



Association for the Advancement of the Buddhist Karma Kagyu School

Articles of Association

§ 1 Name and place of registration

- (1) The association is named *Buddhistische Union Diamantweg e.V.* (Buddhist Diamond Way Union) and carries the ancillary name *Förderverein der Buddhistischen Karma Kagyü Schule* (Association for the Advancement of the Buddhist Karma Kagyu School).
- (2) The association is registered in Freiburg, Germany.

§ 2 Purpose

- (1) The purpose of the association is to preserve and promote Buddhist religion, culture and philosophy in the tradition of the Karma Kagyu School of Tibetan Buddhism, under the patronage of H.H. XVIIth Gyalwa Karmapa Thaye Dorje.
- (2) The purpose of the association is addressed especially through the following activities:
 1. promoting and supporting Buddhist monasteries, centers, educational institutions and non-profit Buddhist associations all over the world, as well as promoting Buddhist arts and sciences
 2. inviting Buddhist teachers of the Karma Kagyu School from throughout the world for lecture and seminar activities
 3. cooperating with other Buddhist associations and engaging in inter-faith dialogues with other world religions
 4. sponsoring persons who practice the Buddhist teachings, provided that they are in need according to paragraph §53 AO of the German tax code for charitable purposes
 5. publishing books and texts
- (3) The preceding purpose shall be addressed both within Germany and abroad.
- (4) The purpose of these articles is also fulfilled by acquiring funds for the promotion of the Buddhist religion in the tradition of the Karma Kagyu School from other entities (e.g. the *Diamantweg-Stiftung der Karma Kagyü Linie*, e.g. the *Buddhistischer Dachverband Diamantweg e.V.*). If the sponsored association is taxable in its entirety, it must be tax-privileged.

§ 3 Non-profit status

- (1) The association exclusively pursues immediate non-profit goals as described in the tax-privileged purposes chapter of the German tax code (*Steuerbegünstigte Zwecke der Abgabenordnung*). The association acts altruistically; it does not primarily pursue its own financial interests. The association's funds shall be used exclusively in accordance with the non-profit purposes described in these articles. Members shall not receive any advantages from the funds of the association. No person shall obtain benefit through disbursements which are alien to the purpose of the association or through unreasonably high payment.

- (2) The association may transfer its funds - in part or in full - to other tax-privileged bodies (e.g. the *Diamantweg-Stiftung der Karma Kagyü Linie*, e.g. the *Buddhistischer Dachverband Diamantweg e.V.*) or to public bodies for charitable purposes.

§ 4 Fiscal year

The business year of the association is the calendar year. The first shortened fiscal year ends 12/31/1996.

§ 5 Membership

- (1) Any individual person may become a member of the association. The board decides upon the written application for admission. Membership shall be verified by the issuance of a membership card.
- (2) Membership ends with the death of the member, through a written notice of resignation to the board or upon exclusion from the association.
- (3) A member who violates the association's interests may be expelled by the board of directors. Before expulsion the affected member is to be heard personally or in writing. The reason for expulsion shall be explained in writing and delivered to the member via registered mail with return receipt. The board's decision can be appealed in writing within one month of the postal delivery date. The general assembly shall decide over the appeal. If the expelled member does not appeal the board's decision before expiration of this deadline, he accepts the board's decision and the expulsion becomes final.
- (4) Members shall not be charged dues.

§ 6 Institutions of the association

Institutions of the association are:

1. the board of directors
2. the general assembly

§ 7 The board of directors

- (1) The board in terms of paragraph § 26 BGB of German law, consists of the chairman, the deputy chairman and the treasurer. The association shall be represented judicially and extra-judicially by two board members.
- (2) The board of directors shall be elected from the general assembly for the period of one year. It remains in office until a new election takes place. If a board member resigns during his term of office the remaining board members shall elect a replacement to serve for the remainder of the original member's term.

§ 8 The general assembly

- (1) The general assembly is to be summoned yearly by one of the board members. Members will receive a personal invitation in the form of a simple postal letter sent two weeks in advance of the meeting to the last known address of each member.
- (2) The agenda of the meeting shall be set by the board and enclosed with the invitation.
- (3) The general assembly fulfils the following duties in particular:
- a. approval of sponsored projects and budget for the coming year

- b. acceptance of the formal statement of accounts from the board and the discharge of the board
 - c. election of the new board
 - d. resolution of appeals from members expelled by the board
- (4) Amendments of the articles require a majority of three quarters of the members in attendance at the general meeting; an amendment to the purpose of the association requires approval from three quarters of all members of the association.
- (5) The board must immediately call a general assembly when this in the interest of the association or upon written request, including the purpose and grounds for the assembly, from a least one third of all members.
- (6) Decisions of the general assembly shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and shall be signed by the acting chairman of the meeting.

§ 9 Dissolution and arising Funds

- (1) The association may be dissolved by the general assembly. The decision to dissolve the association requires a majority of three quarters of all association members.
- (2) If the association is dissolved or the purpose of the association changed, the funds of the association shall accrue to the *Diamantweg-Stiftung der Karma Kagyü Linie* (registered in Darmstadt, Germany) which must then use the funds immediately and exclusively for non-profit purposes.

*Freiburg, Germany, January 27, 1996
as well as January 25, 1997
December 31, 1999
July 6, 2000
and July 29, 2003*