



### International Buddhist Day Celebrations at UBC

With the return of Venerable Buddharakkhita from Sri Lanka, the Uganda Buddhist Centre hosted the International Buddhist Day celebrations on 8<sup>th</sup> April. April 8 is an auspicious date that marks the birth of the Buddha. This day was adopted by World Buddhist leaders from all over 41 countries representing Buddhists worldwide. It is considered a day for the dissemination of Buddhism to help all human beings develop true peace and wisdom.

The event was attended by a number of international guests, guests from other cities in Uganda and the community of Bulega village where the UBC is located. Special invitations were extended to H.R.H Queen Mother Best Kemigisa of Tooro Kingdom as the keynote speaker. Other royal guests were H.R.H Omugo Rebecca Tuli Tuuka Queen of Kooki Kingdom, the Prime Minister of Kooki Kingdom and other members of both kingdoms. We were also privileged to have the Thai Consulate in Kampala represented by Ms. Nanteza Norah.



**H.R.H Queen Mother Best Kemigisa planting a tree in honor of her visit to the Temple during the celebrations of the International Buddhist Day.**



**Venerable Buddharakkhita offering a gift to H.R.H Queen Mother Best Kemigisa of Tooro Kingdom at the celebration of the International Buddhist Day.**



**Participants of the International Buddhist Day Celebrations posing for a photo.**



**Members who participated in the pilot study workshop having a discussion with Bhante Buddharakkhita.**

### Pilot Study Workshops 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> April: The Role of Right Mindfulness and African Wisdom in Healing Trauma

In preparation for his research workshops on "The role of Right Mindfulness and African Wisdom in Healing Transgenerational Trauma in Uganda", Ven. Buddharakkhita led a 2-day pilot workshop from 9<sup>th</sup> April – 10<sup>th</sup> April. During the workshop, Ven. Buddharakkhita gave an in-depth introduction to the theory and practice of Right Mindfulness which included guided meditation sessions and talks on the Four Noble Truths and The Eightfold Path.

Venerable also taught on the content and context of the other two subjects (African Wisdom and Trauma) within the scope of the intended research. Participants engaged in a guided discussion on African wisdom, delivered in form of proverbs, and engaged in group and individual activities dealing with the subject of trauma.

### Ven. Buddharakkhita's Meeting with Members of Bulega Buddhist Community (BBC)



**Ven. Buddharakkhita meeting members of Bulega Buddhist Community**

In our previous Newsletter, we reported about the formation of a Buddhist group in the Bulega community, a village in which Uganda Buddhist Centre is situated. The group was renamed to Bulega Buddhist Community.

During his visit to Uganda in April, Venerable Buddharakkhita held a formal meeting with the Members of Bulega Buddhist Community. At the meeting the Venerable presented the UBC registration certificate highlighting the centre's goals and framework of operation.

Previous projects were discussed e.g. envelope making by the



**Members of Uganda Buddhist Community at the Uganda Buddhist Centre**

women's group and English classes for children by previous volunteers and it was agreed that arrangements would be made to revive classes for both children and adults.

The Community also suggested starting a cultural group to provide entertainment (traditional dance) and the lease of some land for gardening and growing vegetables. Venerable Buddharakkhita pledged support to the Community and encouraged group activities which serve to foster fellowship and cohesion within the community as well as provide a modest income for self-reliance.

### Re-opening of Borehole and Machine-Operated Borehole



**Ven. Buddharakkhita offering blessings during the re-opening of the borehole.**

Providing potable water to the UBC surrounding communities, is one of our priorities. In the teaching of the Buddha, it is such a meritorious act of digging a well or a place to drink safe and clean water to benefit all beings. One of the 3 boreholes in the village funded by the UBC had been out of order for nearly 6 months. On his return to the Temple, Ven. Buddharakkhita funded the repair of the third borehole and reopened it at a brief ceremony.

Over the past years, Uganda Buddhist Centre has invested much funds in the provision of safe and clean water to the surrounding communities. But the boreholes keep breaking down, and this hinders the supply of water to the communities. The Centre resolved to drill a machine-operated borehole as an alternative to the manual boreholes. The move was seen to be both financially and ecologically reliable. In April, the work of drilling a machine operated borehole kicked off. The borehole has not yet been finished due to some breakages in the main drilling machines. Once the borehole is finished, UBC and the surrounding communities will be self-sustainable with pure and clean water.



**The drilled Pump operated borehole. It is not yet finished. However, our thanks goes to the Buddhist friends from Melbourne, Australia for their kind donations.**

### Kooki Kingdom Donates Land to the Uganda Buddhist Centre.

In the recent issue of our Newsletter, we reported about the interest of H.R.H. Apollo Sansa Kabumbuli, King of Kooki (Obwakamuswaga Bwa Kooki) in Buddhism, and his pledge to support the growth of Buddhism in Uganda. In 2015, when the King participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> World Buddhist Summit, he promised to offer land to support the development of Buddhism in Uganda.

With much gratitude and metta, the UBC is honored to finally announce that in April 2016, H.R.H Apollo Sansa Kabumbuli generously offered 13 acres of land. The land is to be used for the establishment of the first Buddhist University in Uganda. The project of the University is aimed at the promotion of Buddhist philosophy within the African cultural setting.

We send our sincere merits and metta to the Kingdom of H.R.H Apollo Sansa Kabumbuli. May peace, harmony and prosperity reign in your Kingdom, and may your unconditioned generosity mature to benefit many suffering beings!



**Bhante Buddharakkhita and Stephen Wyard from the UK giving a mark to the land offered by the King of Kooki Kingdom.**



### Teaching Students of Victoria High School, Nansana at the Temple.

Dhamma and Buddhism have been a part of the lives of people especially in the Eastern countries. Here in Uganda, and the entire continent of Africa, Buddhism and the practice of Dhamma in its pure form arrived in 2005 with Bhante Buddharakkhita. Generally, people lack knowledge on Buddhism and Dhamma. The Uganda Buddhist Centre has continuously put in place various peaceful ways to teach Buddhism to the local people, especially those with enthusiasm to learn. Yet, the

advent of learning requires patience and open-mindedness.

Bhante's short return to the Temple aligned with the visit of a team of students, most of them are born-again Christians, of Victoria High School, Nansana to the temple. The visit drifted into a discussion on Buddhism and Dhamma in form of question and answer. This gave the students the opportunity to ask questions on which Buddhism.

### African Buddhist Union Represented at the United Nations Vesak Day Celebrations

Vesak Day is an important day on the Buddhist calendar. Vesak (the month of May) is the month in which the birth, enlightenment and final passing away of Gautama the Buddha occurred. Now, Vesak Day is a holiday, officially recognized by the United Nations (UN), on which Buddhists throughout the globe come together in peace and harmony to commemorate the three events in the life of the Buddha. On this date, celebrated every year, Buddhists recall the knowledge and wisdom which arose in the Buddha on the night of his enlightenment and work towards developing the same wisdom.



Members of African Buddhist Union at the United Nations Vesak Day Celebration in Thailand.

African Buddhist Union (ABU), a Buddhist voice for Africa headquartered at the Uganda Buddhist Centre, was honored to be part of this year's Vesak Day Celebrations and Peace Forum in Thailand. Eight (8) members from 8 African countries were selected to represent the Union. However, only members from Uganda (represented by Ven. Bhante Buddharakkhita), Democratic Republic of Congo (Ven. Bodhi Raja Sapanno), Nigeria (Toyin Ajao), Cameroon (Candide Emile Massocki Massocki and Botswana (Faith Galetshoge) participated in the celebrations. Members from Rwanda, Egypt and Burundi could not meet the Thai visa requirements to attend the Vesak Day.

As for the case of Rev. Sangharakkhita, the representative from Rwanda could not obtain the visa to Thailand. He was traveling from Sri Lanka to Thailand. In order to obtain the Royal Thai visa, the Royal Thai Embassy in Sri Lanka required him to have stayed at least a year to be able to obtain an entry visa to Thailand.



Ven. Buddharakkhita with his student, Candide Emile Massocki Massocki from Cameroon, West Africa, at Mahachula University (MCU), Thailand.



Ven. Bhante Buddharakkhita with his student, Ven. Sangharakkhita from Rwanda, East Africa, at the University of Peradeniya Vihara, Sri Lanka.

### Bhante Buddharakkhita's Trip to Singapore and Thailand

Besides sitting at the Uganda Buddhist Centre, Ven. Buddharakkhita has continued Dhamma activities abroad. In one way, one may say that Bhante is needed abroad much more than in Uganda. On May 19, Bhante flew from Sri Lanka to Singapore, where he was invited to give a Vesak Day Dhamma talk on the significance of the celebrations of Vesak day at the Buddhist Fellowship of Singapore

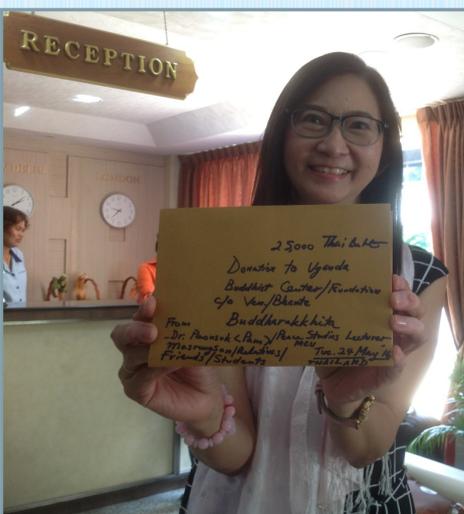


Participants of the Vesak Day celebrations at Buddhist Fellowship of Singapore.

After his talk in Singapore, Bhante made his way to Bangkok, Thailand to participate in the United Nations Vesak Day Celebrations. While at the celebrations, Bhante Buddharakkhita was graced to again meet Dr. Poonsuk Pam, a lecturer at MCU, Thailand. Bhante first met Dr. Poonsuk Pam during a keynote speech he gave to the Post-graduate students of Peace Studies at MCU. Bhante was overjoyed by the Uganda Buddhist Centre at large is very grateful to Dr. Poonsuk Pam. As part of her effort to support the growth of Buddhism in Uganda, she got behind this cause and donate 25, 000 Thai Bahts. We send our merits and metta to you Dr. Poonsuk Pam for your generous donation. May the seed you have planted sprout to benefit all beings!



Above: Venerable Buddharakkhita while teaching at Buddhist Fellowship of Singapore.



Bhante Buddharakkhita offering blessings to Dr. Poonsuk Pam who donated funds towards the activities of the Uganda Buddhist Centre.

### Below: Asian Visitors at the Temple in the Photos



Sri Lankans offering flowers at the Temple on the Vesak Day.



Wira Lapjatuporn from Thailand.



A group of visitors from Vietnam posing for a photo with Ven. Dhammakami at the Temple.

### Upcoming Events and Activities

- From June 24-29, 2016, Uganda Buddhist Centre will conduct an **International Buddhist Conference on Peace**. During the Conference, there will be a groundbreaking ceremony; of African Buddhist College; launching of online courses; celebration of the 50th anniversary of Bhante Buddharakkhita; celebration of 10 years of existence of UBC; and the consecration of boundaries (*sima*) at UBC.
- On 25th June, we are going to have higher ordination of two Buddhist monks.
- Bhante Buddharakkhita will lead a **research workshop** aimed at evaluating "The Role of Right Mindfulness and African Traditional Wisdom in Healing Transgenerational Trauma". This will be in a series of workshops during

weekends. These meditation workshops will be conducted on every weekend starting on Saturday 18 - 19, June to the last weekend of 8-10 of July.

Participants will camp at the temple and are required to arrive on Friday evening for camping at the Temple. Meals and accommodation will be provided at the Temple. Tentative schedule is as follows.

- Workshop #1: Saturday 18th - 19th
- Workshop #2: Saturday 25th - 26th
- Workshop #3: Saturday 3rd - 4th
- Workshop #4: Saturday 8th - 9th

To be part of this program, please contact Stellah at Tel. +256 (0) 39200926/+256 (0) 775019180 or write to ugandabuddhistcentre@gmail.com.

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