

Монголын Сүм Хийдийн Түүхэн Товчоо Төсөл

UB 03 Betüv khiid

Betüv danjai choinkhorlin khiid

Bakula rinbüüchiin Betüv khiid

Tibetan name: Dpe-thub bstan-rgyas chos-'khor gling

Written Mongolian name: Bitüb danjai choyingqorling keyid

English name: Betüv/ Pethub monastery of Bakula Rinpoche, Pethub Stangye Choskhorling monastery

The monastery is in Chingeltei district, on *Ikh toiruu*, opposite to *Geser süm*, below the hill to the east, called Dalkhiin denj beyond which is *Gandan* monastery.

GPS was taken at the eastern gate

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Informant: Ishtsültem, the disciplinary master of the monastery

This Gelukpa monastery was founded in August, 1999 by Kushok Bakula Rinpoche (1917-2003), the former Indian ambassador to Mongolia. Bakula Rinpoche is considered to have been the incarnation of one of the sixteen arhats, Buddha's main disciplines. During his years as an ambassador, he contributed immeasurably to the revival of Buddhism and Buddhist institutions in Mongolia. As such, he is well known and respected everywhere in Mongolia.

Presently the monastery has about 30 lamas. About ten of them are studying in Gomang datsan of Drepung monastery in South India. At average, they spend five to ten years there completing the traditional Gelukpa Buddhist studies before coming back to their monastery.

There are three lamas from Bakula Rinpoche's Monasteries in Ladakh, India in the monastery to teach and train the young lamas. Thub-bstan chos bzang agramba was the abbot at the time of the survey. He received his education at Gyüme monastic school (*Jüme*, Tib. *rgyud smad*) of Sera monastery. The other teacher from Ladakh, Thub-bstan blo-gros agramba (who also studied at *Jüme datsan*), is the present *lovon* lama of the monastery. The third teacher, Thub-bstan zla-ba was the late Bakula Rinpoche's assistant. The monastery has a director as well, P. Oyunubaatar who is a qualified traditional doctor. There is another *lovon* lama with *gelen* vow, Dambatseween.

There are the following ranks in the monastery: two *lovon*, one chanting master and one disciplinary master. Unlike any other monastery in Mongolia today, many of the lamas in this monastery have taken *getsel* vows with others having *gelen* vows. In addition all the lamas are resident in the monastery and strict monastic rules are applied.

On entering the main temple, the images of the Guardians of the Four Directions can be seen, two on either side. The relics of Bakula Rinpoche, the founder of the monastery are inside a stupa made of silver on the left side of the main altar. The stupa was made by G. Pürewbat lama in 2004, and is 2.5 meters high and contains 110 kilograms of silver. There are also eight smaller stupas, all 70 centimetres high, covered in gold, which also contain Bakula Rinpoche's holy relics. These 8 stupas are on shelves on the wall on either side of the temple. Renzon Rinpoche of Ladakh performed rituals for the consecration of the stupas.

The sidewalls of the temple are hung with painted scrolls including images of *Nogoon Dari ekh* (Tib. *sgrol ljang*, Skr. Shyamatarā, the Green Tara), *Manzshir* (Tib. *'jam-dpal / 'jam-(dpal)- dbyangs*, Skr. Manjushri), Buddha, Tsongkhapa and his two disciples and the six-armed *Makhgal* (Tib. *mgon-po*, Skr. Mahakala). The main deity of the monastery is Buddha, the main protector deity is *Jamsran* (or *Ulaan sakhuis*, Tib. *lcam-sring*), the Red protector. The main sculptures on the altar are of Tsongkhapa, Buddha and *Maidar* (Tib. *byams-pa*, Skr. Maitreya). There are two thrones before the altar, one with the picture of

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His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, the other with a gold painted sculpture of Bakula Rinpoche.

The volumes of the Indian Sata-Pitaka Series are available in the monastery such as the Tibetan version of *Ganjuur* (Tib. *bka'-gyur*) printed in Urga and the volumes of the Mongolian *Ganjuur*.

The daily chanting ceremony starts from 9 o'clock. There are various monthly ceremonies: on the 8th of the month to the Medicine Buddha (*Manal*, Tib. *smān-bla*, Skr. Bhaishajyaguru); on the 9th to the wrathful deities; on the 15th to the sixteen disciples of Buddha (*Naidan chogo*, Tib. *gnas-brtan-gyi cho-ga*). On the 10th and on the 25th of the month Guru Puja is recited with a feast offering (*Lamiin chodviin tsogchid*, Tib. *bla-ma mchod-pa'i tshogs-mchod*, 'Guru Puja with a feast offering'). On the 30th the Four Mandalas of Tara (*Dari Ekhiin mandal shiva*) are read. On the 22th a special ceremony is held in honour of *Lkham* (*Lkham mamo tugon*, Tib. *lha-mo ma-mo 'khrugs-skong*) and on the 25th a special sacrificial cake (*balin*, Tib. *gtor-ma*) is presented to *Choiजू* (Tib. *chos-rgyal*, Skr. Dharmaraja, King of the Dharma, epithet of Yama), called *Choiजू dügжүү* (Tib. *chos-rgyal drug bcu*).

On the 4th November to mark the anniversary of the death of Bakula Rinpoche (2003), there is a special ceremony held to commemorate and honour him with the reading of eulogies, prayers and the text of Guru Puja (*Lamiin chodov*).

Lecture for laypeople are held on weekday evenings (7.00pm) and on Saturdays (2.30pm) for those who are interested. They are given by one of the Tibetan teachers, and translated into Mongolian.

The reception room for ordering the reading of religious texts and a small shop selling religious articles and books is on the left side of the main temple. On the right there are the rooms of the Tibetan teachers, and the entrance to the school (downstairs, in the basement).

There is a religious school bearing the name of Bakula Rinpoche in the monastery (*Bakula Rinbuuchiin Shashnii Surguuli*), with the classrooms and the teachers' rooms in the basement. The room of the monastery's fortuneteller is also there. The monastery has a library as well, also in the basement. There is also a small shrine.

The monastic complex is surrounded by a high wall and has two entrance gates: one in the south and one in the east wall. Immediately outside the wall to the west of the temple there is a large stupa built and consecrated in 1999. In the main courtyard below the main temple there are two stupas.

On the west side of the courtyard a residence for the lamas is being built and is due to be occupied in 2006. On the east side there is a two-storey building housing the *Naidan ardiin ulamjlalt emneleg* (Tib. *gnas-brtan sman-khang*), a Traditional Medicine Clinic with consulting rooms and a dispensary. The upper floor is currently used as accommodation for the Head of the clinic and one of the two *lovon*. Tibet Foundation's Buddhism in Mongolia programme office is on the first floor.