

Dharma in Change: Process and Development of Buddhism in Baltic Sea Area

An Interdisciplinary Conference, University of Tartu, Estonia

Date: May 23 and 24, 2013

Venue: University of Tartu Library (1 W. Struve Str.), room 243

The conference is dedicated to the 75 birth anniversary of late **Linnart Mäll** (7.06.1938–14.02.2010), a founder of Buddhist Studies and promoter of Buddhism in Estonia

PROGRAM

Thursday, 23 May

9:30–10:00 Registration (University of Tartu Library Lobby Hall)

10:00–10:10 Opening speech by **Märt Läänemets**

10:10–10:45 Key note speech by **Chipamong Chowdhury** (Bhikkhu Revata Dhamma),
University of Tartu, Centre for Oriental Studies

Buddhism Transformed: Exploring Baltic Buddhist Identities and Traditions

11:00–12:30 First Panel: Historical Dimensions, moderator **Märt Läänemets**

11:00–11:20 **Alpo Ratia**, University of Helsinki, Department of World Culture

M. A. Castrén's Notices on Buryat Buddhism. A Finnish linguist and ethnographer in
the Transbaikal (1847–1848)

11:20–11:40 **Mait Talts**, Tallinn University of Technology

Karlis A. M. Tennisons and Friedrich V. Lustig – first 'practicing' Buddhists in
Estonia

11:40–12:00 **Terje Toomistu**, Doctoral Candidate, University of Tartu

Hippie Dharma in Soviet Estonia

12:00–12:30 Discussion

12:30–12:50 Coffee break

12:50–14:00 Second Panel: Buddhism in Practice: Teachers, Groups and Congregations,
moderator **Anita Stasulane**

12:50–13:10 **Marika Laudere**, Daugavpils University

Buddhism in Modern Latvia

13:10–13:30 **Lauri Liiders**, Doctoral Candidate, University of Tartu

Triratna Buddhist Community: a case study of a Buddhist congregation in Estonia

13:30–13:50 **Natalia Munatajeva**, Society of Himalayan Cultures/Tallinn University

Improvisation within Traditional Frames: Visiting Teachers Experiences of Transmitting Meditation Practice for Non-Buddhists

13:50–14:20 Discussion

14:20–15:20 Lunch

15:20–16:50 Third Panel: Buddhism Transformed: Challenges and/or Compromises, moderator **Mait Talts**

15:20–15:40 **Anita Stasulane**, Daugavpils University, Faculty of Humanities

The Paradigm of Religious Conversion: Latvian Buddhists

15:40–16:00 **Marko Lepik**, Independent Researcher (MA Tartu, MSc London/LSE)

An agnostic treatment of Buddhism: The obligation and opportunity of the Nordic seculars

16:00–16:20 **Leho Rubis**, artist and art teacher

How the Buddha looks today?

16:20–16:50 Discussion

16:50–17:10 Coffee break

17:10–19:15 Film, “Enlightenment Guaranteed” (2002, 109 min), introduction by **Chipamong Chowdhury**

Friday, 24 May

10:00-11:00 Fourth Panel: Linnart Mäll's contribution to Buddhism and Buddhology,
moderator **Alpo Ratia**

10:00–10:20 **Teet Toome**, Doctoral Candidate, University of Tartu

Linnart Mäll's Role in Forming of Estonian Buddhism

10:20–10:40 **Märt Läänemets**, University of Tartu, Centre for Oriental Studies

Semiotic approach to interpret the concept of *dharma* in Linnart Mäll's academic works

10:40–11:00 Discussion

11:00 – 11:20 Coffee break

11:20–12:10 Round table discussion and making conclusions, moderators **Märt Läänemets**
and **Chipamong Chowdhury**

How Buddhism is Buddhism and how Buddhism remains Buddhism in contemporary world (with emphasis on the situation in Baltics)

12:10–13:50 Film “Buddha's Lost Children” (2006, 97 min), introduction by **Chipamong Chowdhury**

14:00–14:30 Opening the exhibition of the Linnart Mäll's life and works