

Constitution of the Tisarana Sri Lankan Buddhist Association in Norway

(Revised 2nd December 2007)

1. Name and the Main objectives

- 1.1 Name of the Association is Tisarana Sri Lankan Association in Norway
- 1.2 The association shall unite Sri Lankan Buddhists in Norway
- 1.3 The association shall encourage the study and practice of the Dhamma, and to increase knowledge about the Theravada Buddhist tradition among Buddhists and others interested.
- 1.4 The association shall facilitate the celebration of Buddhist festivals and activities in accordance with Sri Lankan tradition
- 1.5 The association shall have a long-term objective to establish a Sri Lankan Buddhist Vihara in Norway, and shall initiate and promote activities to realise the goal.
- 1.6 The association is an impartial national organization

2. The relationship to the Buddhistforbundet (BF)

- 2.1 The association agrees with the objectives of Buddhistforbundet that reads: "The associations objective is to unite Buddhists and friends of Buddhism from all traditions and groups in one national common organisation for the furtherance of Buddhist principles in theory and practice." The association therefore is an affiliate of Buddhistforbundet in Norway
- 2.2 The executive board of Tisarana is responsible to Buddhistforbundet that allocated means shall be used solely for Buddhist purposes, and shall account for any such means.
- 2.3 The executive board shall send the accounts and the annual report to Buddhistforbundet within 1st. February the following year.
- 2.4 Tisarana can not under any circumstances speak on behalf of Buddhistforbundet, or represent Buddhistforbundet without the consent of BF's executive board.
- 2.5 In case of the dissolution of Tisarana, Buddhistforbundet shall be the rightful owner of any remaining assets.

3. Membership

- 3.1 Members must enrol with Buddhistforbundet associated to Tisarana. Any person with permanent residence in Norway, and who is not a member of another religious community, can become a member.
- 3.2 Membership of the association is free
- 3.3 Enrolling and resigning must be done in written
- 3.4 Children under 15 yrs. must have both parents signatures on the member registration form
- 3.5 Members are obliged to inform and update their address
- 3.6 The organization has two kinds of memberships such as the "General membership" according to § 3.1 and "Associated membership" for children under 15 year.
- 3.7 Membership will be ceased if requested so by the member in writing or if he/she is not longer eligible for the membership

4. Executive committee (EC)

- 4.1 The executive committee should consist of President, Deputy President, Secretary, Treasurer, 4 Board members, 8 persons in total. In addition an auditor shall be appointed. and the appointments are for two years.
- 4.2 The board has quorum if half of the board members, 4 persons are present. Among them the Chairman (or the Deputy) and the Secretary (or the Treasurer) must be present. Disagreements about resolutions should be settled by voting. In the event of equal number of votes, the chairman has two votes
- 4.3 Minutes from all board meetings should be recorded. All resolutions shall be recorded in protocol and signed by the board.
- 4.4 The board can appoint rules for operating Tisarana which the board members must abide by. No rules for the operation of Tisarana must be contradictory to the constitution.
- 4.5 If a member of the board resigns from Buddhistforbundet, the Tisarana membership is also automatically cancelled together with any office he or she might hold.
- 4.6 A member of the Executive committee will lose his/her position if the Executive committee decided so with over ¾ quorum. The President can appoint an acting committee member as a replacement, until the next GM.
- 4.7 The Executive committee members shall respect the confidentiality of the personal matters pertaining to the members that they might come to know about in capacity of their offices.

5. Annual General Meeting

- 5.1 AGM is held in January for the preceding year. The account and annual report is presented to the members. The account and annual report shall give an accurate account of how allocated means, money collected at arrangements, gifts received etc. are being disposed and used. After the AGM, the account and annual report is to be forwarded to Buddhistforbundet within 1st of February.
- 5.2 Notice of meeting with agenda, annual report and the revised accounts for previous year should be sent to the membership at least two weeks before the AGM.
- 5.3 The agenda of the AGM shall at least consist of: Minutes from the previous GM, Presentation of the Annual Progress Report, and presentations of the Annual Accounts and other relevant matters.

6. Election of new board members

- 6.1 The election of board members takes place every second AGM, after recommendations from the election committee.
- 6.2 The election committee consists of three external people, and the committee has responsibility to maintain the principle of the secret election.
- 6.3 At least two months before the AGM where the election of new board members taking place, the standard form of nomination must be sent out to the all ordinary members of the association. All ordinary members can send proposals by using the standard forms. All proposals must have consent from the nominated members, and candidates would have approved the nomination by sign the nomination form.
- 6.4 Members of the board should be members of the association in accordance with §3. The candidates for the assignments of the President, Deputy President, Secretary and Treasurer would have been members of the association at least for a one year.
- 6.5 The election committee shall control all the received proposals in accordance with § 6.4, and compile a recommendation. The recommendation shall be presented for the AGM for secret election. The election committee is obliged to work impartially and secretive until the final recommendation is presented for collected AGM.
- 6.6 All nominated candidates will be given an equal period of time to present their qualifications and intentions before the election. It is up to the candidates to decide whether to use the given time or not. The length of the period would be decided by the election committee.
- 6.7 The board elects according to the democratic principals.

7. Alterations to the Constitution

- 7.1 Alteration to the constitution can be proposed by the Executive committee or the members and seconded at an AGM. Proposals made by the members shall be sent to the Executive committee in writing, at least one week before the AGM. Alterations can also be made at a General Meeting, if so proposed by an AGM.
- 7.2 Paragraphs from 1.1 to 1.3, 2.1 to 2.5, 3.1 to 3.5, 4.5, 4.7, 6.4, 7.2 and 7.3 can NOT be changed.
- 7.3 Buddhistforbundet shall be notified about constitutional changes.

8. Duties of the president, secretary and treasurer.

- 8.1 The duties of the president: representations on behalf of the association, compilation and presentation and submit the necessary reports of the activities of the association, and management of the association in efficient and proper manner.
- 8.2 The duties of the secretary: maintenance of the membership register, records and file minutes of all meeting handle and file all correspondences, arrange and send notice of all meetings co-ordinate all activities of the association and represent the association together with the president on matters connected with the association
- 8.3 The duties of the treasurer: record and maintenance of accounts in correct and proper way, submission of income and expenditure statement at the committee meetings presentation of the audited statements of the accounts at the annual general meeting, maintain an inventory list of all the equipment's and stationeries.

9. Financial Management:

- 9.1 The association shall maintain an operational account and a savings account (with higher interest) at a well established bank.
- 9.2 The treasurer can carry out transactions necessary for normal operation of the association. The cash at hand must be a minimum, and must be less than NOK 3000,-.
- 9.3 The treasurer can with consent from the executive committee advance funds for association activities up to NOK 15.000.- The executive committee, under special circumstances can carry out extraordinary transactions up to a maximum of NOK 5000,- Expenditures outward this requires a resolution from a General meeting. (GM)
- 9.4 The executive committee obligated to improve the economy of the association.
- 9.5 The auditor of the association is responsible for audit all accounts submitted to the general meetings.

10. Dissolution of the association

- 10.1 Dissolution of the association could take place only by the unanimous decision of the entire membership of the association.
- 10.2 In the event of the dissolution, BF shall be the rightful owner of the remaining assets.