

Mahavishva

The Great Universe

Souvenir 2012

Newsletter of Ananda Marga Pracaraka Samgha Hong Kong Sector



In Memoriam



Acarya Nigamananda Avadhuta
1948 - 2011

Dada Nigamanandaji was one of the most senior Avadhutas of Ananda Marga, which he joined as a WT in 1966. From the very beginning Baba encouraged his natural tendency to care for others, and indeed in his more than forty years of selfless service he personally took care of WT trainees and any other WT in need, well beyond his organizational responsibilities.

Dada Nigamanandaji's humanity and boundless energy were sustained by his unshakable devotion for Baba, which he especially expressed through his tenacious safeguard of Baba's legacy and the courageous pursue of anything that could establish His Mission, tasks for which he knew no rest.

Baba Himself commented that Dadaji loved Him so dearly that he could never disobey His wishes; and indeed anyone who dedicates to the fulfillment of the Guru's wishes with as much determination and enthusiasm as Dada Nigamanandaji did, is bound to face hardship in life. This is the price to pay for a speedy progress towards the final Embrace that erases all human afflictions, and in this regard Dadaji never sought discounts.

All is left to us is Dada Nigamanandaji's positive example and inspiration that indeed it is possible to work even while dying. Many margiis and WTs around the world hoped so much for his recovery during the final days of his permanence on this dusty earth, a place he certainly contributed to improve for the benefit of the future generations, leading a life of selfless care and oneness with the Mission that will leave an indelible imprint in the minds and heart of all those who knew him, and beyond.

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Inspiration

Shrii Shrii Anandamurtiji

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Messages

It gives me immense pleasure to know that Ananda Marga Pracaraka Samgha, Hong Kong Sector is bringing out a souvenir for 2012 on the occasion of New Year Day, 2012.

It is hearting to note that Hong Kong Sector has done commendable work by rendering yeoman service in the field of education, various welfare and relief in many countries in the Sector, especially in the tsunami and earthquake that affected Japan and also by bringing the awareness about yoga in the young generation, teaching meditation and conducting spiritual activities.

I am confident that Ananda Marga Pracaraka Samgha, Hong Kong Sector will continue playing a crucial role in society building and doing something concrete for suffering humanity in the physical, psychic and spiritual spheres.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the organizers for steering the publication of the issue of this souvenir.

I extend my best wishes for its grand success.

Ac. Vishvadevananda Avadhuta

Acarya Vishvadevananda Avadhuta

Purodha Pramukha

Ananda Marga Pracaraka Samgha (Central)

I am very pleased to present this New Year 2012 souvenir edition of Mahavishva, our Hong Kong Sector newsletter containing the highlights of the all-round progress Ananda Marga has made in Hong Kong sector during the last six years.

Ac. Shubhaniryananda Avt.

Sectorial Secretary,

Hong Kong Sector

Moving together with enthusiasm is the fundamental element of success in our Ananda Marga family, because our hearts beating with the same ideological rhythm can easily help us overcome any obstacle. How else could we hope to fulfill His vision of a Neo-humanistic society and a blissful humanity?

That is perhaps why reading about the many spiritual and service activities reported in this souvenir makes us feel as if we were there too, with our brothers and sisters in Baba. What a joyful Mission He has chosen for us!

Avtk. Ananda Rashmika Ac.

PWSA, WWD Office In charge

I am immensely delighted to know that the Ananda Marga Pracaraka Samgha, Hong Kong Sector is bringing out a Souvenir on the auspicious occasion of New Year's Day, 2012.

The Ananda Marga Pracaraka Samgha is rendering its tireless service to the entire mankind for the last fifty years especially in the areas of education, welfare, relief and spiritual progress, this has been acknowledged and appreciated world wide.

I am confident that this Souvenir will provide valuable information of various projects and other activities of the Organization.

I congratulate the Secretary and others of the Hong Kong Sector who are engaged in publishing the special issue of this Souvenir.

May the Almighty bestow His Blissful GRACE for every success.

Ac. Svarupananda Avadhuta 14/1/12

Acarya Svarupananda Avadhuta

Acting General Secretary

Ananda Marga Pracaraka Samgha (Central)

In a world of people seeking material advancement through self-centeredness, it is indeed a great source of inspiration and hope for the future of humanity, to witness the variety of activities run with consistency and spirit of selflessness by so many within our spiritual family.

Almost all countries in Hong Kong Sector enjoy the presence of Acaryas and margiis, who provide spiritual seekers with opportunities for spiritual guidance and satsaunga, the birthright of every human being.

In this spirit we wish the inspiration readers will derive from this limited account of our multifarious Mission in Hong Kong Sector, may produce the desirable effect of more efforts in the same direction, because the scope for socio-spiritual awakening is endless.

Ac. Ganadevananda Avt.

Public Relations Secretary

Hong Kong Sector

Publisher's Note

This issue of Mahavishva is especially published as a souvenir in occasion of the New Year Day 2012.

Mahavishva translates as 'Great Universe', a place where humanity finds and creates all the resources and inspiration to march on towards its ultimate goal of a single human society, the ideal place for everyone to fulfill their all-round potentials.

In Mahavishva there is no scope for the narrow sentiments that divide humanity today, which are the direct or indirect cause for all the physical, mental, spiritual, emotional, cultural, environmental conflicts and sufferings that afflict society today.

It is only when harmony is restored in every aspect of human life that internal and collective peace can exist and provide the necessary balance for the achievement of true progress.

Ananda Marga's lifestyle is the practical answer to such very human difficulties, an outlook that embodies loving kindness and respect for every expression of the Supreme, regardless of whether it belongs to the human, animal, plant or matter manifestations, which are all contributing to the beauty of our created universe.

Ananda Marga's philosophy is at the same time unique and yet applicable to every human being's longing for infinite peace. There is only one way for this to happen: renounce to dogmatic beliefs that cannot pass the test of rationality and ideological common sense.

No one needs to fear the tremendous task that separates society from its current degenerate condition to the establishment of a true human society that is one and indivisible.

Smashing through every obstacle, no matter how insurmountable it may appear to be, we will prove that surrendering our individual petty egos at Baba's feet, we can transcend our human limitations and inevitably enter the divine stance that is our inherited birthright.

His Grace is never too far from us, in fact His inspiration is what we need to attune to, then nothing can stop us from previewing at least in our lives the Mahavishva of the future, and every time replenish our energies and move on undaunted in establishing His Mission.

Our Hong Kong Sector is vast and the most populated in the world, and while some of its residents enjoy the material benefits provided by economic development, others still live with great hardships.

Yet, our duty is to support all, regardless of what their needs are, for spiritual guidance and material welfare are just the different faces of the selfless service required by everyone to succeed in struggle for liberation that is invariably behind everyone's existence.

This is my understanding of our Mission in Hong Kong Sector and I am confident that by His Grace we will be successful in furthering its aims and eventually expand its reach to every community unknowingly waiting for it.

This special issue of Mahavishva highlights the inspiring work carried out in the last six years in this sector. There have been many developments that we wish to share with our readers so that together we can plan how to fulfill Baba's request: Do all the good you can, in all the ways that you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can and as long as you can!

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation goes to the Ananda Marga Welfare Foundation Taiwan and AMURT Taipei through sister Urmila, along with many other Acaryas and margiis, without whose special help, the progress of many projects would have suffered. Just to mention a few, I like to remember the Ananda Nagar village schools, or the Central Ananda Nagar well construction, or the Jamalpur's children's home construction or AMURT & AMURTEL Mongolia's and AMURT & AMURTEL Vladivostok's service work.

Finally I would like to extend my thanks to those who have helped in making this humble souvenir of Ananda Marga in Hong Kong Sector, without forgetting those who have taken the trouble of submitting articles, stories and photos, but above all those who have silently done His work, without whose goodwill and self-sacrifice there would have been nothing at all to report.

At His Lotus Feet,

A/c Shubhaniryananda At.

Ac. Shubhaniryananda Avt.
Sectorial Secretary
Hong Kong Sector

Beware of Dogma

Shrii Shrii Anandamurti

Structures

So far as structural solidarity is concerned, the best shape is the oval shape. “Oval” means (in Latin ovum means egg) “similar to an egg, not exactly like an egg but to some extent like an egg; not exactly elliptical but to some extent elliptical”. All celestial bodies are of that shape. That’s why in Sanskrit this universe is called Brahmánda. (Ánda means “egg”. And from the Sanskrit word ánda it became ánda in the Urdu language.)

Now, this universe of ours is very big, but not infinite. It is an elliptical figure, an oval figure, which means it has a boundary line. Yes, it is very big, and actually so big that we cannot measure it; but in theory it can be measured.

Just now I said the most convenient figure is the oval, or elliptical, figure. Take the case of a small atom. Here what happens? In that structure there is the nucleus, the heaviest matter of the structure, and the electrons are moving round that nucleus. A similar structure is our ethereal structure: the earth is the nucleus, and the moon is moving round that nucleus. The next bigger structure is our solar system: the sun is the nucleus, and so many planets are moving round it. And the biggest structure is the Cosmological structure: Parama Puruśa (Puruśottama, the Supreme Nucleus, the Supreme Hub) is in the middle, and so many animated and non-animated objects are moving round it.

Now, this movement is affected by two forces. All students of science know that they are the centrifugal force and the centripetal force. The centripetal force tries to decrease the radius, and the centrifugal force tries to drift the moving object away from the nucleus. In Sanskrit this centripetal force is called Vidyá and the centrifugal force is called Avidyá. (In common parlance, for Avidyá we use the word Shaytán – “Satan” in English.)

Now knowingly or unknowingly, consciously or unconsciously, each and every entity, either physical or psychic, is moving round that Parama Puruśa. In the case of finite objects or finite structures or systems, when one moving entity goes far away from its nucleus, it is attracted by another nucleus, and in the course of this there take place

so many clashes among so many nuclei. But in the case of the Cosmological order, there is a single nucleus for the entire [expressed] universe. The question of going beyond the jurisdiction of that nucleus does not arise. That is, when human beings are highly influenced by Avidyá, their radius from the nucleus increases, but the radius is always there. A human being, an animal, a plant, an inanimate object – everybody will have to move; and that’s why I said movement is life. Stirlessness means death.

When Dogma Functions in a Structure

And when people are guided by – not guided by, controlled by – dogmas, their stir is lost, so they become lifeless. They are worse than dead bodies. So you boys and you girls, you should know that you must never allow any dogma to goad you, to drift you, away from your nucleus. Never allow your radius to increase. Always try to decrease your radius. Always try to come in closer and closer proximity to the nucleus of this universe.

Dogma Also a Structure

You may ask, “Bábá,(1) what is dogma?” You should remember, you are all educated boys and girls: dogma is a psychicstructure. All ideas are psychic structures; but regarding

Dogma is a psychic structure. All ideas are psychic structures; but regarding their boundary lines there should be some flexibility.

their boundary lines there should be some flexibility.

I think some of you have come in contact with our Prout theory. I think you have gone through it. There is the fifth item, the

fifth fundamental factor, where it is said that the style of utilization should vary in accordance with [changes in] time, space and person.

Baba's Pravacan

Didn't I say like this? That is, there is, or there lies, scope for flexibility – no rigidity, flexibility. Because the human mind will not tolerate anything rigid. It wants movement. Not only movement, it wants accelerated movement.

But what is dogma? Dogma is also an idea, but there is rigidity of the boundary line. Dogma will not allow you to go beyond the periphery of that boundary line. That is, dogma goes against the fundamental spirit of the human mind.

(Knowingly or unknowingly, each and every object will have to move round the Supreme Nucleus. There is no alternative. But in case of dogma, what happens? While moving near the Nucleus, the unit mind is highly influenced by the Cosmic Mind as it proceeds towards the Nucleus for the purpose of coincidence. And when it actually coincides, the unit mind becomes one with the Cosmic Mind, and the Cosmic Mind knows no dogma.)

So from the very starting point you should be active, you should be vocal, in fighting against the influence of dogmas.

So from the very starting point you should be active, you should be vocal, in fighting against the influence of dogmas. It is due to these dogmas that human society could not progress properly. Otherwise human intellect has developed much during the last five thousand years; it has developed still more during the last two hundred years; and since the second world war – during the last few decades – it has developed still more.

Crisis of Civilization

Now, although there has been intellectual progress, there is a crisis of civilization. What is the breeding ground of this crisis? Why the crisis? The crisis is that human existence, which is highly [developed], has been endangered by dogmas. Its very existence on the psychic level has been endangered by dogmas. On the physical level it may or may

not be endangered, but on the psychic level there is danger. If you get guarantees on the physical level regarding eating and drinking, sleeping and getting shelter, that will not suffice. You want to be danger-free in the realm of your mind, in the realm of your intellect. You want unbarred, unobstructed psychic progress – intellectual progress. But certain dogmas with their devouring mouths are trying to eat you up.

Take for example communism, Marxism. It is such a dogma. It will not allow you to think beyond its periphery. So it is the duty of all intellectuals to make people conscious of their present and future and cautious of the all-devouring influence of dogma.

Yours is a path towards Supreme Bliss, and you will have to move forward towards the Universal Nucleus. Now, [so many plants and so many animals] have all got minds. I told you that in the case of undeveloped creatures, mind is inborn instinct, but in the case of human beings, mind remains an ever-expanding force. Everybody is moving, knowingly or unknowingly, with so many ideas, with so many feelings, with so many propensities, with so many desires. But each and every aspirant, each and every artist, each and every scientist and each and every philosopher must be ensconced in this supreme veracity – that they will have to be one with the Supreme, that each will have to coincide his or her microcosmic nucleus with the Macrocosmic one. And while moving towards this Macrocosmic Nucleus, no bar should be tolerated, no obstacle should be encouraged. Let there be an unbarred movement of humanity, let there be an unbarred progress of humanity. Humanity that knows no colour, no racial or garb barrier, no historical or traditional barrier. Human beings have got the same human legacy, and they must boldly stand upon that legacy and move forward with the banner of universal humanity.

[Following the discourse, Baba gave the blessing:] Let everybody in the universe be happy. Let everybody in the universe be free from all ailments. Let everybody in the universe see the bright side of everything. Let nobody be forced to undergo suffering.

15 September 1979 Evening, Istanbul

The Dharma Maha Sammelan (DMS) is a unique spiritual event Baba introduced as a sort of lower tone Dharma Maha Cakra (DMC)—which He alone could conduct—to be held when His physical presence was impractical, a circumstance that became permanent after the 21st October 1990.

Baba used to nominate His representatives and send them to conduct DMS wherever and whenever He couldn't go Himself, and Margiis attending DMS have always felt Baba's special spiritual presence.

This time in the Taiwan DMS more than five hundred Margiis and WTs attended it, mostly from Hong Kong Sector but also from Suva sector, Berlin Sector, Qahira Sector, Delhi Sector, GT Sector and Manila Sector, for a total of 21 countries.

The event was preceded by a seven days long Akhanda Kiirtan that started on Sunday October 2nd along with a series of inspiring workshops that started on the first day of the pre-DMS program with the history of Ananda Marga told by Dada Shubhaniryananda, seen from the special angle of Baba's gradual introduction of all its elements we now regard as inseparable from its identity.



Yoga is an applied wisdom and on the second day Dada Yuktshananda led an interactive effort to test the depth of our understanding of such wisdom.

Conscious living is a necessary element of spiritual life and the workshop on the third day touched two of its aspects: the necessity of benevolence in social life through Proutistic socio-economic principles, and the introduction of Neo-humanistic education based on the novel approach of the Ecology of Joy, which was illustrated by Dada Caetanyananda.

The fourth day was dedicated to RAWA's contribution toward Art for Service & Blessedness. Margiis from most regions of Hong Kong Sector demonstrated their most subtle cultural expressions and participated in an art workshop coordinated by Didi Ananda Gunamrta.

Finally on the fifth day Didi Ananda Rashmika and Bro. Iishvara conducted a workshop with the cooperation of our youth, highlighting the benefits of idealism in action.

The DMS program couldn't have started without the arrival of Rev. Purodha Pramuka, which happened on October 6th with a warm welcome by the margiis of the various regions of Hong Kong Sector, dressed in their traditional costumes.



There are certain elements that are present during a DMS, and nagar kiirtan is one of them, so on the first day of DMS proper, there was a vibrant procession of Margiis right after Pancajanya that culminated in the flag rising ceremony of Dvajavandana.



DMS 2011 Taiwan, Hong Kong Sector

Our flag enjoys a great deal of consideration in Ananda Marga, and everyone is called to pay respect to it with discipline and sincerity.



Another event common in DMS is the baby naming ceremony, which involve a public commitment on the part of Ananda Margiis not only to welcome new Margiis, in this case six of them, into our spiritual family, but also to pledge individual support for their all-round progress.



On the first day Margiis also got the chance to attend the first of PP Dada's DMS addresses, which centered on the events leading to the creation of Baba Nam Kevalam mantra and the historical introduction of kiirtan as one of Ananda Marga's essential aspects for spiritual progress.

Inspired action in Ananda Marga ideology is given a very special place and in the afternoon of the first DMS day selected Margiis from Taiwan, Russia, Mongolia, Korea, and Japan offered updates on the current activities in their

fields; a program that was followed by a brief introduction to the wider DMS audience of the Ecology of Joy, which had particularly inspired Margiis attending the pre-DMS workshop program.



As customary in all large AM gatherings, on the same day a Kaoshiki and Tandava competition was held with great enthusiasm on the part of the competitors as well as the audience.

Before PP Dada's evening address, everyone enjoyed a truly international cultural program since Margiis from various regions had prepared performances ranging from devotional songs and Prabhat Samgiita to dramas and ethnic dances and songs.



Rev. Purodha Pramukha's then spoke about Omnkara tattva and His Grace, in which he explained in details and with scientific precision the sound of creation.

On the second day of DMS, the 9th of October, all gathered to conclude the seven days Akhanda Kiirtan held at Madhu Shaelam MG Quarters, with a final explosion of devotional joy. Margiis then enjoyed watching a short Baba's video in which Baba exhorted everyone to do more and more kiirtan, which Margiis took to the letter so much so that after the final 'Param Pita Baba Ki' instead of dispersing they restarted the kiirtan with such vibrant intensity that no one wanted to leave!



The morning program continued with PP's third address, in which he spoke about Dhyana, Ishvara Pranidhana and Savikalpa Samadhi.



The afternoon program started with Central representative, Acting GS Acarya Svarupananda Avadhuta, sharing some of his vast anecdotal experience with Baba, which kept Margiis charmed for a long time in a devotional spell.



After the ethereal necessarily comes the practical, in this case expressed by a series of organizational meetings held in the presence of Rev. Purodha Pramukha, who meet Hong Kong Sector Bhukti Pradhanas and Unit secretaries, the members of the Sectorial ACB, Margii students and the youth, and later all Margiis coming from Taiwan, Russia, China, Mongolia, Korea and Japan.

Five new WT candidates had Individual Contact with PP, three brothers Russia and two sisters from Taiwan, most of whom will travel to their respective WT training centers right after the DMS program.

PP Dada found also the time to meet Manila Sector Margiis and Acaryas and all WTs attending the DMS.

Meanwhile, in the main hall, a revolutionary marriage ceremony took place with such joy and participation confirming the family nature of our spiritual community.



DMS 2011 Taiwan, Hong Kong Sector

Ananda Marga progress depends on the service spirit of its members and the DMS is a time to acknowledge individual excellence in this regard. Hence Rev. Purodha Pramukha was pleased to hand over prizes to outstanding pracarakas and anyone who had shown spirit of sacrifice.



Finally PP Dada gave the main DMS discourse which was somehow a continuation of the earlier talk on Dhyana with a more practical dimension, in which he described the relationship between the devotee and the Lord.

Everyone then watched in awe Baba's video containing the Varabhaya Mudra, which concluded the DMS program proper.



Because of work commitments, many of the Taiwanese Margiis and some coming from overseas hadn't been able to attend the seven days Akhanda Kiirtan, therefore one more Akhanda Kiirtan was held overnight, and so between

11 PM and 8 AM an even more blissful kiirtan vibrated Ananda Suruci Master Unit till the morning, after which a few of the many Margiis had the chance to share their DMS impressions and experiences right before the DMS closing ceremonies.



Everyone highlighted the wonderful feeling of meeting new brothers and sisters in a colorful mix of equally beautiful cultures, which are the true assets of our Ananda Marga family. Diversity may cause both clash and the sweetness of cohesion, which are equally helpful for our all-round socio-spiritual progress.

In conclusion we can safely say that this DMS in Taiwan was a grand success on account of the inspirational message and experiences it has provided to all those who attended it, a sure engine of devotional awakening and organizational revival throughout Hong Kong Sector.



The interest for RAWA used to be for most margiis a shooting star only visible during retreats; this is no longer the case.

Baba's has pointed out the importance of spending some time on a daily basis, cultivating the fine arts and during the last few years more and more margiis have come to the realization that artistic expression is an indispensable element furthering one's spiritual progress.



Such practice doesn't necessarily lead to public performances but once anyone enjoys the lifting effect the arts have on the spirit, the step towards wanting to share such gift with others isn't very far.

RAWA promotes all types of artistic expression, including of course poetry, which gives a particularly sweet channel of expression to devotion, its joy and pain of separation from the divine.



So all artistic events whether Prabhat Samgiita, bhajans, devotionally or socially inspiring poems, or classical dance

have become more frequent and rich in participation both in terms of margiis and the public.



Practice makes perfect and the cultivation of the arts is no exception. Then it is no surprise that such aspect of Ananda Marga becoming a positive cycle of excellence and inspiration gets expressed at its best during collective events.

During the just concluded DMS program at the Ananda Suruci Master Unit, RAWA training and performances were pervasive and truly good in quality and content. Margiis took the trouble of bringing their traditional dresses so that the cultural program could also become rich in colors, and highlight the beauty that accompanies every culture of the world.



Even the local public came to attend a special RAWA program organized for them so that they too could enjoy an evening of broad cultural horizon and expand their mind through it.

RAWA in Hong Kong Sector



Mongolia



Japan



Russia



Taichung - Taiwan



RAWA Taipei - Taiwan



Taipei Music Club - Taiwan

Our Sectorial Master Unit Ananda Suruci, in Taiwan, is a very active project that regularly opens itself to the public, mostly through fasting camps. Such events are organized twice a month and allow participants to learn about the relaxing and rejuvenating effects of yoga lifestyle not just through lectures, but also through yoga asanas sessions, meditation, lemon juice and, at the conclusion of the program, a taste of how delicious vegetarian food can be.

Even the temporary adoption of a conscious diet and proper exercises promote physical, mental and spiritual health to the participants, which often expresses itself through superfluous weight loss and the unexpected cure or great improvement of chronic conditions.



Ananda Suruci Master Unit



The attendance has been increasing through the best advertisement in the world: word of mouth. Now there are often up to 30 people attending the camps, which may last between just a weekend to a full week. This is a welcomed development because beside getting a greater chance to introduce Ananda Marga to the public, the economic benefits of the program can be utilized in improving the Master Unit infrastructure and its other programs.

Yes, fasting camps are just one of the aspects of the Master Unit development, which has in fact greatly increased during the last five years both in terms of beautification and on the agricultural side. Now most of the land marked for agriculture is being utilized with vegetable crops and hundreds of fruit trees.



Madhu Shaelam Marga Guru Quarters

The Taiwan MG quarters, known as Madhu Shaelam is the spiritual nucleus of Ananda Marga in Hong Kong Sector. Parama Purusa is everywhere but in Madhu Shaelam devotees perceive more easily His loving presence; a great help in promoting the depth of one's meditation.



The long Akhanda kiirtan programs that have been conducted in Madhu Shaelam throughout the years, the last one leading to the DMS program lasting seven days, only enhance such special flow.

Termites too seem to love the MG quarters and recently the wooden floor had become unstable due their presence, so it had to be replaced; an indispensable renovation that wouldn't have been possible without Bro. Keshava's and Supriiti's generous contribution.



Since its inauguration in 2004, Madhu Shaelam has become ever more attractive thanks to the many plants and flowers that beautify its garden and pond, which contribute in stirring our longing for inner harmony. A truly fulfilling spiritual home for every devotee.



Kiirtan Parikrama

Shrii Caetanya Mahaprabhu introduced Kiirtan to the world about 500 years ago and he popularized it by touring incessantly from one kiirtan event to the next.

Our Kiirtan Parikrama follows the same spirit and once a year in January, compels the Nucleus of Parama Purusa to shift to almost every city of Taiwan continuously for fifteen days.



This unique journey is devotionally inspiring to everyone attending the kiirtan events along its path, but incredibly so for those joining the kiirtan team who travelling throughout the island, attend every one of them.

A great family bond is created amongst the participants which makes the fifteen days fly so fast, till the day of the last kiirtan, which invariably ends with teary eyes, partly due to the stirred devotional feelings but also because of the thought of this special samgacchadvam end, at least for one more year.



Since Margiis from other regions of the sector have attended the Taiwan Kiirtan Parikrama, its contagious bliss has spread beyond Taiwan's borders, and this year in Korea, margiis and Acaryas conducted it too, with more plans to export this blissful program to Russia and even beyond the sector's borders, for example to London Region.



There is no doubt that the public exposed to the Kiirtan Parikrama's outdoor events may be at first surprised, and it matters little if they join it or not, because the powerful spiritual vibrations of kiirtan automatically contribute to their spiritual awakening, and sooner or later they will too become aware of the inner call, their very own longing for the Great. Without such stimulation society won't be able to be propelled as fast as it should, towards the upcoming spiritual age we all wish to see and enjoy together.

This blissful program was started in 2010 by Dada Kaladharananda and Didi Ananda Rashmika with the support of all local WTs and Margiis in Taiwan.



If community development is the attempt to bring about solutions to chronic social problems, disaster relief is the intensive care response that is vital to mitigate the severe effects of calamities.

Relief workers are forced to live the disaster just like its victims, and from both the physical hardship and emotional stress point of views, it's indeed the most intense form of selfless service.

There is no doubt that what happened on March 13th 2011 was the most severe disaster that has happened in Hong Kong Sector for a long time. The earthquake itself wasn't so severe because its epicenter was off the coast, but the tsunami that it caused was so high and destructive that no one can doubt it will always be remembered in Japan and beyond.

Our organization had just few weeks before completed the process of registration as a local NPO (non-profit organization), and it didn't take long to organize a response. Despite the widespread damage to roads in the whole Northeast of the country, the day after the tsunami an AMURT reconnaissance team was already in Sendai assessing the possible options for intervention.



Meanwhile Margiis and sympathizers in several countries, and especially in Taiwan, started offering their support by donating funds towards the relief effort, without which little could have materialized.

Unlike other disaster operations, and thanks to our local NPO status, we could work alongside the government and make a meaningful contribution to relieve at least in part the depressing condition of the refugees there.



Just a few days after an international relief team had assembled at our headquarter in Nagano prefecture, and on the 21st March we were again in Sendai, having chosen to support the elderly in cleaning up the mud that had invaded their homes.



AMURT & AMURTEL Hong Kong Sector in Disaster Relief

We were the only NGO allowed to make its base within the largest refugee center in the area, and so we got the chance to live the life of refugees too, sharing round the clock their hardships and togetherness, like in a real extended family.

Our selfless and loving attitude won many hearts and the trust of the local government authorities, who started to listen to our suggestions on how to expand our service.

We printed our own leaflets to encourage refugees to return to their homes and, together with the help of volunteers, free them from the mud.



Later we suggested a program of child care along with psychological counseling for adults and especially the elderly.

We tried to motivate the youth through sports and yoga, an activity that was eventually also extended to the many volunteers that eventually started to arrive from all over Japan.



At the end of our stay in Shichigahama the government officers wrote a letter of appreciation that reads as follows:

Your organization came to do relief work just after disaster happened, and has done so for more than three months.

Your action overflows with service spirit and has helped our people in many ways.

We appreciate from our heart.

ボランティア活動への御礼

2011年 7 月 29日

NPO法人豊蔵生活 様

セ・浜町社会福祉協議会
セ・浜町災害ボランティアセンター
会長 鎌田 節夫

貴団体は、震災後すぐにセ・浜町の支援に入り、3ヵ月以上の長期間セ・浜町災害ボランティアセンターでボランティアとして下記のとおり活動していただきました。その活動は奉仕精神にあふれ、多くの功績をのこしていただきました。心より感謝申し上げます。

記

1. 活動場所 セ・浜町災害ボランティアセンター

2. 活動期間 平成23年3月15日～ 平成23年7月12日

3. 活動内容

セ・浜町内の被災者支援にかかわる諸活動
ボランティアセンター内においての活動者への支援

Now our AMURT team continues the preparation for a new project that wants to promote the use of suitable plants to gradually absorb the radioactive contamination in the soil in Fukushima, for which we have secured the technical support of a team of scientists from the Institute of Experimental Botany in Prague, Czechoslovakia.



TAIWAN

Ananda Marga tends to get enriched by the various cultural traditions it finds everywhere and especially so in Taiwan, as there is hardly any other culture in Hong Kong Sector where the deep spiritual inclination of people flow so seamlessly with Ananda Marga's culture and Ideology. The fact that Baba was attracted by His devotees there and visited this small-big island is the proof of its special character.

The ancient Chinese culture embraces the sense of moving together for the greater good, and therefore the margii community in Taiwan is flourishing, covering almost all the main cities.

Taipei Diocese

Taipei is the seat of Ananda Marga Pracaraka Samgha's Hong Kong Sectorial office, as well as of all its departments' head offices. In Taipei there are a host of Ananda Marga Jagrtis and yoga centers that cater to the public's growing interest in yoga lifestyle. Despite the many commercial yoga schools that have proliferated in the last few years, our courses are very much valued by those especially interested in spirituality.

Those who come for yoga classes are also engaged in other activities that range from philosophy classes to vegetarian cooking, fasting camps, service activities and anything that can raise people's consciousness, and provide the inspiration to embrace Ananda Marga as their own family.

There are music classes, and even a farmer's club regularly meeting to prepare activities, but inevitably all becomes a truly inspiring satsaunga, a harmony of intents that attracts people more and more together.

Arts classes form and encourage our new artists, who in occasions of celebrations like Prabhat Samgiita day (the last one lasted 12 hours!), get the opportunity to express the longing for the Great through songs and dance.



There are five DCs a week in Taipei, supported by a great number of sadhana shiviir, akhanda kiirtans and many service activities that flood with loving attention old age homes, physically challenged children's homes, and the city's leprosarium. All these service activities are possible due to the sincere work of several Margiis with hundreds of people getting benefited.



Taipei has also a school run by WWD and although it still has only 12 children, the appreciative feedback from parents is always a big encouragement. The school has an advisory board and its members meet regularly to discuss about the school development and the implementation of Neo-humanistic education. The Taipei DSL, Didi Ananda Gunamrta, recently renovated the school building.



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Many of the activities run at the main Jagrti could not be possible without the support and guidance of Bro. Cidatma, who is like an institution in Taipei. In the last two years his and Bro. Candreshvara's effort has resulted in the creation and consolidation of a new unit in the area of Nanjing.

The new unit has a regular Dharma Cakra with a good number of margiis attending, and even organizes sadhana camps. Every week 8 asana classes and philosophy class are given in the center. The unit invited Dada Shambhushivananda to give classes and spiritual guidance to the participants.

Although the multiple days long Akhanda Kiirtan program are usually held at the Ananda Suruci Master Unit, during a 72 hours Akhanda Kiirtan is organized yearly in July most of the participants come from Taipei. Taipei margiis love to follow the devotional flow across the island to feel the closeness of Baba's presence in a place that always touches the devotional sentiment of Margiis: Baba's MG Quarters Madhu Shaelam.

The WWD office in Taipei holds weekly sisters DC along with cooking classes and yoga classes.



Taipei also has a PROUT Center where seminars and symposia for awakening the socio-spiritual consciousness of people are held regularly, besides of course regular DC.



Finally there is also the main PBMA center is in Taipei (D Chong Xiao Unit), which is the largest Ananda Marga establishment in Taipei. The center specializes in yoga asanas and philosophy classes, up to 40 classes a week, which create a great many initiations.



Chungli

Chungli has a Jagrti, regular DC and asana classes, along with social service work that includes visiting and feeding the elderly in an old age's home.

Hsinchu

Hsinchu is the capital of Baba's books translation and publication, which thanks to Brother Sanjaya constant dedication, have been printed in great number during the last five years, three of them, Namami Krsna Sundaram, Ananda Vacanamrtam part 31 and Yoga Sadhana, just before the Taiwan DMS.



The Jagrti there, which was recently purchased, also functions as the office of the Ananda Marga Welfare Foundation Taiwan, and hosts weekly DCs.

Hualien

There is a small but dedicated number of Margiis in Hualien, who beside the spiritual pracar and regular yoga classes, are

also engaged in the promotion of PROUT and especially the concept of seed banks and permaculture. They also organize regular visits to the elderly to provide spiritual care.

Yilan

Sister Sumatii is the unit secretary of Yilan's unit. She sincerely does pracar, hosts Dharma Cakra in her house, organises classes for visiting acaryas on top of her daily work and the care of her son.

Tai Chung

Tai Chung unit is very active in pracar and social service, especially in case of disaster events. Dada Yukteshananda spent most of the past five years there strengthening the philosophical knowledge of the margiis and providing impetus in AM local activities, which also included vegetarian cooking classes and fasting camps with great public attendance.



Tainan

Tainan is the nearest city to our Ananda Suruci Sectorial Master Unit and Tainan margiis have always played a supporting role to its development.

Tainan has a very spacious and central Jagrti hosting many activities. Beside DC there are several weekly yoga classes conducted by the margiis, which also attended by elderly people.

There are also weekly study groups and vegetarian classes twice a week.

A yoga Club has been started with regular meeting at the Tainan National University of the Arts (TNNUA) with two

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weekly classes and occasional yoga demonstration and Prabhat Samgiita introduction to general students.



There are also introductory classes to Ananda Marga yoga and spiritual practices for high schools teachers, which are followed by classes for the students, in which university students members of the yoga club offer their assistance.

Kaohsiung

In Kaohsiung margiis run regular yoga classes and other AM activities, including regular seminars.



Under Dada's kind supervision margiis also finally completed the payment of the Jagrti mortgage and transferred its ownership title to the Ananda Marga Welfare Foundation.

In 2009, on the wake of a particularly severe typhoon that hit the Jiasian area, local WTs and Kaohsiung margiis offered their selfless service to its victims and Dada Priyabodhananda continued his assistance till 2010, earning the trust of the government authorities, expressed through an official letter of appreciation.



Student camps

The Ananda Marga Social Welfare Foundation holds Yoga and Meditation Camps for the youth during every winter and summer vacation, with an average of fifty students participating. The students come from several areas of Taiwan and are enthusiastic about the program also because in this way they get the chance to meet many new friends interested in spirituality. They of course meet old friends too with whom they have already formed a long term companionship also through social activities that happen before and after these events.

The camps include courses and activities suitable for the youth, that is, practical and inspiring, about the knowledge of yoga, meditation, as well as AM's wide social outlook.

The idea of the camp initially came from the dedication of some senior margiis' kids. However now the aim has become to bring more youth on the path of spirituality. These camps have been attended by more than a thousand people!



The volunteers assisting Dada Kaladharananda, Didi Ananda Rashmika and Bro. Iishvara are mostly students from previous camps and margii children and they attend monthly working meetings to prepare and organize the camps.



All volunteers benefit from learning and working as a team. In addition, they also realize the essence and beauty of service. All these experiences propel them with much stronger determination toward the goal of life.

Considering the success of these camps, one can only think that the future hold a great potential for change, because many of these youths will certainly become social leaders capable of steering society in the right direction.



Sectorial Conference

Taiwan is also the region that hosts the two sectorial conferences that are held every years in April and October. Everything from the devotional programs, to philosophical seminars, to vibrant Akhanda Kiirtans to the delicious food encourages everyone to participate and enjoy above all the spiritual satsaunga.

Seminars

Taiwan is also a venue for yearly seminars as per Baba's direction, which are held twice a year with good participation of Margiis in all the three Dioceses at various units.

Ideological training for margiis

Taiwan margiis love to understand clearly the Ideology and whenever there is a chance to learn more about it, they don't want to miss it. So when in 2010 such training was conducted in Yujing just before a sadhana camp organized at the Ananda Suruci Master Unit, it was well attended and highly satisfactory for all the participants.

Sadhana Camp

Sadhana is always an attractive proposition for Taiwanese margiis and any activity that revolves around it becomes automatically popular.

Hence sadhana camps and sadhana shivir programs always attract a good number of participants. Those attending the sadhana camps pledge to repeat their mantra continually during the camp and to consider everything happening during the camp as a form of spiritual practice and the expression of the Supreme Consciousness.



Dada Shambhushivananda and Dada Svarupananda were trainers in various occasions, in which they invariably stressed that every margii should dedicate his/her qualities and ability to work for Baba's mission; then only they can feel closer to Him.

Baba never ends teaching utilizing us as His tools, as in such sadhana camp.

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Gurukula

Thanks to the many visits by the Gurukula Kulapati, several Margiis in Taiwan have developed the commitment to help Gurukula develop a presence in the island.



They have been holding regular study circles for the development of a strategy to promote Neo-humanistic education in Taiwan.

Taiwan Gurukula has then also started implementing such strategy by bringing Neo-humanistic ideas and ideals to several schools in Taipei, Taichung, Yilan, Hualien and other cities of the island, with regular training activities and programs for teachers, children and parents.

WWD MU Ananda Matrika at Meinong

Ananda Matrika is becoming an attractive center for Margiis and the public with its regular asana classes, children's programs, monthly Akhanda Kiirtans, delicious bakery products and of course farming.

Students from the neighboring primary schools visit the Master Unit to practice yoga and meditation, and learn how to make bread and pizza!

LFT training and Spiritual Lifestyle Training for sisters are regularly held at the MU, whose residential space has been expanded with the construction of new rooms, along with a new beautiful landscaping.



RUSSIA

Russia is the new frontier of Ananda Marga in Hong Kong Sector and as in everything in the vast land of Siberia, the output in terms of initiations, new units, Baba's books translation and publication, service activities and LFT & WT creation is not only great but also having a continuous potential for more.

During that last five years there has been a crescendo of importance and attention placed on pracar done in this field, and thanks to the very hard work and endurance displayed by the WTs and active margiis, there is a great flow of inspiration that easily reminds of the sincerity and devotional transport that was very common during Baba's physical presence on the planet.

Units in Russia are very far apart in terms of physical distance; it takes many long days for workers to travel in the not exactly sentient environment of Russian trains, from one unit to the other, where public lectures and other collective programs are punctually organized for them by the margiis, and which are usually followed by large numbers of initiations.

This dynamism has been greatly enhanced by the creation of many new LFTs both sisters and brothers, who are shouldering much of the organizational work involved in sustaining pracar and service activities.



Dada Sudhakar, in addition to taking care his official duty of Regional Secretary for Beijing Region, has been also doing a great deal of traveling in Russia, that in due course of time has lead to so many new units being created in the three main areas of the Hong Kong part of Russia: Siberia, Far East and Urals.



Far East

In the Far east we have the following active units: Vladivostok, Arsenyev, Khabarovsk, Komsomolsk-na-Amure, Tazhka, Nakhodka and Ussuriysk. And there have been some AM programs held in Blagoveshensk and Kavaleroovo.

Vladivostok

Vladivostok is an old unit and has a Jagrti and many active margiis. Beside regular DC, yoga classes public lectures, vegetarian cooking parties, cooking classes, study circles and retreats, service through AMURT activities is very popular amongst the margiis.



There are food distribution to poor people, collection of cloth for orphanages and nursing homes, visiting nursing homes and a local children's homes.

Before the New Year holidays a project "Just a small miracle" was run by sister Manisha at the children's home. A posting box was fixed in the children's home so that children could send their letters to Santa Claus to ask for the presents they were dreaming. These letters were published in the Internet.

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Even people who didn't know about AMURT were touched by this project and shared this news with their friends and coworkers. All the children (around 100) have found their Santas – kind and loving Vladivostok citizens. All the wishes of the children were fulfilled, and people got a chance to perform a miracle for children



Then margiis held a great New Year festival and handed all the presents to the children. This event was covered in the different mass media in Vladivostok

Arsenyev

For more than 10 years under the leadership of sister Girija, margiis in Arsenyev distribute food sets to Arsenyev poor people and in neighboring villages within the Anuchinsky region.

Such program has obtained the commitment of Arseniev public authorities over the years and now functions in close collaboration with the municipal social department, and has received several appreciative letters from Arseniev authorities.



Since 2010 a program for supporting homeless children and children from poor families has been run in Arsenyev.



Thanks to AMURT's financial support unfortunate children got a chance to visit Tigrovy nature reserve in the Spassky region and the lotus lake.

Children from poor families were handed New Year presents and got school accessories on the 1st September (The Day of Knowledge in Russia)

With SS Dada's personal initiative and the help of Taiwan's Ananda Marga Welfare Foundation, in 2007 we purchased the land of the Ananda Annapurna near Tazhka, which during the last five years has been greatly established with a large meditation hall and more land.

Khabarovsk

The Khabarovsk unit has regular DCs. Margiis give yoga-classes 2 times a week and some times retreats.



Sanatan and Iirama are in charge of social service in Khabarovsk. They have taken a children's home under their patronage and organize festivals, entertainment programs, excursions and visit cultural centers and facilities in the city. They collect some clothing and toys for children's home too.



In 2007 we bought a new Jagrti in Komsomolsk with the help of Dada Candreshvarananda and the margiis of PBMA Taipei (D) Unit.

Siberia and Urals

There are many new units that have been created or become active in Siberia during the last 5 years, and in some cases with new Jagrti, which Russian margiis have understood to be an indispensable nucleus for strengthening their local community.

The active unity in the area are Omsk, Irkutsk, Byisk, Ulan Ude, Novosibirsk, Novokuznetsk, Krasnoyarsk, Kemerovo, Tomsk, Lesosibirsk, Abakan, Novoaltaysk, Magnitogorsk, Chelyabinsk and Yekaterinburg, and in all of them there are activities that range from just a regular Dharma Cakra to Akhanda Kiirtans, public lectures, yoga classes, vegetarian parties, Rawa clubs, poetry programs, AMURT & AMURTEL service projects, all made possible by an inspiring feeling of spiritual family relations.



Barnaul

In Barnaul, for example, Dharma Cakra is held twice a week, along with a wide range of activities as described above.

Between 2009 and 2010 there was even a kindergarten for ten margiis's children in the newly purchased WWD Office there and also since 2009 on New Year Day margiis organize a five days Akhanda Kiitran.

From 2010 Barnaul Jagrti is also hosting LFT training sessions either for brothers or sisters, along with yoga and pracar training sessions for margiis.

Just recently the last batch of eight brothers was trained by Dada Yukteshananda, five of whom became LFT and three LPT. Whereas Didi Sarvajina trained four sisters, two of whom became LFT and two LPT.



Also in Barnaul Dada Yukteshananda gave a Rajadhiraja Yoga Training and 17 Margiis got trained, and are now ready to devote their time to do pracar through Yoga in different AM units in Russia.



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On the WT creation side again recently three new brothers were inspired by Dada Sudhakar to become WTs, and after attending the Taiwan DMS they joined the Sweden GBTC.

Barnaul unit is also very active in social service from 2003, especially with weekly food distribution program for the poor people, called “Soup for the poor”.



In 2010 there were several activities held in Barnaul and Biysk to help the homeless victims of fire from Nicolayevka village. AMURT & AMURTEL volunteers collected and sorted the humanitarian aid and then distributed footwear and clothing among the victims of fire.



Another regular AMURT project is called “The White Flower Project” and raises money for young tuberculosis patients. In 2010 margiis started collecting donations for this project in the city parks and people who gave donations were given a white paper daisy.



There is a tradition in Barnaul to run charitable vegetarian parties that include both tasty vegetarian food and RAWA performances. The money raised is sent to the AMURT & AMURTEL departments working in the regions suffering from disasters (for example, Haiti) or is used for supplying children of Barnaul orphanages and old age homes with necessary goods.

Biysk

The Biysk unit has regular DCs, RAWA-programs, public lectures and yoga classes. Margiis give charitable concerts; the money raised is spent on supporting poor families with many children. If concerts take place in orphanages, children are always given presents.



Ulan-Ude

The Ulan-Ude unit has regular DCs. Food and clothing distribution among the poor people takes place in Ulan-Ude every week. Sister Bhairavi gives charitable classes of yoga and dance to the children from 6 to 10 years.

Before the New Year of 2011 margiis held a charitable action "Who if not we" to help the children from convalescent centers. Margiis raised some money and bought toys for the children and organized a great New Year celebration for them.



holding various events with children from orphanages as participants, and supporting animal shelters.



Omsk

The Omsk unit only started in 2010, but it has already become one of the biggest and successfully developing units of AM. At the jagrti are conducted yoga classes, lectures, seminars and spiritual satsang programs with acaryas.



Didi Sarvajina has conducted there special fasting camp program and a training session on the subject of Yoga therapy, while Dada Sudhakar and brother Amit have conducted various seminars on spirituality and ideal health through Yoga.

In Omsk the AMURT/AMURTEL department is very active and runs regularly the following activities: weekly supply of food to homeless and poor people, collecting clothing and distributing it among poor people, providing medical treatment to the homeless people, giving charitable concerts,

The weekly project of giving food to homeless people resulted in a new opportunity to provide clothing and footwear to the poor people. Recently margiis also started to take care of the homeless people who fall sick.

Some events are periodically held in the rehabilitation center for under-age children. They include: yoga classes, Thai boxing trainings, football matches, drawing classes and outdoor games. Some of the charitable concerts are organized to raise money for homeless children.



Irkutsk

The Irkutsk unit has regular DCs and our Yoga instructors give yoga-classes there 3 times a week.

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Also in Irkutsk AMURT & AMURTEL department have been running for years many activities. The main project is “Soup for the people” that includes weekly distribution of food among homeless and poor people, seniors and physically challenged among them.

In spring 2010 AMURT & AMURTEL department in Irkutsk took part in the regional forum of volunteers “Irkutskaya Oblast’ – the territory of kindness”.

Irkutsk margiis run a project of sewing and decoration of ecological bags that replace the disposable plastic bags. The money raised is used for buying the ingredients for the “Soup for the people” project.



Retreats

In Russia there are many diocese retreat held every year but in the summer two main regional retreats are held at Ananda Annapurna Master Unit in Tazhka and in the Altai region.

These retreats are an element of great inspiration for margiis and even sympathizers and are amongst the most vibrated retreats in the world and also quite big in terms of attendance. This year for example there were about 400 participants to the Altai region retreat, and about 100 to the Far Eastern retreat!



Margiis give some charitable master-classes for children, run a history circle and offer different games. Sister Omsvarupa runs sewing classes for mothers of the poor families and for single mothers. Women learn how to sew clothing for adults and children.



KOREA

After Ananda Marga was registered as a tax-exempt foundation (Korea Ananda Marga Yoga Association) in 2005, there has been a flourishing of activities in all our Jagrtis and Master Unit in Korea, leading to the creation of many new margiis and sympathizers in existing units as well as in new ones such as Jimbo(Andong) Euseong and Yecheon.



Soul has a new large Jagrti with regular yoga classes and other service activities run by Margiis along with Dada

Shubhacintananda who has been giving there weekly classes to Seoul's children home for the handicapped .

Dada has also become well known for his music classes based on Prabhat Samgiita which are offered in several South Korean universities, along with yoga training.

In cooperation with the government Dada has also introduced yoga to primary school children.



The Master Unit building at Ananda Karnika, Jeonju, has been continually improved, with the last renovation being carried out under Dada Yukteshananda's and Dada Bhavottarananda's supervision. The Master Unit has become ever more ideal for regional retreats and seminars, which are regularly held there.



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The agricultural project has been expanded and now provides the Master Unit requirements for vegetables and fruits.

Yet, the main activities have become fasting camps and yoga classes, which provide the opportunity to attract the public to the Master Unit and to create new Margiis and sympathizers, along with income for the further development of the Master Unit.

In Jeonju, beside the work at the Master Unit, Dada Bhavottarananda has been active with prakar program at the Jeonju University.

Also primary school children have come in contact with yoga and meditation practices, with the blessings of government school authorities.



For the second year a Kiirtan Parikrama was held in Korea in 2011, from May 27th till June 6th, and touched all Ananda Marga units, concluding with a three days seminar at the Master Unit.

During the past few years Dada Cittarainjanananda has developed and run several one-month long yoga training programs for the interested public, which have attracted many participants who were greatly benefitted by the long period of assisted yoga practices and lifestyle.



Service work in Jeonju has been carried out regularly and at the moment comprises of twice a week visits to old care centers, where beneficiaries receive asanas and meditation classes.



Dada has also been offering many public lectures on PROUT, along with philosophy classes and fasting camps, which have been popularized by the the new websites he has developed to explain about PROUT and Society Building. Margiis have also continued to translate and publish new Baba's books in Korean.



JAPAN

Japan's Margiis are scattered in small numbers across different parts of the country, a condition that has chronically delayed the development Ananda Marga potential there.

Maybe because of this, besides the regular DC held in several cities, the twice a year regional retreats in the mainland and one in the Okinawa islands have always been the main highlights for our community there.



The acting RS, Dada Vijitatmananda has been traveling around the country, to keep the spiritual family flow alive and has been organizing these regional retreats, which become an essential opportunity for satsaunga and collective spirit.

Since two years though, in a new development within the world of Japanese social networking, we have created a virtual community called spiritual guidance, and with the help of Dada Ganadevananda and sister Akashii, more than two thousands Japanese spiritualists have come to know about Baba's teachings.



Gradually some of these cyber brothers and sisters have felt the need to meet in person to learn sadhana, and give a practical sense to their longing for spiritual life. last year we organized a month long tour of Japan, during which we meet more than thirty brothers and sisters for satsaunga and in some cases initiations.

With their financial support (many members suggested to open a post office account called Dadajiwosasaerukai which means 'those who want to support Dadaji') we established a new Jagrti in Ijima, a beautiful town strategically located between Tokyo and Osaka.



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Once the Jagrti was established few brothers and sisters started to come.

This new flow led to the registration, for the first time in Japan, of our own non-profit organization that could be recognized by the government. We called it Ishiki Seikatsu, which liberally translated means the association of those who want to raise their own consciousness and the consciousness of others.



The spiritual guidance cyber community played a role in this work as some of its members joined our initial team.

The AMURT & AMURTEL team composed by Dada Vijitatmananda, Didi Sarvajina, Dada Kaladharananda, Didi Indumati, sister Akashii, brother Karun and Dada Ganadevananda worked in the areas affected by the tsunami and in local refugee centers, while many others donated funds towards the relief effort.

With the generous financial support received from from Taiwan Margiis and from many others around the world, we could continue our presence in Shichigahama till all refugees were given individual temporary homes.



A new website was created to reach out to the Japanese public, promoting social service, yoga seminars and retreats, healthy vegetarian diet, homeopathic treatment, Proutistic principles such as barter trade etc.

Thanks to this government recognition Dada Ganadevananda could obtain a work permit visa, an indispensable element for the long term planning of Ananda Marga's development in the country.

It was because of this new legal entity, which became officially operative only a couple of weeks before the tsunami, we could more easily work with the government during the disaster relief operations in Shichigahama, a small fishing town that was severely affected by the destructive wave of the tsunami.

We have also purchased an AMURT & AMURTEL mobile office that we will use for future disaster operations as well as for extended pracar tours across the country.

The new Jagrti in Ijima is large enough for retreats and recently, after ending the first phase of the tsunami relief operations, we organized a retreat for new people that was advertized through the social network, and more than ten of its members attended it, and all of them got initiation.

Three margi families have moved within a few kilometres range from the new Jagrti and plan to work together to develop new activities to promote Ananda Marga in the area and beyond through long term training courses about yoga, disaster relief preparedness and Neo-humanist education, which is probably the only way to spend significant amount of time with potential new margiis.



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HONG KONG

The new RS, Dada Krsna Kumar, has infused a new energetic flow on the Hong Kong Master Unit on Lantau Island.



With the help of margiis and sympathizers the MU building has been renovated especially in the interior, and is now in a better shape to welcome Margiis for collective programs, which have already started.

Dada has also started a service program for the elderly of an old age home and elsewhere. He has also been doing prakar through meditation classes with very promising results.



There is a great thirst for spirituality everywhere, and especially the youth is seeking a new approach to life that combines the establishment of a socially conscious society and inner mental expansion.



MONGOLIA

Mongolia is a poor country and it is natural that the Ananda Marga's main activities there center on service and community development.

Hence AMURT has been running regular food distribution for poor families and the homeless in Ulaan Bataar, who greatly enjoy and depend on the warm food supplied.



School material such as book and the like are scarce and expensive so Dada Shubhadhyananda has been providing that to the poorest children.

Education is even more important than food in terms of long-term benefits to the children and society's development, and Dada has also been giving teacher's training camp for government teachers including biopsychology and kiirtan.

With the support support of the then RS Dada Yogananda, PROUT Taipei, and other WTs, we bought a new Jagrti in a good location with good facilities and rooms.



Of course the largest and most known Ananda Marga service activity in Mongolia is the Lotus Children Home established and run by Didi Ananda Kalika, which has close to 100 children, with some new being welcomed while others gradually moving into the world, with Didi's help of course.



Didi has been starting several projects to make this possible, so that the grown up children could find employment more easily, and now many of them run a guest house and a cafe.

After many years of waiting the government has recently approved the opening of our own primary school, which is extending our support to the poor children.



It has also taken a long time to prepare for the new large premises of the home, which is now ready and will have both school and living facilities within the same compound.

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Didi has also started a new project of handicraft to create livelihood for poor women, and with the help of international volunteers has organized English classes for the youth in another small Mongolian city.

Even if service has the greatest profile in Mongolia, our other Ananda Marga activities are also very much present, with many yoga classes that over the years have created new margiis.

Recently, after a very many years, a regional conference was held near Ulaan Bataar, which had 32 attendants, a truly good number for Mongolia. Margiis enjoyed many the many programs and some of them got inspired to attend the DMS in Taiwan as well.



An unexpected guest

I had just finished work at 6 a.m. when the phone rang. It was Dada Ramanandaji calling me from the Athens airport, saying "I'm here with Baba in Athens!" "No, Dada!" "Yes, I'm here with Baba!" It took him saying it several times before I could recover from the emotional shock and realize that they were really in the transit lounge of the airport. I took off immediately, went to the jagrti to inform the Dadas and Margis and left for the airport.

When I got to the airport, I spent some time convincing the authorities to let me into the transit area. They eventually relented and allowed me to enter, but to remain inconspicuous. I quickly reached the area and saw Baba sitting with all the Dadas, Didi and Dr Pathak. Baba remained silent while Dada Ramanandaji said something to the effect that they were stuck in transit and they didn't have visas for Greece. The plane had been delayed due to mechanical reasons, and soon enough a bus transferred all the passengers, including Baba, to the airport hotel.

At the hotel I kept trying to convince the manager to let Baba out of the hotel for a short while, saying that my house was only three blocks away and that we were only going to take Him there. Eventually he asked me "How many blocks did you say?" "Already I told you fifty times just three!" In fact it was a lot more than that but somehow my eagerness had shortened the distance.

Just two days before there had been a dust storm which had left my car completely dusty; and I could hardly see out of its windows. Also, my car only had two doors, so Dada Ramanandaji rejected it immediately.

The Swiss margis had turned up with a large and clean car. They also had 2 garlands for Baba. Baba saw that Dada Ramanandaji had rejected my car and walked over to the Swiss Margis' car.

I walked back to my car feeling completely dejected. I was thinking to myself, "OK Baba, I know that my car is

not clean, but how I could have known You would suddenly appear, and my car is small but we are in Greece and not Switzerland."

The Swiss margis garlanded Baba and then opened the back door of their car for Him to get in. Baba gave them a long Namaskar and said "Thank you." Then He turned around and walked over to my car.

Almost not believing my eyes, I quickly opened the door, and while adjusting the front seat so Baba could get in the back I started to apologise for the inconvenience.

Baba said "I know. Don't worry!"

I adjusted the rear-view mirror so I could keep Him in my sight while I was driving, and when we got going I said to Baba: "Baba, would you like to see the Acropolis?"

Baba immediately replied, "Yes, let us see it quickly."

We went to the bottom of the Acropolis hill. I asked Baba if we should go to the top. Baba replied, "No, waiting for Me at your house are My children."

We drove back to my house. Before leaving, I had told my wife to prepare the house for Baba. She had arranged our bedroom for Baba and had also cooked a meal for Baba and His entourage.

Baba stayed all day. He called my two small boys to Him and blessed them by putting His hand over the crown of their heads and blessed them.

After dropping Baba back at the airport hotel, I was following His bus carrying Him to the airport along with all the other passengers of the delayed flight. Just then the car started to play up, and it was only then that I remembered it had been regularly lurching whenever I had driven it recently. However, for the whole time I had been driving Baba around it had not done it once. It brought tears to my eyes to think how Baba had suspended these practical and potentially embarrassing problems for the day.

Baba's Stories

After giving our salutations to Baba and shouting "Param Pita Baba Ki Jai" as He exited out the immigration gate, I suddenly had an inspired idea. I said to the others, "Whoever wants to follow me come now, but we have to be quick," then ran out the door.

Three other Margis followed me as we ran to the car and got in. I drove fast round to the road that runs parallel to the runway alongside the airport. Usually at that time of the day it is full of cars, but this time it was practically empty. We had to drive along to the end of the central runway, do a U-turn at the end then drive back on the other side and stop alongside the plane.

There was a low concrete wall with plants above it obscuring the view, but we managed to climb up and saw that only about 10 metres away Baba was standing on the tarmac at the foot of the stairs leading up to the plane. All other passengers, including His entourage, were already on the plane. We called out to Baba, "Param Pita Baba Ki Jai."

Baba did Namaskar and then started ascending the stairs. He went up one step and we shouted "Param Pita Baba Ki Jai!" He turned to us and did Namaskar, then the next step the same thing, then the next the same, and on for each step until He reached the top, gave us one long final Namaskar and disappeared inside the plane. That's as far as I knew for then. That was the 19 September 1979, and the whole day had been like a dream.

The following year I visited India and Dada Ramanandaji told me then that he had been observing the whole scene from his window on the plane. Then Baba had taken His seat beside him. Baba then removed His glasses and Ramanandaji had seen that there were tears coming from Baba's eyes. Baba removed the tears with His handkerchief, replaced His glasses and commented, "Here there is much love, and in the future there will be more love."

Jayanta, Athens

We Must be Guided by Our Conscience

In 1986 Ba'ba' was giving discourses about Microvita. I was working as an LFT at that time. In Tiljala, Calcutta, I attended reporting. Ba'ba' called me and asked, "What is the meaning of your name?" He told me.

Then He asked, "Do you know anything about microvita?"

I thought, if I say no, He'll become angry. So I said, "Yes, Ba'ba'."

"OK, explain about microvita."

"Ba'ba', there are three types of microvita: positive, negative and neutral.

"He is a scholar of microvita! Tell us more about it."

"Ba'ba', I only know that much."

Then He became very serious and said, "You nonsense fellow! You have no common sense, no shyness, you are doing whatever you like."

I became scared, not knowing what He was talking about.

Then He said, "Last summer you went to Ananda Nagar to attend DMC. One day you ate so much kicheri that even a cat could not jump over it! After that you took a lot of lemon water and then you got very bad diarrhea. After DMC you went to your family home for one day before going back to the school where you work as LFT.

You are very fond of sour green mango. You thought, 'I cannot eat green mangos in front of the students because I told them they are not good for the stomach.

But if I don't tell my mother that I have stomach pain, then I can eat them here. Ba'ba' will take care of me.'

Baba's Stories

So you cut two green mangos and mixed them into a paste with molasses, chili, mustard seed and salt. Then you took second lesson and started to eat. Is it true?"

"Yes, Ba'ba'."

"But you know, Keshavananda, after eating two bites, the thought came in his mind, 'Ba'ba' has given me conscience, Vivek, and I should be guided by this.' So then this boy stopped and threw the rest in the garbage and washed the bowl. Did you do this?"

"Yes, Ba'ba'."

"Yes, Parama Purusa is there in His own place, but He has given a conscience to every human being. If they are not guided by their own conscience, they will suffer, and then Parama Purusa will not come to help them. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Ba'ba'."

"OK, Now I want to do something with you. I am giving one feeling to you at the back, just behind your ana'hata cakra."

Though Ba'ba' didn't do anything physically, I started feeling a suffocating feeling. I could hardly breathe. I felt like I was dying. I said, "I will die!"

Ba'ba' joked, "That is not my purpose, to kill you!" Everyone laughed, but I was still in pain. "OK, this feeling I am removing from there. Now I'm putting it in your sva'dhis't'ha'na cakra, at your back just behind your genitals. How are you feeling now?"

After a few moments I said, "Ba'ba', my body is so light! I have so much strength now I can fly! I can do anything that you ask me!"

"You see? Nonsense! Just two minutes before he is telling us that he's dying, and now he's saying that he is almighty! What do you all say, is he telling the truth or is he lying?"

No one spoke. Then He continued, "Yes, he's telling the truth. Because just two minutes before his ana'hata cakra was full of negative microvita, that's why he was dying. Now at present there is lots of positive microvita in his sva'dhis't'ha'na cakra, that's why he is almighty and powerful. This is the role of microvita. When humans will create a lot of positive microvita, they will bring about a tremendous change. This is what I have proven here."

"Now I want to make you neutral. He raised His left hand and moved it down in front of my body and I became normal. Then He said, "Now do you all understand the role of microvita and how they work?"

"Yes, Ba'ba'."

"My boy, you are doing a lot of work, but you have some problem in your physical body. Just below your left rib sometimes pain comes. It is so strong that you are holding your chest in pain and still walking. Why don't you take any medicine? Sometimes blood comes when you go to the toilet."

It was all true. I kept silent.

"I am telling, from this very moment both these problems will leave your body. I am removing these two problems permanently. Now go to the wall, catch your ears, make a jump like a monkey and shout Ba'ba'." I did so. Then He said, "OK, go take your seat."

By His grace, I never again suffered from those ailments.

Dada Devakrsnananda

Devotional Poems

Unexpressible Love

*When I sing Your holy name,
my voice breaks without shame.
As my eyes bathe without rest,
my heart expands and wants to burst.
How else could I express my Love for You,
when no Word can go through.*

Akashii, Japan

The full moon

*The full moon
over the mountains.
First snow fell
I'm just a dream
of my beloved one.*

Anandamayii, Russia

Your Grace

*Your Grace is the flooding Nile of our hearts,
Your Grace is the sustaining upstream of devotion,
Your Grace is the invisible fragrance of Love.*

Dada Ganadevananda

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Sumukher pane cale yabo ami

Song No. 342

Sumukher pa'ne cale ya'vo a'mi

Toma'ri namt'i sa'the niye

Caran'a t'alive na'go a'ma'r

Hiya' ka'npive na' ka'ro bhaye

Bhu'dare sa'gare ei cara'care

Keha na' pa'rive ba'dha' dite more

Ye ka'j karite esechi kariva

Sudrrah a'tma pratyaye

Ye din caliya' giya'che a'ma'r

Taha' niye kariva na' ha'ha'ka'r

Ye den a'shiche ta'ha'ra la'giya'

Bhugiva na' kona sam'shaye

I will always move forward, always taking your name.

My legs will not shake, nor will my heart tremble in fear

Neither the earth nor the sea nor anything

animate or inanimate can obstruct me.

I will accomplish the work I have come to do

with self-confidence and firm determination.

The days that have past I will not regret.

The days that are to come I will not doubt or fear.



This life is for Him. This mind is for Him. This soul is for Him.
This universe we will serve in coordinating team.

Baba