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GELUK INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI, 1860, S-53167 of 2005

Introduction

Geluk International Foundation (GIF)

Need for Geluk International Foundation

Today, under the wise leadership and inspiring spiritual guidance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Buddhism has attracted worldwide attention. Thus Geluk monasteries and Dharma centers have emerged and spread throughout the world. A need for a central Geluk organization is strongly felt in order to structure, coordinate and supervise the preservation and spread of the Geluk tradition under the authority of consecutive Gaden Tripas, the Supreme Throne Holders of the Geluk Tradition.

The Geluk International Foundation was founded as result of the aspirations and vision of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Gaden Tri Rinpoche and various important senior Geluk masters and leaders, in order to insure coordination, cooperation, management and organized continuity of the precious Geluk tradition as expounded by the great master Tsong-khapa in the late fourteen and early fifteen centuries.

The Geluk International Foundation aims to preserve and promote Buddhist heritage in general and the Geluk tradition in particular. The Foundation provides an umbrella for all Geluk monasteries and Dharma centers to work collectively for the preservation and promotion of the Geluk tradition. It enables the great masters of the tradition, its leaders, teachers and intellectuals, as well as Geluk Monasteries and Dharma Centers, to further promote the teachings of the Geluk tradition, particularly as we face the

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challenges of changing times, values and environment. Uniformity and the collective strength provided by the Foundation are essential to achieve common goals to advance the Geluk tradition.

The origin of Geluk Tradition

Buddha Shakyamuni prophesied that, "Manjushri would be born as a boy in Tibet, would found Gaden Monastery, and would present a crown to my statue." Buddha gave the boy the future name Sumati-kirti (Lozang Dragpa, Blo-bzang grags-pa). Guru Padmasambhava also prophesied that a monk named Lozang Dragpa would be born near China, would be regarded as an emanation of a great bodhisattva, and would transform the Holy statue of Buddha into a Sambhogakaya or Enjoyment Body.

Thus, the great master Tsong Khapa was born in Tsongkha, in the northeastern Amdo region of Tibet, in 1357. He received a great many Dharma teachings and lineage blessings from masters of all Tibetan Buddhist traditions. He was deeply inspired by the life and teachings of the 10th century Indian master Atisha and his Kadampa followers, which led him to establish a system of study and practice based on Kadampa teachings.

By founding Gaden Monastery in 1409, Tsong Khapa laid down the foundation for which the Geluk or Virtuous Tradition was named. Based on his teachings two unique characteristics of the Geluk tradition emerged: Sutra and Tantra were seen to be mutually supportive practices; and training in morality based on Vinaya and a graded path to enlightenment through the stages of wishing to attain liberation, generating bodhicitta and developing insight into emptiness was emphasized.

In his two main treatises: *The Great Treatise on the Stages of Path to Enlightenment*, Lamrim Chenmo and *The Great Treatise on the Stages of Mantra*, Sngagsrim Chenmo, Tsongkhapa meticulously sets forth a graduated path to the attainment of complete enlightenment along with the method by which a practitioner proceeds along the Paths of Perfections and Paths of Mantra.

The tradition of the Gaden Tripas (throne holder of the Geluk tradition) begins with Tsongkhapa. Before passing away he passed down the baton of leadership authority over the newly established

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Geluk tradition to Gyaltsab Je (1364-1432), who then passed it on to Khedrub Je (1385-1438). Since then the precious legacy established by Master Tsong Khapa is alive up to today, in the form of the 102nd Gaden Tripa, Rizong Srastrul Thubten Chokyi Nyima.

Hierarchy in the Geluk Tradition

Gaden Tri Rinpoche is the Supreme Spiritual Head of the Geluk Tradition. Tri Rinpoche is the most senior of the ex-abbots of one of the two Tantric colleges of Gyuto and Guymed. Shartse Choeje Rinpoche and Jangtse Choeje Rinpoche, are the next most senior ex-abbots of each of the Tantric colleges, and will each, in turn, assume the Geluk leadership as Gaden Tripa.

Dawn of the Geluk International Foundation

The main objective of the Geluk International Foundation is to bring a uniform and collective approach to the standards of teaching, development and preservation of Buddhist doctrine to all the Geluk monasteries and Dharma centers throughout the world. The Geluk International Foundation is planning to offer affiliation to the Geluk monasteries and Dharma centers worldwide. Centers applying for affiliation under the Geluk International Foundation's prescribed procedures, and would subscribe to goals, objectives, values, rules and regulations of the Foundation.

Vision

The Vision of the Geluk International Foundation is to promote, propagate, develop, enrich and preserve the Geluk tradition established by the great master Tsongkhapa, under the wise leadership and inspiring spiritual guidance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and consecutive Gaden Tripas. The Foundation seeks to unite and harmonize all Geluk monasteries and Dharma centers throughout the world under a single umbrella in order to improve and maintain coordination, cooperation, development, functioning and friendship.

Main areas of activities

The Geluk International Foundation will establish programs to promote its objectives. The programs will include the running of learning-centers such as schools, colleges and universities, science education centers, meditation courses, meditation centers, medical

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centers, hospitals and medical colleges. The Foundation will establish publication and engage in research and development in the field of humanity, religious harmony, interfaith dialogue, relief activities, devotional activities, vocational training, environmental preservation and ecological care. Activities of the Foundation will be extended all over the world through the creation of administrative hubs in different continents and nations.

Governing Council

The Governing Council of the Geluk International Foundation consists of a Chairman: Gaden Tri Rinpoche; two Vice-Chairmen: Shartse Choeje Rinpoche and Jangtse Choeje Rinpoche; a General Secretary, who shall also be the Chairman of the Monastic Discipline Management Committee; an Abbot of one of the six major monasteries, out of eleven member monasteries of the Geluk International Foundation: Gaden Shartse, Gaden Jangtse, Drepung Loseling, Drepund Gomang, Sera Je, Sera Mey, Tashi Lhunpo, Gyuto, Gyumed, Namgyal, and Rato, as well as a representative of Gaden Phodrang the Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama .

The Governing Council of the Foundation shall be the decision making body. The Executive Committee of the Foundation shall implement all decisions made by the Governing Council of the GIF.

Executive committee

The members of the Executive Committee of the Geluk International Foundation shall be appointed through submission of a list of candidates by the eleven founding member monasteries of the Foundation, which must be approved by the Governing Council. It is the duty of the Executive Committee to implement all the decisions taken by the Governing council of the Foundation.

The President of the Executive Committee (Managing Director) shall be appointed directly by the Governing Council.

Works accomplished so far

1. Important and timely revisions of the directives of monasteries of Geluk tradition has been done, published and circulated.



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2. *GOLDEN KEY, A Clear Presentation Of Truth And False About Dholgyal Through Quotes And Reasoning, was recently published.*

Ongoing projects and plans:

1. *Construction of Trithog Khang (The Headquarters of the Geluk Tradition) is presently underway. 75% of the project has been completed. This project aims to further strengthen the administrative engagement of the high-powered committee of the Geluk Tradition, lead by Gaden Tri Rinpoche over the administration of Geluk Monasteries and improvement of efficiency.*
2. *Annual meetings of high-powered Discipline Management Committee are convened to address various issues related to the overall monastic community of the Geluk Tradition.*
3. *To spread the activities of the Geluk International Foundation to all continents and regions.*
4. *To organize offerings for longevity to His Holiness the Dalai Lama with special rituals and prayers in Dharamsala in June 2015.*
5. *To organize wide ranging activities throughout 2015 to mark the 80th birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and to offer gratitude for His outstanding leadership, precious guidance and infinite blessings.*
6. *To organize precious, rare and unprecedented teachings by His Holiness the Dalai Lama on various important texts written by the Great Master Tsongkhapa.*
7. *To organize various special programs and events to mark and commemorate the 600th anniversary of Great Tsongkhapa, in 2019.*



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Legal Status

The Geluk International Foundation was formally registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 in Delhi on 24th March 2005, and given Registration No. S-52167. Later the Foundation was registered under the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act, and has 12A and 80G status under the Income Tax Act, establishing the Foundation as a non-profit tax-exempted charitable organization approved by the Government of India.

Contact details:

Geluk International Foundation

Gaden Monastic University
Lama Camp 1, Tibetan Colony, Mundgod
Karnataka 581411, South India

Email: geluk.foundation@gmail.com, Tel. +919811533887

Face book Id: [gelukinternationalfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/gelukinternationalfoundation)

An open invitation:

Geluk International Foundation hereby invites individuals, firms, centers, monasteries and organizations that cherish and respect the visions, objectives, activities and future plans of the Foundation to be in touch by email or phone.

The Foundation is happy to connect with people and organizations that subscribe to the Geluk International Foundation's great mission to create collective strength to achieve common goals for the benefit of humanity and all beings. By working together we shall surely achieve world peace and greater happiness for all.



Geshe Chosphe Zotpa
Managing Director

Geluk International Foundation(GIF)