

Монголын Сүм Хийдийн Түүхэн Товчоо Төсөл

UB 25 Jürmeddechenlin khiid,

Khuviralt ügüi Ikh Amgalant khiid

Tibetan name: 'gyur-med bde chen gling

English name: Jürmeddechenlin monastery

Songino Khairkhan district, Depot bus station

Informant: A. Gaadan, head of the monastery

This Nyingmapa (Red Stream) monastery is hidden among the houses close to the Depot bus station on Üildverchnii evleliin street, near the area of Tavan shar 21st khoroolol, 19th khoroo in Songino Khairkhan district of Ulaanbaatar.

The head and founder of the monastery is A. Gaadan. The monastery was founded in 2003, according to the notice on the information board, at the request of old people in this microdistrict lead by Dүйkhorjav, D. Chojjamts, the abbot of Gandan monastery, A. Gaadan and other lamas, such as Luvsanpaljil or G. Terbish.

It is in a fenced off yard. There are two stupas both of which were built in 2003. There are two entrances, one in the south and another in the north-east.

The abbot of this monastery is from Dundgovi aimag and graduated at Zanabazar Buddhist University of Gandan in 1985, where later he taught. Apart from the head, there is only a chanting master (*unzad*), and 8 young lamas some of whom are studying (either at Gandan's Zanabazar University or at the Mongolian Institute of Buddhist Art (*Mongoliin burkhanii shashnii urlakhui ukhaanii deed surguuli*) founded by G. Pүrevbat). Some of them have *getsel* vow.

The main protector deities of the temple are *Lkham* (Tib. *dpal-ldan lha-mo*, Skr. Shridevi), *Gombo* (Tib. *mgon-po*, Skr. Mahakala) and *Jamsran* (or *Ulaan sakhuis*, Tib. *lcam-sring*), the Red Protector. On the altar there are various images. The only statue is of Buddha, but there are thangkhas of *Tsagaan Dari ekh* (Tib. *sgrol dkar*, Skr. Sitatara, the White Tara), Padmasambhava, *Jamsran* and *Lkham* and many other deities. Daily chanting is from 10.00am, and includes prayers to Padmasambhava. *Lүijin* is read any day on request. On the 8th of the lunar month a ceremony is held in honour of *Nogoon Dari ekh* (Tib. *sgrol ljang*, Skr. Shyamatarā, the Green Tara), while on the 15th eulogies are read in honour of Buddha (*Burkhan bagshiin magtaal*). The ritual for the main wrathful deities of the temple (*Lkham*, *Gombo* and *Jamsran*) is held on the 29th of the month.

The reception for ordering texts is on the left. There are fixed prices. The texts are read until 5.00pm.

This is another of the monasteries in Mongolia that follow the lineage of Jagarmolom. Information about this lineage, and on many other subjects, such as history of Buddhism and Nyingmapa (Red Streams) in Mongolia, and especially aspects of religious life, which is interesting and useful for the believers, is displayed around the walls of the temple. All have been compiled by Gaadan, the head of the temple, who is very keen on this kind of educative work.

The head of the monastery is also the founder and leader of the Association of Mongolian Vegetarians (*Mongol Tsagaan Khooltanii Niigemleg*). This Association was founded in 1999 with the aim of spreading the idea of vegetarianism and making its relationship with Buddhist views known to people. There is a large notice board with a great deal of information about the Association's goals and ideas for laypeople to adopt such as persuading people to hold fasts on the great days (*dүйtsen*) of the month i.e. on the 8th, 15th and 30th which are traditionally days of fasting (only vegetarian food served to the lamas) in Buddhist monasteries. Detailed recipes are given to encourage the practice e.g. vegetarian *khuushuur* (one of the traditional dishes of Mongolian, which is a fried pancake filled usually with mutton) with sour cream.