



The Mt. Tron Mail

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Mt. Tron seen from Tynset on a beautiful autumn day, September 10th 2011 at 10:25 hrs. Tynset Church is seen to the right. Photo: BP.

The Regulation Plan in for political processing

“Detailed Regulation for the Mt. Tron University of Peace” which was submitted to the Municipality of Alvdal on July 1st this year, is now in for political processing and will emerge in the Local Council on 20 October 2011. The municipality has just recently been through a municipal election with changes of both mayor and local council. **The Foundation hereby wishes to thank the Mayor Olov Grøtting for everything she has done for the University of Peace during the four year period she has been at the helm in Alvdal, and hopes that the new Mayor Svein Borkhus will continue the positive commitment that Olov started for the Mt. Tron University of Peace!**

The total cost of the Regulation Plan including VAT has mounted to NOK 213.311,- which is more than NOK 50.000,- above the original offer from our consultant Feste NordØst at Tolga who carried out the work.

Latest news

The University of Peace as a name case

In a letter of 13 September 2011 to the Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation and Mt.Tron University of Peace Estate Inc. The Royal Department of Knowledge informed us that “Only institutions which are accredited as a university may use such name” and that “This presupposes accreditation as a university from a National organ for quality in education (NOKUT).” The Department refers to The Law for Universities and Colleges from 2005 and informs further that it may be punishable by law to use a “protected institutional name”. It therefore assumes that the Mt.Tron University of Peace will make a change of name so that it will not go against the law. At the same time the Department informs that it, based on application, may grant a dispensation from the law “for established composite names which are not suited for confusions with names mentioned in the (law’s) second paragraph” (§ 7-2 second paragraph).

In a letter of 20 September 2011 the Foundation therefore applied to The Department of Knowledge for dispensation from the law. The application for the main part states the ground that the name “University of Peace” has been in use by us for nearly a hundred years, and it sets out in detail where, when and in which connection the name has been used all the time since Sri Ananda presented his idea for universities of peace in all countries in two of his books published in 1921 right up to the present day. As far as we know Sri Ananda was the first to use the name “University of Peace” / “Peace University” and “fredsuniversitet” (Norwegian), this composite name is completely unique in Norway and being used by no one else. It has been established in the consciousness of people over a very long time and should not be likely to be confused with names mentioned in the law’s second paragraph. The “University of Peace” is an established name, and especially so the name “Mt.Tron University of Peace” which holds a unique position and which cannot be removed as a name just like that.

In connection with this case the Municipality of Alvdal also sent a letter of support signed by the Mayor to the Department of Knowledge in favour of the Mt.Tron University of Peace. Besides, we know of several other similar, composite names which are in use in Norway and which are not universities in the ordinary sense of the term or which are organized as such, among them The Peoples University (association), The Pensioner’s University (association est. 1982) and The Women’s University (foundation est. 1983). As The Law for Universities and Colleges is from 2005 and laws do not have retroactive force, and also that we possess a prescriptive right of nearly a hundred years to the name, we should from the outset have a good case in relation to The Department of Knowledge. The alternative will be to find a completely new name.

Exemption from the obligation for public accountant

During the general assembly of the Mt.Tron University of Peace Estate Inc. on April 28 this year a unanimous decision was passed to utilize public accountant exemption for small businesses, which became possible from May 1st this year. The obligation for public accountant no longer applies for small businesses from this year onwards provided that all of the following criteria are met: a) operational income is under NOK 5 million, b) balance is below NOK 20 million, and c) an average number of employees who do not perform more than 10 man-labour years. Against this background a standard form was sent to the Unity Registry with the amendment that our company no longer has a public accountant and also thereby ends our contract with the accountant firm KPMG. This was granted and our company received a new company attestation on 14 July 2011 in which it is stated that “The company’s annual accounts shall not be audited”.

The situation for the Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation has also for quite some time been unacceptable with too high audit costs which are not proportionate to the rest of the total accounts. As the new law for public accountant exemption for small businesses unfortunately does not apply for foundations, we instead appealed unsuccessfully this summer to the Foundation Supervision for a dispensation in our special case from the law. However, we were advised to consider a reorganization of our organizational platform into an association instead of a foundation as associations are not obliged to use a public accountant. If we would chose to do this we would first have to apply to the Foundation Supervision in the usual way. However the Foundation Supervision admitted, that a foundation is more suitable for fundraising than an association. It is also clear that a foundation is better suited for the particular statute aims of the Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation.

Possibility condition

Recently the Mt.Tron University of Peace Estate Inc. contacted Vingelen Development at Vingelen, Tolga, to submit an offer to carry out a possibility condition (analysis) for the Mt.Tron University of Peace. The performance of a possibility analysis is one of three items in our budget for Phase 1 in our project, together with a regulation plan and negotiations for land acquisition on the “Peace Plateau”, for which Innovation Norway gave a grant in February this year. Such an analysis will explore the national and international commercial possibilities; possible markets, target groups or segments; regional implications; network and support; and include a risk analysis.

Extended effects after “Magasinet”



Here are some of the unpublished pictures taken on the occasion of the reportage at Shantibu published in Magasinet - Dagbladet.

*All photos:
Agnete Brun, Dagbladet,
June 6th and 7th 2011.*

<http://www.dagbladet.no/2011/09/05/magasinet/fred/universitet/17971515/>

On Saturday 3rd September this year the major Norwegian newspaper Dagbladet in their “Magasinet” published six pages of coverage about Shantibu in Alvdal. Journalist Bjørg Aftret and photographer Agnete Brun actually visited for the first time in January this year to make a minor report as part of a bigger piece about the village of Alvdal. However, the editors decided that a separate report from Shantibu should be made and that the journalists should come back to us in the summer. They returned at the beginning of June and spent a total of ten hours here over two days. The resulting report was due to be published on Saturday 23rd July but the fatal terrorist attack on Norway the day before brought last minute postponement to September. Fortunate for us in that to get such a large press coverage in one of the three main newspapers doesn't go unnoticed in a small country like Norway

From the spreading consequences of this coverage several very interesting enquiries have come to Shantibu and the University of Peace, both from private individuals and from institutions. Some are genuine truth seekers and others work for ideal organizations with good intentions for a better and more harmonic society.

Among those in the latter group may be mentioned **IVK – Norway or Norwegian Circle for Nonviolent Communication** as a local party under the global *Center for Nonviolent Communication*, started by the American psychologist Marshall B. Rosenberg in the 1960s, **World Dignity University** - a global project initiated by members of the **Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies** network, which is academic and which came into existence at the beginning of 2000, and the Indian-based **University of Human Unity**.

The Regulation Plan



Front cover picture of Mt.Tron zoomed in. Photo: BP.

After the submission of the Regulation Plan to the Municipality of Alvdal on July 1st this year, further adjustments to some details were suggested by the municipality's planning department. This, together with some unforeseen extra work prior to the submission, caused the plan to become substantially more expensive than originally planned and budgeted for. All possible adjustments of the plan after the political processing has started will, however, according to the consultant, be the responsibility of the municipality. After the plan has come up for its first processing at the Local Council it will be open for public hearing for six weeks when it will go to second processing.

In the previous edition of The Mt.Tron Mail we presented the "Illustration Plan" of the Regulation Plan as it was already published in the local newspapers. We will, however, not publish anything further from the Regulation Plan until its processing by the Municipality of Alvdal is complete. After that we will be able to publish the plan in its entirety.

Our goal is to have this Plan publicly sanctioned by the municipality. Only then will we possess the tool we need for the further progress of our project, with regard both to land acquisition and fund raising.

The Mt.Tron Mail - the newsletter for those interested in the establishing of the Mt.Tron University of Peace

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