

LUMBINI DECLARATION
of the International Buddhist Conference
on Promotion, Protection & Preservation of
Buddhist Culture and Heritage

November 15-18, 2014 (B.E.2558)

At The Lumbini Sacred Garden, Lumbini, Nepal

An International Buddhist Conference on Promotion, Protection and Preservation of Buddhist Culture and Heritage jointly organised by the Theravada Buddhist Academy, the Lumbini Buddhist University of Nepal and International Sitagu Buddhist Academy of Myanmar on 15-18 November 2014 at Lumbini Sacred Garden, the Birthplace of the Buddha, Nepal, was inaugurated by The Right Honourable Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and attended by over 800 representative members of the Sangha, cabinet ministers, diplomats, archeologists, climatologists, environmentalists, Buddhist scholars and journalists from thirty-two countries including the Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal Hon. Prakash Man Singh, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal Hon. Deepak Chandra Amatya, Hon. Union Minister for Religious Affairs of Myanmar U Soe Win, Mr. Christian Manhart, Head of Office and UNESCO Representative to Nepal and UNESCO Asia and the Pacific Unit/World Heritage Centre Prof. Roland Lin Chih-Hung. At the conclusion of careful deliberations and successful twenty discussion panels under the five main themes of (1) Buddhist heritages of Lumbini (2) World Buddhist heritages (3) Buddhist culture (4) Buddhist education system and (5) Environmental conservation in Lumbini, we have unanimously resolved as follows:

Buddhist Heritage of Lumbini:

- 1) Acknowledging the great work of archeologists, UNESCO, donor countries, the Lumbini Development Trust and Department of Archaeology of Nepal in protecting and preserving the Lumbini Sacred Garden, the Birthplace of Gautam Buddha, to harmoniously promote awareness of both archeological and spiritual values at Lumbini and other Sacred Buddhist sites in Nepal and worldwide;
- 2) To work together with UNESCO, the Lumbini Development Trust and Department of Archaeology of Nepal in order to protect and preserve over one hundred ancient archeological sites in the Greater Lumbini Area not yet covered by the current projects by preventing encroachments and developing long term vision plan for them;
- 3) To avoid any misunderstanding between multi-disciplinary expertise working in Lumbini with the stakeholders of Buddhist monastics, scholars and communities as well as local communities, it is encouraged to bridge the gap between these expertise and work together with mutual understanding for sustainable development of Lumbini and surrounding areas;

- 4) That we appeal to the United Nations Organization to reactivate the United Nations International Lumbini Committee under the UNO to work together in the promotion, preservation and protection of Lumbini World Heritage Site.

World Buddhist Heritage:

- 1) Being fully aware of the need for development for both pilgrims and local communities, to encourage scientifically informed sustainable development in and around Lumbini as well as other Buddhist sacred sites;
- 2) To urgently raise awareness of the danger faced with regards to material culture for example, artifacts, manuscripts and wall paintings etc.;
- 3) To encourage the active participation, voice and legal right of all stakeholders, laymen and Sangha, in promoting programmes of Buddhist cultural awareness and in undertaking planning for future or present participation or listing in international, national and local heritage organizations from UNESCO to regional bodies and local non-profit organizations;
- 4) To raise awareness through grass-roots initiatives with lay and Sangha participation through information-sharing mechanisms from information portals to social networks to create a global Buddhist cultural awareness for preservation, promotion and protection of Buddhist values and cultural heritage.

Buddhist culture:

- 1) Honouring the early Buddhist tradition of co-existence with other religious traditions, to promote the Buddhist values of tolerance and reasoning based spiritual enquiry in this interdependently existing world;
- 2) In tandem with this to defend Buddhists from the danger of commercialization and unethical conversion in traditional Buddhist homelands;
- 3) In order to preserve the peace, serenity and moral values of the Buddha and the Lumbini Sacred Garden, that all types of gambling, vandalism and other activities that devalue human dignity be absolutely prohibited from the Greater Lumbini Areas and their immediate surroundings. It is also recognised that security issues of the Lumbini Sacred Garden should be incorporated in any development plan.

Buddhist Education System:

- 1) To promote a Buddhist moral education system in schools based on the Noble Eightfold Path and the value of cultural heritage which in essence means enlightenment through education exchange;
- 2) To promote Buddhist educational programmes of secular and monastic institutions, non-profit cultural and educational trusts and libraries;

- 3) To encourage the formation of non-formal education inclusive of Buddhist values alongside protection, preservation and promotion of Buddhist cultural heritage.

Environmental conservation:

- 1) Recognising the unique character of the Natal Landscape of the Buddha, that a comprehensive and systematic survey of the Greater Lumbini Area be undertaken, prior to initiating development projects, in order to protect, preserve and promote the region further;
- 2) Recognising that Buddhist archaeological sites form living cultural landscapes, that any new structures at sites are located only in areas of low risk to heritage and that they respect 8 design concepts:
 - (1) Non-intrusive, (2) Reversibility, (3) Shelter, (4) Visibility, (5) Focus, (6) Access, (7) Ownership and (8) Authentic materials; that interventions or new constructions with Buddhist cultural sites should be tested against these criteria during Heritage Impact Assessment;
- 3) That Buddhist Cultural Heritage is a non-renewable resource and that any excavation or archaeological interventions should use as advanced techniques as possible and results be disseminated and published swiftly;
- 4) That the cultural landscape of Lumbini, Birthplace of the Buddha, is threatened by the high levels of air pollution and that the relevant authorities take immediate action to reduce this threat;
- 5) That a separate fund for preservation, protection and promotion of Buddhist heritage be established;
- 6) That an international association is formed to coordinate with all concerned to preserve, protect and promote Buddhist monuments and sites; [See also points 3 and 4 under World Buddhist Heritage]
- 7) That development of course(s) on Buddhist monuments and sites for all students, and heritage management courses/programs for Buddhist monks at the university level be coordinated and some sites as teaching sites be designated; [See also points 2 and 3 under Buddhist education]
- 8) That, bearing in mind the multitude of projects and plans which are being developed or implemented in Greater Lumbini Area as well as construction of an international airport at Bhairahawa which will multiply the numbers of visitors it is urgent to ensure coordination to make sure that the Buddhist heritage will be conserved, the development will benefit the local community, the spirituality of the the Greater Lumbini Area preserved and the needs of the religious communities and pilgrims taken into consideration, the conference requests UNESCO to take the coordination role;

Done as the Lumbini Declaration of the International Buddhist Conference on Promotion, Preservation and Protection of Buddhist Culture and Heritage on this 17th Day of November 2014 (B.E. 2558).


Most Ven.Dr. Ashin Nyanissara
Chancellor, Sitagu International Buddhist Academy
Republic of Union of Myanmar

Most Ven. Dr. Jnanapurnik Mahasthvir
Principal, Theravada Buddhist Academy & Abbot of Wishwa Shanti Vihara,
Kathmandu, Nepal

H.E U Soe Win
Union Minister for Religious Affairs
Republic of Union of Myanmar

U Saw Myat Kyaw
Deputy Director General of Religious Affairs,
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Prof. Dr. Robin Coningham
Pro_Vice Chancellor &
UNESCO Professor of
Archeological Ethics and Practice in
Cultural Heritage, Durham University,
United Kingdom



U Khine Aung
Director General of Religious Affairs
Republic of the Union of Myanmar



U San Tun Aung
Deputy Director, Ministry of Religions Affairs
Republic of the Union of Myanmar



Ven. Prof. T. Seelakkhandha Thero
Vice Chancellor, Buddhasravaka Bhikshu University
Sri Lanka



Most Ven. Aggamahapandita
Kolugoda Dhammawera Mahathero Anunayake
Sri Lanka



Ven. Bhikshu Phrakhru Dhammasobhana Mahathera
All Nepal Bhikkhu Association
Nepal



17/11/2014

Sidhartha Gauri
President, The Buddhist Forum
Haryana, India



17.11.2014

Prof. KTS Sarao
Department of Buddhist Studies
University of Delhi, India



17/11/14

Ven. Prof. Ittademaliye Indasara
Former Vice Chancellor
Buddhist & Pali University of Sri Lanka



17/11/14

Ven. Prof. Sovanratana
Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University &
Advisor to the Supreme Sangharaja of Cambodia



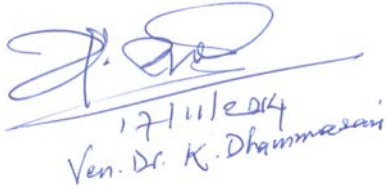
Dr. Gufran Beig
Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology,
Pune India



Ven. Bhadanta Rahula Bodhi Maha Thero
Bhikkhu Sangha's United Mission,
India



Dr. Chen Chanratana
Founder/President of Kerdomnel Khmer
University of Cambodia
Cambodia



17/11/2014
Ven. Dr. K. Dhammasami

Ven. Dr. Khammai Dhammasami,
Executive Secretary,
International Association of Buddhist Universities
& Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies,
University of Oxford, UK



Ven. Phra Shakyavongvisuddhi
(Dr. Anil Sakya Sugandha)
Deputy Rector for Foreign Affairs,
Mahamakut Buddhist University
Thailand



Prof. H.M.D.R. Herath
Peradeniya University,
Sri Lanka



Ven. U Javana
President, Myanmar Student Sangha Association
India



Ven. Pannyavaro
Bodhi Tree Forest Monastery
Webmaster of Buddhanet
Australia



Associate Professor Dr. Baatr U. Kitinov
People's Friendship University of Russia
Moscow Buddhist Society, Russia



Bharati
Department of Buddhist Studies
Delhi University, India



Francois Paco Merigoux
France



Neeraj Yadav
University of Delhi
India



U Aung Thein Nyut
Former Deputy Director General of Religious Affairs,
Republic of the Union of Myanmar



Prof. Dr. Khin Mg Nyunt
Former Director General,
Department of Archaeology, Myanmar



Ven. Prof. Dr. Dhammapiya
International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University
Yangon, Myanmar



Prof. Dr. K. M. Mohsin
Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka International University
Bangladesh



Dr. Rabindra Kumar Shakya
Former Vice-Chairman of National Planning Commission of Nepal
Nepal



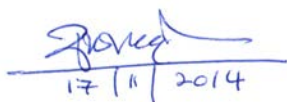
Dr. Keshab Man Shakya,
Former Minister of Science, Technology and Environment
Nepal



Dr. Tri Ratna Manandhar,
Former Vice Chancellor of Lumbini Buddhist University
Nepal



Prof. Dr. Bhadra Man Tuladhar,
Former Registrar, Kathmandu University
Nepal



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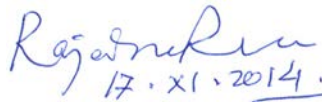
Prof. Asanga Tilakratne
University of Colombo
Sri Lanka

 17.11.2014


Assistant Professor Dr. Saswati Mutsuddy
Department of Pali, University of Calcutta
India

 17.11.2014

Ms Mina Mutsuddy
India

 17.11.2014.

Prof. Rajendra Ram
Patna University,
India


17.11.2014.

Prof. Bimalendra Kumar
Department of Pali & Buddhist Studies,
Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu University,
India



Prof. Elizabeth Moore
SOAS, London University, UK



Dr. Pyi Phyo Kyaw
King's College, London University,
United Kingdom



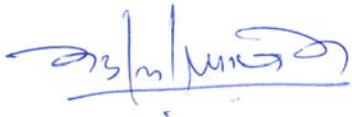
Dr. Zhou Ya
School of Development Studies
Yunnan University, China



Dr. Eko Legowo
Former Chairman, Kertarajasa Buddhist College,
Indonesia



H.E. Dr. Ch. Dambajav
Khamba Lama Dashicholing Monastery
Rector, Zuun Khuree College
Mongolia



Dr. Maheswar Rupakheti,
Team Leader, Sustainable Interaction with the Atmosphere
Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Postdam
Germany



Ven. Ditthisampanno
Chair, Association of Indonesian Buddhist Colleges
Indonesia



Senior Prof. Sumanapala Galmangoda
Kelaniya University,
Sri Lanka



Prof. H.M.D.R. Herath
Peradeniya University,
Sri Lanka



Ven. Dr. Wijayarajapura Seelawansa Thero
Chief Prelate of the Vienna Dhamma Centrum
Austria



Bhante Kirindigalle Dhammaratana
Chief Incumbent of Stockholm Buddhist Vihara
Sweden



Bhikkhu Sanghasena
Founder, Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre, Ladakh,
India



Ashoke Barua
General Secretary, Bangladesh Buddhist Federation
Bangladesh



Mrs. Ratna Barua
Bangladesh



Prof. C. ROBERT PRYOR
Director of Antioch College Buddhist Studies Program
Ohio, USA

Mrs. Wangmo Dixcey
Director, The Light of International Buddha Dharma,
USA

Prof. Dr. M Ashraf Khan
Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations,
Quadi-i-Azam University,
Pakistan

Dr. Bunchar Pongpanich
Director, Buddhadasa Indapanno Archieves,
Thailand

Prof. Mokammal H Bhuiyan
Chairman & Professor, Department of Archaeology
Jahangirnagar University
Bangladesh

Nun Singasiri
Punjab University,
India

Prof. Ranjana Mishra
S.N.D.T Mumbai University
India

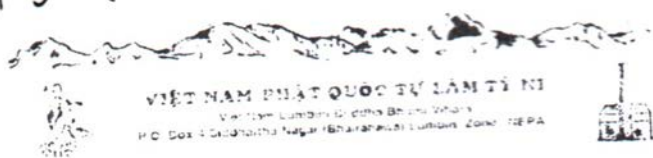
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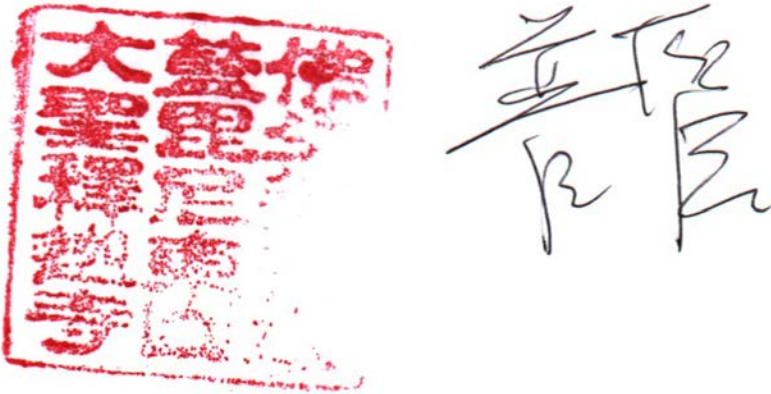


Prof. Anura Manatunga
Department of Archaeology
University of Kelaniya
Sri Lanka

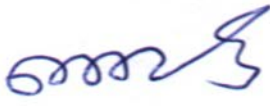


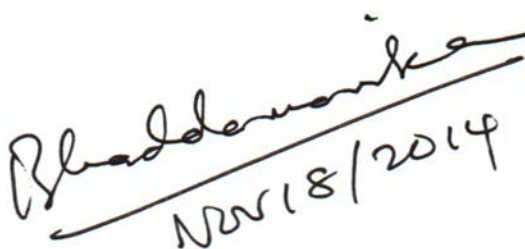



Lokapriya Barua
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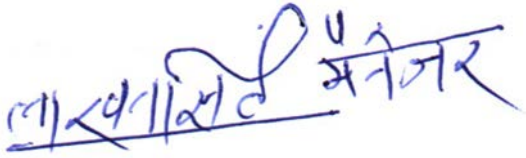
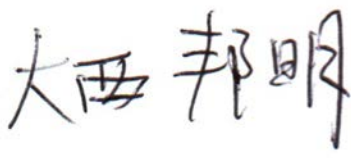
Lokapriya Barua
President, B.B.W.P.S.
Bangladesh

Buddhist Monasteries at Lumbini

Zong Hua Monastery, China	<i>Shi Dun she</i>
Vietnam Lumbini Buddha Bhumi Vihar, Vietnam	<p><i>Huyendien</i> <i>Thầy Huyen Dien</i></p> 
Linh Son Buddhist Monastery, France	<i>Ues</i>
Manang Sewa Samaj Stupa, Nepal	<i>Manang Sewa Samaj</i>

<p>Korean Mahabodhi Society Monastery, Korea</p>	
<p>Cambodian Monastery Lumbini</p>	<p>LAMBODIAN MONASTERY LUMBINI</p> 
<p>Thrangu Vajra Vidhya Monastery, Canada</p>	<p>Sun Tenge Shempa</p>
<p>The Royal Thai Monastery, Thailand</p>	

<p>Myanmar Golden Temple, Myanmar</p>	 <p>MYANMAR GOLDEN TEMPLE LUMBINI - PARK NEPAL</p>
<p>Sri Lankan Monastery, Sri Lanka</p>	 <p>Rev. Dhamma Dhara Secretary Srilanka Monastery Lumbini</p>
<p>Panditarama Lumbini International Vipassana Meditation Center, Myanmar</p>	  
<p>United Trungram Buddhist Temple, Nepal</p>	
<p>Drubgyud Choeling Monastery, Nepal</p>	

<p>Tashi Rabten Ling Monastery, Nepal</p>	
<p>Sakyamuni Vihar, Nepal</p>	
<p>Nipponzan Myo Hoji, Japan</p>	
<p>International Gautami Nuns Temple, Nepal</p>	
<p>Lumbini Gyan Prabha School, Lumbini</p>	

<p>Mahabodhi Society, India</p>	
<p>Dhamma Janani Meditation Centre, Nepal</p>	