

PRESS RELEASE

November 19, 2013

## The Arrival of the Buddha's Relics at Dhagpo Kagyu Ling

The relics of the Buddha generally reside in the pagoda of the Bois de Vincennes, near Paris, France. Due to construction work on the pagoda, the relics have been moved. After staying at Dhagpo Kundreul Ling in Le Bost for a month, they arrive on Sunday, November 24, 2013 at Dhagpo Kagyu Ling in St-Léon-sur-Vézère. It is a great honor and a great joy for Dhagpo to welcome these relics, symbols of the qualities of the Buddha : wisdom and compassion.

### Program for Sunday, November 24

- 2.30 pm Arrival of relics at Dhagpo Kagyu Ling
- Procession and installation of the relics in the Institute
- Speech by the General Secretary of Dhagpo Kagyu Ling
- Traditional offering ceremony
- Recorded speech from the 17th Karmapa Trinley Thaye Dorje
- Recitation of mantras (*mani*)

### Future events concerning the relics

The relics will **be exhibited** at the heart of the Institute every weekend, so that participants of Dhagpo's courses and visitors can see them and meditate in their presence. They will also be exhibited in the temple during the rituals performed on full moon days.

At the end of December 2013, there will be a **special celebration** in honor of the relics in the presence of Lama Jigme Rinpoche, spiritual director of Dhagpo Kagyu Ling.



### From India to Dordogne : history of the relics

In India, in the late 19th century, the collapse of a stupa (Buddhist funerary monument) belonging to the Shakya clan (the family of the Buddha) allowed the discovery of relics of the historical Buddha, preserved for over two millennia. At that time, India and almost all of Asia was colonized by Western countries. These precious relics were entrusted to **Thailand**, the only Buddhist country untouched by colonization, and installed in the Temple of Gold Mountain in Bangkok. In the Buddhist year 2442 (1898 according to the Western calendar), a prediction reveals that the relics will leave the Thai soil for the West 111 years later.

In 2009, 111 years later, Thai Patriarchs, approved by the Asian Buddhist community, decided to give the relics to the Western world and entrust them to a European country. They chose **France, the country of human rights**, and specifically the city of Paris, symbol of the dynamism of European Buddhism. The relics were officially entrusted to the Buddhist Union of France, who is now responsible for their preservation.

Until May 2014, the relics will be kept in **Dordogne, at Dhagpo Kagyu Ling**, Buddhist study and meditation center and European seat of the Kagyü lineage of Tibetan Buddhism.

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Dhagpo Kagyu Ling – Buddhist study and meditation center

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Created in 1977, the non-profit organization Dhagpo Kagyu Ling aims to make the Buddha's teachings accessible to the greatest number. Located in the heart of the Dordogne, in France, the European seat of the kagyü school of Tibetan Buddhism gave birth to more than 70 centers in France and Europe. Open to everyone, it welcomes thousands of visitors from all around the world every year.