

School of the Wisdom in Adyar with Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu

Report

From 5 to 16 January 2015, Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu, the Chairperson of the EFTS, conducted a two weeks' session of the School of the Wisdom in Adyar, at the International Headquarters of the Theosophical Society. Altogether some 60 students from 19 countries participated, including Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The theme of this inspiring and fruitful School of the Wisdom was "The Science of Theosophy: Foundation and Practice". During the first week Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu gave an overview of what is existence, Spirit and Matter. She noted that Spirit and Matter are two aspects of the same primordial substance and that they are subject to constant movement of mutation. She delved into what is consciousness to show how it is multileveled and in constant flow. She noted that mind is just a particular condition of consciousness. It has two functions: projecting and concealing. Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu concluded the first week by expounding the notions of dharma, karma and reincarnation, and explaining in general what is meditation, and its purpose.

The second week was more practical – it began with a deep analysis of HPB Diagram of Meditation and continued with the ethical guidelines of various philosophical systems. Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu explained in detail how habits create character which in turn moulds one's destiny. The central idea of the second week was how to change one's paradigm, how to transform egoism into altruism which would result in the disappearance of the ego, hence liberation. The two weeks of studies culminated with exploration into happiness and bliss.

During the School of the Wisdom, the participants had possibility to meditate together before each class. The classes not only comprised lectures, but half of the time was dedicated to discussion and questions-and-answers. Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu's dynamic approach to presenting the subject helped the students to stay attentive, and provoked thought.

To deepen understanding, each participant was given a booklet. Every day, the main ideas of the class were projected on a screen from where the students could note them into their booklets so as to recall them more easily later on, and ponder over them. For the theme of each day further reading and studies were also suggested.

All classes of the School of the Wisdom were recorded and will soon be available on the website of the EFTS at www.ts-efts.eu.

At the end of the first week of the School of the Wisdom, Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu was asked to conduct a next year session. After discussions with the students at the School, she gave her consent to lead one

in January 2016, right after the 140th International Convention. Next year, the classes of the School of the Wisdom will cover Chinese philosophies (including Taoism, Confucianism and Chan Buddhism, as well as an exploration into the I-Ching). The dates and the syllabus will be published latest around June on the websites of the EFTS and of the International TS.

Krista Umbjärv

Secretary of the EFTS