

The Mandala Council
Meeting of 12 November 2009
Halifax, Nova Scotia

**Summary of priority recommendations
Arising from the Fourth Shambhala Congress
and other proceedings**

How do we work with conflict and differing views in our community?

Seeing conflict as an opportunity rather than a problem. The breakout group requests that a working group be formed on conflict and differing views. The Working Group would undertake:

- Clarifying, educating and amplifying the forms that we all ready have in this area such as the Care and Conduct Panel, the Desung Corps and Upaya Councils.
- Look for appropriate resources within and outside of the mandala involving such things as conflict resolution, mediation and working with differing points of view
- Educate people re how to work with conflict as a practice, paying attention to right speech, listening skills and applying the teachings we all ready have to conflict.
- Create or utilize forms of talking circles, deep listening, awareness of others as forms we could use on our community building.

How do we do intentional community building?

Need for a Working Group on community as path, the third jewel.

We should take individual responsibility for the teachings and agree that as a community our seed syllable is ki ki so so and our main practices are Werma and kind conduct.

We would then emanate out into the world in terms of vision, view.

Some of the working group's focus:

- Sharpen our perception of what our community needs (local centers and mandala wide.
- Gather the wisdom of how other traditions build community.
- Create-utilize forms for community gathering, listening circles, deep listening.
- Acknowledge examples of community building that have worked, and learn from them
- Unify the delek system with this working group

How can we best relate to finances and fundraising in our mandala?

Move forward with integrated capital project planning and integrated fundraising

We believe there's a need for a mandala-wide view of how we do expansion and fundraising. Don't need a working group – there are systems all ready in place.

How can we best develop and support volunteers?

That there be articulated a view of volunteering /service that, from the beginning, ties this activity to community, practice and the path of leadership.

That best practices from within Shambhala and outside of the mandala be compiled and made easily available - organized into four categories: Recruiting, Delegating, Guiding and Inspiring.

What can we do to improve our publicity and general outreach?

Reestablish an International Outreach and Publicity Working Group to carry forward the Sakyong's command of growth and expansion of Shambhala, which would include representation at the Sakyong's Council and local Centers. Suggested mandate for the working group:

- Explore and articulate the view of Shambhala outreach
- Develop a clear path of Outreach Engagement for both individuals and Shambhala Centers

Address immediate need for accessible and customizable, well-branded publicity materials for core curriculum and public programs, including a general Shambhala Center brochure. The Process should include garnering best practices from our Centers, utilizing professional resources both within and without Shambhala.

What can we do to reach out to young adults?

Creation of a working group for development of programs and outreach to young adults
Representation of the group on local and regional leadership bodies,
Work with the new Office of Culture and Decorum
Raise awareness of existing programs within the mandala – Sun Camp, Family Camp, teen programs.
Work with OPE to develop curriculum for workshops, day-long programs, and programs on Family as Path and those for youth – more opportunities to cultivate youth leadership.

How can we best re-examine the role of deleks and other systems of support for our community members?

The way we develop these systems should be integrated with the Intentional Community Building Group.

3 fold recommendation:

Heaven: Group of people going thru dekyong manual and Vidyadhara's teachings in this area and extract relevance and condense into a user friendly publication.

Place on int'l website to post ad look up best practices

Earth:

Investigate what Centers and individuals need

Man:

Training individuals who are interested in this area to be dekyongs

How can we meet the needs and challenges of smaller centres and groups?

Empower a framework for a geographically based regional structure, that would integrate the three pillars and support all groups and centers in sharing and developing resources.

We offer to form a working group to design and develop this proposal.

What can we do to really make our community far more diverse?

Leadership and teachers must commit to diversity, acknowledging that we all have experienced feeling excluded as well as included and that honoring differences is an important part of building community. As leaders and teachers of Shambhala, we commit to diversity and working with the obstacles to diversity as part of the path. We recognize that different geographical areas will have differing local needs and forms of social engagement.

How best can we develop our care of the aging members in our community?

As the inherent nature of mind, basic goodness, does not change with age – we recommend support for the working group on aging in Shambhala, to identify contacts at each Center, and hold a conference in the Summer of 2010 to gather resources, and promulgate the dignity and support for aging as path.

How can we improve mandala-wide systems of communications?

Office of Culture and Decorum and the Communication and Technology steering committee be requested to work together to create protocols that would ensure harmonious, clear, and precise mandala –wide communications

Identify and empower an overall manager for communications and technology so that priority projects (such as a unified password/login system) can be achieved in this lifetime.

Build capacity for media to be more accessible to non-English speakers and those with visual and hearing impairments.

One Mandala, Many Paths

After lengthy discussion, covering many of the points reported on in the provisional report of the Congress, the Mandala Council asked Acharya Adam Lobel to prepare a written description of the various paths, which he kindly agreed to do.

Location of the Fifth Shambhala Congress

There were two proposals: The Netherlands and San Francisco. Both were welcomed. It will be up to the Mandala Council to explore these options, and then determine the date and location of the next Congress.