

Intensive Chan/Zen Meditation Retreat

Led by Chi Chern Fashi

In Poland, August, 2009

Following the success of Chi Chern Fashi's Chan retreats in Europe last year, once again he has been invited back to Poland to lead this year's event. The retreat will consist of almost 10 full days of Chan practice, where one will learn basic methods of relaxation and concentration, and especially become introduced to the use of Silent Illumination and Huatou Chan methods, as originally taught by Chan Master Sheng Yen, Chi Chern Fashi's Chan teacher.

The retreat will focus on meditation practice in the context of sitting, as well as amidst daily activities, which include: exercise, daily chores, eating, sleeping, and walking. As all activities are an opportunity for Chan practice, guidance will be given on how to apply the methods during intensive retreat, as well as in day-to-day life outside of the Chan Hall. Dharma lectures will be given daily, and participants will have opportunities for interview with the teachers. The retreat will be conducted in English, with Dharma talks in Mandarin Chinese followed by English translation.

Because Chi Chern Fashi will be in Europe for a short period of time this year, Poland has been chosen as the central location to host all Dharma friends from various locations throughout Europe, to gather together for intensive Chan practice. For this retreat, we are pleased to announce that he will also be accompanied by two other monastics, Guo Xing Fashi and Chang Wen Fashi, as well as long-time Chan practitioner, Djordje Cvijic, all disciples of Chan Master Sheng Yen. This is a rare occasion, so please register soon, as seats are limited.

This retreat is designed for practitioners with previous intensive retreat experience.

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Retreat Teacher Bios

Chi Chern Fashi

Retreat Teacher

Ordained by Master Zhu Mo in Penang, Malaysia, Chi Chern Fashi studied at the Fo Guang Buddhist College in Taiwan. Following two seven-day retreats with Chan Master Sheng Yen (Shifu) in 1980, a period of fasting at the Institute of Buddhist Culture (Wen Hua Guan) led to a profound experience that he describes as being like "a stroke of lightning in a dark night, [giving him] a glimpse of the path and destination." With Shifu's confirmation, he returned to Malaysia to



teach meditation. He received Dharma transmission from Chan Master Sheng Yen in 1986. Chi Chern Fashi is currently the principal of the Malaysian Buddhist Institute, and is one of the most respected meditation teachers in Malaysia and Singapore. He continues to lead retreats in Southeast Asia, the United States, and Europe. After recent retreats in Croatia, Poland, and Switzerland, he has been sought after—as his detailed instruction, straightforward manner, yet relaxed and affable character have earned him a high level of esteem in the European continent.

Guo Xing Fashi

Assistant Teacher

The current Abbot of the Dharma Drum Retreat Center (DDRC), USA, Guo Xing Fashi is one of Chan Master Sheng Yen's Dharma heirs. After studying yoga and meditation as a teenager, Guo Xing Fashi began to study Chan under the guidance of Chan Master Sheng Yen in 1984, and became ordained under him two years later, in 1986. After years of service in the Dharma Drum Mountain sangha, Taiwan, he was sent to Thailand in 1991 to enter into solitary retreat, studying Theravadan meditation. Upon returning to DDM, he continued to assist the Master in leading Chan meditation retreats in Taiwan, Southeast Asia, and the United States, for a period of 20 years, totaling over more than 50 retreats, including the first 49-Day retreat at DDRC in 2000. He speaks Taiwanese, Mandarin, and English.



Chang Wen Fashi

Translator

A native New Yorker and resident of the Dharma Drum Retreat Center (DDRC), USA, Chang Wen Fashi is a western monastic disciple of Chan Master Sheng Yen. In addition to being of service to the Chan Meditation Center, in Queens, NY, and attending numerous retreats with the Master at DDRC since 2001, he also underwent training at the Dharma Drum Mountain World Center for Buddhist Education, Taiwan, receiving a monastic education at the Sangha University. Over this period of training, he attended and assisted with numerous intensive meditation retreats in the Chan Hall and abroad, as well as served as the leader for DDM's International Meditation Group in Taipei. Venerable Chang Wen holds a Bachelor's Degree of Science from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He is fluent in both English and Mandarin.



Djordje Cvijic

Assistant Teacher

Djordje Cvijic has studied Buddhism and practiced Buddhist meditation for more than 40 years. He has been studying under Chan Master Sheng Yen since 1999. In 2000, he attended an intensive 49-Day Chan meditation retreat at the Dharma Drum Retreat Center (DDRC) and received Buddhist vows in the Dharma Drum Order of Chan Buddhism, thus becoming a formal member of the denomination. Since then, he has attended and assisted with leading numerous intensive meditation retreats and Chan practice activities. In August 2007, he received intensive meditation training at the Chan Hall of Dharma Drum Mountain, Taiwan. He is one of the few western members of DDM who are highly qualified to help assist monastic teachers in leading meditation retreats of various levels and lead Buddhist liturgy sessions. Familiar with Russian and German languages, he speaks Croatian and English.

