

July 10, 2007

Dear Sangha,

I had the privilege of attending this year's congress in Köln, Germany as a representative from Karmê Chöling. I participated in the 'Touching the Earth' discussion group with Deirdre O'Mahony from Dublin, Luz Rodriguez from El Manso, Spain, Marty Janowitz from Halifax, Peter Bancel from Paris, Betsy De Langen and Josje Pollman from Amsterdam, Christine Drabek and Katrin Stelzel from Köln, Cynthia Moku from Boulder. We met five times and within those meetings we had very interesting discussions on the connections between Shambhala and true sustainability. We asked the congress if an Environmental and Sustainability Working Group could be created. To this there was a resounding yes. I was asked and agreed to be the group's interim chair with responsibility to take the first steps so that we could convene and start working together.

The first action items that our group came up with are (1) to institute a framework to access the ground of where our Shambhala centers, events and activities are (towards planned changes) and (2) to develop an education and awareness process within Shambhala exploring the intrinsic connections between the Shambhala teachings and ecological principles in action.

There are several different ways of participating in this process. You could be in the information loop, which could consist of occasional emails and input. Another way would be to actively engage in the working group. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in either of these ways. I am sure there are many of you who would like to be a part of the working group, but in order for it to function the core group will need to be limited, perhaps to approximately 10-15 people.

Thank you.

Yours in the vision of the Great Eastern Sun,
Jessyca Goldstein

Touching the Earth

Ground: Caretaking of our centers
Path: Engagement
Fruition: Transformation on a societal level

Dharmic Level	Practical Application Level
<u>Ground</u> : Seeing and exploring the connection between the Shambhala Buddhist teachings and ecological principles.	<u>Ground</u> : Assessing our centers. Our first meeting we will develop a framework for assessing where our centers are right now.
<u>Path</u> : Continually enrich our commitment and awareness by teaching and studying how Shambhala Buddhism and ecological principles can be infused in all our activities, programs and events.	<u>Path</u> : Planning the changes and making the changes.
<u>Fruition</u> : Our Shambhala centers can manifest Enlightened Society and be examples for the world.	<u>Fruition</u> : Shambhala will find a way to bring this into the world. We can be a force in the world and engage beyond our centers.