



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Triratna International Council meeting

The **3**<sup>rd</sup> **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



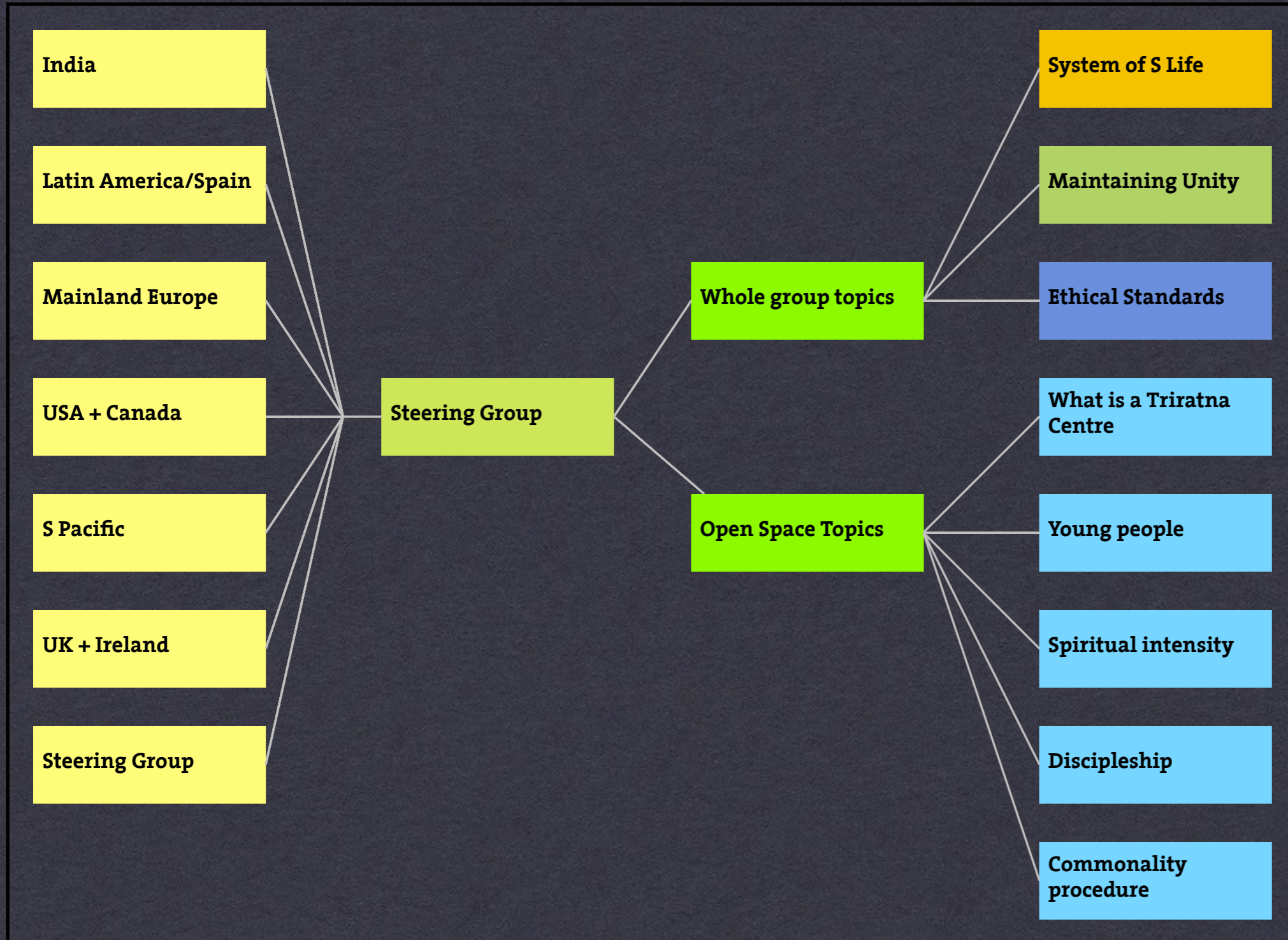
<b>College</b>	<b>Yashosagar Vijaya</b>	<b>Mahamati Vajragita</b>	Varadevi Purna	<b>Moksananda</b>	<b>Dhammadinna Paramabandhu</b>	<b>Viradhamma Karunadevi</b>	<b>Dhammarati Saddhaloka Padmasuri Yashosagar</b>	Maitrisara Candradasa Vidyatara
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<b>Order</b>	<b>Aryaketu Maitriratna Amrutdeep</b>	<b>Vaddhaka Parina</b>	<b>Dharmananda Nagasuri</b>	<b>Vajranatha Jnanadakini</b>	<b>Sucimani Bodhivamsa</b>	<b>Amala Shantinayaka</b>	<b>Parami Lokeshvara Amrutdeep</b>	Observer <b>Singhamati</b> , ECA Young People's Coordinator
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<b>Movement</b>	<b>Abhayaraja Nagaketu</b>	<b>Jnanacandra</b>	<b>Vajrajyoti Sudaya</b>	<b>Chandrangsu</b>	<b>Dassini Amoghavajra</b>	<b>Viveka Dayalocana Viriyalila</b>	<b>Viveka Vajrajyoti Jnanacandra</b>	Members unable to attend are in light type.
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# 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

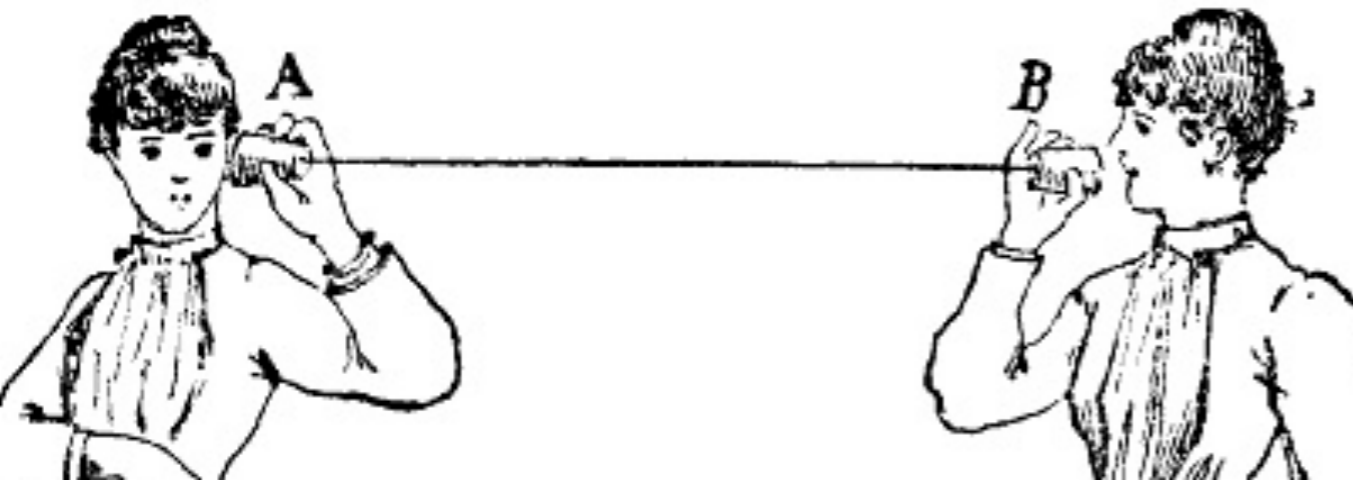
Making sure the IC's coordinating structures are established and working.

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](#)

