

Монголын Сүм Хийдийн Түүхэн Товчоо Төсөл

UB 12 Choidar odserlin datsan

Tibetan name: Chos-dar 'od-gser gling

English name: Choidar odserlin monastic school

Songino Khaikhan district, 1st khoroo
final bus stop of Orbit

Informant: Zesbuu, lama of the monastery

This Gelukpa monastery is situated just before the last bus station in the 1st microdistrict, after the satellite dishes, on the right side of the road. There is a big board with a picture of the monastery, its name and details of the opening hours. It can be visited between 9.00am and 5.00pm during the summer and between 10.00am and 16.00pm during the winter.

The present abbot, Namsrai (born 1950), established the temple on 26 November, 2004. Namsrai came from Uvs aimag and graduated from the Zanabazar Buddhist University in Gandan. His grandfather was a very famous *tsorj* in Uvs aimag and his picture can be seen in the centre of the temple. Presently, ten lamas belong to the temple most of whom have *genen* vows. There is a chanting master and a disciplinary master. Daily chanting takes place between 10.00am and 3.00pm.

The main protector deities of the temple are *Lkham* (shortly for *Baldan lkham*, Tib. *dpal-ldan lhamo*, Skr. Shridevi) and *Namsrai* (Tib. *rnam-(thos)-sras*, Skr. Vaishravana) who are worshipped every month, according to a schedule that is on the notice board. In addition, there are the special monthly ceremonies: on the 8th of the lunar month a special ceremony is held in honour of the Medicine Buddha (*Manal*, Tib. *sman-bla*, Skr. Bhaishajyaguru); on the 15th Guhyasamaja tantra (*Sanduin jüd*) is read; on the 29th the protector deities are worshipped (*Sakhius*, especially *Lkham*, the main protector deity); on the 30th *Maaniin yerööl* ceremony is held. On the 9th, 19th and 29th of the month the *Chojoo dügjüü*, the *balin* offering to *Chojoo* (Tib. *chos-rgyal*, Skr. Dharmaraja, epithet of Yama), is read and on the 6th, 16th and 26th the ritual of the Goddess with the White Parasol (*Tsagaan shükhertiin dogjür*, Tib. *gdugs dkar-gyi bzlog-bsgyur*, exorcism rite to 'the Goddess with the White Parasol', that turns away evil spirits and negativity) is performed.

The images of the Guardians of the Four Directions are painted on the walls of the entrance-hall of the temple. Inside the temple there are administration offices, a room for astrology in the left and the office of the *lovon* in the right. The reception for ordering texts is on the left. In this temple, some of the texts have fixed prices, while the remainder can be requested and paid for according to the individuals' means.

There are numerous new thangkas in the temple such as an assembly tree, *Jigjid* (Tib. 'jigs-byed, Skr. Bhairava, epithet of Yamantaka), *Nogoon Dari ekh* (Tib. *sgrol ljang*, Skr. Shyamatarā, the Green Tara), *Tsagaan Dari ekh* (Tib. *sgrol dkar*, Skr. Sitatara, the White Tara), *Manzshir* (Tib. 'jam-dpal / 'jam-(dpal)-dbyangs, Skr. Manjushri) and *Namsrai*. An image showing Buddha's 12 deeds hangs in the centre. Photographs of the 14th Dalai Lama and Bakula Rinpoche are placed on the altar. Painted scrolls of Tsongkhapa, *Lkham* and *Namsrai* hang on the left side. The volumes of the Tibetan version *Ganjuur* are placed the either side of the altar. An image of *Lkham* hangs above the seat of the disciplinary master.