

Монголын Сүм Хийдийн Түүхэн Товчоо Төсөл

UB 18 Zurkhai datsan

Tüwdenpeljeelin

Tibetan name: thub-brtan dpal rgyas gling

English name: Astrological monastic school

Chingeltei district, Tasganii owoo, Geser süm

GPS was taken at the entrance on the south of the Gesar Sum complex

Data provider: Amraa, lama of the datsan (aged 22)

Current Situation

2011 New temple building now operating on on Dasganii owoo hill that is outside the walls behind the *Geser süm* complex.

Situation in 2006

Zurkhai datsan is situated at the back or upper court of the old *Geser süm* complex. Currently it seems to be an independent temple, but its ownership is disputed. This remains an unresolved issue. At the moment it does not belong to *Gandan*. The other functioning temple situated in this site, *Badma yoga datsan*, does.

Zurkhai datsan has operated in this site since 1990. The head of the temple (*khamba*) is J. Gonchigsüren who is also one of the two astrologers belonging to the temple. There is also a *lowon*, two chanting masters and one disciplinary master. At present, there are twenty lamas in the temple, owning either the *genen*, *getsel* and, some, *gelen* vows. Two or three lamas have been trained in India in a monastic philosophical school.

The reception where individuals order texts (with a fixed price list), is in a separate building also selling religious articles, to the right hand side of the front of the temple building. People also visit the astrologers to make their requests in their consulting rooms, which are inside the temple building. The daily chanting is held from 9.00am and laypeople can come to the temple until 5.00 or 6.00pm.

The main tutelary deity of the temple is *Jigjid* (Tib. *'jigs-byed*, Skr. Bhairava, epithet of Yamantaka), while the main protector is *Chojjoo* (Tib. *chos-rgyal*, Skr. Dharmaraja, epithet of Yama). There is a huge statue of *Chojjoo* and several thangkas and statues of *Jigjid*, *Ochirwaan'*, *Lkham* (shortly for *Baldan lkham*, Tib. *dpal-ldan lha-mo*, Skr. Shridevi) and other protector deities. In the middle there is a statue of Tsongkhapa. The Tibetan version of *Ganjuur* is kept in the temple.

There are special ceremonies performed monthly. On the 8th of the month a ceremony is held in honour of the Medicine Buddha, *Manal* (Tib. *smān-bla*, Skr. Bhaishajyaguru). On the 15th Guhyasamaja tantra (*Sanduin jüd*) is recited, on the 25th *Oroin yerööl* ceremony is held for the deceased, on the 29th the ritual of the wrathful deities (*Sakhius*) is performed together with a *balin* offering (*Dügjüü*), and on the 30th the ritual of the sixteen disciples of Buddha (*Naidan*) is performed.

A teacher from *Gandan* monastery comes three times a week to educate the lamas in recitation (chanting), translation and astrology. The lamas often visit the Tibetan lama teacher's lectures in Bakula Rinpoche's monastery (*Betüw khiid*), which is just over the road.

The erection of new two-storey building for this *datsan* was started in 2006 on Dasganii owoo hill that is outside the walls behind the *Geser süm* complex. In 2007 the construction works are advanced enough, the two-storey building is almost finished, with an octagonal roof and broad steps leading to the entrance door, though the building is not painted yet.