (video), Varadevi (video), Mahamati, Yashosagar (video)
11.30am - 12.00pm	Tea break
12.00pm - 12.30pm	<p>Small group conversations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What supports intensity in our sangha? 2. What more is needed to support intensity of practice? 3. What can the IC contribute to this and what can happen elsewhere?
	
12.30pm - 1.00pm	Whole group sharing of highlights on question 3 particularly: What can the IC contribute to this and what can happen elsewhere?
4.00pm - 4.30pm	Home groups (meet in the dining area to get tea and then meet with people from your Area to check-in with each other)
4.30pm – 5.30pm	<p>Modified open space #1 of 2 (facilitated by Viveka)</p> <p>Prepared topics and new topics initiated by members (or option to meet with people you need to meet with about some business)– 3 sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth prepared & facilitated by Vajragupta • Communicating Triratna prepared & facilitated by Viradhamma • Coordinating Westerners teaching Dharma in India

7.45pm – 9.00pm	<u>Lokamitra's talk on the work of Nagaloka</u> With an introduction by Vivekratna, followed by the slide presentation
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Day 3 – 19 February 2013

Theme: Topics of importance to Triratna/Ethical Standards

Time	Session
9.00am - 10.00am	<p>Movement strand meeting time (agenda set by the Strand)</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>For strands to address matters of importance and build coordination within the Strand.</i></p>
10.00am – 11.30am	<p>Ethical Standards (morning facilitated by Viveka)</p> <p><i>Aim (morning):</i> <i>To understand and reflect on the topic more deeply and with greater appreciation of what matters across areas and strands and for the unity and sustainability of Triratna; and</i> <i>To consider how the IC can contribute of benefit (and others).</i></p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min - announcements, getting settled • 10 min. – set up by the facilitator Intro the ethical practice session topic and the consultation “currents” feeding into the conversation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dealing with conflict • the role of guidance – guidelines and training • OM’s participating (or not) in the collective life of the Order • the practical implications of ethical guidelines e.g. suspension 

	<p>Intro fishbowl format (request for gender balance in the conversation).</p> <p>Intro guiding questions that may be helpful to the conversation evolving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is important to understand? What matters? • What a vision of or wish you have for our community? • What will support that transformation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min. - Intros of 4 people starting the conversation: Amrutdeep, Dhammarati, Dharmasuri, Dassini • 20 min. initial conversation with starting group of 4 people and 1 empty chair • 40 min. – other members rotate into the conversation
11.30am -11.50am	Tea break
11.50am – 12.20pm	<p>3 Strand conversations:</p> <p>Presentation by Viveka of themes coming out of the Fishbowl, followed by group discussions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do we need to pay attention to? 2. What can the International Council contribute that would be of benefit? Or others? 
12.20pm – 1.00pm	<p>Whole group sharing of highlights on question #2</p> <p>End by dedicating the merits of this morning’s work with verses of dedication.</p>
2.30pm - 3.15pm	<p>Order strand meeting (agenda set by the strand)</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>For strand to address matters of importance and build coordination within the Strand.</i></p>
4.00pm-4.30pm	Home groups

4.30pm-6.00pm	<p>Modified open space #2 of 2 (facilitated by Maitrisara)</p> <p>Prepared topics and new topics initiated by members (or option to meet with people you need to meet with about some business)– 3 sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordination training: unity and diversity prepared and facilitated by Parina, Jnanacandra, Amogharatna, Mahamati • Finance / care of older order members facilitated by Bodhivamsa • Fundraising for India in the West • thebuddhistcentre.com facilitated by Candradasa
7.45pm - 9.00pm	<p>Confession and compassion puja led by Parami</p> 

TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY	
10:00 - 1:00 Whole group topic	ETHICAL STANDARDS Dealing with conflict, written guidelines, training, guidelines + suspensions	LEADERSHIP IN TRANSITION "who will do?" Succession planning, role of different world Council	TUESDAY 7-8:30 Meditation 8:30 Breakfast 9-10 • Movement strand • College strand - Room 12 10-11 Whole group session in meditation hall 1:00 Lunch 2-3 • Order strand 4-4:30 Home groups 4:30-6 Meet here first for topic topic sessions 6-10 walking meditation at Bala's house 6:30 Supper 7:45 Fuji on theme of confession and compassion
4:30-6:00 Prepared Topic Sessions	ORDINATION TRAINING Balance between representation and service, monks who have skills for ordination linked to water movement		
OK	FINANCE AND CARE OF OLDER ORDER MEMBERS • how to support order members - financially + spiritually + in community		
4:30 - 6:00 Open Space Topics Proposed by IC member proposing topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⓐ The Sukkhu Centre (Sukkhada) ⓑ Fundraising for India in the West (Sukkhada) ⓒ ? ⓓ ? 		

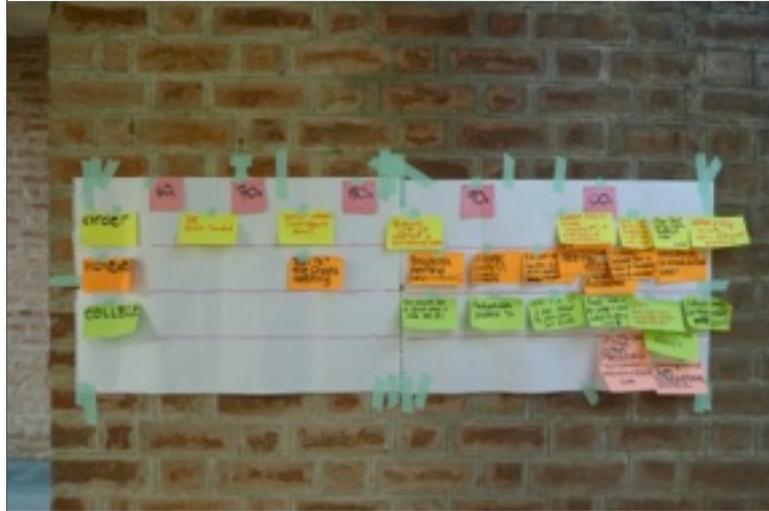
Please sign up to lead morning meditation →

Day 4 – 20 February 2013

Theme: Topics of importance to Triratna/Leadership in Transition

Time	Session
10.00am-10.50am	<p>Leadership in Transition (morning facilitated by Viveka)</p> <p><i>Aims (morning):</i> <i>To understand and reflect on the topic more deeply and with greater appreciation of what matters across areas and strands and for the unity and sustainability of Triratna</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To learn from the succession issues of other Sanghas</i> • <i>To reflect on our own succession issues</i> • <i>To identify conditions that will unify and sustain Triratna through Bhante’s death;</i> <p><i>To consider how the IC can contribute of benefit (and others); and</i> <i>To support conditions needed for IC members and council as a whole to be confident in its role through Triratna’s leadership transition.</i></p> <p>10 min - announcements, getting settled</p> <p>10 min. – topic set up by the facilitator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro the topic and the consultation “currents” feeding into the conversation • Intro of format for the morning (hearing 2 stories from other sanghas, reflecting on the Triratna story) • Agreement on confidentiality on sharing of stories from other sanghas • Point out the timeline of Triratna leadership <p>30 min. - Presentation of case histories on leadership transition from other traditions</p>
10.50am-11.05am	<p>Silent reflection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the similarities and difference between the 2 stories? With the Triratna story? • What conditions will unify and sustain Triratna through Bhante’s death?

Suggest people can browse the timeline posted on the wall documenting developments in Triratna's leadership structures (this timeline has been up since open space time the previous day and International Council members were encouraged to add to it using post-its)



11.00am-11.35am

Small groups of 3-4 people – 20 min.

- 1) What are the similarities and difference between the 2 stories? With the Triratna story?
- 2) What conditions will unify and sustain Triratna through Bhante's death? (write on post-it notes)



11.35am-11.50am

Tea break

11.50am-12.05pm

Review the conditions that will unify & sustain Triratna through Bhante's death – 15 min.

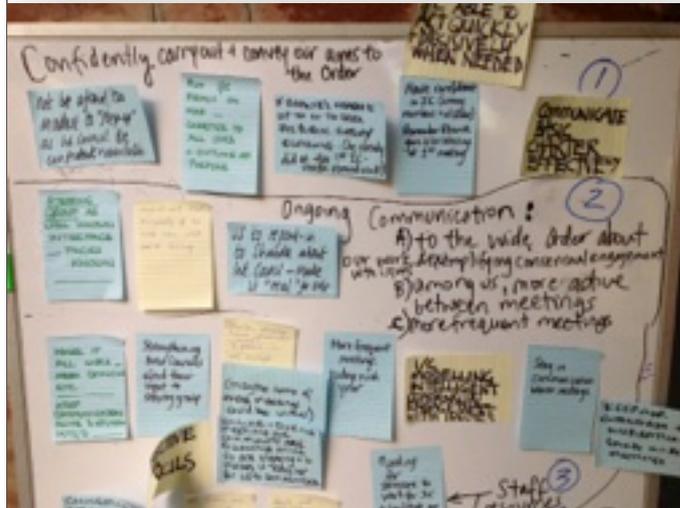
Facilitator reviews:

- the [themes](#) emerging from the work before the tea break.
- The [International Council's 6 stated aims](#) from the Working Practices document

12.05pm-12.40pm

How can the IC serve as a unifying force through Bhante's death?

- Small groups of 3-4 people for 20 min.
- Share [highlights](#) in whole group – 15 min



12.40pm-1.10pm

Readiness to step up to the IC's potential contribution?

In the hallway, line up on a spectrum for two different questions from 0-10 (10=totally ready; 0=not ready at all):

- 1) How ready are you, individually, to step up to the IC role & contribution that has emerged this morning?
- 2) How ready is the IC as a whole, to step up to the IC role & contribution that has emerged this morning?

After each question ask people why they are standing where they are and what's it like there.

For #1, start asking people in the middle then go to the lower numbers and then the higher numbers

For #2, observe the shift in the group's positioning and ask what's changed and what's it like where they are standing now.



4.00pm-4.30pm

Home groups

4:30pm-5:15pm	<p>Reviews of the working groups formed at the 2011 International Council meeting (afternoon session facilitated by Maitrisara)</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>Continuity from the 2011 IC meeting; and</i> <i>Learning from initial ways the IC organized itself to carry out its work to adapt for how we carry out our work going forward</i></p> <p>Short presentations on 3 work groups formed at the 2011 IC meeting: the brief from the 2011 meeting, how the group organized itself and what it did, the results were, and lessons to inform how we organize our work going forward</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Funding for the IC's work 2) System of the Spiritual Life 3) Building Better Channels
5.15pm-6.00pm	<p>Strand meetings (agenda to emerge from Strands, not pre-set)</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>For strands to address matters of importance and build coordination within the Strand.</i></p>
6.00pm-10.00pm	<p>Trip to girls hostel and dinner at the home of Nagamitra</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>To learn more about dharma work happening in the local Area sangha and friendship building; and</i> <i>Inspiration and fun</i></p> 



Day 5 – 21 February 2013

**Themes: Developing a coordinated international on-line presence; and
Moving forward – setting clear priorities for action**

Time	Session
10.00am-11.05am	<p>The Buddhist Centre Online (BCO) (facilitated by Maitrisara)</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>To share an understanding of Triratna’s growing international presence online and the potential of a coordinated approach; and To get feedback and gauge interest in the potential for the International Council to develop a more intentional supportive relationship with The Buddhist Centre online</i></p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>10 min - Announcements & getting settled</p> <p>20 min - Presentations on the Buddhist Centre Online</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dhammarati for the Buddhist Centre Online Council – 2 min.• Parami for the International Order Convenors – 2 min• Vajragupta for the ECA – 2 min.• Candradasa general presentation – 15 min.  <p>Articulation of proposals - #1 for BCO to have more of a home in the International Council and #2 for the International Council to have a member serve as a BCO Council member – 10 min.</p> <p>Gauging support for two proposals – 20 min.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The first proposal using physical mapping in a circle (centre of the circle is you are in up to your neck and diving in and the edges is you are just sticking your toe in the water). Ask people for comments about why they are standing where they are. Facilitators observe the patterns.• The second proposal (using same physical mapping). Facilitators observe the patterns. <p>Next steps to be considered in the next agenda item (reminder that this was not a vote, but a checking for where International Council members are at) – 5 min.</p>

11.05am-11.30am	<p>Tea Break <i>Facilitators post a matrix of potential actions that identifies the likely Strand, Steering Group or other who would drive the action forward culled from the meeting discussions up to this point (we had a grid of 38 potential actions)</i></p>
11.30am-11.50am	<p>Moving from open conversation to taking action (remainder of the morning facilitated by Viveka) <i>Aim:</i> <i>To identify, as a group, a few priority actions for the IC to undertake as a result of this meeting</i> <i>To identify who could drive forward other actions that are not IC-wide priority initiatives</i></p> <p>Activities: Time for people to look at the grid of potential actions as they come back from the tea break – 5 min.</p> <p>Framing for how to move forward – 15 min.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noting that we are at the point in the meeting where we are moving from open conversation to taking action • Review a flipchart with factors for success for IC actions prepared by the facilitators • Point out that the IC has stated it wants to prioritize a few signature actions coming out of the meeting (note that many of the potential actions can be moved forward easily by a strand although they may not be signature joint IC initiatives, and several items can be planted as seeds for local Areas to move forward as they are interested simply by reporting back potential actions to the Areas). • Explain prioritization process. Each person gets 7 dots to vote for actions they wish to prioritize. Can put multiple dots on one item, cannot give others your dots, can decide not to use all your dots. 
11.50am-12.25pm	<p>Voting on priority International Council actions</p> <p>Time for members to vote using sticky dots and also write-in their names if they are willing and able to move forward a specific potential action – 20 min.</p> <p>Observe results and items with significant votes and which strand or group is the driver of the action – 15 min</p>

12.25pm-1.00pm	<p>Developing strand accountability action plans for driving priorities forward</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>To leave the meeting with clear accountability for moving priorities forward</i></p> <p>Presentation of a definition for accountability and assignment for each Strand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO, will do WHAT, by WHEN, and HOW will we know it's been done? – 5 min. • Explain that Steering Group will meet before the 4:00 session to develop their plan in response to the prioritization. • Strands meet and develop accountability action plans for driving priorities forward – 20 min. 
2.30pm-3.30pm	<p><u>Steering Group meeting</u> (facilitated by Viveka)</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>To leave the meeting with clear accountability for moving priorities forward</i> <i>To develop an update on how the Steering Group is organizing itself going forward to support the success of the IC</i> <i>To develop an approach to communicating this IC meeting to the whole Order; and</i> <i>Assign Steering Group members to be links for all priorities that have been identified</i></p>
4.00pm-4.50pm	<p>Presentation of Strand and Steering Group Accountability Action Plans (afternoon facilitated by Maitrisara)</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>To leave the meeting with clear accountability for moving priorities forward</i> <i>A shared understanding of how the Steering Group is organizing itself going forward to support the success of the IC</i> <i>To develop an approach to communicating this IC meeting to the whole Order</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 min – Movement, Order & College presentations • 10 min - Steering Group presentation • 10 min - Comments, input

4.50pm-5.20pm	<p>How Strands will communicate back</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>To leave the meeting with clear intentions for how to communicate effectively back through the Strands; and</i> <i>To offer support to Strands for how they can communicate effectively.</i></p> <p>Break into 3 strand groups and support each other in thinking through how to effectively communicate back from this IC meeting. Identify any support that might be needed (Maitrisara, Viveka and Vidyatara sitting in groups to offer assistance around what support might be needed) – 20 min.</p>
5.20pm-6.00pm	<p>How Areas will communicate back</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>To leave the meeting with clear intentions for how to communicate effectively back through the Area Councils.</i></p> <p>Break into Area Councils to discuss how to report back effectively.</p>
7.45pm-8.30pm	<p>Closing of our Work, Closing Reflections (facilitated by Viveka)</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>To reflect on the journey we've taken and the vision and transformation that has emerged at different points along the way; and</i> <i>To share our inspiration to build our mudita and confidence and celebration of work well done</i></p> <p>Facilitator announces that an online evaluation will go out and asks members to respond. Recaps journey we've taken and observes the vision and transformation that has emerged at different points along the way (image of a river on the floor made with blue scarves and sheets of paper tracing the stages of the meeting's journey) – 10 min.</p> <p>Closing reflections – Briefly, share a highlight, moment, or image of inspiration from our time together? (go around) – 30 min.</p> <p>Leg stretch – 5 min.</p> 

8.30pm-9.00pm	<p>Closing puja (led by Parami) – 30 min.</p> <p><i>Aim:</i> <i>To end on a note of inspiration and dedicating our merits</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Karaniya metta sutta• 3-fold puja with Shakyamuni mantra offerings• End with the Bodhicitta mantra
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Day 6 – 22 February 2013

Theme: Thank you

Time	Session
8:45am-9:15am	<p>Thank yous (facilitated by Parami) – 30 min. Nagaloka team:</p>    

Facilitation team:



10.30am-1.00pm

Trip to Diksha Bhumi

Aim:

Inspiration and friendship

Activities:

A group trip to Diksha Bhumi, the site where Dr Ambedkar converted to Buddhism together with around 380,000 of his followers on October 14, 1956.

