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Joyful & Spiritual Buddha Day

The opening of Nalanda Centre annex building just in time for Wesak was indeed a great blessing, as this year we welcomed a record of 4,600 visitors to the Centre over 3 days for Dhamma learning and meditation. See reports on pages 8 – 11.

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National Members' Convention sets the path forward for Nalandians

Nalanda Buddhist Society members from Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Johor and Kedah branches came together to discuss the Society's growth for the next five years in the 3rd National Members' Convention, held at Nalanda Centre, Sri Serdang. Founder Bro. H S Tan presented an important lecture on 'The Way Forward', charting the path for Nalandians to advance personally and organisationally.

The day also marked Nalanda's 12th anniversary since its establishment, which is also known to members as 'Nalanda Day'. As customary every two years, members got to witness the installation of the newly-elected Board of Management (for the 2015 – 2017 term), headed by a female President for the first time ever.

Nalandians from all over Malaysia also

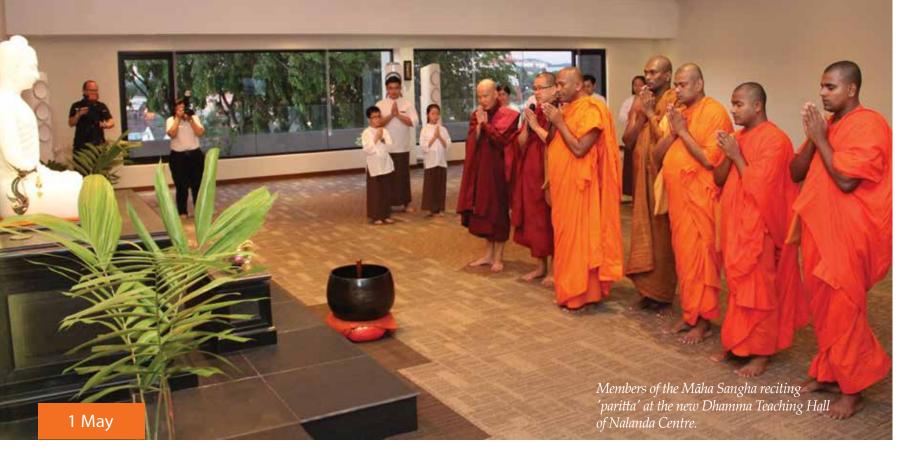
took the opportunity to strengthen their friendship and shared experiences together. Everyone joyfully participated in the nonstop flow of events – from the opening of Nalanda Centre annex building to Wesak 'Buddha Day' celebrations.

It was a truly rousing gathering as members strive to be better practitioners and 'kalyanamittā' (good friends) to each other, motivating and cheering every progress along the path of cultivation and development.

With much appreciation and gratitude, the Board of Management and Nalanda members would like to thank our Founder Bro. Tan for his great leadership, guidance and advice throughout these years. Working together in 'Samaggi' (unity and harmony), may Nalandians move forward and upward to greater heights!

Founder Bro. Tan addressing Nalandians at the convention. He presented a lecture themed 'The Way Forward' to outline the development of Nalanda over the next five years in line with the Society's education mission.





The colourful and stately procession was a marvelous sight with everyone walking mindfully and gracefully, in deep reverence for the *Three Jewels*. It was augmented by a lively stage performance by Nalanda Dhamma School students and inspiring speeches by Sangha elders and community leaders.

The Management and members of Nalanda Buddhist Society would like to thank all donors, benefactors, and well-wishers from all over Malaysia, Singapore and overseas for your support and contribution towards the completion of the annex building.

With much appreciation, we thank our dedicated Building Committee, all contractors, suppliers, workers and volunteers for your hard work in building us a wonderful 'spiritual home'. Sadhu!

Nalanda Annex Building officiated

On Friday 1 May, which was also Nalanda Buddhist Society's 12th anniversary, Nalanda Centre was filled with joy as 1,000 Nalandians and guests came to take part in the officiating ceremony of Nalanda Centre annex building. We were honoured to have had Ven. Sri Saranankara Nayaka Thero, Abbot of Sri Lanka Buddhist Temple in Sentul, Ven. Nyanaramsi Thero, Abbot of Subang Jaya Buddhist Vihara, and venerable members of the Maha Sangha to offer blessings at the ceremony.

The programme started at 7.30pm with the offering of lights at all altars, led by the venerable monks. The thousand-strong congregation then participated in a traditional procession – "Buddha Abhisekhara", followed by stage performances by Nalanda Dhamma School students and felicitations by leaders of the Buddhist community from Malaysia and Singapore.

Nalanda members customarily wore their brown 'sarong' with white-top uniforms for the procession. A Buddha statue from Nalanda Centre was placed on a wooden sedan and conveyed along the short procession route, accompanied by harmonious beats of drum and gongs, flags, parasols, and other paraphernalia. This procession is unique to Sri Serdang and usually held in conjunction with Wesak 'Buddha Day' every May.





Joyful 'Buddha Day' Observance

This year's Wesak 'Buddha Day' was truly special and joyful for Nalandians, as members from Nalanda's three branches in Kuala Lumpur, Johor Bahru and Sungai Petani came 'home' to join the celebrations in Sri Serdang. The gathering of Nalandians from 1 to 3 May also took part in celebrating the Society's 12th anniversary, the officiating ceremony of Nalanda Centre annex building, as well as participating in the 3rd National Members' Convention.

On 2 May Wesak Eve, a day of Dhamma teaching, group discussions and meditation was organised at Nalanda Centre. Devotees started the day with meditation, *Pūja* and chanting, followed by Dhamma teaching by Nalanda Founder Bro

Tan. Quoting *Majjhima Nikāya* Suttas 45 and 46, he reminded everyone on the dangers of sensual desires, which are likened to the *maluva*-creeper. Fulfilment of craving only rekindles more craving, instead of extinguishing it. A good practitioner therefore always treasures the spirit of renunciation.

After lunch, Bro. Ananda Fong took over and shared about righteous and unrighteous conducts from *Salleyaka Sutta* (MN 41). He also elaborated on gradual training and progress in the Dhamma and Discipline, as outlined in the *Ganaka-Moggallana Sutta* (MN 107). Devotees thereafter formed small groups for discussions and reflection to consolidate what they have learnt.







In the early morning of Sunday 3 May (which was Wesak 'Buddha Day' in Malaysia), dozens of devotees gathered at Nalanda Centre and around Taman Sri Serdang to offer alms to venerable Sangha members on *Pindacāra*. It was inspiring to see many people manifesting the spirit of 'cāga' (generosity) through wholesome acts of giving.

A "Mass Food Offering" was also held on Wesak Day where cooked meals were offered freely to the community. This food offering had been a Nalandian custom since the first year of Wesak celebrations in Sri Serdang. Devotees would normally cook and pack food to be given to visitors as an act of charity and to cultivate generosity.

Nalandians and volunteers happily served food to the public that came individually or with families and friends in tow. This Wesak, more than 2,000 meals were served to the public. It was indeed a joyful occasion to immerse ourselves spiritually with meritorious deeds on 'Buddha Day'.

The 3-day programme was successfully held with the strong Nalandian spirit of discipline, unity, and working in harmony! We thank our members from the 3 branches, 'kalyana mittā' from Buddhist Fellowship Singapore, Firefly Mission, sister Buddhist organisations, and devotees from all over Malaysia for joining us in observing this sacred and auspicious occasion in Sri Serdang.

'Buddha Day' Observance

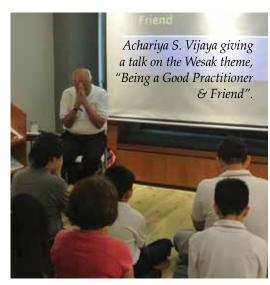
Kuala Lumpur Branch



Wesak 'Buddha Day' was celebrated with joy and spiritual fervour at Nalanda Education & Outreach (NEO) Centre in Happy Garden on 3 May 2015. Chairman Bro. Eugene Yong and other Committee Members were on hand to welcome devotees to the fourth Wesak Observance at Nalanda Kuala Lumpur Branch since its establishment.

The day's programme began with devotees performing the 'Buddha $P\bar{u}ja$ ' – offerings to the Three Jewels. This was followed by meditation and Pāli chanting led by Dhamma School facilitators Mark Tuen and Kwa Ai Ai. Thereafter, Chairman of Nalanda Education Team Achariya Vijaya Samarawickrama was invited to give a talk based on this year's Wesak theme, "Being a Good Practitioner & Friend".

After the uplifting Dhamma talk, branch members cleaned up the Centre before proceeding to join the main Wesak celebration at Nalanda Centre Sri Serdang, where a heritage procession was held in the evening.



Johor Bahru Branch



On Sunday 3 May, devotees and volunteers joyfully participated in the Wesak 'Buddha Day' programme with meditation to calm their minds, $P\bar{u}ja$ (offerings to the Three Jewels) and chanting. First-time visitors were brought on a building tour of NEO Centre Johor Bahru, besides being introduced to educational programmes and regular activities of the centre.

Devotees were also encouraged to 'read a Dhamma book' as the Nalanda Branch Library there is well-stocked with more than 1,450 titles. 2015 is the third year that Wesak 'Buddha Day' was joyously celebrated at NEO Centre JB. However half the Branch membership were observing Wesak at Nalanda Centre Sri Serdang, in conjunction with the Society's 3rd National Members' Convention.

There was a 'Mass Food Offering' where volunteers, students and parents of Free School and Dhamma School served food to the public happily and cordially. It was indeed a joyous occasion and it befits this year's Wesak theme of "Being a Good Practitioner & Friend". We thank all sponsors, donors, volunteers, and devotees for your contribution and participation in the day's events. Sadhu anumodana!



Nalanda Founder Bro. Tan gave many Dhamma teachings to complement our practice and understanding throughout the 7 weeks.

Nalanda's Annual 'Gimhāna' Retreat

17 May –1 July

For the fourth consecutive year, Nalanda held its 7-week Annual 'Gimhāna' Retreat from 17 May to 1 July. 'Gimhāna' Retreat focused on one's spiritual growth and personal transformation effected through the Dhamma.

During this period, devotees were encouraged to commit to progressive Dhamma learning and deeper spiritual cultivation. Dhamma teachings and meditation sessions were arranged at Nalanda Centre every Wednesday, Sunday and Uposatha (New-moon and Full-moon) Day.

The theme for this year's 'Gimhāna' is "Being a Good Practitioner & Friend". Over the course of the retreat, this theme was further explored to induce a deeper understanding of Dhamma. By learning to be 'a good practitioner and friend', we can grow with grace, wisdom and happiness, and lead more meaningful lives.





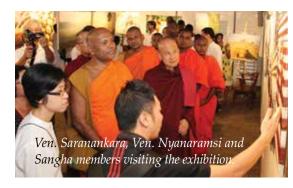


"Passage through India" Special Photography Exhibition

On Friday 1 May, the much-anticipated "Passage through India" special photography exhibition was launched in a joyful atmosphere at Nalanda Centre, Sri Serdang. The launching was jointly performed by the producer of 'Dhammayatra' Project Datin Seri Kee-Mah Ming Yuet, and Mdm. Serena Yong representing Hewlett-Packard (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd — the generous sponsor of the photograph printing.

'Dhammayatra' director Mr. Yang Wei Han thanked everyone for supporting this educational project aimed at creating greater awareness among Buddhists of their glorious history, invaluable cultural heritage, and Buddhism's immense potential to help humanity gain peace and happiness. Mr. Yang then introduced two of the three photographers present to the appreciative audience.

The exhibition was originally scheduled from 1 to 3 May only; but in its initial 3-day run, more than 1,000 visitors had come to see the wonderful photographs of temples, people and scenery. Due to such enthusiastic response, the exhibition was extended for another two weeks, allowing more people to admire those artistic and insightful 'works of heart'.





The "Silver Lining" Photo Contest Awards Presentation

On Saturday 16 May, the "Silver Lining" Photography Competition awards presentation was held at Nalanda Centre, attended by prize recipients, their families and friends. The ceremony marked the conclusion of Nalanda Youth Centre's two-month campaign to raise awareness on the importance of being kind and compassionate.

During the Awards Ceremony, the top 20 participants were not only presented with their well-deserved prizes, they were also treated to a profound Dhamma talk by Nalanda Founder, Bro Tan. He spoke about how performing random acts of kindness can bring about happiness to the doer and beneficiary; but there is more to be cultivated. True kindness is not in 'doing good', but in 'being good'. By living a harmless and wholesome life, we truly deserve to be labeled 'human-KIND'.

Nalanda Youth Centre would like to thank all organisers, sponsors, participants, and selfless volunteers who contributed to the success of this project. May we all continue to be beacons of goodness and "Silver Linings" to the world!





Ven. Sayadaw Nyanapurnik visits Nalanda Centre

On Saturday 27 June, Nalanda Centre was honoured by the visit of Ven. Sayadaw Nyanapurnik Maha Thera, the most senior Theravada prelate in Nepal. He was accompanied by Ven. Gavesi, Ven. Sayalay Cini, the President of Selangor Buddhist Vipassana Meditation Society Bro. Lim Boon Hang, and several other devotees. The venerables and devotees were warmly welcomed by Founder Bro. Tan, Director of Nalanda Centre Sis. Nandini and other officers.

The visitors were brought around for a tour of Nalanda Centre and the library. Ven. Nyanapurnik was impressed with the informative tour and the details put into the interior design of the building. He expressed his admiration for Nalandians

for representing the best of Malaysian Buddhism, with the right focus and balance of education and cultivation.

Ven. Nyanapurnik was also asked by Nalandians about the after-effects of recent devastating earthquakes that shook Nepal. He said that the quakes had badly damaged the infrastructure of Kathmandu Valley and adversely affected the livelihood of thousands. Bro. Tan then pledged Nalandians' contribution of RM75,000 to rebuilding projects undertaken by Ven. Nyanapurnik in Nepal.

We thank Ven. Nyanapurnik and his entourage for visiting Nalanda Centre and may his reverence be blessed with good health and much peace! Sadhu anumodana.



Visiting Sangha Members at Nalanda

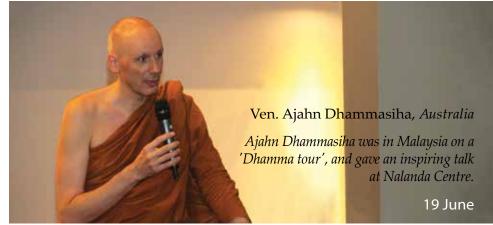














Dedication of merits to victims of Nepali earthquakes

During the Wesak 'Buddha Day' observance period, Nalanda devotees performed numerous meritorious deeds such as giving alms, listening to and discussing the Dhamma, meditating, and serving others selflessly. On 3 May, Nalandians dedicated merits to the victims of the recent devastating earthquakes in Nepal. With compassionate hearts, we wish that all beings be free from harm, danger, and suffering!





Dhamma School student officers' Stay-in Programme

During the recent school holiday, eight Nalanda Dhamma School (NDS) student officers* participated in a stay-in and training programme at Nalanda Youth Centre from 6 to 8 June. Throughout the 3-day programme, the officers were given opportunities to improve their leadership skills, understand their roles and responsibilities as leaders, and to form stronger bonds of friendship with each other.

A workshop on leadership was conducted by Nalandian youth, Sis. Yeoh Min Li, on the first day of the stay-in, where the students learned about qualities of a good leader and ways to become an effective one. Assistant Director of NDS Sis. Hui Shien also conducted a workshop on the roles and responsibilities of student officers.

On the second day, they participated in the monthly educational '*Pindacāra*' programme in Sri Petaling. After the alms-round, Director of Nalanda Dhamma School Sis.

Sunanda gave a Dhamma sharing about the Second Noble Truth: the cause of suffering – 'craving'.

On the third day, the students went to Putrajaya Wetlands Park to have a friendly frisbee game between officers of 'Naga' and 'Garuda' Houses*. The officers enjoyed the game as they understand that achievement is not the only goal, but the process in achieving it is often more important.

T he stay-in programme concluded with group reflection to summarise their learning throughout the three days. We thank the programme organising team for enabling the student officers' holiday to be well-spent at Nalanda! Sadhu anumodana.

* Students are grouped into two houses – 'Naga' and 'Garuda' – upon joining Nalanda Dhamma School. Members of each house elect their own leaders every year – a Captain, an Assistant Captain, and two Prefects. These four elected representatives are known as 'student officers'.



Buddhist Fellowship Youths' Visit

Nalanda Youth Centre was honoured to host the Buddhist Fellowship youths from Singapore, who chose to have their annual retreat at Nalanda so that they can have cultural exchanges with Nalandian youths.

The Singaporeans had several inspiring and fruitful 'Dhamma Chat' sessions with Nalanda Founder Bro. Tan, who answered many of their questions on how to lead a Buddhist organisation. They also held discussions with Nalandian youths to exchange views on the systems and structures of both groups, besides brainstorming on different ways and approaches of propagating Dhamma to young people in their respective countries.

On the second day of their visit, the Singaporean youths participated in Nalanda's monthly *Pindacāra* (monks on alms-round) programme in Seri Kembangan morning market. Later that evening, they also attended the launching of the 'Wesak International Film Festival' at Malaysian Tourism Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

The youths joined the Gimhāna Sunday Service on the third day where Achariya Vijaya gave a Dhamma talk on 'Friendship'. The three eventful days provided wonderful learning experiences for everyone. We thank Buddhist Fellowship youths for visiting us and we look forward to welcoming them to Nalanda Centre again. Sadhu!

▼ The inspiring and fruitful 'Dhamma Chat' sessions with Nalanda Founder Bro. Tan, with added humour and vivacity.



Nalanda Sungai Petani Branch

SP NEO Centre building progress

Support a noble cause!

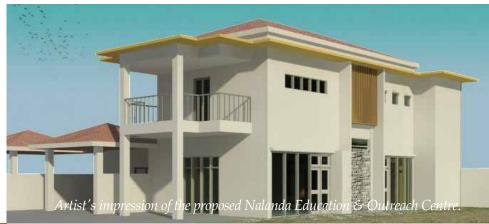
Construction of the Nalanda Education & Outreach (NEO) Centre in Sungai Petani (SP) began in early April. Work is progressing smoothly and as of 15 July, the project was about 42% completed. The Centre is expected to be operational in December 2015.

The planned NEO Centre is strategically located in Central Kedah, and is easily accessible from Perlis, Kedah and Penang. It is situated near to the Teacher's Training College and various institutions of higher learning. Programmes at NEO Centre SP will greatly benefit undergraduates and young professionals in the Northern states who are keen to learn Dhamma.

The construction is estimated to cost RM750,000. We are currently raising funds for this important and much-needed educational facility. Donations for the building fund can be channeled to any of Nalanda's branches in Sri Serdang, Kuala Lumpur, Johor Bahru or Sungai Petani.

We look forward to your invaluable support towards the successful completion of this noble project. Thank you for your contributions!







Nalanda Family Fun Fair 2015

家庭欢乐日 筹款义卖会

Help raise funds for holistic community education.

Nalanda's annual 'Family Fun Fair' is held in aid of our "Education & Development Fund". The proceeds will be channeled to support educational programmes of Nalanda Free School, Nalanda Institute, Dhamma School, Library, and Youth Centre. Come enjoy a fun & meaningful day with your family members and friends while supporting a great cause. All are welcome!

家庭欢乐日主要目的是为了Nalanda教育及发展基金筹募。其款项将会用在推广Nalanda义校、佛学院、佛学班、图书馆及青年组的全面教育。

Sunday, 9 August 2015 八月九日, 星期日

9 am – 5 pm | Nalanda Centre, Taman Sri Serdang, Selangor

Sunday, 13 September 2015 九月十三日, 星期日

8 am - 2 pm | NEO Centre, Taman Johor Jaya, Johor

Attractions 特备项目:

- Food, beverages & dried food items 食品、饮料及干粮
- ★ Garments 服饰
- ★ Kitchenware 厨房用具
- 🧚 Bonsai & plants 盆栽及园艺品



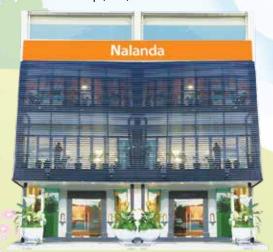
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 012-720 0082



Kindly obtain coupons from Nalanda offices. Thank you for your support!

请到 Nalanda 中心获取固本。谢谢您的支持!

Upcoming Events July – September 2015

'Dhamma Day' Observance

'Asalha' Full-moon Uposatha Day

02-06 * Study tour to Borobudur, Indonesia

JUL

01	Nalanda Institute's 8th Anniversary	Nalanda Centre
	Meditation & Dhamma Teaching	Nalanda Centre
04	Pindacāra - Alms-round by Sangha members at the morning markets in Sri Petaling & Happy Garden	NEO Centre, KL / Sri Petaling market / Happy Garden
	* Commencement of BPS 303 – Certificate in Buddhist Studies	Nalanda Centre
17	* One-day 'Dhamma Retreat' with Bro. Tan organized by Nalanda Sungai Petani Branch	Gurun Buddhist Association
18	Pindacāra - Alms-round by Sangha members at the morning market in Seri Kembangan	Nalanda Centre / S. K. market

Nalanda Centre

Nalanda Centre

Central Java



26

30



01	Pindacāra - Alms-round by Sangha members at the morning markets in Sri Petaling & Happy Garden	NEO Centre, KL / Sri Petaling market / Happy Garden
	* SPM Chemistry Examination Preparation Seminar	Sekolah Menengah Seri Kembangan
09	Nalanda Family Fun Fair 2015 Raising funds for holistic community education	Open field opposite Nalanda Centre
15	Pindacāra - Alms-round by Sangha members at the morning market in Seri Kembangan	Nalanda Centre / S. K. market
31	K. Sri Dhammananda Memorial Day	Nalanda Centre

SEP



05	Pindacāra - Alms-round by Sangha members at the morning markets in Sri Petaling & Happy Garden	NEO Centre, KL / Sri Petaling market , Happy Garden
13	Nalanda Family Fun Fair in Johor Bahru 家庭欢乐在 <i>JB</i> 筹款义卖会	NEO Centre Johor Bahru
19	Pindacāra - Alms-round by Sangha members at the morning market in Seri Kembangan	Nalanda Centre / S. K. market

^{*} Registration is required for these courses / programmes.

Nalanda's Core Value – Service

W e often harbour a self-limiting belief that we can't change this world at all. If we continue to think like this, many problems in the world will remain unresolved.

A change in our mindset and actions can make this world a better place. A simple kind deed and service rendered by an individual can contribute greatly to our society.

If we think that something is important and valuable, we should do our part to uphold or preserve it not just for our own benefits, but also for the welfare of others. When we help and serve the needy, we get to learn and improve ourselves, too. Let's start doing the needful and being altruistic in rendering services to the world. Let's remind ourselves that a little selfless act may bring a big change eventually! The more selfless we become, the more blessed we are.

What are our objectives in life?

As Buddhists, we strive to attain balance and happiness in our lives, as well as to help others achieve greater joy and success in their lives, by realising the *Six Well-beings*, namely:

- 1. Physical well-being and good health.
- 2. *Mental well-being* and joyful living.
- 3. Family well-being and domestic bliss.
- 4. *Economic well-being* and career success.
- 5. *Interpersonal well-being* and social harmony.
- 6. Spiritual well-being and inner peace.

'Like' our Facebook fanpage at **www.facebook.com/nalanda.org.my** to connect with Nalanda for more *Dhamma-rich* news, views and articles!

Nalanda Contacts Please visit our website for directions to Nalanda.

Nalanda Buddhist Society Malaysia

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Tel. No. +603-8938 1500 / 1501 / 1502

E-mail info@nalanda.org.my Website www.nalanda.org.my

Nalanda Centre is open from Tuesdays to Sundays: 10 am to 10 pm, and on Mondays: 6 pm to 10 pm.

Nalanda Education & Outreach (NEO) Centre, Kuala Lumpur

524 A, 1st Floor, Jalan Riang 12, Taman Gembira, 58200 Kuala Lumpur.

Tel. No. +603-7971 7151

E-mail neo-kl@nalanda.org.my

NEO Centre KL is open every first Saturday of the month from 7.30 am to 5.00 pm, and every Sunday from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

Nalanda Education & Outreach (NEO) Centre, Johor Bahru

30, Jalan Dedap 26, Taman Johor Jaya, 81100 Johor Bahru, Johor.

Tel. No. +607-350 3870

E-mail neo-jb@nalanda.org.my

NEO Centre JB is open on Sundays: 9am to 3pm, Mondays to Wednesdays: 7pm to 10pm, and on New-moon / Full-moon weekdays: 8pm to 10pm.