

STATUTES

Article 1- Constitution

Between the members of the present statutes and those who became members after this date, it is constituted as an Association governed by the 1st July 1901 amended law and its texts of enforcement.

Article 2- Name.

The name of the Association is:

Centre Européen du Bouddhisme Sōtō Zen

Article 3- Purpose

The association has as its purpose the promotion and spreading of Japanese Sōtō Zen Buddhism (Nippon Sōtōshū) in Europe following the philosophy and principles of the transmission of Sōtō Zen Buddhism, and in supervising the spreading and teaching of the precepts of Sōtō Zen Buddhism.

Specifically it has the mission of:

- Assuring the transmission of information and documents (charters, statutes, rules, directives, etc) between the Administrative Headquarters of Sōtō Zen Buddhism in Japan (Sōtōshū Shūmuchō) and the different entities (Temples) which propagate and spread the teachings and precepts of Sōtō Zen Buddhism, both within France and within European nations;
- To define and organise the terms of the dissemination and teaching of Sōtō Zen Buddhism in France and within Europe in concert with the “European Conference of Sōtō Zen priests” (hereinafter “Conference”);
- To sustain the Conference activities, organising its annual meeting on the occasion of the Association annual General Assembly and functioning as an intermediary between the Conference and the Administrative Headquarters of Sōtō Zen Buddhism in Japan (Sōtōshū Shūmuchō);
- To implement and develop the teaching and practice of “Kokusai-fukyōshi”;

- To record, and keep up to date ,information regarding the establishment of Temples, as well as any changes concerning them as they occur (closing down, change of address, etc) and to communicate said to the Administrative Headquarters of Sōtō Zen Buddhism in Japan (Sōtōshū Shūmuchō).
- To inform the Administrative Headquarters of Sōtō Zen Buddhism in Japan (Sōtōshū Shūmuchō) of the activities organised by monks and nuns residing in Europe concerning the development of Japanese Sōtō Zen Buddhism;
- To record, and to have kept up to date in the form of a registrar or other, those monks and nuns enrolled in the various temples and to communicate this to the Administrative Headquarters of Sōtō Zen Buddhism in Japan (Sōtōshū Shūmuchō);
- To manage public relations, specifically those concerning governmental or religious bodies.
- To become, where necessary, active members of other associations;
- To acquire the properties necessary for its operation;
- To co-operate with the Sōtō Zen International Centre (SōtōShū Kokusai Centre);
- To perform all activities in accordance with the above statutes.

To achieve its purpose, the Association shall adopt and use all necessary means of action not prohibited by law.

Article 4- Registered address.

The registered office of the Association is established at: 277 Rue du Faubourg Saint Antoine, 75011, Paris.

It can be moved to another address by decision of the Board of Directors. This decision is to be communicated to the Administrative Headquarters of Sōtō Zen Buddhism in Japan (Sōtōshū Shūmuchō).

Article 5- Duration.

The association is constituted for an indefinite period.

Article 6- Composition of members.

The Association is composed of a maximum of five members, which must at the same time be members of the Board of Directors.

Article 7- Loss of membership.

Membership is rescinded due to:

- Expulsion decided by the Board of Directors with a majority of two thirds due to:

- Loss of requisite conditions of membership.
- Any serious act creating moral or material detrimental consequences to the association.
- For any serious matter and prior to a decision the person in question is asked to provide written explanation to the Board of Directors and has the possibility to request to be heard, in the respect of a defence of rights. The reasons for the council's (final) decision need not be explained.
- A letter of intent to resign is sent or delivered to the Association President;
- Death.

Article 8- Subscriptions and resources.

8.1 Membership fee.

The Board of Directors can determine a membership fee levied on joining the Association.

8.2 Resources.

The resources of the association are to be composed of:

- Subsidies provided by the Administrative Headquarters of Sōtō Zen Buddhism in Japan (Sōtōshū Shūmuchō);
- Grants or contributions from the State, the Regional Communes and their public establishments;
- Gifts of a manual nature and gifts from public utility establishments;
- Income generated by items sold, or services provided by the Association;
- Income generated by valuable property of any nature belonging to the association.
- Borrowing (Loans) incurred from any person or bodies.
- Any resources not prohibited by current legislation.

Article 9- Composition of Board of Directors.

9.1: Composition

The Board of Directors is composed of three members and two members of the "Conference".

9.2: Method of selection

Three administrators registered as priests and appointed as Sōkan and/or Sanji (s) and/or Shoki(s) by the Administrative Headquarters of Sōtō Zen Buddhism in Japan (Sōtōshū Shūmuchō) and two administrators elected by the "Conference".

Exceptionally the first election of the administrators selected from the “Conference” and the first nomination of the three administrators as members of the Association after the modification of the statute on the 18th October 2014, has to be made at the end of the current administrator’s term. In case of a temporary vacancy of one or more of the administrators appointed by the Administrative Headquarters of Sōtō Zen Buddhism in Japan (Sōtōshū Shūmuchō), all deliberations of the Board of Directors has to be taken unanimously.

In case of a deadlock or a tie of votes, the President’s vote is prevailing.

9.3 Term of office.

The three administrators appointed by the Administrative Headquarters of Sōtō Zen Buddhism in Japan (Sōtōshū Shūmuchō), are appointed for a period of four years during which it is mandatory to have the position of Sōkan and/or Sanji(s) and/or Shoki(s) according to the rules established by the Administrative Headquarters of Sōtō Zen Buddhism in Japan (Sōtōshū Shūmuchō). Their term of office is renewable.

The term of office for the two administrators elected by the Conference is two years, during which it is mandatory that they have the quality of Kokusai-fukyōshi. Their term of office is renewable.

The term of office of a Board of Directors’ post terminates on resignation, loss of Association or “Conference” membership or dismissal of office pronounced by the General Assembly. The aforementioned dismissal can be finalised by a séance (at the General Assembly).

9.4 Vacancy.

In the case of one or several posts of the Board of Directors being vacant, the said may provisionally nominate one or more replacements for a temporary term.

These co-opted posts are to be ratified by the next meeting of the Conference and/or of the ordinary General Assembly. Co-opted members hold their post only for the remaining duration of the term of their predecessor.

9.5 Non-remuneration.

The activities of the Board of Directors are non-remunerable. Only a refund of expenses is permissible, and then only with the presentation of supporting receipt(s). Only a re-imbusement of costs are possible, these on presentation of the related receipts and are to be (accounted) in euro.

Article 10 – Board of Directors- Meetings and Resolutions.

10.1. Convocation (Notification to attend)

The Board of Directors are to meet at least two times per annum and are to be convened;

- By the President, whenever he/she deems fit;
- At the request of at least three members of the Board of Directors.

The notifications to attend (convocations) are to be sent fifteen days before the meeting by postal letter or electronic mail. The text shall include the agenda decreed by the President or by the members of the Board of Directors convening the meeting.

The Board of Directors meeting shall be held at the registered address of the Association or at any other location indicated in the convocation.

The Board of Directors may also meet via visual or audio conference.

10.2 Powers of representation.

Any member of the Board who is absent or unable to attend may give another Board member their power of representation.

A Board member can receive one, and only one, proxy.

10.3 Quorum

The presence of a majority of active members is necessary for the effectiveness of all resolutions.

In the case where a majority is not manifest, a renewed convocation is to be addressed to the Board of Directors by standard post or by registered mail ;having the same agenda and within fifteen days of the date originally proposed for the meeting of the Board of Directors. The Board can then officially deliberate however many members are present or represented.

10.4 Majority

The resolutions of the Board of Directors meetings are decided by a simple majority of present or represented members.

In the case of an equal vote the Presidents' vote is considered determinant.

10.4 Minutes

The resolutions of the Board of Directors are certified by way of the minutes recorded in the register of Association resolutions, duly signed by the president or the secretary. The minutes are to be kept at the registered address of the Association.

Article-11 Board of Directors –Jurisdiction.

The Board of Directors is given the widest range of powers to run the Association, within the bounds of its objectives.

The Board of Directors, specifically:

- Defines the policy and general orientation of the Association.
- Closes the annual balance sheet of the Association;
- Approves budgets;
- Requests the appointment of, and dismissal of, members of the Office;

- Adopts, where necessary, the internal bylaw of the Association;
- Decides on the hiring and dismissal of personnel;
- Can entrust to the Office, temporarily or permanently, any particular competence not otherwise foreseen by the present statutes.
- Can delegate, by writing, its powers knowing that it can at any time put an end to the said delegations.

Article 12 – Office - Composition of.

The Office is composed of a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

The members of the Office are administrator priests with the function of Sōkan and/or Sanji(s) and/or Shoki(s) appointed by the Administrative Headquarters of Sōtō Zen Buddhism in Japan (Sōtōshū Shūmuchō).

The President is the monk or nun appointed as Sōkan and only a priest named as Sōkan by the Administrative Headquarters of Sōtō Zen Buddhism in Japan (Sōtōshū Shūmuchō) can become President.

The Secretary and the Treasurer are selected from the priests appointed as Sanji (s) and/or Shoki (s).

The members of the Office are elected for a term of four years. Their mandate can be renewed.

The mandate of a member of the Office comes to an end by resignation, by the loss of membership of the Board of Directors, or by dismissal declared by the Board of Directors, or by loss of status of priest Sōkan and/or Sanji(s) and/or Shoki(s).

Article 13-Office- Competence.

13.1 - Office

The Office assures the current management of the Association. It meets as many times as required, in the interests of the Association, convened by the President by normal letter or by electronic mail, at least fifteen days in advance.

The convocation includes the meetings’ agenda as determined by the President.

13.2 - President

The President acts in the name of and on behalf of the Office, of the Board of Directors and of the Association. Specifically:

- he represents the Association in all acts of civil life and has full authority to accomplish this;
- he has the capacity to represent the Association in justice, either in making or defending a claim.
- he can not be replaced unless by a mandatory representative acting on behalf of a special power of attorney;

- he can bring a judicial action in the defence of the Association's interests, oversees all transactions, effectuates all expedients and notifies the Office (staff).
- he convokes the Office, the Board of Directors and General Assemblies. He establishes their agendas and presides over their reunions.
- he executes the decisions made by the Board of Directors or by the Office.
- he signs any purchase or sale contract and, more generally, all deeds and contracts necessary to execute the decisions of the Office, the Board of Directors and the General assembly;
- he controls the expenses;
- he may invite anyone to assist as advisor during a séance of the Board of Directors or the General Assembly;
- he may delegate, in writing, his powers and his signature and can at any time revoke said proxy.

13.3 - Secretary

The Secretary oversees the efficient material, administrative and legal functioning of the Association.

He establishes, or has established under his control, the minutes of the Office, Board of Directors and General Assembly meetings.

He instigates, or supervises the procedures (necessitated) by the formalities occasioned by legal provisions or regulations. He keeps a register as dictated by art.5 of the law of the 1st July 1901.

He may delegate, by writing, his powers and his signature; he may at any instant put an end to said proxy.

13.4 – Treasurer

The Treasurer establishes, or has established under his responsibility, the Association accounts. He manages the payment and receipt of all amounts.

He completes a report of the financial status of the Association and presents it at the annual General Assembly.

He is authorised to open and operate, in any credit or financial institution, any (current) accounts and saving accounts.

He may delegate, by writing, his powers and his signature; he may at any instant put an end to said proxy.

13.5 Gratuitousness of functions

The functions of an Office member are non remunerable. Only a refund of costs is possible, these on the presentation of receipts and (accounted) in euro.

13.6 The roles of Secretary and Treasurer are combinable offices.

Article 14 – General Assembly – Common rules

14.1 Composition

The General Assemblies consists of all members of the Association.

14.2 Powers and voting.

Each member may be represented by another member of the Association when allocated a special proxy. The number of proxies that a member of the Assembly can have at his disposal is limited to one only.

14.3 Convocation and Agenda.

The assemblies are convened on the initiative of the President or of the Office at the registered address of the Association or at any other location determined by the convocation.

The convocation is carried out by regular post and includes the agenda decided by the President or the Office and is addressed to each member of the Association at least fifteen days before hand.

The assembly may only deliberate on the questions entered on the agenda.

14.4 Obligatory power of the decisions.

The decisions taken by the General Assemblies, when adopted in a regular fashion, are mandatory for all.

14.5 Attendance sheet and minutes.

An attendance sheet is signed by Assembly members when starting a session and is certified by the President or the Secretary.

Minutes are recorded of the deliberations of the General Assemblies. The minutes are to be established without gap (omission) or correction and are to be signed by the President or Secretary. They are conserved at the registered address of the Association.

Article 15 – Ordinary General Assembly.

15.1 Competences

An Ordinary General Assembly meets at least once a year within six months of the closing of the financial year. It may also be convened at the proposal of the President or of the Office.

The annual Ordinary General Assembly listens to the reports of the Board of Directors concerning the activities and the moral state of the Association and the report on the financial situation of the Association.

If the Association has an auditor, the Assembly also listens to the auditor's report.

The Ordinary General Assembly ratifies the financial report and acquits the members of the Board of Directors and the Treasurer.

It initiates the election of new members' of the Board of Directors according to the procedures defined by Article 9.2 of the present statutes.

It authorises the finalisation of acts or dealings which otherwise exceed the powers of others bodies of the Association.

Generally the Ordinary General Assembly deliberates on all topics entered on the agenda.

15.2 Quorum.

The Ordinary General Assemblies do not validly deliberate unless at least one third of the Association members are present or represented. If this quorum is not reached, then the General Assembly is reconvened, with the same agenda, within fifteen days. In the event of this second meeting the Assembly validly deliberates whatever the number of attending members might be.

15.3 Majority.

The deliberations of the Ordinary General Assembly are taken upon the majority of attending or represented members' votes.

Article 16 – Extraordinary General Assembly.

16.1 Competences

Only the Extraordinary General Assembly is competent in modifying the statutes, in pronouncing the Association's dissolution and in devolving its goods.

16.2 Quorum

The Ordinary General Assembly does not validly deliberate unless at least one third of the Association members are present or represented. If this quorum is not reached, then the General Assembly is reconvened, with the same agenda, within fifteen days. In the event of this second meeting the Assembly validly deliberates whatever the number of present members may be.

16.3 Majority.

The deliberations of the Extraordinary General Assembly are taken upon a two-thirds majority of the attending or represented members' votes.

Article 17 – Association accounting period

The Association accounting period starts on the 1st April and ends on the 31st March of every year.

Exceptionally, the first association accounting period started a full day after the announcement in the issue of the Associations' Official Journal, ending on 31st March 2007.

Article 18 Accounts Auditor.

The General Assembly can nominate a regular auditor and a deputy auditor. The regular and deputy auditors exercise their mandate of control under the conditions provided by the regulations and rules of their profession.

Article 19 – Dissolution.

In the event of the Association's dissolution, for whatever reason, the Extraordinary General Assembly appoints one or more liquidators to be entrusted with the process of liquidation. The residual assets of liquidation will be allocated, in accord with article 9 of the 1901 law and its 16th Aug. 1901 decree, by decision of the Extraordinary General Assembly.

Article 20 –Interior rules.

The Association may establish an internal bylaw, having as an objective the clarification and supplementing of the Association's existing rules.

Completed in Paris,
on the 19th October 2014,
in two originals.

President FORZANI Giuseppe

Secretary KAMADA Naoki

Statutes adopted by the Extraordinary General Assembly of 17th October 2014.