

Foundation Project

Peru

Activity report 2014

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1 Introduction

Since its purchase in April 2008 the Diamond Way Buddhist Center in Lima, located in the district of Santiago de Surco, has been open to the public three times a week for meditation sessions as well as courses and other Buddhist activities.

There are currently 6 adults and a child living in the house and approximately 25 regularly active members as well as around 30 others who come to courses and special activities.

Many of these regular active members are “key holders” and this easy and widespread access to the meditation facilities has been reflected in the increased use of the Gompa.

Public meditation is held Monday through Friday at 8pm and at 12.30pm Saturdays, and ‘10-minute and introductory talks’ are given by members of the Sangha on Mondays and Thursdays.



2 Location and Description

The house, located in Alfredo Franco 222, Santiago de Surco, is property of the Diamantweg Stiftung (DWS). This part of Lima could be described as a middle class neighborhood, close to two main avenues, and the house is very accessible by public transportation, both by bus and by the overland train system that has recently been completed.

It has an area of 455 m² and 506 m² of constructed area, built with cement and bricks which are necessary in seismic areas. The house is in a generally good condition. During 2012, the water piping was changed in two of the bathrooms and the lighting was improved in the meditation room (Gompa).



The house has three floors; the meditation room (Gompa), cafeteria, house kitchen, library, one bedroom with ensuite bathroom, one bedroom, garden and a guest bathroom are located on the first floor. On the second floor, there are three bedrooms that share a bathroom plus two additional bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. The third floor has one bedroom and a bathroom, as well as a laundry area and the newly constructed storage room. This room was constructed by members of the team during a weekend activity and allows the storage of cleaning and maintenance materials.

This year, work was carried out to improve and change the electrical system throughout the whole house, especially focusing on loose sockets in the walls.

The main wooden doors were also treated and varnished to avoid wood-eating termites, which are common in this part of the world.

3 DHARMA ACTIVITIES

LAMA OLE'S YEARLY VISIT

This year, Lama Ole Nydahl came to Lima and gave a public lecture externally, at the Lima Sheraton Hotel on 5th May on the subject 'Meditation in Daily Life', with an attendance of approximately 400 people from Peru, as well as those who had travelled in from other parts of the world such as the United States, Canada and different European countries.

Although there was no course with Lama Ole this year, he took the time to meet with Peruvian Sangha members in the Buddhist center on the 6th May to watch and discuss the presentations they had created to demonstrate their activity.

After his departure from Lima, two public lectures were given in the Buddhist center by teachers appointed by Lama Ole: the first, on the 7th of May, given by Tasso Kallianiotis from Greece, was on the topic of 'Diamondway Buddhism', and on the 8th May, Klaus Kaltenbrunner gave a lecture with the title 'Buddhism - working with your mind'.

From the 7 - 10 of May, the center hosted two simultaneous meditation courses in the Buddhist center with Tasso Kallianiotis and Klaus Kaltenbrunner.

TRAVELLING TEACHERS VISITS

In February, Macarena Gonzalez Costa from Argentina, came to the Buddhist centre to give two public lectures on Buddhism in general and on the functions of Buddhist centers. There was also a weekend retreat in the Buddhist center, attended by approximately 20 people. Macarena also visited the Diamondway Buddhist groups in Piura.

In July, Daria Martens of Russian origin visited the group and gave 3 public lectures, with the titles: 'The importance of the teacher in Diamond Way Buddhism', 'Introduction to Buddhism' and 'Fearless Mind', each attended by approximately 20 - 30 people. She also gave a weekend meditation course attended by 12 people and visited the Diamondway group of practitioners in Cusco, where she gave a public lecture.

In October Julianne Ferenczy from Germany and Peter Lahucsky from Hungary visited the group and gave a public lecture on 'Buddha and Love' at the installations of the Hotel Dazzler, which was attended by approximately 80 people. Peter also gave an introductory lecture in the Buddhist center. A weekend meditation course was held during their visit and attended by approximately 12 practitioners.

A large number of members of the group travelled to the Europe Center in Germany, Karma Guen in Spain and the KDL Retreat Centre in Uruguay as well as other parts of South America to attend courses given by Lama Ole.

LOCAL T.T's

Local Travelling Teachers travelled to the other cities in the country where there are groups of practitioners: Arequipa, 1000kms south from Lima, next to three

volcanoes, Piura, 1000kms north and Iquitos 1000kms northeast. In March, Carlos Vega, from Lima, gave a public lecture at the Buddhist center entitled 'Buddhism in the West' and in June, Alfonso Costa gave a lecture on the 'Teacher Student Relationship in Diamondway Buddhism.

SANGHA ACTIVITIES

Based on the idea of increasing our members' possibilities for traveling to Buddhist courses in other countries and strengthening ties between centers in South America, a system was implemented in which regular members were assigned points for their participation in centre meetings, activities and responsibilities within the centre. Upon reaching a certain amount of points, that person became eligible to participate in a draw, the prize being a free trip and course in another country in South America.

The first draw was held in October and allowed the winner to meet Lama Ole in the Uruguayan Retreat Center, KDL. There exists since several years a common agreement for fellowships that include a free course with lama Ole for members of foreign sanghas between Argentina, Colombia and Uruguay with Peru.

The group started to participate in an incentive called 'Meditation of the Americas', in which groups from Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, U.S.A, Costa Rica, Cuba, among others, connect on Skype and meditate together on the last Thursday of every month.

Fund Raising Activities

- November - Garage Sale
- October - October Fest

4 Plans for the future

- There is a project to change the water pipes in the building.
- Planning of second phase of re-modelling to build more bedrooms on the third floor.
- Planning and search for possible retreat center.
- Organization of courses by Dharma teachers