

PROGRAM

The International Buddhist Conference on the United Nations Day of Vesak
Celebrations 2007/2550

At Buddhamonthon, Nakhonpathom & United Nations Conference Centre
Bangkok, Thailand

MAY 26 – 29, BE 2550 (CE 2007)

Saturday 26 May 2550/2007 Opening Ceremony at Buddhamonthon

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| 08:00 | Arrival of participants at Buddhamonthon |
| 08.15 | Arrival at Buddhamonthon of His Holiness Somdet Phra Phutthacharn, President of the Executive Committee for the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand |
| 08:30 | - Arrival of Buddhist leaders in the Buddhamonthon Auditorium by country
- Video Presentation |
| 08:45 | - Arrival at the Buddhamonthon Auditorium of His Holiness Somdet Phra Phutthacharn, President of the Executive Committee for the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand
- His Holiness Somdet Phra Phutthacharn is received and conducted into the Auditorium by the International Organizing Committee
- His Holiness Somdet Phra Phutthacharn leads the congregation in paying homage to the Triple Gem
- Report by the Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Dharmakosajarn, Rector of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University and Chairman of International Organizing Committee (IOC) of the UN Day of Vesak Celebrations
- Speech by His Holiness Somdet Phra Phutthacharn
- His Holiness Somdet Phra Phutthacharn departs |
| 09:30 | Welcome address by the Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Dharmakosajarn, Rector of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University and Chairman of International Organizing Committee of the UN Day of Vesak Celebrations |
| 09.45 | Speeches and messages from leaders of the Mahasangha and Buddhist organizations |
| 11:30 | Luncheon |
| 13:00 | All participants assemble in the Auditorium
- Chanting & meditation
- Arrival of Mr. Phaiboon Watthanasiritham, the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand at the Buddhamonthon Auditorium |
| 14:00 | Arrival of Her Royal Highness Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana at the Buddhamonthon Auditorium
- Mr. Phaiboon Watthanasiritham, the Deputy Prime |

	Minister and the Organizing Committee welcome Her Royal Highness the Princess (Everyone stands for the Royal Anthem.)
	- Her Royal Highness the Princess offers candles and incense in honour of the Triple Gem
	- Mr. Phaiboon Watthanasiritham, The Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, reports on the International Buddhist Conference on the UN. Day of Vesak Celebrations to Her Royal Highness the Princess
	- Inaugural speech by Her Royal Highness the Princess
	- Her Royal Highness the Princess departs
15:00	- Speech by Mr. Phaiboon Watthanasiritham, the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand
15:20	Speeches & message from leaders of the Mahasangha and Buddhist organizations
17:00	Group Photograph

Sunday 27 May 2550/2007 Opening Ceremony at The UN CONFERENCE CENTRE

08:00	Arrival of participants at the UN Conference Centre
08:30	Chanting and meditation
08:40	Welcoming: Guest of Honor and Special Guests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gen. Surayud Chulanont, Prime Minister of Thailand - Representative of UN Secretary General - Representative of UNESCO Director-General - Representative of UN Headquarters for Asia and Pacific
09:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcoming address by the Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Dharmakosajarn, Rector of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University and Chairman of the International Organizing Committee for the UN Day of Vesak Celebrations - Welcome address by H.E. Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary, UNESCAP * Message from Secretary-General of United Nations * Message from Director-General of UNESCO
09:30	Speech by H.E. the Prime Minister of Thailand, Gen. Surayudh Chulanont
10:00	Speeches and messages by Heads of States
10:45	Keynote speech: <i>The Buddhist Contribution to Good Governance</i> by Ven. Visuddhisamvara Thera (Ajahn Brahmavamso), (Australia)
11:30	Luncheon
13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panel Discussion (ESCAP Hall) Topic: <i>Buddhist Perspectives on Good Governance and Development</i> Panelists:

- (1) Professor Ian Harris (UK), PhD (Lancaster), University College of St. Martin, Lancaster (Editor, *Buddhism and Politics In Twentieth Century Asia*: London; 2001 & *Buddhism, Power and Political Order* (coming out soon)
- (2) Professor Oliver Abeynayake (Sri Lanka), PhD (Lancaster), Former Dean & Research Director, Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka, Colombo (author, *Fundamentals of Buddhist Polity*: Singapore; 2005)
- (3) Mr. Phallop Thaiarry (Thailand) Honorary Secretary-General, The World Fellowship of Buddhists & Managing Director, Thai International Rent A Car Co. Ltd.
- (4) Mrs. Claudine Shinoda, MA (France), President of European Buddhist Union (Translator *The Lotus Sutra, the White Lotus of the Marvelous Law* into French)

Moderator: Ven. Dr Shi Ming Yi, PhD (Mannin), Chief Executive, the Ren Ci Hospital & Medicare Centre, Singapore & Abbot, Foo Hai Ch'an Monastery, Singapore and Kun Chung Temple, Hong Kong

13:00 - Symposium of Buddhist Universities (Meeting Room 4)

(a) Moderator: Ven. Phra Dr. Khammai Dhammasami, DPhil (Oxford)

The Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, University of Oxford, UK

(b) Panelists:

1. Venerable Bhikkhuni Dr. Yifa, PhD (Yale), Chair, Department of Religious Studies, University of the West, USA
2. Venerable Professor Geshe Ngawang Samten, Rector/Director, Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, India
3. Dr. Tamás Agócs, PhD (Budapest), Foreign Relation Manager, Budapest Buddhist University, Hungary
4. The Most Ven. Dr. Ashin Nyanissara, PhD, Chancellor, Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Myanmar & Chairman, Association of Theravada Buddhist Universities
5. Professor Chisho Namai, D.Litt., former President and Director of the Research Institute of Esoteric Buddhist Culture, Koyasan University, Japan
6. Ven. Prof. Le Mahn That, Acting Rector, Vietnam Buddhist University, HCHC

Respondents

1. Professor Richard Gombrich, DPhil (Oxford), Emeritus Professor & Academic Director, The Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, University of Oxford, UK
2. Professor Tim Coburn, PhD (Harvard), President, Naropa University, USA
3. Ven. Weiwu, MSc (New Zealand), Founder-Chairman, Council of International Buddhist College, Hat Yai/Penang

16.00	Departure to Buddhathon for Cultural performance
17.00	Gala dinner
18.30	Cultural Performance: <i>The 80th Vesak Day Celebrations by the Great Righteous King, who initiated Sufficiency Economy.</i> (Guests of Honor only)

Monday 28 May 2550/2007 Workshops at UN Conference Hall

08:00 Arrival of participants at the UN Conference Centre
08:30 Chanting and meditation
08:45 - Speeches and messages from Leaders of the
Mahasangha and lay Buddhist organizations from
Thailand

- **Symposium of Buddhist Universities** (Continued) in
four conference rooms (8.45 – 11.00am):

Symposium Discussion Group One (Meeting Room
A; 1st Floor)

Symposium Discussion Group Two (Meeting Room
F; 1st Floor)

Symposium Discussion Group Three (Meeting Room
G; 1st Floor)

Symposium Discussion Group Four (Meeting Room
H; 1st Floor)

10.00 **Keynote speech:** *Buddhist Contribution to Good
Governance and Development* by The Most Ven Zen
Master Thich Nhat Hanh (Plum Village, France)

11:30 Luncheon

12:30 Group Photograph

13.00 **Workshops 1.** Buddhism and Good Governance
(ESCAP HALL; 2nd Floor)

(a) **Moderator:** Professor Oliver Abeynayake, PhD (Lancaster), Former Dean &
Research Director, Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri
Lanka

(b) Panelists

- (1) Prof. Vanchai Vatanasapt, MD, Former President of Khon Kaen University,
Thailand; Director, Center for Peace and Governance, King Prajadhipok's
Institute & member, the UN Advisory Committee for the International Center
for Conflict Resolution in Education (ICCRE)
- (2) Professor Ian Harris, PhD (Lancaster), University College of St. Martin,
Lancaster, UK
- (3) Venerable B. Sri Saranakara Nayaka Thero, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- (4) Dr. Tavivat Puntarigivat (Mahidol University): *Good Governance: A
Buddhist Perspective*

Workshop 2. Dissemination of Buddhism through Modern Technology
(Conference Room 1; 2nd Floor)

(a) **Moderator:** t.b.a

(b) Panelists

1. Ms. Babeth M. VanLoo, MA (San Francisco Film Institute), (Film & TV
Director, Producer and Media-artist; The Netherlands): *The Buddhist
Broadcasting Foundation: authenticity in spiritual programming*

2. Asst. Prof. Samarn Gnamsanit , Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Thailand
3. Venerable Nandiasena, Abbot, Dhammavihara Monastery & Mexican Center of Theravada Buddhists, Banderilla, Mexico: *Teaching the Dhamma Online - A Case Study*
4. Ven. Dr. THICH GIAC HIEP (Vietnam): *Essential Factors in Disseminating Dhamma*
5. Prof. Alok Roy (Pusan University of Foreign Studies, Korea), *Changing Demography of Buddhist Population in India: A Comparative Report* (PowerPoint Presentation)

Workshop 3. Preservation and Promotion of Buddhist Arts (Conference Room 3; 1st Floor)

Moderator: Ven. Dr. T. Dhammaratana, PhD. (Sorbonne) (France)

(b) Panellists

1. Mrs. Wangmo Dixey, MA (American University), Executive Director, Buddha Dharma Foundation International, LA, USA & Sponsor of the annual Pali Tipitaka chanting at Buddhagaya: *Revival of the Dhamma: The Annual 10-Day Tipitaka Chanting Ceremony at Buddhagaya and the Revitalisation of the Holy Places of the Buddha*” (PowerPoint presentation.)
2. Mr. Tambavati U Win Maung, (BSc), Advisor, Department of Culture and History, Ministry of Culture, Myanmar: *The Evolution of Buddhist Stupas in Myanmar, 1st – 19th Century AD.* (PowerPoint Presentation)
3. Mr. Keo Kinal, Ministry of Fine Arts, Cambodia (PowerPoint presentation)
4. Phra Sithawatchamethi (Chana) (Assistant Rector for Foreign Relations, MCU): *The Role of the Leaders of the Sangha in Preservation*
5. S. N. Goenka (India): *Tradition of pagoda to enshrine relics of the Buddha* (to be presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Prataung Dinnaratna, Director, Rajanagarindra Institute of Linguistic and Cultural Studies, Kasetsart University, Thailand)
6. Prof. Hong, Seok-Joon (Mokpo National University, Korea), *the characteristics and Meanings of ‘Gwangju’ Project and some Suggestions for Collaboration among Asian Buddhists and Networking*
7. Ven. K. Rahula (Senior Lecturer, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Peradeniya): *“Preservation of Buddhist Arts in Sri Lanka”*

Workshop 4. Buddhist Meditation and Human Development (Conference Room 2; 2nd Floor)

Moderator: Dr. Sarah Shaw, PhD (Manchester), Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, University of Oxford & The Samatha Trust, UK (author: *Buddhist Meditation*, London, 2006)

(b) Panellists

- (1) The Most Venerable Ajahn Sumedho, MA (Berkeley), Abbot of Amaravati Monastery, UK
- (2) Maechee Sansani Sthirasuk, Sakthien Dhamma Stharn Buddhist Centre, Thailand
- (3) Associate Prof. Venerable Chekinda, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Yangon (PowerPoint presentation)
- (4) Mrs. Ivana Zivkovic, Psychotherapist & Manager, Vipassana Meditation, Belgrade, Serbia

- (5) Dr. Rupert Gethin, PhD (Manchester), President, The Pali Text Society & Co-Director, Centre for Buddhist Studies, University of Bristol (UK)
- (6) Visakha Mary Goh, meditation teacher & counsellor for Changi Prison (Singapore)
- (7) *Thanh Giac* (Vietnam): Buddhist Meditation and Human Development

Workshop 5. Buddhist Electronic Library (Room No. t.b.a)

Speakers: 1. Ven. Pannyavaro (BuddhaNet, Australia)

2. Mr. Pravin Bhalesain, (M. Tech. (IT), IIT Roorkee), IT Consultant & Founder-Chairman, Young Buddhist Association (YBA), India

Symposium of Buddhist Universities (Conference Room No. 4; 1st Floor)

Moderators: Ven. Phra Dr. Khammai Dhammasami (Oxford) & Dr. R. Panth, Director/Rector, Nalanda University (Nava Nalanda Mahavihar), India

16:30 Departure to Wat Phra Kaew for the chanting ceremony to invoke the blessings of the Noble Triple Gem upon His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on the Auspicious Occasion of His 80th Year of Birth Anniversary

Tuesday 29 May 2550/2007 at the UN Conference Hall

08:00 Arrival of participants at UN Conference Centre

08:30 Religious ceremonies and blessings for World Peace by various Buddhist traditions

09:30 Plenary Session: Reports from the Workshops followed by open discussion
Moderator: Most Ven. Thich Quang Ba (Australia)

11:30 Luncheon

13:00 Speeches by leaders of the Mahasangha and Buddhist leaders

15:00 Issuance of The Bangkok Declaration and Buddhist Universities Agreement and votes of thanks by the Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Dharmakosajarn, Rector of Mahachula-longkornrajavidyalaya University and Chairman of the International Organizing Committee on the UN Day of Vesak Celebrations

15:30 Closing Ceremony presided over by His Holiness Somdet Phra Phutthacharn, President of the Executive Committee for the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand

16:00 Proceed to Buddhamonthon for the candle-lit procession and the circumambulation in front of the Phra Sri Sakya Dasa-bala-nyana Standing Buddha

Wednesday 30 May 2550/2007 Luncheon at the Government House

- 10.00AM Arrival of invited guests from the IBC on the UN Vesak Day Celebrations at the Government House for luncheon to be hosted His Excellency Prime Minister of Thailand
- 15.00PM Invited Buddhist leaders and scholars from 60 countries meet His Holiness Somdet Phra Phutthacharn, President of the Executive Committee for the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand at Buddhamonthon