

Communique

The meeting of the Executive Council (EC) of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP) was held at New Delhi, the Capital of India on 22 May 2017. The meeting coincides with birth centenary of late 19th Kushok Bakula Rinpoche, one of the founding members of ABCP. All together seventeen (17) delegates representing the ABCP National Centres of Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Mongolia, Vietnam, Russia, Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), Dharamsala, India attended the meeting. Sri Lankan National Centre of late Most Ven Vipulasara was represented by Ven. Bhante Maitipe Wimalasara, who joined via Skype from Los Angeles, US. A list of EC members who attended the meeting is attached as Annexure - I

In addition four special invitees on behalf of Indian National Centre namely; Ven Dr Dhammapiya, Khensur Rinpoche Geshe Jangchup Choeden, Ambassador P. Stobdan and Mr Maling Gombu also attended the EC meeting.

The conference began with the reading of the names of the founders and other founding members of the ABCP who are no longer alive and special mention of the late 19th Kushok Bakula Rinpoche on his birth centenary year by Sonam Wangchuk, Secretary, ABCP Indian National Centre. It was followed by observing a minute's silence in memory and homage to all of the above. A list of the names mentioned is attached herewith as Annexure – II.

Mr. Sonam Wangchuk, Secretary of ABCP Indian National Centre in his welcome address recalled and summarized the genesis of ABCP in the late 1960s and the need of the hour to revive the organization to face the contemporary issues.

In their opening statements members from various National Centres present in the meeting expressed their appreciation and delight at the efforts by the ABCP Indian national Centre towards rejuvenation of ABCP. The same are listed below:

- a) His Eminence Sanghanayaka Sudhanada Mahathero (Bangladesh), Bhante Wimalasara (Sri Lanka), Ven Prof Khyi Sovanaratna (Cambodia), Dr. Thich Duc Thien (Vietnam), Ven Karma Gelek Yuthok (CTA, India), Ven Tsyren Lama, Dy Khambo Lama (Buryat Republic, Russian Federation), Mrs. Dulma Shagdarova (Russia) representing their respective national centres expressed their joy at the convening of the EC meeting of ABCP after a gap of so many years and complimented the Indian National Centre for organizing it at such short notice.
- b) Most Ven. Khambo Lama Chojijav Dambajav, Vice-President of ABCP Mongolia emphasized that by virtue of its UN ECOSOC membership the ABCP can work very closely with global bodies and the international community. He also offered to share his experience accrued over his long association with ABCP for its future programs and endeavors.
- c) His Eminence Sanghanayaka Sudhanada Mahathero in his short remarks acknowledged the gap of many years in holding of meeting of ABCP has caused distance among its member national centres. Full text of his address is enclosed at Annexure – III.

- d) Most Ven Bhante Maitpie Wimalasara from Sri Lanka in his address via Skype (teleconference) from Los Angeles (USA) also complemented the ABCP Hqrs and ABCP India National Centre for the convening of the Executive Council meeting after a gap of so many years. He recalled the contributions of late Most Ven Vipulasara in the founding of ABCP and carrying forward its legacy and endeavors for peace and promotion of Buddha Dharma. He also recalled having accompanied Most Ven Vipulasara to ABCP meetings. He extended his full support to the efforts to revive and rejuvenate the ABCP.
- e) Ven Karma Gelek Yuthok (CTA, India) while maintaining that the CTA has been functioning in resonance of aims and objectives of ABCP by maintaining more than 260 monasteries and nunneries in India and Nepal and providing Buddhists education to the monks and nuns, added that the rejuvenated ABCP should work to promote the basic Buddhist teachings and secular ethics through mass education programs, to promote religious harmony and to support and defend the fundamental Buddhist cause of truth and justice.
- f) Mr. P. R. Barua from BBKPS introduced the efforts being made by His Eminence Sanghanayaka Sudhananda Mahathero in popularizing Buddhism in a Muslim majority country like Bangladesh where the population of Buddhists is only 2.5 million. He said that Bangladesh is a sacred land of birth of Acharya Atisha and their centre is constructing an Atisha Museum and Library in his enlightened memory at Bajrajogini, District Munshiganj, (around 45 kms from Dhaka). He also proposed to organize the next meeting of ABCP in Bangladesh as his centre has adequate infrastructure and resources for organizing such a meeting.
- g) Geshe Jangchup Choeden (Special Invitee from India) raised the pressing issue of conflicts all over the world and especially raised tensions in some parts of Asia and exhorted ABCP to strive for peace building and conflict avoidance. Towards this he quoted from the ABCP booklet and suggested the revival of certain bodies of ABCP such as Commission of Disarmament based in Tokyo (Japan) and Commission on Indian Ocean Zone of Peace in order to defuse mounting tension in the world particularly in East Asian region.
- h) Prof. Le Manh That (Vietnam) proposed constituting a Commission on Climate Change and Environment Protection with its headquarters in Vietnam. The name was further proposed to be amended as '**Commission on Climate Change and Environment Consciousness**' keeping it in sync with Buddhism philosophy.
- i) Ven. Oeurn Sam Art, representing HH Samdech Preah Tep Vong, the Great Supreme Patriarch of Cambodia and Vice President of ABCP, stressed that the current issue with ABCP was not just of membership but the leadership post disintegration of USSR, which needs to be addressed to while working for its rejuvenation. He also emphasized on the need to address the contemporary issues

and endeavor for world peace, sustainable economic development, tackling climate change, etc.

- j) Most Ven Khambo Lama Gabju Choijamts Demberel, President of ABCP Hqrs in his keynote address stressed that the impact of globalization has a new challenge for Asian countries in the form of climate change and environmental degradation which can be addressed by the Buddhist philosophy. He added that ABCP must raise its voice against developed countries on the issue. He also proposed to host the next General Conference of ABCP to be held in Mongolia in June – July 2018 and a team should be constituted to get in touch with all the national centres of ABCP for its revival. He also recalled the contribution of founding members of ABCP towards the cause of ABCP.
- k) Ven Prof. Buglan Gabji, Gen Secy, ABCP made an audio-video presentation on the past activities of ABCP, its constitution, motto, etc.
- l) Mrs. Dulma Shagdarova from Russia proposed that His Holiness Dalai Lama to be made Patron of ABCP in view of his stature and contribution towards world peace. The proposal was seconded by Sanghanayaka Sudhananda Mahathero. Mr Sonam Wangchuk suggested that supreme heads of other Sangha and traditions may also be approached. Making his observation on the suggestion Ambassador P. Stobdan from India suggested ABCP to be cautious of getting into any political controversy at such initial stages of its revival and drawing the unwarranted attention and ire of forces inimical to its functioning. Ven. Karma Gelek Yuthok of Tibetan National centre, CTA, India however stated that if inclusion of the Dalai Lama despite his relinquishing political powers can be a political issue than all the issue that will be raised on this platform will become a political issue. He also added that HH Dalai Lama had relinquished all his political role and is concentrating only spiritual pursuit and promoting inter religious harmony and understanding and secular ethics. He suggested that the ABCP should first approach HH Dalai Lama for his consent on the matter.
- m) Ambassador P. Stobdan also recalled a newsletter/journal Buddhists for Peace of the ABCP that was very informative and stressed on the need to revive the publication. It was mentioned by Ven Prof Bulgan, Gen Secy, ABCP that the journal was renamed as “Dharmaduta”. The members felt the need to revive the magazine to publicize the ideals of ABCP and Buddha Dharma which is required for sustenance of any movement.
- n) Ven. Prof. Khy Sovanaratana put forth a proposal to constitute a regional sub - headquarter of ABCP in India preferably in Bodh Gaya due to it being sanctum sanctorum of Buddhism. He highlighted the issue of remoteness of Ulaanbaatar from many of its national centres and difficulties for the members to reach and incur huge expenditure as well as time. Quoting from his own experience he added that most of the members must be visiting Bodhgaya at least once a year and most Buddhist Sanghas and countries have their temples thus it will be easy if an office

is established in India for coordinating the functioning of ABCP. The proposal was seconded by His Eminence Sanghanayaka Sudhananda Mahathero who also proposed to offer Bangladeshi Temple at Bodh Gaya to be used for this purpose.

- o) It was decided to discuss these proposals in the forthcoming General Conference of ABCP in Mongolia. Khambo Lama Gabju Chojjamts Demberel also emphasized on the need of forming few small teams for making contacts with various national centres who are either lying defunct or non-existing and help them in rebuilding before the forthcoming General Conference to be held in Mongolia in June – July 2018.
- p) A special mention was also made of late 19th Kushok Bakula Rinpoche, the founding member of ABCP on his birth centenary, and HH Ven Tep Vong, the Supreme Patriarch of Cambodia for his message conveyed verbally by his Secretary, Ven Oeurn Sam Art.
- q) All the participants appreciated ABCP National centre India for hosting this meeting successfully and for their efforts towards revival of the organization.
- r) In his concluding remarks, Most Ven Khambo Lama Gabju Chojjamts Demberel expressed his happiness over the fact that majority of national centres of ABCP are coming together after a long time since the destruction of USSR. He acknowledged the contribution of CTA towards spread of Buddhism in India by virtue of having some of very popular monasteries in India such as Sera Monastery. He also thank the Government of India for letting this even happen by facilitating visit of all the delegates from various countries and made a request to Shri Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India to visit Mongolia. He also announced that a new building of Gandan Thekchenlin Monastery is being constructed in Mongolia which will be able to accommodate as many as 1000 monks at a time. The construction is likely to be completed by the next year and it will be very helpful in having the General Conference of ABCP after its completion. Full text of his concluding address is enclosed at Annexure – IV.
- s) Ven. Professor Bulgan Gabji, the General Secretary of ABCP in his concluding remarks extended his gratitude to all the presents for making the event a success with special gratitude to Mr. Sonam Wangchuk. He also invited him to visit Mongolia next year.

Consented and approved

1 Most Ven Khambo Lama Mongolia
 Gabju Chojjamts
 Demberel,
 President, ABCP, Mongolia

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| 2 | Most Ven Khambo Lama
Chojiljav Dambajav,
Vice President, ABCP,
Mongolia | Mongolia |
| 3 | Ven Professor Bulgan
Gabji,
General Secretary, ABCP,
Mongolia | Mongolia |
| 4 | Ven Tsyren Lama,
Dy. Khambo Lama, Buryat
Republic, Russian
Federation | Russia |
| 5 | Mrs. Dulma Shagdarova,
Vice-chairperson of Central
Spiritual Centre of
Buddhists of Russia (ABCP
National Centre in Russia) | Russia |
| 6 | Most Ven Dr Thich Duc
Thien,
Secretary General,
National Vietnam Buddhist
Sangha
(ABCP Vietnam National
Centre) | Vietnam |
| 7 | Prof. Le Manh That,
Member, National Vietnam
Buddhist Sangha
(ABCP Vietnam National
Centre) | Vietnam |
| 8 | Ven. Prof. Khy
Sovanaratana,
Secretary, Supreme
Sangha Council of
Cambodia
(ABCP Cambodia National
Centre) | Cambodia |
| 9 | Ven Oeurn Sam Art,
Member of Supreme
Sangha Council of
Cambodia
(ABCP Cambodia National
Centre) | Cambodia |

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| 10 | Sanghanayaka
Sudhananda Mahathero,
President, Bangladesh
Bouddha Kristi Prachar
Sangha
(Bangladesh National
Centre – 01) | Bangladesh | |
| 11 | Prakrita Ranjan Barua,
Sr. Vice President,
Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi
Prachar Sangha
(Bangladesh National
Centre – 01) | Bangladesh | |
| 12 | Ranjit Kumar Barua,
Vice President,
Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi
Prachar Sangha
(Bangladesh National
Centre – 01) | Bangladesh | |
| 13 | Mrs. Nandita Barua,
Vice-President,
Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi
Prachar Sangha
(Bangladesh National
Centre – 01) | Bangladesh | |
| 14 | Rupayan Barua,
General Secretary, ABCP
Bangladesh National
Centre | Bangladesh | |
| 15 | Most Ven Bhante Maitpie
Wimalsara,
ABCP Sri Lanka National
Centre | Sri Lanka | Over Skype |
| 16 | Ven Karma Gelek Yuthok,
Tibetan National Centre, | CTA,
Dharamsala,
India | |
| 17 | Sonam Wangchuk,
Secretary,
ABCP Indian National
Centre | India | |

18 Ashok Wangdi,
ABCP Indian National
Centre

India

Annexure – I

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	National Centres	Country
1	Most Ven Khambo Lama Gabju Chojjamts Demberel	President ABCP Mongolia	President of Mongolian National Centre (Gandan Thekchinlen Monastery)	Mongolia
2	Most Ven Khambo Lama Chojiljav Dambajav	Vice- President, ABCP Mongolia	President of Mongolian National Centre (Dashichoiling Monastery)	Mongolia
3	Ven Professor Bulgan Gabji	General Secretary, ABCP Mongolia		Mongolia
4	Ven Tsyren Lama		President, National Centre, Buryat Republic, Russian Federation (Agiinskii Monastery)	Buryat Republic
5	Mrs. Dulma Shagdarova,		Vice-chairperson of Central Spiritual Centre of Buddhists of Russia (ABCP National Centre in Russia)	Russia
6	Most Ven Dr Thich Duc Thien		Secretary General, National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha (Vietnam National Centre)	Vietnam
7	Prof. Le Manh That		Member, National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha (Vietnam National Centre)	Vietnam

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	National Centres	Country
8	Ven. Prof. Khy Sovanaratana,		Secretary, Supreme Sangha Council of Cambodia (ABCP Cambodia National Centre)	Cambodia
9	Ven Oeurn Sam Art		Member of Supreme Sangha Council of Cambodia (ABCP Cambodia National Centre)	Cambodia
10	Sanghanayaka Sudhananda Mahathero		President, Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha (Bangladesh National Centre – 01)	Bangladesh
11	Prakrita Ranjan Barua		Sr. Vice President, Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha (Bangladesh National Centre – 01)	Bangladesh
12	Ranjit Kumar Barua		Vice President, Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha (Bangladesh National Centre – 01)	Bangladesh
13	Mrs. Nandita Barua		Vice-President, Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha (Bangladesh National Centre – 01)	Bangladesh
14	Rupayan Barua		General Secretary, ABCP Bangladesh National Centre	Bangladesh

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	National Centres	Country
15	Bhante Wimalsara		ABCP Sri Lanka National Centre	Sri Lanka
16	Ven Karma Gelek Yuthok,		Tibetan National Centre	CTA, Dharamsala, India
17	Sonam Wangchuk		Secretary, ABCP Indian National Centre	Indian
18	Ashok Wangdi		ABCP Indian National Centre	Indian
19	Mr. Chanrav Burenbayar			Mongolia
20	Khensur Rinpoche Geshe Jangchup Choeden		Special Invitee	India
21	Ambassador P. Stobdan		Special Invitee	India

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	National Centres	Country
22	Ven Dhammapiya		Special Invitee	India
23	Mr. Maling Gombu		Special Invitee	India

Annexure – II

- (1) 19th Kushok Bakula Rinpoche
- (2) Ven Nakano from Japan
- (3) Ven Suzuki from Japan
- (4) Most Ven Thich Minh Chau
- (5) Ven Vichit Sangharaja from Laos
- (6) Ven Phra Ratnamoli from Thailand
- (7) Dr. Lokhdarshan from Nepal
- (8) Mr. Daljeet Sen Adil from India (Deputy General Secretary of ABCP)
- (9) Shashi Bhusan, former Member of Parliament, India
- (10) Mr. Boris Dondukov from Russia
- (11) Ven Dagvadorj, Vice President of ABCP
- (12) Prof. Lobsantseren, General Secretary of ABCP
- (13) Wanchindorj, editor in chief of Buddhists for Peace (Dharmaduta)
- (14) Ven Pak Tai Ho from North Korea
- (15) Ven M Wipulasara from Sri Lanka
- (16) Ven Sumanatissa from Sri Lanka
- (17) Ven Mahasanghanayaka Vishudhananda Mahathero
- (18) Ven Jyotipal Mahathero

Concluding remarks of Khambo Lama Gabju Chijamts Demberel, President, ABCP

I would like to appreciate all present here for this Executive Council meeting of ABCP in Delhi and all the eminent delegates who came and attended the centenary celebrations of Bakula Rimpoche in Leh. It is a good to learn that all these countries in South East Asia after the disintegration of USSR have managed to preserve and promote their Buddhist heritage. I also have to mention that Bangladesh, a Muslim majority country is doing well on the front of Buddhism. I would also like to say that the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) that is being represented by Karma Geleg Yuthok at this meeting has been contributing greatly for preservation and growth of Buddhism in India by maintaining great contribution to monasteries such as Sera, Drepung, Gandan etc. Also I would like to express my gratitude to His Holiness Dalai Lama and the Tibetan friends for providing good education and care to young monks from Mongolia who study in India. I also thank Government of India and recall the visit of Sh. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India who visited my monastery in Mongolia in 2015 and appreciated our efforts to preserve our cultural and religious traditions. He offered a 5 feet statue of Buddha for consecration in my temple. His Holiness the Dalai Lama also offered a 5 feet high statue of Je Tsongkhapa the founder of our Buddhist tradition in Tibet and Mongolia. The President of Mongolia too is trying to make 5 ft. height Buddha statue and our new assembly hall will be ready by next year. Thus we would have the required infrastructure for hosting the General Conference of ABCP by next year. Thus I propose to convene and host the General Conference of ABCP next year in June / July 2018.

Thank you all