



## **THE KALAPA COUNCIL**

**Report  
July 2009**

### **Creation of the Kalapa Council**

The Sakyong appointed the Kalapa Council to assist him and the Sakyong Wangmo in the integration and governance of the mandala. The Kalapa Council is the Lha body of Shambhala Governance. Its role, described by the Sakyong, is “to disseminate and govern” and is “the structure for the Sakyong to express his direct command and wishes.” He inaugurated the council in the forecourt of the Kami Shrine, devoted to Ameterasu Omikami, above Shambhala Mountain Center, on Wednesday 6 August 2008.

The creation of the Kalapa Council takes the evolution of the governance of the mandala to its next stage, following the adoption in 2005 of the model that established the Shambhala Congress (the largest consultative forum of the mandala), the Mandala Council (on which all Shambhala Centres and major entities have a seat), and the Sakyong's Council (which governs the Shambhala community on the Sakyong's behalf).

The work done by the many people involved in these international bodies has assisted the Sakyong in the development of Shambhala as a worldwide community and contributed to its further development through the strengthening of Kalapa.

The Kalapa Council now has nine members. The Sakyong holds the position of “director of the first class” in Kalapa as he does in Shambhala. The other members of the council include:

The Sakyong Wangmo, Khandro Tseyang  
The President of Shambhala, Mr Richard Reoch (chair of the council)  
The Lamén Kyi Khyap, Dr Mitchell Levy  
The Kalapa Acharya, Mr Adam Lobel  
The Makpön, Mr Jesse Grimes  
The Chagdzo Kyi Khyap, Ms Connie Brock  
The Chief of Staff of the Sakyong Ladrang, Mr Josh Silberstein

The Head of the Office of the Kalapa Court and Secretary to the Sakyong, Mr David Brown, has a standing invitation to attend the meetings of the Kalapa Council, as does its Chief Legal Counsel, Mr Alex Halpern. Mr Brown also serves as the Secretary to the Kalapa Council.

## **The Role of the Kalapa Council**

The role of the Kalapa Council, as described by the Sakyong, is “to disseminate and govern” and is “the structure for the Sakyong to express his direct command and wishes.”

The Council fulfils these functions by:

1. Receiving. The members of the council, individually and collectively, receive the direct expression of the Sakyong’s evolving aspirations, often before they take specific shape.

2. Harmonizing. The Council consists of a representative of the Mukpo family members, and representatives of the three pillars of Shambhala -- the government (including the treasury), the pillar of practice and education and the Dorje Kasung. They work together to share requests from the Sakyong, to discuss major proposals affecting the whole of the mandala, and develop harmonized approaches which can be taken forward for further discussion and implementation by each of the three pillars.

3. Communicating. The Council works together to communicate the harmonized view of the Sakyong’s commands and wishes. This is transmitted through the three pillars by their respective leaders.

4. Advising and Assisting the Sakyong and Sakyong Wangmo. The Council acts in an advisory capacity to the Sakyong and the Sakyong Wangmo. Both may refer matters to the Council on which they are seeking advice. The Council itself may wish to offer advice to their Majesties on any matter that it deems appropriate. The Council has also been asked by the Sakyong to assist in the governance of the mandala in areas such as manifesting mandala principle, protecting and sustaining the lineage, ensuring financial coherence, monitoring the global impact of the lineage, directing international relations and advising on court appointments in the mandala.

The members of the Kalapa Council serve as the board of Kalapa, the entity that gives legal form to the Kalapa Court.

## **Reporting and accountability**

The members of the Kalapa Council are appointed by the Sakyong and serve at his pleasure. They report directly to him and are accountable to him. The Kalapa Council will report periodically to the mandala as a whole on its activities. This report is the first such periodic report.

### **The work of the Kalapa Council, August 2008 - July 2009**

Among the various topics to which the Kalapa Council devoted its energy after its inception were the following:

***Kingdom of Shambhala responsibility.*** The Sakyong made clear to the Kalapa Council and to the Warrior General that with the establishment of Kalapa and the creation of the Kalapa Council that primary responsibility for the protection and manifestation of the vision of the Kingdom of Shambhala was now to be held by the Kalapa Council. The implications of this for the role of the Council of Warriors, together with the wish of the Sakyong and Sakyong Wangmo to establish a Shambhala Office of Culture and Decorum, have been a regular feature of the discussions of the Kalapa Council since its inception and are continuing.

***Establishment of the Office of the Sakyong Wangmo.*** The Sakyong requested that an Office of the Sakyong Wangmo be established. The council recommended to him that he and the Sakyong Wangmo appoint a Secretary to the Sakyong Wangmo and that this (voluntary) position be integrated into the Office of the Kalapa Court. On this basis, Ms Basia Solarz was appointed to the position of Secretary to the Sakyong Wangmo.

***Establishment of the Sakyong Ladrang.*** The council devoted considerable time to discussion with the Sakyong of the importance of establishing the Sakyong Ladrang and how this could best be supported within the framework of the unfolding Kalapa Court. The Ladrang has now been established and legally registered.

***International relations.*** The Sakyong requested that responsibility for international relations be located within the Kalapa Court under the direct supervision of the Chair of the Kalapa Council. The separate role of the Office of International Affairs came to a formal end on Shambhala Day 2009, and its work was subsumed into the work of the Office of the Kalapa Court.

The Sakyong established a new position, Head of Protocol in the Office of the Kalapa Court. He appointed Michael Gayner, former attaché to the Sakyong, to this position to assist the Chair of the Kalapa Council with relations not only with major teachers, but also the increasing number of public figures making contact with Shambhala. Lodro Gyatso, a monastic in the Shambhala Community formerly residing at Gampo Abbey, will be the point-person in the Office of the Kalapa Court for receiving and responding to most of the incoming emails from centres and then forwarding them to others who need to be consulted. Peter Volz will serve for a period of time as an adviser on international relations in view of his long experience. Frank Stetzl will continue to be the principal link for Shambhala Europe. The Chair of the Kalapa Council is now working to establish a group of acharyas who will be available to act as high-level emissaries to build and strengthen our relations with lineage holders and teachers on behalf of the Shambhala Mandala.

***The Kalapa Executive.*** The Sakyong indicated to the Kalapa Council the importance of identifying and empowering an executive body for the mandala as a whole. This is different to the policy-making and governing bodies – the Kalapa Council and the Sakyong’s Council. The Kalapa Executive would coordinate the highest level executive officers of the Three Pillars. The Kalapa Executive will include the officers who are currently responsible for major operations in all areas of the mandala. Further work will be needed to formalize the roles and authority of the members of the Kalapa Executive. This will be a further step in providing coherence to the central governance of the mandala under the overall leadership of the Sakyong.

***Chögyam Trungpa Legacy Project.*** The Sakyong had previously given his blessing to the initiative to explore the creation of a Chögyam Trungpa Legacy Project. On receiving a report on the ground laid by this exploration, he made it clear that he wished the project to come under the protection and blessings of Kalapa, since it had long-term implications for the propagation of the lineage teachings well into the future and because the form it would take could be the model for the preservation and propagation of the teachings of successive Sakyongs of Shambhala. The Chair of the Kalapa Council was asked to work with the project director, the Sakyong and Lady Diana Mukpo to establish how best this could be done. Broad agreement was reached on this and work is now underway to discuss a two-year work plan for the project.

***Relations within the mandala.*** The council sees as part of its responsibility to help ensure coherence and a spirit of mutuality throughout the mandala. This is, of course, a major responsibility of the Sakyong’s Council, on which all of the members of the Kalapa Council sit as well. Nonetheless, particularly since the Kalapa Council has the function of bringing together the most senior officers of the three pillars of Shambhala, it can also pay attention to collaboration between these strands of the Shambhala brocade. It also monitors the impact and implications of the new curriculum and other ways in which Shambhala is unfolding on the community as a whole. Part of those discussions have related to expressions of concern by longer-term members of the community and the council sees as part of its role to discuss how those can best be addressed so that the community as a whole can embrace diversity and change with mutual respect and support for as many practitioners as possible.

### **Kalapa Council webpage**

To introduce the Kalapa Council, its role and members, to the Shambhala community, the council agreed to create a webpage for this. It is located in the section on governance under the community news menu of the Shambhala.org website.

### **Financial responsibilities**

The council received regular reports and proposals from the Chagdzu Kyi Kyap on how best to structure the different financial responsibilities of the Ladrang, Kalapa and Shambhala. An interim division of responsibilities was discussed by the Sakyong’s Council, which has formed the basis for the budget being used by Kalapa in the course of this past year. The council is now considering fresh proposals for the future so that there can be maximum clarity established for annual and long-term budgeting.