



The 3rd Triratna International Council meeting

The **3**rd **International Council** meeting

was held at Adhithana from **5-13** August 2014.

It brought together **28** International Council members

and delegates from **9** countries,

representing Triratna's **3** Strands: the Preceptors' College, the Order and the Movement.

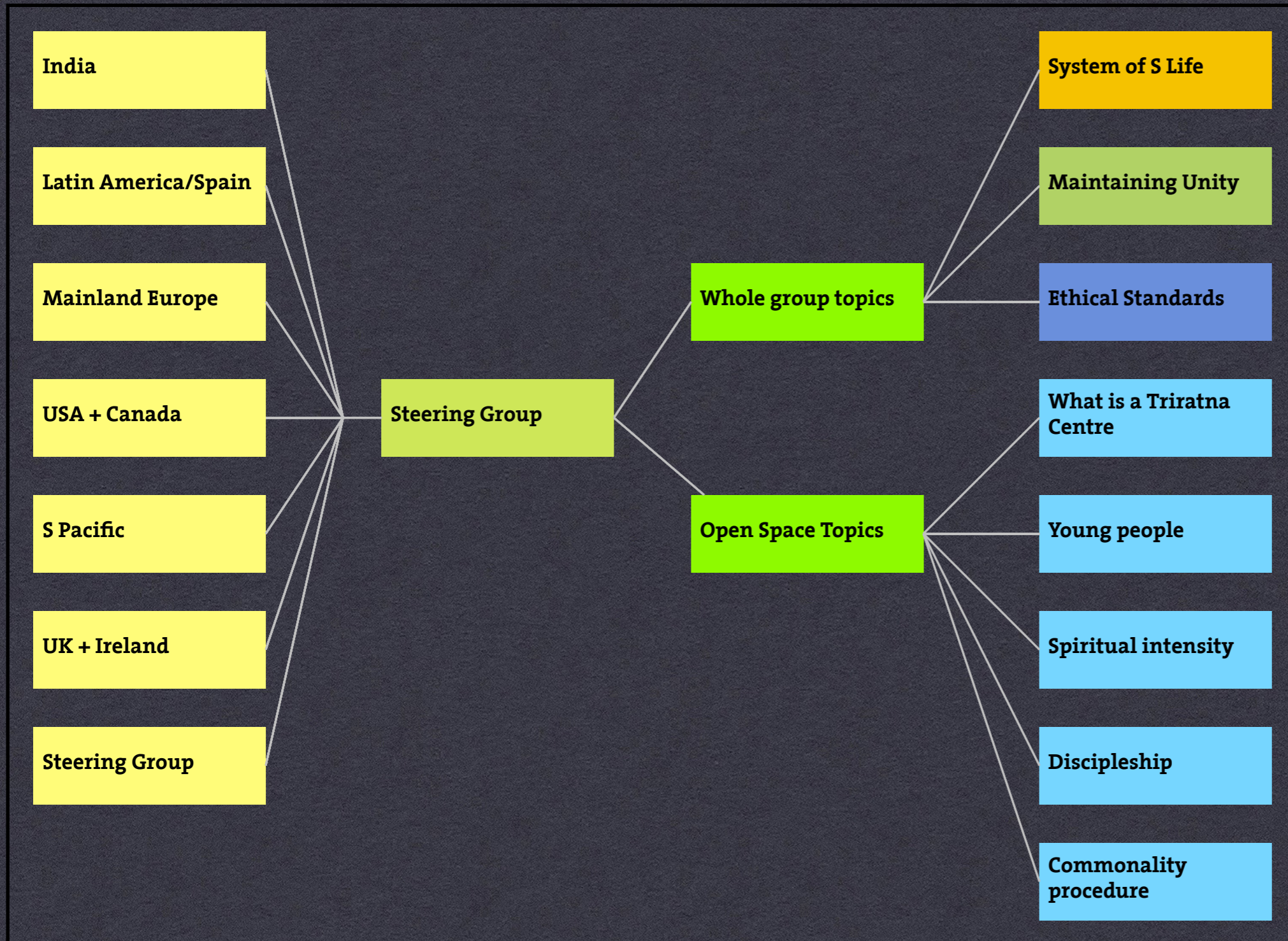
Members & Participants

	India	Mainland Europe	S Pacific	Spain & Latin America	UK & Ireland	USA & Canada	Steering Group	Facilitation team
College	Yashosagar Vijaya	Mahamati Vajragita	Varadevi Purna	Moksananda	Dhammadinna Paramabandhu	Viradhamma Karunadevi	Dhammarati Saddhaloka Padmasuri Yashosagar	Maitrisara Candradasa Vidyatara
Order	Aryaketu Maitriratna Amrutdeep	Vaddhaka Parina	Dharmananda Nagasuri	Vajranatha Jnanadakini	Sucimani Bodhivamsa	Amala Shantinayaka	Parami Lokeshvara Amrutdeep	Observer Singhamati , ECA Young People's Coordinator
Movement	Abhayaraja Nagaketu	Jnanacandra	Vajrajyoti Sudaya	Chandrangsu	Dassini Amoghavajra	Viveka Dayalocana Viriyalila	Viveka Vajrajyoti Jnanacandra	Members unable to attend are in light type.



Collecting the topics

Based on input from the Area Councils, at its meeting on 2/3 July 2014 the International Council Steering Group identified three major themes for the full Council to consider together with an Open Space topic put forward by the Indian College Strand



The topics

Over the 7 days of the meeting the group came together to engage in collective practice and to deepen friendships, and to discuss a range of issues that are live in the Order and Movement. based on the **three major themes**:

1.
The System of Spiritual Life

2.
Maintaining Unity

3.
Ethical & Spiritual Standards

The topics 2

During the meeting in addition to the 'bona fide' Triratna Centre, a further 5 **Open Space topics** emerged and were discussed.

1.

What is a 'bona fide' Triratna Centre (identified prior to the meeting)

2.

Young People

3.

Spiritual Intensity, especially Spiritual Death

4.

Discipleship

5.

A Procedure on Commonality

6.

Teacher Training

Council + Steering Group Roles

International Council role

Developing creative responses to emerging needs + trends.

Implementing priorities by coordinating work led by 3 Strands.

Implementing a few strategic priorities.

Providing a strategic overview and guidance

Establishing consultation channels and ensure they are working. Initiate and manage consultation.

Steering group role

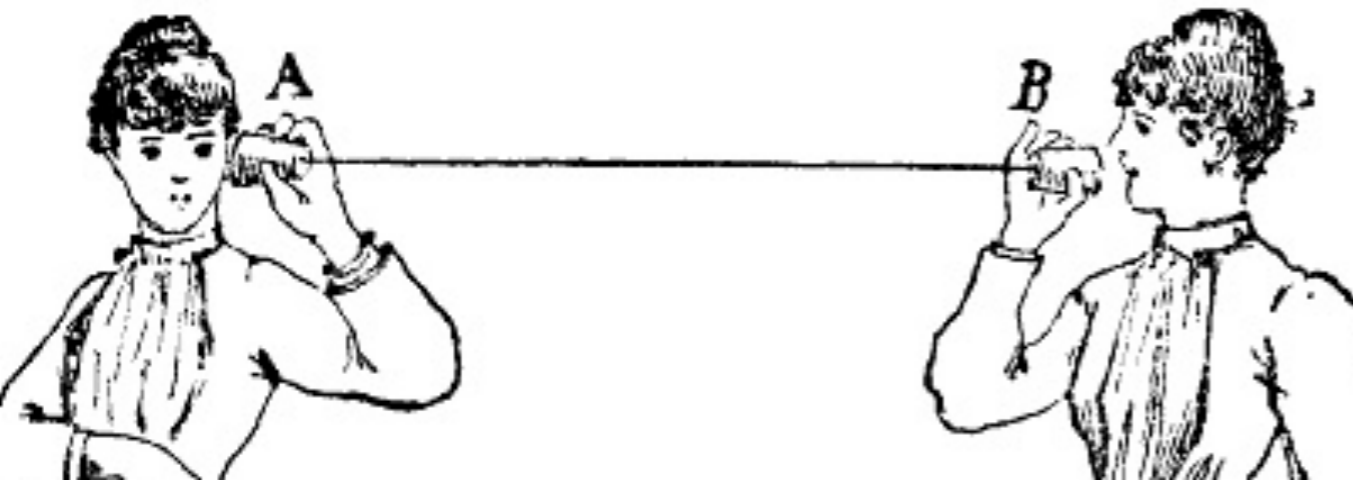
Making sure the IC's coordinating structures are established and working.

Coordinating effective follow-through between IC meetings.

Communicating the work of the IC to the Order.
Keeping IC members updated on progress between meetings

A smaller group, the '**Steering Group Plus**' taking more responsibility for the Steering Group's work.

Providing a strategic overview and guidance.



Priorities

For **2014/15**

Rather than doing too much,

the International Council will prioritise

more depth & better follow-through

on a few priorities

under the three main themes

Council priorities

Based on input from the Area Councils, Three major themes emerged for discussion:

Low effort

More effort

1.
The System of Spiritual Life

Consultation on Order responses to Commonality Paper.
Order Strand led

Commonality procedure to evaluate developments of system of practice.
Next College meeting, evaluating 'direct pointing'
Steering Group and College Strand led

2.
Maintaining Unity

Area Council + Centre discussion on 'What is a bona fide Triratna Centre?'
Steering Group led

Develop International Council capacity: staffing and funding.
Steering group led

3.
Ethical & Spiritual Standards

Encourage Centre adoption of Ethical Guidelines
Movement Strand led

Explore development of a systematic conflict resolution process when we have capacity
Order Strand led

College Priorities

1. The System of Spiritual Life

Discipleship

unpacking what Bhante means.

November College meeting:
feedback Order consultation and
recommended 'Commonality
procedure' for College response.

Request to create space for deeper
reflection on the recent papers.

2. Maintaining Unity

Triratna Centres: Brief College on the
discussion. An influential proposal in
which all Strands have a stake.

Need to clearly communicate the
College and its role. Reflect the
alignment and kalyana mitrata that
exists in College.

Relationship to International Council
from a resourcing and constitutional
perspective.

3. Ethical & Spiritual Standards

Conflict Resolution: College already
systematically reviews serious ethical
issues to address potential conflicts as
soon as possible.

Order Priorities

1. The System of Spiritual Life

Response to the Commonality paper

Continue analysis of feedback.

Communicate with Order about where things are up to.

Next milestone is post the College meeting.

2. Maintaining Unity

Strengthening the Order Convening Network:

Order Year Book

information on convenors, Order events, Convention Calendar, to also be translated into Hindi.

Order Urban Retreat pilot (KM theme) amongst Order convenors followed by wider retreat

Order Convenors' Retreat before the next IC meeting for Order/ Chapter convenors in India

Develop simple internet communications strategy to 'tie' Strand together.

3. Ethical & Spiritual Standards

Kalyana Mitrata retreats Organised in Areas.
Sharing of material between Areas

Movement Priorities 1

1. The System of Spiritual Life

Sharing resources among Centres internationally:

Teacher Resources
Increase awareness of Triratna Development resources website.

Video experienced teachers about what they find important in teaching.

Follow up request to ECA executive to consider a coordinated movement-wide response to the **secular mindfulness** trend.

ECA Young Person's Project
Sharing resources being developed.

2. Maintaining Unity

What is a bona fide Triratna Centre?
Movement reps distribute report to Areas for discussion.

ECA Meetings
Provide option for Chairs in all Areas to receive information/Minutes from ECA.

International Coordination
Advance planning to fund Movement reps to attend IC meetings
Each Area Council to secure ongoing funding for members to attend.

Agreed no current need for a separate international Movement structure.
Meantime Movement Strand will share information internationally and implement actions.

3. Ethical & Spiritual Standards

Ethical Guidelines
Keep the guidelines recommendation moving forward in our Areas, and keep each other informed.

Movement Priorities 2

1.

Pioneers

2013 Movement Strand priority to

support Pioneers:

Liaise with ECA about picking up the theme again.

Work with UK/Ireland Mitra convenors to provide KM to pioneers through Skype etc

More information

For background including the Aims and the Working Practices of the International Council go to: [about the Council](#)

For interviews, daily summaries and pictures of the full 3rd International Council meeting go to: [resources 2014](#)

