

# Stupa for Peace

Newsletter August 2019



Dear Friends and Supporters of the Peace Stupa in Grafenwörth,

The Stupa is becoming more of an attraction for people in the area and from all over Austria and other countries. People come each week to see the building of the Stupa: seniors, bicyclists, yoga groups, peace activist groups, and hikers enjoy the peaceful and calm atmosphere of the Stupa for reflection and contemplation.

The architecture of the Stupa is unique, and with its ecological construction it serves as an example for other projects. Indeed, architects and builders visit to see, learn from, and enjoy these aspects.

Much has happened since the last newsletter: the laying of the wood floor is complete; the exterior has been painted white; and in some weeks the aluminum slates for the cupola will be finished. The golden Buddha and a bell weighing 120 kg have arrived from South Korea. The bell, a gift from the National Treasures of Korea, will soon be set and utilized. The Stupa's pinnacle spire with a sun and moon is ready and will be mounted in the next weeks.

We sincerely thank the many people who have thus far donated to the Stupa and ask everyone who is interested in the Stupa to make a contribution towards its completion.

The Stupa needs your continued financial support now to complete the construction. Please find possible donation avenues below and do not hesitate to donate a small amount—every euro (and converted euro) counts! Thank you for your support!

With warm regards,

Bop Jon Sunim, Heidelore Schuppich, Elisabeth Lindmayer, and Alfred Müller  
for The Stupa Institute



## The Stupa's Spire with a Sun and Moon



The tower of the Stupa, with the 13 rings and a sun and moon on it, was made by a local locksmith and will soon be mounted on the dome. The first ten discs of the tower correspond to the ten supernatural powers and spiritual abilities of a Buddha. The three uppermost discs correspond to the three "deep observations" or the three "types of mindfulness." Alternatively, the rings correspond to the thirteen levels of the spiritual realization of a bodhisattva until the final awakening. At the top of the spire rests a small round sphere, called "drop" (*thiglé*) or "jewel" (*kön chog*) in Tibetan, which rests on a disk of the sun and moon. This jewel symbolizes the perfect realization of one's own mind. The sun disk embodies wisdom (Skr. *prajna*) and the moon disk the best method (Skr. *upaya*), which is immeasurable compassion (Skr. *karuna*). Just as the sun radiates its warming rays indiscriminately to all beings, so too does Buddha's compassion.



**“The Kingdom of Heaven is within us”:** Lecture by Hyon Gak Sunim, 20.09.2019



The Buddhist monk Hyon Gak Sunim will give a lecture entitled "The Kingdom of Heaven is within Us" on 20 September 2019 at 17:00 in the Stupa. Synopsis: Time in today's world moves much too fast. Information and stimulation pour into us every second resulting in our having difficulty finding our way back to ourselves and escaping everyday life for a short period of time. However, knowing oneself is key to freeing one's mind and unfolding one's full potential. Meditation is a good way to achieve this.

About the guest speaker: The Buddhist Zen monk Hyon Gak Sunim is a native US American with German roots. Paul Muenzen, Hyon Gak Sunim's birth name, was born in New Jersey in 1964 as the son of devout Catholics. He studied literature and philosophy at Yale University (graduated 1987) and comparative religion at Harvard Divinity School (graduated 1992). Also in 1992, Hyon Gak Sunim was the first Western monk to be ordained since the communist revolution in China. He was a Buddhist monk in South Korea for 25 years.

**Registration:**

Because this is a private event (as legally prescribed), please register in advance by phone at +43 664 340 1046, or email at [office@stupa.at](mailto:office@stupa.at).

A voluntary donation made for entrance to the lecture goes to the ongoing construction of the Stupa!

## **Become a Stupa Sponsor!**

Please consider sponsoring a Stupa for one year by donating an amount of 20, 50, or 100 euros per month for one year. With your sponsorship you receive a bound edition of the *Lotos Sutra* and the *Akashagarbra Sutra* (in German).

The Stupa building is financed entirely by donations and depends on your generous support. The Stupa will be of use for many centuries to countless beings. To contribute to the wellbeing of others and generate great spiritual merit, you can support the construction of the Stupa in many ways: You can make a one-time donation or decide to take over a Stupa sponsorship and donate a certain amount every month for one year. You are also welcomed to make donations in kind or bring your skills to bear.

We would also like to invite you to forward this information to your friends and other interested parties.

Note: All donations are earmarked for the construction and support of the stupa in Grafenwörth! You are welcome to designate how your donation will be used—from developing a wonderful garden to building and maintaining a part of the Stupa itself. Transparency is an important concern for us!

Please do not shy away from donating small sums. Every Euro counts!  
Thank you very much for your support!

### Bank Connection Information

For Making Donations to Support the Continuing Building of the Stupa

STUPA INSTITUT

ZVR: 905175281

Bank Austria Creditanstalt

IBAN: AT05 1200 0512 4404 4044

BIC Code: BKAUATWW

Or:

Raiffeisenbank Baden

IBAN: AT27 3204 5000 0020 8116

BIC Code: RLNWATWWBAD

Contact: Tel: +43 664 340 1046

[office@stupa.at](mailto:office@stupa.at)

[www.friedensstupa.at](http://www.friedensstupa.at)

[www.stupa.at](http://www.stupa.at)

(For non-European supporters: IBAN is an international bank account number that includes an individual's bank account number; BIC is called a Swift Code elsewhere and identifies the bank).

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Elisabeth Lindmayer, 3484 Grafenwörth

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