

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

Report

From 11 to 22 January 2016, 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 45 students from 15 countries participated, including Argentina, Austria, Canada, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, and the United States of America.

The theme of this inspiring and fruitful School of the Wisdom was 'Glimpses on Chinese Philosophies in the Light of Theosophy'. During the first week Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu gave an overview of the foundations of Chinese mind before Bodhidharma. She explained how the Chinese mind has been influenced by the Yi-King (I-Ching) and by its basic concept of mutation. She pointed out the characteristics the Tao Teh King (Daodejing) and its concept of Cosmic Order together with the teachings of Tchuang Tzeu (Zhuang Zi) on one hand and the teachings of Confucius and Mencius on the other hand have carved into Chinese society and soul.

The second week dealt with the evolution of Chinese mind with Chan Buddhism. Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu noted that as the Yi-King, the Tao The King, Tchuang Tzeu and the teachings of Confucius-Mencius had already moulded and ploughed the Chinese mind, the rooting of the teachings of Bodhidharma was swift and natural. She explained how Chan Buddhism developed and spread to Japan to become Zen Buddhism. The two weeks of studies culminated with practical application of Yi-King so that participants could see and learn how to use the Book of Changes.

During the School of the Wisdom, the participants had possibility to meditate together before each class. Half of the classes were dedicated to discussion and questions-and-answers. Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu's dynamic pedagogic approach to presenting the subject helped the students to stay attentive, and provoke questions and discussion.

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.

Krista Umbjärv

Secretary of the EFTS