



# International Shakyamuni Buddha Vihara & Vipassana Center, Inc.



## NEWSLETTER

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May all beings be well and happy!

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## The Aims and Motivation of Monastic Buddhist Education

By Ven. Dr. Bhikkhu Praghyalok



The aim and motivation of Buddhist monastic education for our young generation is to teach them knowledge and moral conduct that will be helpful to their own inner peace and happiness, and that will also lead to good leadership qualities. In

order to accomplish this endeavor, it is very important for monks and nuns to apply their understanding and knowledge of moral behavior to their everyday life. Without a comprehension of moral values, it will be difficult for them to make judgments concerning behavior: what is right and what is wrong. This is why Buddhist education emphasizes "Right Understanding", which is the first dictum of the Noble Eight Fold Path. As the Buddha says in the Dhammapada "Those who mistake the unessential to be essential and the essential to be unessential, dwelling in wrong thoughts, never arrive at the essential." (Dh. No. 11). With a proper understanding of right knowledge and conduct, students will be able to draw correct conclusions so that they may live harmonious, peaceful and happy lives, and help other to do likewise.

Today's education systems, both in the East and in the West, emphasize the acquisition of knowledge without paying enough attention to developing moral conduct. Most education curricula is concerned with secular knowledge and not so concerned with the spiritual development of students. According to the teachings of the Middle Path of the Buddha, it is important to achieve a balance, gaining in spiritual as well as material knowledge. Today's world is advancing in technological development, but often lacking in ethics. Because of this imbalance in education the world is facing danger in many ways.

Nepal is very rich in traditions, rituals, and religious activities that are celebrated throughout the year. Nepalese people, without considering their religious differences, respect the interfaith religions combining Buddhism and Hinduism. People who follow traditional Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism are known as Buddha-margi (The Path Followers of the Buddha)

and those who follow Hinduism are known as Shiva-margi (The Path Followers of the god, Shiva). Often these two traditions are mixed together in Nepal.

I see different educational goals in monastery life compared to those in secular schools. According to the Buddha's teachings, human beings who merely have practical knowledge are not fully developed They also need to develop wisdom. In Pali, this is known as Vija-carana Sampanno, which means "the knowledge endowed with conduct," one of the greatest qualities that the Buddha possesses. Merely gaining knowledge by means of practical education is not as sufficient unless a person practices moral conduct as well. Therefore, knowledge and moral conduct should coexist side by side.

According to Buddhist teachings, there are three main facets of learning, namely Pariyatti, Patipatti and Pativeda. Pariyatti means learning and gaining the knowledge of universal reality. This includes what the Buddha has taught about moral and social life. The other word for Buddhist lessons is called Sikkhapada, which means "steps of learning." Another factor leading to knowledge is known as "Triple Learning" (*Trivida Sikkha*). This Triple education includes morality (*Sila*), mental culture or concentration (*Samadhi*), and wisdom (*Panna*).

The second category of Buddhist education is knowledge with experience in practice of Dhamma, known in Pali as Patipatti. The third category of Buddhist learning is known as Pativeda, which means to gain the highest wisdom, or Panna Pali and Prajna in Sanskrit. According to Buddhist teachings, mere book knowledge is insufficient: one should have the highest possible understanding in every field of study, whether it is concerned with worldly matters or those of the spirit.

Knowledge gained through mental culture or meditation is not sought in at general education. According to Buddhism, highest knowledge or wisdom can be achieved only through the practice of meditation.

### Editorial Board of the ISBVVC Newsletter

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## Goodwill Message

**Ven. Dr. Pollamure Sorata  
Nayaka Thero**

It gives me a great pleasure to add my own message of goodwill and felicitations to the Newsletter to be published on the occasion of the Vesak – the International Buddha Day Celebration - organized by the International Shakyamuni Buddha Vihara and Vipassana Center, Lynn, USA.

I believe that making a review of the dynamic role played by the Center since it was established in 2006 to serve the religious, educational, and cultural needs of the multi-ethnic communities in the US, and especially in Nepal is highly admirable.

The progress of the activity of the center is due to the commitment, dedication and untiring efforts of the founder of this Vihara, Venerable Dr. Bhikkhu Praghya Lok (of Nepal) and all the supporters of the center, people that we all can be truly proud of. As a monk of great dignity, humility and determination, possessing a wide knowledge and fluent in many languages, and an ardent advocate of his own nation, Dr. Praghya Lok is engaged in Buddha-Sasana and social projects such as International Bhikkhu Training Foundation, Karunamaya Human Development Foundation and in establishing the International Monastic Buddhist College in Nepal in order to quench the thirst for the Buddha's Teachings growing in the new generation.

As one of the Patrons and the Board of Directors of the ISBVVC I myself paid a brief visit to Nepal in March 2013 to witness the progress of the International Monastic Buddhist College in Lalithpur, Nepal. It was very exciting and gave great satisfaction to see such successful development in the construction of this six floored story within a short period of time. Following the establishment of the IMBC, the college will be affiliated with universities such as Lumbini, Tribhuvan in Nepal and universities in Thailand, Sri Lanka and Myanmar for higher studies in Theravada Buddhism.

I offer my congratulations to all the supporters of the ISBVVC & IMBC and wish them all success. May the most Ven. Dr. Praghya Lok and all those who are involved in the activities of the center gain more strength and courage to continue their splendid work with the blessings of the Noble Triple Gem.

### Weekly Program of the Center

1. Sunday Dhamma-Class: 9:30 am to 10:30 am
2. Sunday Worship and Meditation: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
3. Daily Worship and Meditation: 6:00 am to 7:00 am

**The devotees are welcome to join the Sunday Evening Meditation, listen to Dhamma Talk and to Practice Meditation and Dhamma-discussion.**

## DHAMMA EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

It is very encouraging to see parents bring their loving children to the temple. By educating children in the teachings of the Buddha we hand over them the Treasure of the Dhamma, thus developing and strengthening their morality, concentration and wisdom. This will help children to lead successful, meaningful and harmonious lives.

In the Dhamma-class, the children study the teachings of the Buddha, morality, culture and traditions, and introduction to the Buddhist practice. It is also the duty of all parents to show their children the path of right knowledge and right conduct according to Buddhism.

All Buddhists need to understand the fundamental teaching of the Buddha, the Four Noble Truths and to understand the Eight-fold Noble Path put into daily practice, such as : 1.Right Understanding, 2.Right Intention, 3.Right Speech, 4. Right Action, 5. Right Livelihood, 6. Right Effort, 7. Right Mindfulness, and 8. Right Concentration. These comprise the eight-fold practice taught by the Buddha that leads to purification of all defilements to overcome the unsatisfactoriness and suffering.

The course also includes education on ethical conduct in family life. This is a great opportunity for the young generation to learn about Buddhism for peace and harmony in life. This is also fulfills a duty of every parent to hand over the "Wealth of Dhamma" to their young children in order to lead a successful life through inner wisdom.

### Saturday Dhamma-Class 9:00 am to 10:30 am

#### Subjects are as follows:

1. Introduction to the Buddhist Culture
2. Homage and Taking refuge of the Noble Triple Gem
3. Observing and practice of Five-precepts
4. Learning the Great Qualities of the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha
5. How to be kind and compassion to oneself
6. Life story of the Buddha
7. Sharing the merits to all the sentient being

### Help Children in Need in Nepal

Your kind financial assistance in helping underprivileged children who have lost either or both of their parents, who are living in poverty and who are unable to continue their education is appreciated. Karunamaya Human Development Foundation as a non-profit social organization in Nepal and in the USA is undertaking this noble task to help children in need in Nepal. For these compassionate services, your financial support will be greatly appreciated. Please send your kind donation check payable to:

**Karunamaya Human Development Foundation**

140 Cottage St. Lynn, MA 01905

**Contact in Nepal:**

KHDF, Banepa, P.O. Box 519, Kavre District, Nepal

## Proposed Building Complex of the International Monastic Buddhist College in Nepal

This is the new complex building plan located at the Sri Suman-gala Vihara, Lalitpur, Nepal. It was also formerly known as Yanga Baha, donated in the name of Theravada Sangha in 1940 by the Takha Chen Shakya family at the beginning of Theravada Buddhism in Nepal. The temple was established in 1912 A.D.

As a center of Theravada Sangha, the temple became well known for its Theravada Learning Center and became the head-quarters of Nepal Bauddha Pariyatti Siksha which was estab-lished by the late Most Venerable Buddhaghosa Maha Thera, the 5th Sangha Nayaka of Nepal.

This monastery has been also well known for major Buddhist cultural, educational and religious activities throughout out the year.



## IMBC Building Fund

For this IMBC buildings project the International Shakyamuni Buddha Vihara & Vipassana Center, a non-profit Buddhist temple, based in USA, has set up a bank account for fund raising in to support of the International Monastic Buddhist College in Nepal.

Your kind donation can be deposited to the International Monastic Buddhist College Fund, A/c No.004632215382 at the bank of America, or mail your donation check c/o International Shakyamuni Buddha Vihara & Vipassana Center, 140 Cottage St. Lyn, MA 01905, USA.

**Your kind sponsorship is very important, particularly with the contributions of US \$100 annually. PayPal is also available for online payments by Visa or Master Card. Please visit our website: [isbvvc.org](http://isbvvc.org). If you are sending by mail, please send to following address:**

**International Monastic Buddhist College Fund**  
140 Cottage St. Lynn, MA 01905, USA  
T: 617-395 6777/617-208 3232  
W: [isbvvc.org](http://isbvvc.org)

## Our Honorable Patron of the IMBC

The Most Ven. Bounthanh Prasavat Vicitto Bhikkhu is the abbot of the Wat Lao Buddhovat of Rhode Island. Since we have started the estab-lishment of the International Mo-nastic Buddhist College in Nepal, he has been our great supporter for the progress and success of this noble task of educating Buddhist monks, nuns and lay students to in order to protect and propagate the Buddha's teachings in the land of the Buddha's birth. Without his support and patronage we could not have completed construction of the six story building within one year.



The construction was completed in January 2013 and work on the finishing parts of the building (which is waiting for kind sponsorship) has commenced. The grand opening ceremony will be held in next year 2014 on the occasion of the Vesak Buddha Day Celebration of 2558. This is the work of the Sangha, supported by generous and faithful devotees from all over the world. Therefore, your kind continuous support at 100 dollars a year will make a huge difference in the protection and propagation of the pristine purity of the Buddha's teachings for the sake of peace and happiness in the world.

### International Monastic Buddhist College Fund (IMBC) in Nepal

C/o International Shakyamuni Buddha Vihara &  
Vipassana Center, Inc.,  
140 Cottage Street, Lynn, MA 01905

#### **Donation Form:**

I wish to make a contribution of US \$ .....(in word :  
.....Dollars)  
for the IMBC project in Nepal to educate monks, nuns  
and lay students in Buddhism.

My First and last name: .....  
Address: .....(Street)..... (City)  
.....(States).....(Zip).....Country)  
Home Phone:.....Mobile:.....  
Email: .....

.....  
Donor's Signature Date:.....

# Local and Overseas News

## Sangha Conference of the Khmer Buddhist Sangha



This group picture was taken after the Annual Sangha Conference of the Khmer Buddhist Monks in USA, held in Lowell, MA, USA in March 2012 led by the Most Ven. Sao Khon Dhammathero. The Ven. Dr. Bhikkhu Praghyalok addressed the conference and expressed his views regarding the Mahaghosananda's philosophy of peace to be implemented.

## Buddha Day Celebration - 2012



Ven. Geshe Nganwang Tenley, the teacher of the Kurukulla Center, Medford came to join the Buddha Day Celebration organized by the Ven. Dr. Bhikkhu Praghyalok, the abbot of the International Shakyamuni Buddha Vihara & Vipassana Center in 2012. It was a very happy moment for two leading masters of two different traditions, Theravada and Tibetan Buddhism.

### HONORARY PATRONS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ISBVVC

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## Meeting with His Holiness



On the 18 of February, 2013 Ven. Dr. Bhikkhu Praghyalok, the founder President of IMBC, made a week-long visit to Bangkok accompanied by Dr. Laxman Shakya to meet His Holiness, the Most Ven. Somdech Phra Maharaj Mangalacharn, the abbot of Wat Paknam, Bhasichoroen and handed over IMBC materials to His Holiness the construction work in progress for the College. He also expressed His Holiness to become patron for the college and invited to come to Nepal for the grand opening ceremony of the International Monastic Buddhist College.

## Meeting with Dhammakaya Foundation



On the February 19, 2013 Ven. Dr. Bhikkhu Praghyalok visited Ven. Dhammapala Bhante having treatment at the Dhammakaya Medical Center where he handed over the letter of invitation to Ven. Pasura Dantamano, the Deputy Head of the International Relation Division of Dhammakaya Foundation to join the grand opening ceremony of the International Monastic Buddhist College and to give their support for the welfare of the Buddha sasana in Nepal.

## Meeting with WFB in Bangkok



On the February 22, 2013, Ven. Dr. Bhikkhu Praghyalok handed over the letter of invitation for the grand opening ceremony of the IMBC to Mr. Phallop Thaiarry, the Secretary-General of the WFB and had a length of discussion about current situation of Buddhism in Nepal and the significant of establishing International Monastic Buddhist College to educate monks, nuns and lay students in Buddhism for the protection and propagation of the Buddhism in Nepal.