



## **Vision Board Meetings**

**Lerab Ling, 13-15 June 2019**

We started the year of the Earth Pig with a prayer gathering in Bodhgaya, and a Chimé Pakmé Nyingtik drupchen dedicated to the long life of the teachings and all our teachers. The meetings of the Vision Board in Lerab Ling in June took place in the same spirit of honoring Rigpa's vision and holding a fresh perspective on everything we do.

We welcomed three new members to the Vision Board, the scholar Philippe Cornu and our youth advisors Yara Vrolijks and Fian Lohr, and we had a call with one of our main spiritual advisors, Khandro Rinpoche, who was in India at the time, to share with her recent Rigpa news and continue to receive her advice to us in our role. We also met with Patrick Gaffney and Philip Philippou for the first time since they have stepped down, as we had not had any possibility for handover at the time.

### **Summary of the meetings**

- Our meetings had two main aims: one was to take stock of where Rigpa is at, with a particular focus on Lerab Ling on this occasion. Secondly, after over a year of work as a Vision Board, we also focused further on how we understand our role as it was defined by our spiritual advisors and by Sogyal Rinpoche for years before he retired. This included looking at how we work together and communicate with the different teams in Rigpa.
- We began the meetings by appreciating how the sangha has stayed together in the last two years through thick and thin, and appreciating the opportunity we have to fulfil Rinpoche's wish for us all to embody the teachings.
- We are going through a major transition where the sangha is now beginning to hold the vision of Rigpa. This has always been the aspiration of Sogyal Rinpoche and the great masters who have been advising Rigpa over the years. It is quite a

challenge, a good one that we hope will enable the Dharma, and especially Vajrayana and Dzogchen, to flourish in the West long into the future.

- We feel that there is a wish in all of us, the sangha, to explore further what it means to take responsibility for our own path, in how we are and how we practise. This resonates with the guidance from our spiritual advisors. It is very inspiring and gives hope that these teachings will truly take root in the West.
- As a Vision Board, we aspire to continue to lead the change in culture; to listen more, to be present and open for the sangha, and to deepen our study and Dharma knowledge. We also wish to value our elders, those who have so much study and practice experience and whose lives are in accordance with the Dharma.
- As a sangha we will also continue to reflect on Rigpa's vision and on what this vision means to each of us in our study, practice and activity.

We also have a number of points that we wish to discuss further with the International Board, the ICG, and the national and international teams:

- What support do you need from the Vision Board for your activity to align with Rigpa's Vision, in the spirit of collaboration, learning together, and supporting each other? We wish to work further with all the Rigpa Boards in particular on how we uphold Rigpa's Vision. We will ask the Boards what they need from us to uphold this vision in their countries.
- We wish to establish the framework of the six areas of Rigpa's Activity as the manifestation of Rigpa's Vision and for all our activity.
- Who do we value in the sangha? We will discuss further how we begin to empower trainee teachers and senior practice holders in the coming year.
- Can we begin a new international review of student support?
- And importantly, it is time to look again at our culture and how we are changing, including with our practitioners, instructors, scholars and activity holders.

To find out more about Rigpa's Vision Board:

[www.rigpa.org/moving-forward#vision](http://www.rigpa.org/moving-forward#vision)

To contact us:

[vision.board@rigpa.org](mailto:vision.board@rigpa.org)