

## Монголын Сүм Хийдийн Түүхэн Товчоо Төсөл

### UB 15 Gandan Sodnomdarjailin khiid

Tibetan name: dga'-ldan bsod-nams dar-rgyas gling

English name: Gandan Sodnomdarjailin monastery

Khaan uul district, near the final bus stop of Yaarmag, Nükht 420

**Informant:** S. Awaasüren, the head of the temple

A sign near the last bus stop in the Yaarmag suburb of the city indicates the location of the temple.

The Gelukpa temple is in a small house with a green roof in a yard with another building and a yurt. The abbot of the temple is S. Awaasüren who graduated from Zanabazar Buddhist University in Gandan and built the temple in 2002. During the survey visit he was the only lama in the temple, and was reading texts requested by the believers. According to him, 10 lamas belong to the temple although there was no evidence of them. The main protector of the temple is *Lkham* (Tib. *dpal-ldan lha-mo*, Skr. Shridevi). There are no special monthly ceremonies, due to the small number of lamas, but daily chanting is held and readings are performed at individuals' request. There are fixed prices.

The inside of the room used for the temple is decorated with thangkas of *Namsrai* (Tib. *nam-(thos)-sras*, Skr. Vaishravana, Kuvera), the twenty-one Taras with *Nogoon Dari ekh* (Tib. *sgrol ljang*, Skr. Shyamatarā, the Green Tara) in the centre, *Tsagaan Dari ekh* (Tib. *sgrol dkar*, Skr. Sitatarā, the White Tara), the eight Medicine Buddhas and the three goddesses of longevity (Amitayus, Ushnishavijaya and Sitatarā). On the altar there is a thangka of Buddha, a photo of an old lama (presumably the teacher of the abbot), two smaller statues of Buddha and *Manzshir* (Tib. *'jam-dpal / 'jam-(dpal)- dbyangs*, Skr. Manjushri) and a photo of the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama. There is one higher seat for the abbot and one row of seats for the lamas (it appeared for no more than a maximum of four lamas).

On the survey visit, the abbot, being alone, was very busy giving readings. He answered only the basic questions. Having no one else around the temple and no other lamas than the abbot himself, it was not possible to get any further information.