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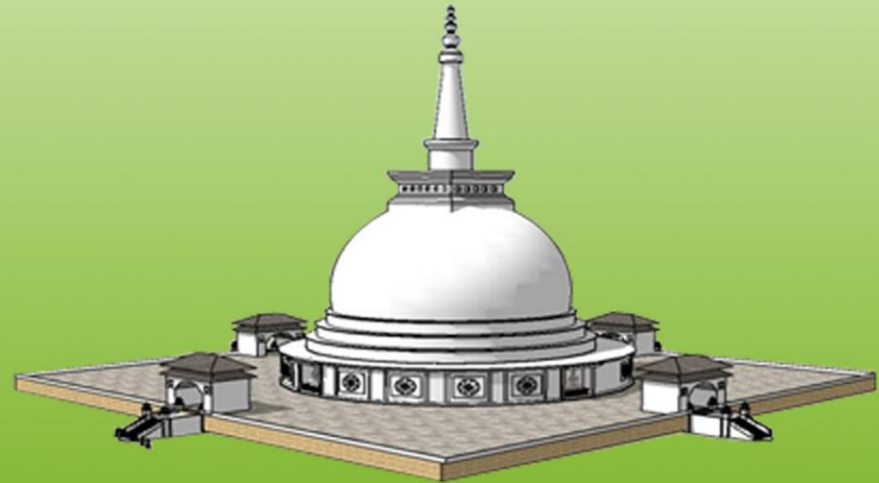
PROCEEDINGS



'Evolution of Buddhist Stūpa'



Enshrining of Sacred Relics in 'Sandahiru Seya'
In concurrence with
International Buddhist Conference - 2014



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22 Nov. 2014

Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura - Sri Lanka

Sponsored by Ministry of Defence & Urban Development



International Buddhist Conference - 2014

'Evolution of Buddhist Stūpa'

Proceedings

**Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka
Anuradhapura**

Sponsored by Ministry of Defence & Urban Development

International Buddhist Conference - 2014

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Message from the Vice Chancellor (Mahopādyāya)

As the Vice Chancellor of Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka, it is a great happiness to convey a message for the International Conference 2014 on the theme of “Evolution of Buddhist Stūpa” which will be held on 22nd November 2014 at the Bhiksu University premises, Anuradhapura with the collaboration of Ministry of Defense and Urban Development and the Organizing Committee of Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka in concurrence of Enshrining Relics of *Sandahiru Seya* which is being constructed at Anuradhapura sacred city in Sri Lanka.

The main purpose of this International Conference is to bring scholars from around the world and to make a discussion on the evolution, philosophical value, technology, customs, rites and rituals which relate to Buddhist Stūpa. As far as I am concerned, this conference will bring the fame of Buddhist Stūpa culture in Sri Lanka into the world community and this opportunity will crown the resplendent beauty of Buddhist Stūpa and philosophy of Buddhist Stūpa for the development of Buddhism all over the world. Therefore, this International Conference will bring the academicians' knowledge, experience in search of finding new vistas of Buddhist Stūpa.

Ven. Prof. Thumbulle Seelakkhanda Nayaka Thero

Vice Chancellor (Mahopādyāya)

Message from the Deans: Faculty of Buddhist Studies & Faculty of Languages and Cultural Studies

The teaching of Buddha is a precious message for the enhancement of universal brotherhood in the world. Sri Lanka as a leading Theravāda Buddhist country provides cultural, philosophical and ethical contribution for the world from past to present. At this occasion, the academic staff members of SLBU came forward with fresh hope of making a bridge between East and West in the link of conference. As far as we are concerned this conference will make a new avenue for the strength of academic collaboration among the academicians in the world. We hope that the theme of the conference will provide new academic values and it will further help to exchange the academic experiences for the betterment of Stūpa culture in the world. Specially, we expect that the great creation of Stūpa shows the vast historical value of ancient master pieces of Buddhist art and architecture in the world. Therefore, we believe that this conference will make open eyes of International community.

We hope and wish the Conference committee of BUSL to make this academic event to be a successful and effective session.

Ven. Dr. Kanattegoda Saddharatana Thero
Dean: Faculty of Buddhist Studies

Ven. Dr. Waradiwela Wijayasumana Thero
Dean: Faculty of Languages and Cultural Studies

MESSEGE FROM THE PRESIDENT DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

I am pleased to send this message of greetings to the special conference being held concurrently with the enshrining of sacred relics in the *Sandahiru Seya* at the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura.

The theme of this conference - "The Evolution of Buddhist Stupas" - is of great relevance today, with the growing interest in Buddhism and its contribution to civilization and social organization in many parts of Asia as well as the interest in Buddhist teaching that is being generated in the West.

Sri Lanka has a continuing tradition of Buddhism from the time of the arrival of Arahata Mahinda, bringing the great teachings of the Buddha more than 2300 years ago. It nourished our culture and traditions, enabled our people to overcome the impact of invasions through the centuries as well as to build the strength to defeat western colonialism and imperialism that oppressed our people through nearly five centuries.

Buddhism is today in a new stage of revival in the country with growing interest on how it can contribute to the current progress of the country. It is helping our people to look with interest at policies that move away from the wholly exploitative and profit oriented cultures of the West and lends support to the concepts of Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection, drawing inspiration and strength from the roots of our Buddhist culture.

The subject of this conference - the Buddhist Stūpa and its evolution, is an important area of study as the Stūpa is among the most widely seen aspects of Buddhist culture in our country, and considered the hallmark of Sri Lankan Buddhist tradition. From the time of the first historically recorded Stūpa, the Thuparamaya built in the 3rd century BC, the construction of Stūpas has spread throughout the country enriching the Buddhist architectural traditions of the land. Among the other more famous of Stūpas are the Ruwanweliseya or Great Stūpa, built around 150 BC by

King Dutugemunu, and the Jetavanaramaya, the most impressive of ancient constructions, built in the 2nd Century AD. It was surpassed in height only by Egypt's pyramids, and even today is the world's largest brick-made building.

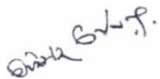
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Archaeologists have identified four main designs of extant Stūpas in Sri Lanka – the *Dhanyākāra* or Heap of Paddy Shape, *Ghaṇṭākāra* or Bell Shape, *Bubbulakāra* or Bubble Shape, *Padmākāra* Lotus Shape. It is significant that the shapes of Sri Lankan Stūpas did influence the construction of Buddhist Stūpas in many other countries, especially in South East Asia, as Buddhism spread in ancient times, with a major contribution from Sri Lanka.

I am confident that this conference will shed more light on the history and importance of the Stūpa in Buddhist traditions, both in Sri Lanka and abroad, drawing greater attention to the value of Buddhism in social organization in the current global context.

I wish to congratulate the organizers of this conference, and extend a warm welcome to Sri Lanka the many international scholars participating in it. I also wish to convey my sincere best wishes for the success of this conference.

May you all obtain the blessings of the Noble Triple Gem.



Mahinda Rajapakse

The President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

**MESSEGE FROM THE SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

I am pleased to contribute this message for the Conference on the Evolution of Buddhist Stupas, which is taking place concurrently to the unveiling of the *Sandahiru Seya* at the historic city of Anuradhapura.

Sri Lanka is one of the main centres for Theravada Buddhism in the world with a history of over 2300 years of Buddhist practice. In the past, the rulers of the island celebrated Buddhism by constructing different Stūpas and monasteries. The *Sandahiru Seya* has been constructed by the Government of Sri Lanka to commemorate the achievement of peace in Sri Lanka in 2009. As a Buddhist, I feel privileged to have been involved in this historic endeavour.

I thank Venerable Prof. Thumbulle Seelakkhandha Thera, the Vice Chancellor and other academic and non-academic staff of Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka for organising this international Conference, and convey my best wishes to all participants.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa RWP RSP psc
Secretary
Ministry of Defence & Urban Development

MESSAGE FROM THE REGISTRAR

The International Conference which is going to be held in Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka on 22nd of November 2014 will give the opportunity for the local and foreign academics to have a formal discussion on 'Evolution of Buddhist Stūpas' and share their views while conveying the message throughout the island and overseas regarding the giant construction of 'Sandahiru Seya' in Anuradhapura, the first ancient kingdom of Sri Lanka.

As the Registrar of the University, I am so happy to be a part of this International Conference organised with sponsorship of the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development with the fullest cooperation of the academic and non-academic staff members who are with the constant experience in organising such conferences.

Enshrining of relics in the Relic Chamber of the huge Stūpa is a great historical event taking place in Sri Lanka with the participation of a large number of monks and devotees. As the only university exclusively for Buddhist monks, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to be a part of the programme. Therefore, as the Registrar of Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka, I make this an opportunity for the academic and non-academic staff of the University for accepting the challenge of organising this international conference within such a short time just after finishing the National Conference of the University on 8th of November 2014. Finally, I extend my gratitude for all the scholars, representatives of the government, academic and non-academic staff of the University for the effort to make this great event a grand success.

I wish all the success with the International Conference.

Mr. U.D. Dodanwala,
Registrar

MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATORS

International Conference on the Evolution of the Stūpa in concurrence with Enshrining of the relics of the Buddha in '*Sandahiru Séya*' is a landmark event in the history of Sri Lanka. The ultimate purpose of this conference is to make a scholastic discussion on Buddhist Stūpa. We firmly assume that this event would make a comprehensive understanding to share the academic experiences of savants all over the world. Especially, the construction of '*Sandahiru Séya*' is an idealistic moment in the Buddhist cultural history of Sri Lanka and this colossal construction further shows the spiritual strength of Sri Lankan at this era.

We are very happy to note that more than fifty local and foreign researchers have provided their proceedings to the conference and their contribution for this conference is very unique. Stūpa symbolizes our nation, power, strength, technology, peace and philosophy throughout the years. Therefore, this event will help for the scholars to mine the age of wisdom through the symbol of Stūpa.

The conference is sponsored by the Ministry of Defense and Urban development. The Mahopādya (Vice Chancellor) of the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka and academic and nonacademic staff of the university highly involved to make this event success.

Finally, as coordinators, we need to pay our great honor and pleasure to welcome warmly all the distinguished participants for this unique event.

Ven. Galwewe Wimalakhanthi Thero

Ven. Kirama Wimalatissa Thero

(Coordinators)

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