



Articles of Association

(English translation)

§ 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). The Association shall be inscribed in the Register of Associations.
- (2) Registered office of the association is Freiburg, Germany.

§ 2 Purpose

- (1) The association exclusively and directly pursues non-profit and charitable purposes in the sense of the paragraph „Steuerbegünstigte Zwecke“ (tax-privileged purposes) of the Abgabenordnung (German Tax Code).
- (2) The purpose of the association is to promote religious purposes, particularly to preserve and promote the 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 as well as the support of people in need..
- (3) The purposes of the articles of association are directly put into effect, particularly by
 - hosting lectures and seminars to which Buddhist teachers of the Karma Kagyu School from throughout the world,
 - cooperating with other Buddhist associations and engaging in inter-faith dialogues with other world religions,
 - issuing publications and
 - financially and materially supporting people in need in the sense of § 53 Abgabenordnung (German Tax Code), particularly those of practice Buddhist teachings.
- (4) In addition, the association is a friends' association in the sense of § 58 Nr.1 Abgabenordnung (German Tax Code), which allocates its means to other tax-privileged bodies or public bodies.
The purpose of the articles of association is put into effect by acquiring funds through contributions, donations as well as events, which serve the ideal promotion of the purposes pursued.

§ 3 Non-profit status

- (1) The association acts in a selfless manner; it does not primarily pursue its own economic interests.
- (2) The association's means may exclusively be used for charitable purposes in accordance with the articles of association. Members shall not receive any benefits from the funds of the association.
- (3) No person may obtain benefit through disbursements which are alien to the purpose of the association or through unreasonably high payments.
- (4) The association may transfer its funds - in part or in full - to other tax-privileged bodies (e.g. to the Buddhismus Stiftung Diamantweg der Karma Kagyü Linie, Darmstadt as well as to the Buddhistischer Dachverband Diamantweg e.V., Wuppertal) 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 on 31 December 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 is 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 tax-privileged purpose of the association ceases, the funds of the association shall accrue to the Buddhismus Stiftung Diamantweg der Karma Kagyü Linie, Darmstadt, which must then use the funds directly and exclusively for non-profit purposes.

*Freiburg, Germany, January 27, 1996
as well as January 25, 1997
December 31, 1999
July 6, 2000
July 29, 2003
August 13, 2014*