



# Uganda Buddhist Center Newsletter

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## Hosting the International Buddhist Conference at the Uganda Buddhist Centre

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*In* a memorable and historical event on the African continent, UBC was honoured to host the International Buddhist Conference on Peace and Conflict Resolution which was held from 24th – 29th June. Venerable Bhikkhus from Bangladesh, India, Uganda, Mexico, Myanmar, Thailand, Germany, Rwanda, and Sri Lanka were present and delivered dhamma talks, speeches, and presentations.

The conference was attended by the Queen Mother of Tooro who gave a keynote speech and extended an invitation to the Venerable Bhikkhus to hold a future meeting in Tooro kingdom. Also, in attendance were various high ranking representatives from the Ugandan government, representatives from other Kingdoms in Uganda, and members of the public. Venerable Buddharakkhita cordially welcomed attendees from various faith groups, encourag-

ing interfaith dialogue and reminding the public that the UBC was open not only to Buddhists but to people of all walks of life and all faith backgrounds. Besides the Buddhist meditation and chanting at the event, time was also allocated for Christian and Moslem prayers led by dignitaries from these two major faith groups in Uganda.

Venerable Buddharakkhita also urged the Uganda Government representatives to partner with him in fostering faith based tourism in Uganda by introducing Buddhist art and architectural artefacts into the county.



*Ground-Breaking Ceremony of the African Buddhist University by H.R.H Best Kemigisa.*



*The Minister of State of Tourism of Uganda arriving at the Uganda Buddhist Centre.*



*Venerable bhikkhus planting trees at the temple during the conference.*



*Monks going for almsround during the conference*



## Establishment of Sima Boundaries and Ordinations at UBC



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*We wish to send our Dhamma greetings and gratitude to all of you who have supported us over the years. we hope you can support us once again. Thank you for your kind support!*

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During the International Buddhist Peace Conference, Venerable Bhikkhus from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Mexico, India, Myanmar, USA, UK, Germany and other parts of the world established SIMA grounds at the Uganda Buddhist Centre, Entebbe, Uganda. The consecration of the UBC temple grounds marks a historical milestone for the growth of Buddhism in Africa and in Venerable Buddhharakkhita's endeavours of sowing Dhamma seeds on the African continent.

This was followed by the ordinations of a Rwandese and Ugandan nationals. On this event, Venerable Sangharakkhita received higher ordination which marked the first ever monk ordinations in Africa.



*Venerable Bhikkhus marking the Sima grounds at the Uganda Buddhist Centre.*



*Ordination at the Uganda Buddhist Centre during the International Buddhist Conference.*

## Arrival of a Resident Monk

In agreement with Venerable Buddhharakkhita, Venerable Adicca from Burma arrived at the UBC in Bulega in June and will be staying at the temple for at least one year as a resident Monk.

Venerable Adicca will assist the Abbot and Founder President, Venerable Buddhharakkhita, with the propagation of Buddhist teachings and practice of the Theravada tradition among Buddhists and other faith groups in Uganda. The Buddhist community in Uganda and members of the public from all faith backgrounds can now benefit from dhamma talks, guided meditation, and general spiritual guidance.



*Venerable Adicca at the Uganda Buddhist Centre.*



## Research and Meditation Workshop Retreats Held at UBC

Venerable Bhante Buddharakkhita led a series of workshops that focused on the role of African Wisdom and the practice of Right Mindfulness in dealing with trauma. The workshops are part of Venerable Buddharakkhita's research for his MPhil paper on "Healing Transgenerational Trauma in Uganda: A Critical Evaluation of the Role of Right Mindfulness and African Wisdom".

Participants benefited from the teachings that covered theory and practice of walking, standing, and sitting meditation as well as mindfulness of eating. Basing on the Satipatthana Sutta, Venerable Buddharakkhita gave in-depth teachings on the four foundations of mindfulness. Furthermore, the Venerable also taught the practices of loving-kindness, compassion, and forgiveness which included loving-kindness meditation in the local Ugandan languages. Every day of the workshops included meditation ses-

sions guided by Venerable Buddharakkhita, while his student Venerable Sangharakkhita led asana classes on mindfulness of movement.

Discussions of African Wisdom were conducted within the framework of the Noble Eightfold Path and Mindfulness in particular. Participants continued to exchange knowledge of and discuss African wisdom at a campfire that was set up at the UBC in the evenings and thereafter, most participants stayed in tents set up on the temple grounds. Through the active participation of attendees awareness and appreciation of the core teachings inherent in African proverbs was revived. Several proverbs from different languages were listed in relation to the various elements of the Eightfold Path.



*The Research and Meditation workshop Participants.*



*Practice of Mindfulness meditation during the research and meditation workshops at the Uganda Buddhist Centre.*



## UBC Honors the 1994 Genocide Victims in Rwanda

On the 5th July, 2016 a team of Six from Uganda Buddhist Centre Led by Bhante Buddharakkhita set off to visit the Genocide Memorial in Rwanda. The genocide memorial is a resting place where more than 800,000 victims of the genocide committed against the Tutsi ethnic group in Rwanda are interred. This tour was part of Bhante Buddharakkhita's research on the Role of Right Mindfulness

and African Wisdom in Healing Transgenerational Trauma. Honouring the victims, Bhante Buddharakkhita laid a wreath at the mass graves and offered special chanting and blessings for the victims.

### Our Address and Contact Info

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## **Gratitude to All Our Supporters**

UBC activities are made possible by many supporters from around the world. Therefore, we are eternally grateful for your kind and generous donations.

### **UBC still needs your support:**

- To maintain resident teachers/monastics
- To maintain the Temple
- To establish the African Buddhist School/College
- To run Buddhist activities
- To build accommodation facilities

### **How to donate:**

#### **1. By paypal:**

Please follow the link below to make a secure donation online:

<http://ugandabuddhistcentre.com/site/donate/>

#### **2. wire transfer**

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**Bank Name:** Bank of Africa Uganda Limited

**Bank Account #** 01178230007

**Account Name:** Uganda Buddhist Centre

**Swift address:** AFRI UG KA

##### **Address:**

Main Branch, Plot 45, Jinja Road.

P.O. Box 2750, Kampala, Uganda.

### **THE INTERMEDIARY / CORRESPONDENT BANK DETAILS**

**FOR U.S DOLLAR TRANSFERS:**

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