

## Visit of the Head of the Mongolian Buddhists to LMU Munich

On 27 January 2025, Klaus Vollmer, in his capacity as spokesperson for the doctoral programme in Buddhist Studies at LMU Munich, received a delegation of high Buddhist dignitaries from the Gandantegchenlin Monastery in Ulan Bator (Mongolia). The delegation, led by the reigning Khamba Lama (Javzandorj Dulamragchaa, born 1980), the head of Buddhists in Mongolia, was in Munich as part of a tour of Europe. The one-day visit, which was also attended by Professors Oidtmann, Tournier, Sernesi, Silk and van Ess as well as doctoral candidates and students from the Department of Asian Studies, served to get to know each other and to exchange views on topics related to Buddhist Studies research. After a welcome address and a presentation of the doctoral programme by Klaus Vollmer, the Khamba Lama gave a lecture on the history and present situation of Buddhism in Mongolia. Qi Liu and Philipp Quarcoo, as junior researchers affiliated with the doctoral programme, then presented their research projects, which are thematically and geographically located in Mongolia.

The incumbent Khamba Lama began his Buddhist studies in 1991 in a monastery in the province of Sukhbaatar and later continued them in other Mongolian monasteries in Ulan Bator. From 1998 to 2018, he deepened his studies of Buddhist philosophy in India and in March 2018 received the Lkhaaramba degree, the highest academic honour in Buddhist philosophy. Following the massive persecution of Buddhists in Mongolia under Soviet rule, he is the first Mongolian lama to hold this title since the 1920s and is therefore honoured in the Buddhist community as the 'Mongolian Teacher'.