

Монголын Сүм Хийдийн Түүхэн Товчоо Төсөл

UB 017 Idgaachoinzinlin/Yadgaachoinjenlin datsan,

(Dültimjansüren datsan, Tsültim zansürendatsan) in Gandan Monastery (UB 01)

Tibetan name: *Yid-dga' chos-'dzin gling grwa-tshang, dul-khrims gtsang bsrung yid-dga' chos-'dzin gling*

Mongolian translation: *Setgeliig bayasgagch nomiig barigch*

English name: Idgaachoinzinlin monastic school

Data providers: Dashdemberel, disciplinary master of the temple; N. Sambuulkhündüw teacher (aged 40)

Current Situation

According to the information board in the temple, former lamas from this datsan including Tserendemchig and Naidan wished to restore their home *datsan* and revived it in 1990. With the leadership of Jambaldorj the monastic school was re-started on the 3rd of the first summer month in 1991. In 1992, with 34 novices in the monastery and donations from more than twenty believers the community was able to restart the education and ceremonies. Jado rinpoche, the abbot of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Namgyal monastic school (*Namjira*, Tib. *rnam-rgyal grwa-tshang*), and Tüwdendash *gewsh* attended the opening ceremony of the *datsan*. The leader of the monastic school has the *shunlaiw* rank. Until now Sed *jorwan*, Ragchaa, Tsereendemchig and Dashtseren held this rank.

With the collaboration of the chanting masters, Naidan and Batsükh, and the disciplinary masters, Daanid zaan, Dorjpalam and Choimbol, the ceremonies began.

Zopa Rinpoche gave *genen* vow to the novices on 31st August 2000 and came again in December 2003 to open the school in the new temple in 2003, which has been built on its former site. Since 1994, with Jado rinpoche's help, many of *Idgaachoinzinlin's* young lamas have been studying in Sera Jey monastic school (*Ser je datsan*, Tib. *se-ra byes grwa-tshang*) *datsan* of Sera monastery in South-India. At the request of the novices studying in Sera Jey monastic school its abbot, Luwsandonoi *agramba*, gave *genen* and *getsel* vows and initiations for the lamas and believers on 18 October 2001. In September 2002 His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited the temple, in June 2003 Zopa rinpoche gave initiations, in July Jado rinpoche came to give initiations. In 2004 they held lectures for one month to the lamas and believers.

Presently, the *shunlaiw* of the *datsan* is J. Dorjijantsan (born 1918, with *gelen* vow, had been a lama of *Luu güngiin Khüree* or *Gandanshaddüwlin* in Arkhangai aimag Battsengel sum), the main disciplinary master is Altangerel and the head of the classes (*jorwan*, Tib. *skyor-dpon*, leader of a monastic class) is Dorjpalam. There are two chanting masters and two disciplinary masters. Currently, most of the 90 lamas belonging to the temple are boys under the age of 12. About 50 lamas have *getsel* vow. Six classes (*khadag*, Tib. *kha-dog*; *shidüw/shidew*, Tib. *gzhi sgrub*, *jümbri/jumbrai/jumbarai*, Tib. *rgyu-'bras*; *yul*, Tib. *yul*; *yuljii/yuljin*, Tib. *yul-can*) operate in the temple. The aim of the *datsan* is to revive all the classes and train lamas for the exams of *domiin damjaa* and *gawjiin damjaa*. Presently, 32 lamas study in India.

The main protectors of the temple are *Damjan Choijoo* and *Namsrai*, while the main protector of the monastic school is *Damdin yansan*.

There is a noticeboard with information in Mongolian of the *datsan's* historical background and information on the annual ceremonies on the wall. On the altar there are the Tibetan volumes of the *Ganjuur*, the large statues of Buddha, Tsongkhapa, *Maidar* and *Nogoon Dar' ekh*.

The monthly ceremony of the Four Mandalas of *Dar' ekh* (*Dar' ekhiin mandal shiwa*) is held on the 8th day of the lunar month.

There are very special annual ceremonies like *Tarawchamba* (Tib. *thar-pa chen-po*) on the 15th of the middle spring month; *Seriin sanjid* (Tib. *se-ra bzang-spyod*) on the 15th of the first summer month; *Sakhuis* on the dog day of the middle autumn month; *Lyankha dom* ('Lotus feast') on the 3rd and 4th of the last summer month; *Lkhawawiin dom* (Tib. *lha-las babs-pa'i ston-mo*, 'festival of (Buddha's) descent from the god realms') on the 21st and 22nd of the last autumn month; *Lkhamchoinzad dom* (Tib. *bla-ma chos mdzod ston-mo*) on the 25th and 26th of the first winter month; *Züjii dom* (Tib. ?) on the 13rd and 14th of middle winter month; *Baga dom* ('small *dom*') on the 20th, 21th and 22th of the middle winter month. According to the disciplinary master in former times *gawjiin damjaa* could be taken in these special occasions. Nowadays there are no exams taken on these days but they perform the celebrations to maintain the tradition.

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Another feast day is the 8th of the first autumn month when *Maaniin büteel* (Tib. *ma-n.i sgrub*) is performed in *Töwkhön* monastery. The novices of the school have the possibility to study in *Töwkhön* monastery, *Öwörkhantai aimag*, in the magnificent meditation retreat of *Öndör Gegeen*. They spend time in the monastery of *Rashaan*, *Arkhangai aimag*, too. Furthermore, on 25 July, 2005, *Dechinpuntsaglin* monastery (Tib. *bde-chen phun-tshogs gling*) opened in *Khoton sum*, *Arkhangai aimag* to receive lamas of *Idgaachoinzinlin* monastery.

The novices are trained by two Tibetan *gewsh*, *Nyamdorje* (Tib. *nyi-ma rdo-rje*) and *Danzandarjaa* (Tib. *bstan-'dzin dar-rgyas*), from *Sera Jey* monastic school of *Sera* monastery. One of the most important aims of the schools is to train and prepare lamas in philosophy to obtain *gewsh* (Tib. *dge-bshes*) and *gawj* (Tib. *dka' bcu*) academic qualification. There is connection with the Foundation for Preserving the Mahayana Tradition in Mongolia.