

Press release

29 August 2009

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Visiting Germany and Switzerland to Give Talks on World Peace and Give Buddhist Teachings

His Holiness the Dalai Lama will be visiting Germany and Switzerland from 29 July to 7 August to give a series of talks on world peace and compassion, participate in seminars on environment, economy, & ethics, and to give Buddhist teachings.

His Holiness will arrive in Frankfurt in Germany on 29 July at the invitation of three organisations based in Germany, Tibethaus Deutschland e.V., Deutsche Buddhistische Union e.V. and Pagoda Phat Hue, a Vietnamese Buddhist community.

His Holiness will be received by the Hessen State Chief Minister, Mr. Roland Koch, at the hotel on 29 July, following which they will jointly address the Press.

On 30 July morning, the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation & Development, Mrs. Heidemarie Wiecek-Zeul, and the Mayor Dr. h. c. Petra Roth of Frankfurt will call on His Holiness.

His Holiness will lecture on the Buddhist text “The Middle Stages of Meditation” by the great Indian Master Kamalashila from 30 to 31 July. This text offers inspiration and guidance for the complexities of daily life, which could be practiced by anyone, whether one is a Buddhist or not.

During the weekend of 1 - 2 August, His Holiness the Dalai Lama will take part in three different symposiums under the theme: “One World – One Mind – One Heart.” On 1 August His Holiness will engage in a dialogue on economy and ethics, as well as on the environment.

On 2 August morning, His Holiness and representatives of different religious traditions will speak on “Compassion.” In the afternoon, His Holiness the Dalai Lama will give a public talk on “The Art of living.”

2 Songs for Dalai Lama concert will be held on 1 August evening, where some of Germany's well known artist will perform.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama will travel to Marburg University on 3 August morning, where the university will confer on him an Honorary Doctorate. The Marburg University has been teaching courses on Tibetan Buddhism since 1929.

This is His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 35th visit to Germany, the first of which was in 1973. Germany is the most visited country in Europe by His Holiness, indicating the tremendous public interest in and support for His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan issue.

On 10 February 2009, His Holiness the Dalai Lama received the Deutsche Medienpreis (the German Media Prize) in Baden Baden. The journalist asked why His Holiness visits Germany so frequently. His Holiness has said, "Ich liebe Deutschland" – I love Germany. His Holiness highly commends German people's determination and has said that after the Second World War, Germany rose from the ashes and built a very strong democracy and economy for its people.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama will then travel to Lausanne, Switzerland, on 3 August afternoon at the invitation of the International Buddhist Rigdzin Community.

On 4 August His Holiness the Dalai Lama will lecture on "Three Principal Aspects of the Path" by the great Tibetan Buddhist Master Je Tsongkhapa. On 5 August morning he will bestow the Medicine Buddha Empowerment. The tickets for the two days event were sold out in June, two months before the visit.

The same morning, the Tibetan Communities in Europe will offer Tenshug (Long Life Prayer) to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. This is a Tibetan Buddhist tradition where representatives of the Tibetans residing in different countries in Europe will reaffirm their commitments to His Holiness and strengthen the special bond between them and their leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

There are over 7000 Tibetans living in Europe. In October 1960, the first batch of Tibetan children and refugees were officially re-settled in Switzerland. Today, there are over 4000 Tibetans in Switzerland.

On 5 August afternoon, the President of Vaud canton Mr. Pascal Broulis will meet His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Thereafter, His Holiness will give a public talk on "World Peace through Inner Peace." The President of the Swiss Federal Parliament, Mr. Chiara Simoneschi-Cortesi, will call on His Holiness the Dalai Lama on 6 August morning in Lausanne.

On 6 August afternoon, His Holiness the Dalai Lama will give a keynote address to a Sino-Tibetan conference where over 100 Chinese and Tibetan scholars, writers, journalist and advocates will gather in Geneva. The conference is convened by the International Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Swiss Tibetan Friendship Association.

"The objective of the conference is to create a better understanding between the two communities and to explore ways for a peaceful solution of the Tibetan issue," said Mr. Jonathan Sisson of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation. "This is in the interest of both the Chinese and the Tibetan peoples," said Dr. Tashe Thaktsang of the Swiss Tibetan Friendship Association. "In addition, it will serve the long-term development of China and contribute to peace and stability in Asia," Dr. Thaktsang added.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama will return to India on 7 August from Switzerland.