

# Touching the Earth Working Group

January 20, 2007

Sakyong Jamgön Mipham, Rinpoche  
Shambhala International  
1084 Tower Road  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 2Y5

Dear Rinpoche,

I am writing you as Chair of the newly formed Touching the Earth Working Group of the Sakyong's Council. This group, dedicated to accelerating Shambhala's evolution towards environmental and sustainable practices and leadership, was proposed and accepted at last spring's Shambhala Congress. Subsequently, the Mandala Council prioritized its initiation, a recommendation endorsed shortly thereafter by the Sakyong's Council. Following a general invitation, a worldwide group with a wealth of experience, talent, creativity and energy has come together and enthusiastically begun its work.

We write to you in your manifestation as Earth Protector and as leader of Shambhala and the Shambhala Buddhist path asking for your blessings, empowerment and guidance. We also supplicate you to compose a *Sadhana for the Earth*.

As you know and have pointed out, the earth and all beings face challenges, uncertainties and suffering from environmental degradation due to human activity. As Shambhalians, we like all people, need to consider how to respond to these crises. What is the proper response to global warming, global pollution, ecosystem collapse, species extinction, overpopulation, over-consumption and other environmental manifestations of our current dark age? How can we help our Shambhala society, our local communities and the greater world? Surely teachings and actions based on the creation of enlightened society can have a profound effect on these questions. Yet specific teachings remain largely unrevealed or unexplored. Thus we eagerly await your leadership in our endeavours.

We also humbly request you to write the *Sadhana for the Earth*. Many long for a practice to help bring forth a renewed and healthy planet, one that promotes a sane relationship to the earth and all of its inhabitants. We know by arousing drala we connect to and build absolute confidence in the experience of sacred environment and thus manifest generosity to all beings. We believe that such a specific sadhana can enrich and energize this connection.

We look forward to fulfilling our mandate, remain at your service and look forward to your response,

Jessyca Goldstein,  
Chair

Members: Leila Bruno, JoAnn Carmin, Sue Gilman, Marty Janowitz, Theresa Marchitelli, Deirdre M. O'Mahony, Adam Pattantys, Laura Skutch, Tracy Suchocki, David Wimberly