



UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE

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UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE WELCOMES TWO SENIOR NUNS FROM MYANMAR

On July 1, 2024, we welcomed two Buddhist nuns from Myanmar, Venerable Daw Sucinti and Venerable Daw Kesavati, who have joined the Uganda Buddhist Centre (UBC) for Buddhist missionary activities and to play a crucial role in training and nurturing local nuns. Their arrival is historic in the growth and development of Buddhism in Uganda and across Africa.

Venerable Daw Sucinti was born in 1960 in Rangoon, Yangon. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Rangoon Arts and Science University, Yangon. In 1984, she earned an Associateship of Government Technical Institutes (AGTI) Diploma. Her journey in Buddhist studies took her to Sri Lanka, where she obtained a Master's degree in Buddhist Studies in 2007. Venerable Sucinti has also been a teacher at the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University since 1998. Her extensive knowledge and experience make her a valuable addition to the Uganda Buddhist Centre.

Venerable Daw Kesavati was born in 1982 in Mangyiten village, Nyaung U township, in the Mandalay region. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Makeitila University in 2005. In 2010, she embraced monastic life, becoming a Buddhist nun under the guidance of Venerable Ukkamsa, the Abbot of Mahasi Meditation Centre in Nyaung U town. Her dedication to Buddhist studies continued, and in 2020, she earned another Bachelor's degree in Buddhism from the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University. Currently, she is studying Dhammacariya Buddhist literature and is an ardent practitioner of meditation. Before joining the Uganda Buddhist Centre, she was living in North Okkalapa, Yangon, Myanmar.

The arrival of Venerable Daw Sucinti and Venerable Daw Kesavati coincides with the establishment of the Dhammakami Buddhist Nunnery, named in honor of Venerable Dhammakami. This nunnery symbolizes her courage and endurance in pioneering the Buddhist nuns' order in Uganda. It is to empower women and young girls who wish to pursue the Buddhist monastic path, promoting gender inclusivity within the Buddhist community and society at large.



TRAINING LOCAL NUNS

The two nuns from Myanmar, Venerable Daw Sucinti and Venerable Daw Kesavati, who have joined the Uganda Buddhist Centre, are actively engaged in a range of Buddhist activities. They are focusing on training the local novice nuns in various aspects of monastic life, including teaching Vinaya (the monastic discipline), meditation practices, and the teachings of the Buddha.

In addition to these spiritual teachings, the Burmese nuns are also instructing the local nuns on how to sew nun's robes. Previously, the Uganda Buddhist Centre faced challenges importing these robes from Myanmar every time there was an ordination for nuns. The difficulties included high shipping costs, long waiting times, and the uncertainty of customs clearance. By teaching the local nuns to make these robes locally, the Centre can avoid these logistical issues. It will ensure a steady supply of robes for ordinations and daily use, reduce costs, and

promote self-sufficiency within the monastic community. This local production will also foster skills development among the nuns, contributing to their empowerment and the sustainability of the Centre.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Venerable Daw Sucinti and Venerable Daw Kesavati for their dedication and commitment to our mission. Their presence is a blessing to our community, and we look forward to the positive impact they will undoubtedly cause to our community.

May their stay be filled with peace, wisdom, and meaningful experiences!





VENERABLE DHAMMARAKKHITA ARRIVES AT ASGIRI MAHAVIHARA PIRIVENA FOR HIS STUDIES

On July 25, 2024, one of our novice monks named Dhammarakkhita (a.k.a Oris Sserunjoji) was taken to Sri Lanka to further his monastic training and education at Asgiri Maha Vihara Pirivena in Kandy city. The Asgiri Maha Viharaya is a renowned Buddhist monastery in Kandy, Sri Lanka, and the headquarters of the Asgiriya Chapter of Siyam Nikaya. It is also one of the two custodians of the sacred tooth relic of the Buddha, housed at Sri Dalada Maligawa, Kandy.

Venerable Dhammarakkhita has been a novice since May 2021, having undergone a series of temporary novice ordinations before fully committing to the monastic life. He is a very humble young man who has dedicated himself to the path of monasticism. At the Asgiri Maha Viharaya, Venerable Dhammarakkhita was warmly received by Venerable Narampanave Ananda Thero, the Principal of Mahavihara Pirivena, who expressed his joy at welcoming a student from Uganda.

We hope that this training in Sri Lanka will offer Venerable Dhammarakkhita with a deep understanding of Buddhist teachings, monastic discipline, and meditation practices, which he can bring back to Uganda. This knowledge transfer is crucial for the growth and sustainability of Buddhism in Africa, as it ensures that local monastic communities are guided by well-trained and knowledgeable monks.



BUDDHIT PEACE SCHOOL EXPANDS CLASSROOMS TO MEET THE GROWING DEMAND

Recognizing the overwhelming demand for our school's unique education approach, we have decided to increase enrollment of children in various. This decision comes in response to the numerous requests from parents and guardians who have witnessed the uniqueness of our values.

To accommodate the growing number of learners, we have merged some smaller rooms to expand our classrooms. The new classrooms will now accommodate at least 40 students each. As part of this scheme, we have temporarily merged the lower primary section with the nursery section, which offers more spacious classrooms. This arrangement is temporary as we seek funds to build permanent structures with enough space for all students.

We invite you to support our efforts to create a spacious learning environment by contributing to our fundraising campaign. Together, we can ensure that every child receives the quality education they deserve.



BUDDHIST PEACE SCHOOL LEADS COMMUNITY IN ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING



On July 31st, the Buddhist Peace School led Bulega community in an environmental cleanup initiative, one of the school's annual activities aimed at promoting awareness and advocating for a cleaner, plastic-free community. This annual campaign demonstrates the school's commitment to Buddhist values, emphasizing environmental care and peaceful coexistence.

Participants from both the school and the community, joined by the local chairperson, Mr. Walugembe Tony, collaborated to collect litter, clear pathways, and enhance the natural beauty of Bulega village.

Moreover, this year's campaign coincided with the 31st coronation anniversary of the Kabaka of Buganda, His Majesty Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II. The King advocates for a clean environment through their "Bulungi Bwansi" campaign, which involves door-to-door initiatives encouraging community members to come together and clean their surroundings. Leading up to the coronation celebration, various communities across Buganda region actively participated in this cleaning efforts.

"This campaign demonstrates our commitment to the environment, preserving our soils from degradation, and the community that support us," said Sserebe Gerald, the Head Boy and Prefect in charge of health at the Buddhist Peace School. He also expressed his gratitude to the local community for entrusting their children to the Buddhist Peace School. "This cleanup is a small way of giving back and showing our appreciation", he said.

Finally, participants reflected on the positive impact of their efforts and the importance of maintaining a clean and peaceful environment. The Buddhist Peace School and the community look forward to continuing this tradition, embodying the spirit of Buddhism and environmental oversight.



Venerable Daw Sucinti



Venerable Daw Kesavati



Venerable Dhammarakkhita at the Uganda Buddhist Centre ready for his journey to Sri Lanka



Venerable Daw Kesavati shaving one of the novice nuns

SUPPORTING UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE

UBC activities are made possible by many supporters from around the world. Therefore, we are eternally grateful Buddhist Global Relief of USA, Huong Tu Lovingkindness Foundation USA, Buddhist Fellowship of Singapore, Tan Teo Charitable Foundation, and all our beloved donors from around the world.

UBC still needs your support:

To maintain resident teachers/monastics

To maintain the Temple

To build monks accommodation facilities

To construct and operation of Buddhist Secondary School

How to Donate

1. For donors in the USA

1. Please write out the Check/Cheque to:

Universal Virtue Buddhist Charities

2. Please Write in the Memo of the Check:

Dana for Uganda Buddhist Centre or Bhante Buddharakkhita

3. Please take a photocopy of the check and send it via email:

ugandabuddhistcentre@gmail.com

4. Please mail the check to the physical address below:

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Garden Grove, CA 92843

Donate Online

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

<https://ugandabuddhistcenter.org/donate-now/>

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Please note that this payment gateway accepts 3D secure transactions only.

This means that only cards that are Verified by Visa, and Mastercard secure code will be accepted. If your donation doesn't go through, kindly contact your bank to ensure you are secured. Thank you!

HOW TO DONATE. wire transfer

Beneficiary's Bank Details:

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Bank Account Number: 41261302010523

Bank Account Name: Uganda Buddhist Centre

Swift Address: ORINUGKA

Bank Address: Orient Plaza, 6/6A, Kampala Road.

