

# **Buddhist Cooperation Council of Sweden (SBS)**

**Organizational number: 80 20 17 – 7260**

## **Activity Report 2014**

### **Member Organizations**

Association 3 Jewels

Association for Diamondway Buddhism, Buddhist Center in Stockholm

Association for Tibetan Buddhism in Gothenburg

Association for Tibetan Buddhism in Malmö – Lund, Karma Yönten Ling

BLIA - Buddha's Light International Association, Stockholm chapter

Buddha Dhamma Saddha association - Wat Pha Gothenburg

Buddhist Association in Lappland Sweden, Buddharama Temple Fredrika

Buddhist Association in Luleå

Buddhist Community - Karme Tenpe Gyaltzen

Buddhist Vihara Association / Stockholm Buddhist Vihara

Burma Buddhist compound Sweden - Tiratana Buddhist Convent

Sakya Changchub Chöling

Swedish Soto – Zen Association

Thai Buddhist Association in Sweden, Buddharama Temple Värmdö

Triratna Buddhist Community

Vipassanagruppen

Vietnamese Buddhist Cultural Association in Bjuv, Dai Bi Tam temple

Vietnamese Buddhist Cultural Association in Malmö, Thay Tien temple

Vietnamese Culture and Buddhist Association in Gothenburg, Phat Quang Temple

Wat Sanghabaramee

Wat Santinivas

Zen Buddhist Society

### **Board**

Trudy Fredriksson, President (Buddhist Community – Karme Tenpe Gyaltzen)

Bhante Dhammaratana Nayaka Maha Thera, Deputy Chairman (Buddhist Vihara Association / Stockholm Buddhist Vihara)

Eva Abrahmsén, Treasurer (Sakya Changchub Chöling)

Ekaterina (Katya) Panova, Secretary (Association for Tibetan Buddhism in Gothenburg)

Bui Van Tam, Member (Vietnamese Culture and Buddhist Association in Gothenburg, Phat Quang Temple)

Pramaha Boonthin Taosiri, Member (Thai Buddhist Society/ Buddharama Temple Värmdö)

## **Meetings**

The Buddhist Cooperation Council of Sweden (SBS) held one Annual meeting and four board meetings during the year. Host for the SBS Annual meeting on 29 maj was BLIA Sweden – Buddha's Light International Association in Rosersberg. In conjunction with the Annual Meeting, environmental seminar was arranged on the same day. At the Annual meeting, Buddhist Association in Lappland Sweden, Buddharama Temple Fredrika was elected as a new member organisation.

Trudy Fredriksson was commissioned by the government to participate in meetings at the Swedish Commission for Government Support to Faith Communities (SST) [www.sst.a.se](http://www.sst.a.se) and the Government's Council for contact with faith communities [www.regeringen.se/sb/d/15931](http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/15931). Bhante Dhammaratana was a deputy in SST's council. From this year Trudy partakes in SST's drafting group for spiritual care. In December, the board was invited in a meeting with SST, which was the first of the annually recurring meetings between these two organisations.

Several Buddhist representatives participated in a course for competence development for spiritual leaders in Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö. The course was arranged by SST. In October, Chandra Nawaratna and Trudy participated in a SST conference "Survey on the xenophobic actions against faith communities, premises and people".

Chandra took part in SST's dialogue seminar regarding child marriage and forced marriage in Sweden. In September Trudy, Katja Panova and Leif Magnusson visited the Vietnamese temples in Oxie and Bjuv.

In December Bhante Dhammaratana, Niranjani Perera, Chandra and Trudy participated in a conference "Protect the Democracy". They were invited to this conference by the National Coordinator against violent extremism, Mona Sahlin.

## **The United Nation's Vesak festival**

Bhante Dhammaratana represented SBS on festival celebrations in Vietnam on May 7-11 and read a proclamation from SBS about the importance for Buddhists to engage in environmental issues.

## **SBS homepage**

Katja Panova is administering the older home page, alongside the new one, that is currently worked on, before it can be launch hopefully during the year 2015.

## **Governmental grants from SST**

The governmental grant amounted in 2014 to 318,000 SEK, of which 10 % (31 800 SEK) was for the SBS key activities and 90% (286 200 SEK) was for the 12 member organizations, based on 4812 individuals served during the year 2011. Following organisations received start-up grants of 30 000 SEK/each:

Buddha Dhamma Saddha association - Wat Pha Gothenburg, Vietnamese Culture and Buddhist Association in Gothenburg, Phat Quang Temple, Wat Sanghabaramee

in Eslöv and Burma Buddhist compound Sweden - Tiratana Buddhist Convent.

### **European Buddhist Union (EBU ) [www.e-b-u.org](http://www.e-b-u.org)**

On January 29-30 Katja Panova participated in the EBU's meeting with the National Unions Committee in Frankfurt. Trudy Fredriksson attended the EBU's General meeting on September 25-28 at Hamburg Buddhist Centre in Germany.

### **Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB**

Trudy and Katja have participated as observers in SAMÖ focus 2014 in Enköping on May 14-15. The aim of the visit program was to provide the participants with an overview into the exercise and to see how the exercise is connected to the collected training activities of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency. Apart from the SAMÖ focus exercise, Katja Panova and Trudy Fredriksson also participated in two meetings with MSB.

### **Spiritual care and crises management**

The employments of the Buddhist coordinators for spiritual care, Trudy Fredriksson and Katja Panova, had from the beginning of 2014 been increased from 25% to 30%. The geographic division remained same as the previous years, with Trudy Fredriksson being responsible for contacts in the country areas Svealand and Norrland. Katja Panova is responsible for contacts in Götaland. The work with the crisis management has been synchronised with the work with spiritual care in cooperation with SST.

Coordinators Trudy and Katja went further with contacting the hospitals. Katja visited the hospitals and Hospital Churches in Malmö, Helsingborg, Lund and Jönköping as well as temples and Buddhist organisations in Helsingborg, Bjuv and Malmö. Trudy visited many hospitals and Hospital Churches in Stockholm, Örebro, Uppsala, Arlanda, Umeå, Östersund and Västerås. She also visited Buddhist Thai associations in Umeå and Östersund. Trudy has given lectures about the Buddhist spiritual care in a number of occasions for the hospital staff at the University hospital in Örebro and Örebro region, Karolinska hospital in Huddinge and Sabbatsberg's hospital. She has also educated staff at the institution for spiritual care.

In February, the coordinators arranged in cooperation with SST, an educational meeting in Stockholm about the spiritual care and crises management, for the ordained Sangha and other Buddhist contact persons. In October, Phra Boonse gave a talk at the Stockholm School of Theology "To understand and to meet people in crises".

In September a course in spiritual care and crises management was carried out, with 19 participants attending. The course took place in Eslöv, in South of Sweden at the premises of the temple Wat Sanghabaramee.

### **Interfaith Peace Forum**

In February Trudy, Eva Abrahmsén and Siriphorn Holdosi participated in project meetings and events for the Global Interfaith Harmony Week in the premises of Sensus. Buddharama temple organized a workshop for the manufacture of Loy Kratong flower garlands, which were later used in a lightning ceremony at Medborgarplatsen. There Trudy read a statement from the Interreligious Council of Sweden, concerning the protection of religious freedom. Four monks from Buddharama temple opened the lightning ceremony by reciting Buddhist sutra for peace.

Trudy, Eva, Phra Boonse and other representatives from various SBS member organisations, participated in a manifestation “Walk for Friendship” in Stockholm in december.

### **Interreligious Council of Sweden**

Trudy Fredriksson attended meetings at the Interreligious Council of Sweden. In conjunction with the World Interface Week, Trudy and Bhante Dhammaratana signed a statement from Interreligious Council of Sweden on protection of religious freedom. Among other activities can be mentioned a statement on persecution of various religious minorities in Iran. Another is the planning of a campaign “Refuse to Hate!” in collaboration with the Christian Council of Sweden.

### **Coexist**

Coexist is an interfaith network, that cooperates with the City of Malmö and the SST. Buddhist are represented by Leif Magnusson together with some others members of Karma Yönten Ling in Malmö/Lund and Ngo Thuy Hoa from the Vietnamese temple in Oxie. They have participated as Buddhist representatives at Coexist during the year by contributing to a dialogue and by visiting many school classes in Malmö, as well as temples, churches, mosques, etc. and various cemeteries. Coexist was also represented during the Almedalen Week in Visby.

### **Other interreligious meetings**

Chandra Nawaratne participated in April in an interreligious meeting with the Commissioner for racial equality. In June, Trudy Fredriksson was invited to a reception, in connection with employment award ceremony for the Archbishop of the Church of Sweden, Anders Wejryd and a morning service at the installation of the new Archbishop, Antje Jackelén.

In April, Trudy gave talk at the conference Religion and Radicalism, which was arranged by the Vox Pacis in Skärholmen. She also participated in interreligious dialogue at the Pride Festival at the House of Culture.

Trudy participated in December in a TV program “Round Table”, about the religion in the society. The TV program was produced by the Swedish Television. Trudy also joined an informational meeting with the City of Stockholm regarding the planning of Northern Graveyard.

**Other activities**

SBS has addressed various issues from the members, various organisations /institutions and individuals.

*The board would like to express their cordial gratitude to everyone, who by various efforts has contributed to the SBS activities.*

Stockholm in April 2015

The Board of the Buddhist Cooperation Council of Sweden