

Nalanda Bulletin

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For Non-Muslims Only

Splendid day at Nalanda e-Run 2017

The weather in Sri Serdang on 16 April was just perfect for Nalanda e-Run! The cool and crisp dawn air was truly refreshing for the 2,000 participants, volunteers, and supporters who took part in this charity event in aid of holistic community education.

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3 March

The lecture hall was filled with devotees and students eager to learn the wisdom contained in the Pāli 'Dhammapada'.

Nalanda achariyas' series of Dhamma Lectures at the Buddhist Maha Vihara

On Friday 3 March, Bro. Tan began a series of Dhamma teachings based on the Pāli language 'Dhammapada' at the Buddhist Maha Vihara, Kuala Lumpur to a warm welcome and enthusiastic reception. The P. H. Hendry Memorial Hall was filled to the brim by more than 200 devotees and students who attended the elucidating lecture.

In his inaugural talk, Bro. Tan discussed verses 188 to 192 of the 'Dhammapada', which essentially emphasize the importance of 'taking refuge' in the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha. He clearly explained what it means by 'going for refuge', and how it helps us in gaining spiritual clarity, progress, and awakening.

In his subsequent lectures, Bro. Tan quoted verses from other chapters that cover the basic teachings of the Buddha, and essential practice towards liberation from *Dukkha*.

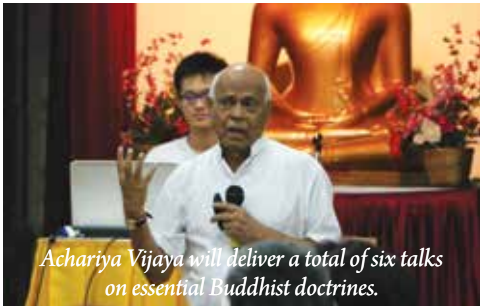
Bro. Tan and Achariya S. Vijaya were invited by the Buddhist Maha Vihara to conduct a special series of 12 Dhamma talks on Fridays, from February to June 2017.

We welcome everyone to attend this series of illuminating Dhamma talks on various topics by learned teachers. The schedule of talks by Bro. Tan and Achariya Vijaya at the Buddhist Maha Vihara is as below :

- Talks by Bro. Tan Ho Soon :**
 March 3 | March 17 | March 31 | April 28
 May 19 | June 16

- Talks by Achariya S. Vijaya :**
 February 24 | March 10 | March 24
 April 21 | May 5 | June 23

For further information, please contact the Buddhist Maha Vihara at 03-2274 1141, or Nalanda Centre at 03-8938 1500.



Achariya Vijaya will deliver a total of six talks on essential Buddhist doctrines.



Speaking under the portrait of a great monk – the late Ven. K. Sri Dhammananda.



Listening with rapturous attention to the Dhamma talk.



4 March

Nalanda Sungai Petani Branch held its 4th A.G.M. on 4 March.

A.G.M. at Sungai Petani Branch

Nalanda Buddhist Society Sungai Petani Branch held its 4th Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) on Saturday 4 March, at NEO Centre Sungai Petani. Branch members gathered to review the programmes held over the past 12 months, and to hear about the Society's development plans for the coming year.

Representing Nalanda's national Board of Management were President Sis. Evelyn Chow, (then) Honorary Treasurer Sis. Margaret Ng, and Sis. Joyce Lim. Their presence brought much energy and encouragement to the Nalandian family up north.

Branch Chairman Bro. Khaw Seng Giap commenced the meeting on a high note with his opening address. He remarked that the team had gone through a long journey in order to reach this point of progress, but not without its challenges. However, with unity, trust, and mutual respect, the branch has managed to overcome difficulties and emerged stronger and better. He further

encouraged fellow Nalandians to continue striving with diligence, to borrow strength from one another, in order to continue delivering the best service to the community.

Members were also updated by President Sis. Evelyn on the Society's projects including 'Wisdom Park', WACANA 2017 Buddhist Conference, and the upcoming 'Dhammayatra' (pilgrimage) to India. All members were invited to contribute and be a part of the Dhamma 'movement' being forged through these active 'Dhammaduta' efforts. At the A.G.M., Sis. Bee Lean Hong and Sis. Koay Kim Beng were unanimously elected as Branch Auditors for the year 2017/2018. Nalanda Sungai Petani Branch also thanked the previous-term auditors – Sis. Cher Lin Lin and Dr. Ng Poh Tee – for rendering their selfless service to the Society.

The A.G.M. was an uplifting gathering for the Sungai Petani Branch members. May they continue to progress in learning and sharing the Dhamma – for the welfare, happiness, and benefit of the many. Sadhu!



5 March

Members joyfully attending the 4th J. B. Branch A.G.M. on 5 March.

Johor Bahru Branch 4th A.G.M.

The 4th Annual General Meeting of Nalanda Buddhist Society Johor Bahru Branch was held on Sunday 5 March, at NEO Centre Johor Bahru. At the meeting, members were given updates of the Branch's development in 2016, and discussed upcoming plans for this year.

Branch Chairman Bro. David Yap thanked all members and devotees for their active participation and support towards activities held throughout the year. Many beneficial programmes organised at NEO Centre JB in 2016 were well-received by the community, and brought about immense joy to Nalandians, too.

The meeting was also attended by Nalanda Board Member Sis. Santī Cheang, and Executive Committee Member Sis. Buddhini Tan. While there, Sis. Santī represented the Society to welcome new members who joined Nalanda recently, and presented them with uniforms. We congratulate the Johor Bahru Branch for another progressive and successful year. Sadhu anumodana.



Nalanda EXCO Member Sis. Buddhini sharing her thoughts at the A.G.M.



Board of Management representative Sis. Santī presenting uniforms to new Nalanda members.



8 March

Ajahn Buddharakkhita giving a talk after the weekly meditation practice.

Talk by Ajahn Buddharakkhita

On Wednesday 8 March, Nalanda Centre was honoured to host Venerable Ajahn Buddharakkhita from Ireland. As the day also marked the third anniversary of MH370 incident, Nalandians took the opportunity to invite Ajahn for a Dhamma talk in memory of the occasion.

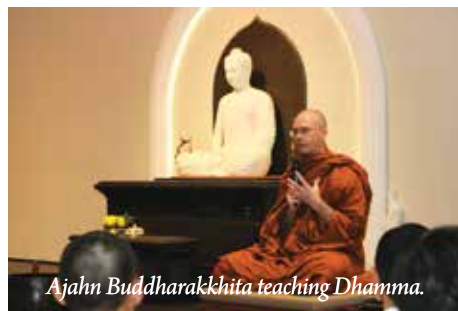
Ajahn Buddharakkhita spoke about the experience of suffering in the light of Dhamma. Suffering can be overwhelming when we do not know how to deal with it. However, with skilfulness and knowledge, it can actually be taken as an object of meditation.

It all begins when we recognise and acknowledge the existence of suffering. As we learn how to connect with that pain within ourselves and with the pain of others, we develop empathy, care, and understanding.

Ajahn Buddharakkhita claimed that it is a common misconception that having negative emotions such as anger and fear is 'wrong'.

In actual fact, those are natural phenomena that are bound to arise. The important point is what we choose to do with those emotions. Problems become worse when we lash out and harbour an intention to harm others.

Therefore it is essential for us to cultivate the values of compassion and empathy; and in order to do so, we need 'Right View'. Having cultivated these qualities, we can connect with whatever hardship we face as well as with the suffering of others. With this practice comes the realisation that we are in many ways connected to all other beings in the world.



Ajahn Buddharakkhita teaching Dhamma.



12 March

Listening to the Dhamma with joyful hearts and minds.

Teachings by Ajahn Tiradhammo

Sunday 12 March was 'Dhamma-Sarana Day' at Nalanda Centre – a day dedicated to learning, practising, and contemplating the Dhamma. Ajahn Tiradhammo, a disciple of the late Ajahn Chah, was specially invited to give an evening Dhamma talk for the occasion.

Ajahn Tiradhammo said that most people practise meditation in order to gain something. However its true function is to allow us to see through delusion, thus learning to let go of attachments to views and ego in the process.

When we see negative emotions such as anger arising within ourselves, we usually try to ignore, suppress, or get rid of it. However, if we could just *let go* of it and put it down, we can realise that it is just a transient state of mind – uninvited it came due to causes and conditions, and eventually passing away. Understanding it as such, we no longer take these impermanent emotions personally, or get caught up with them.

Ajahn Tiradhammo also spoke about the hindrances we face in our practice; but he referred to them as 'precious jewels' instead. We should not work against them or try to get rid of them; we should instead be aware of them. When this happens, we no longer 'feed' the hindrances, so they cannot 'consume' us. These hindrances are merely expressions of our ego; if we work with them, we will eventually gain wisdom.

Ajahn also said that the seven factors of enlightenment are in fact already present in the mind. Once we realise or notice the presence of these factors such as tranquillity, mindfulness, and effort, we should consider how we can encourage, develop, and nourish them until they become our 'default mode'. Having cultivated them well, what comes next is simply 'awakening'.

We thank Ajahn for the meaningful teaching, peppered with his wit and jovial spirit. May we take his advice to heart, and continue to walk the spiritual path with diligence.



12 March

Nalanda members pose for the traditional portrait after the 14th A.G.M.

Members vote for continuing progress

Nalanda members concluded yet another successful Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) on Sunday 12 March – the 14th edition since the Society’s establishment in 2003. As customary, the meeting was preceded by paying homage to the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha at the main Shrine Hall of Nalanda Centre, followed by ‘Achariya-abhivādana’ – paying respects to our late Spiritual Adviser, Ven. K. Sri Dhammananda, at Sumangala Room.

The meeting itself started at 2.15pm with a speech by President Sis. Evelyn and a motivating talk by Nalanda founder, Bro Tan. Thereafter, the Secretariat and Treasury tabled their annual reports on the workings of the Society and financial standing, respectively.

The meeting also deliberated on amendments to several articles of the Constitution which were proposed by the outgoing Board of Management. After discussions, the membership approved the constitutional amendments as well as the proposed building

and development funding for 2017-2018.

This being an election year, the outgoing Board of Management whose two-year term expired at the A.G.M. was dissolved. Nalanda members elected a new Board of Management, essentially retaining nine out of eleven members from the previous Board. Sis. Margaret Ng and Mudita Chan retired from the Board after serving two continuous terms.

President Sis. Evelyn Chow and Deputy President Bro. Charlie Teng retained their respective positions. The new Honorary Secretary is Sis. Santi Cheang; while the Honorary Treasurer is Sis. Chan Mei Yee. The new Board of Management will take their formal oath of office on 1 May 2017.

Nalanda members gave a heart-warming ovation to the outgoing Board members to thank them for their wonderful services to the Society and community. They also wished the incoming Board members the very best in leading the Society forward and upward! Sadhu anumodana.



Bro. Charlie Teng leading the ‘Tiratanā-Vandāna’ in the main Shrine Hall before the meeting.



Paying respects to our late Spiritual Adviser, Ven. K. Sri Dhammananda, at Sumangala Room.



Nalanda Buddhist Society’s Board of Management for 2017/2019

- President : Sis. Evelyn Chow Yoke Lan
- Deputy President : Bro. Charlie Teng Chia Yee
- Honorary Secretary : Sis. Santi Cheang Pey Shyuan
- Honorary Treasurer : Sis. Chan Mei Yee
- Assistant Secretary : Sis. Livin Leow Mei Heong
- Assistant Treasurer : Sis. May Wong Fong Mui
- Board Members : Joyce Lim Saw Hong, Lee Kong Foo, Louis Chan Chee Chong, Pee Che Yong, Vincent Lee Hock Guan



11 – 12 March

Our friends from Singapore were hosted to dinner at Nalanda Book Café.

Visit by our Singaporean friends

Over the second weekend of March, Nalanda Centre hosted ten members of Buddhist Fellowship (BF), and two members of Bliss & Wisdom Monastery from Singapore; the group was led by Bro. Jerry Ong of BF. Our friends were warmly welcomed by Nalanda officers and brought on a building tour by Nalanda founder Bro Tan.

The following day, our guests attended 'Dhamma-Sarana Day' in conjunction with the full-moon Uposatha, and listened to a Dhamma talk by Venerable T. Seelananda. After a fruitful morning, they were invited to join the opening session of Nalanda's 14th Annual General Meeting – a rare honour granted to only very few non-members.

Our Singaporean friends rejoiced at the opportunity to witness the internal workings of Nalanda, which provided useful insights for their own organizations' development. They were also amazed to witness the

harmony and unity of Nalandian members in conducting activities and meetings.

The visit certainly strengthened the bond between members of our three organisations, paving the way for greater cooperation and mutual support in Dhamma propagation. Bro. Tan also accepted the kind invitation from both societies to visit them in Singapore the following month.

Nalandians were happy to meet with our 'old friends' from BF Singapore, as well as to make new friends from Bliss & Wisdom Monastery. We look forward to many such wonderful study visits in future.



Discussion with Bro. Tan on Dhammaduta activities and developing human resources.



24 – 26 March

The camp was a fruitful learning experience for the undergraduates.

Nottingham Buddhist Society Camp

The Nottingham University Buddhist Society held their 7th Annual Camp at Nalanda Centre from 24 to 26 March. The objective of the camp was to let participants understand the dangers of attachments, and to develop *Right View*.

The conducive environment and support provided by Nalanda enabled the 30 campers to have an enjoyable and uplifting learning experience. Several Nalandian speakers such as Bro. Tan, Achariya Vijaya, Sis. Paruadi, and Sis. Santi gave talks at the camp, and discussed ways to *let go*.

The camp also scheduled fellowship activities to foster friendship and relaxation. It was indeed a fulfilling weekend of great learning and bonding for the youthful participants. Sadhu anumodana.



An enlightening learning session with Bro Tan.



'Appreciation Night' for the campers to express their gratitude.



18 March

160 youths spent a meaningful day learning about the value of loving-acceptance.

One-day meditation retreat for youths



Bro. Tan gave a clear introduction and explanation on meditation.

On 18 March, 160 youths participated joyfully in the *Bhāvanā Day* meditation retreat on loving-acceptance, conducted by Bro. Tan. In this third installment of one-day meditation retreats organised by Nalanda Youth Centre, participants learned how to better cope with the vicissitudes and vagaries of life with by accepting and enduring them.

Bro. Tan gave a comprehensive yet succinct introduction to meditation by observing the breath with tranquillity and mindfulness. The day progressed with alternating sessions of meditation and Dhamma teachings

where Bro. Tan expounded the essence of loving-acceptance by elaborating the values of patience (*khanti*), forbearance (*soracca*), tolerance, and acceptance. The day was filled with moments of self-discovery and reflection, injected with the spirit of positivity and joy.

We congratulate all participants for attending this one-day retreat. Let us not forget the “30-Day Meditation Challenge” given by Bro. Tan for the benefit of our own cultivation! May we develop momentum in our daily practice of *Meditation, Reflection, and Aspiration!* Strive on with diligence.



Participants signing in for the camp early morning.



Learning to observe the breath with mindfulness.



Light stretching to prepare for the sitting session.



Asking questions to clarify learning points.

Stay-in programme during holidays

From 19 to 22 March, 70 Nalanda Dhamma School students from Sri Serdang and Johor Bahru Branches spent their school holidays meaningfully by participating in the *Stay-in Programme*. The 4-day camp was aimed at fostering friendship among students, and to inculcate a sense of gratitude and appreciation.

At the camp, Nalanda founder Bro. Tan taught the students the importance of gaining merits and the way to do so. He emphasized that merits are essential for a happy and progressive life. One can gain merits by cultivating *dāna* (generosity), *sīla* (morality) and *bhāvanā* (mental cultivation). Dhamma School Director Sis. Sunanda then encouraged students to engage in a '30-day Challenge' to practise these meritorious acts daily.

Apart from Dhamma discussions, group presentations and outdoor activities, students relished in the opportunity to offer daily meals to Ven. Seelananda who was residing at Nalanda Centre from 19 to 25 March. He shared with the students that giving *dāna* to Sangha members is praised by the wise as it benefits both the giver and receiver. Venerable also spoke about the virtues of supporting one's parents, which can never be overstated.

It was an awesome holiday stay-in for the Dhamma School students; at the conclusion of which, Bro. Tan gave invaluable advice by reminding everyone to always develop *muditā* (sympathetic joy). We thank Ven. Seelananda, Bro. Tan, and Sis. Sunanda for their inspiring teachings. We also thank Nalanda Dhamma School facilitators for frequently organizing such marvelous programmes!



19 – 22 March

70 Nalanda Dhamma School students spent 4 days at Nalanda Centre with their facilitators to learn Dhamma.



Students offering food *dāna* to Ven. Seelananda.



Calming the mind with twice daily meditation.



That's our group spirit!



Sitting close by the teacher to learn the Dhamma.



Bonding with group members through creative activities.



Students were required to do public speaking.

Appreciation for Ven. Seelananda's successful Dhamma tour

Nalanda Centre recently hosted the Venerable T. Seelananda Mahathera on his Dhammaduta tour of Malaysia from 19 to 25 March. During his stay, Ven. Seelananda gave teachings at Nalanda Centre, NEO Centre Kuala Lumpur, the Buddhist Gem Fellowship (BGF) Centre, and Bandar Utama Buddhist Society (BUBS).

Sri Lanka-born Ven. Seelananda is the Deputy Abbot of Bhāvanā Society in West Virginia, USA. He was also co-founder of Samatha-Vipassana Meditation Centre in Edmonton, Canada. He regularly conducts meditation retreats and Dhamma studies throughout North America and Europe.

Nalandians would like to thank Ven. Seelananda for accepting our invitation to stay at Nalanda Centre, and to give us wonderful Dhamma teachings that enriched our spiritual lives. We also thank Ven. Seelananda for accepting our offerings of meals and services with much loving-friendliness and compassion.

Ven. Seelananda's 2017 Dhammaduta tour of Asia was at the invitation of Buddhist Fellowship (BF) of Singapore. We would like to thank BF Singapore for granting Nalanda the honour of hosting the venerable. We are very grateful to all Nalandians and devotees who came forth enthusiastically to offer daily meals, transport, and various services to Ven. Seelananda. Your generous and selfless spirit is truly an example of proper Dhamma practice.

Working seamlessly and joyfully together, everyone had contributed to another successful Dhammaduta tour of Malaysia. Sadhu anumodana to everyone's effort and generosity. By supporting the presence of good teachers and tending to true teachings, may the *Buddha-Sāsana* long endure!



19 – 25 March

Ven. Seelananda conducted two Sunday Dhamma talks during his stay at Nalanda Centre in March.



Bro. Tan and other officers happily welcoming Ven. Seelananda, who last visited in 2015.



Ven. Seelananda led the weekly meditation session and gave a Dhamma talk at Nalanda Centre on Wednesday, 22 March.



Daily teachings at noon during his week-long stay in Sri Serdang.



We thank Nalandian devotees for providing meals to Ven. Seelananda with such generous spirit.

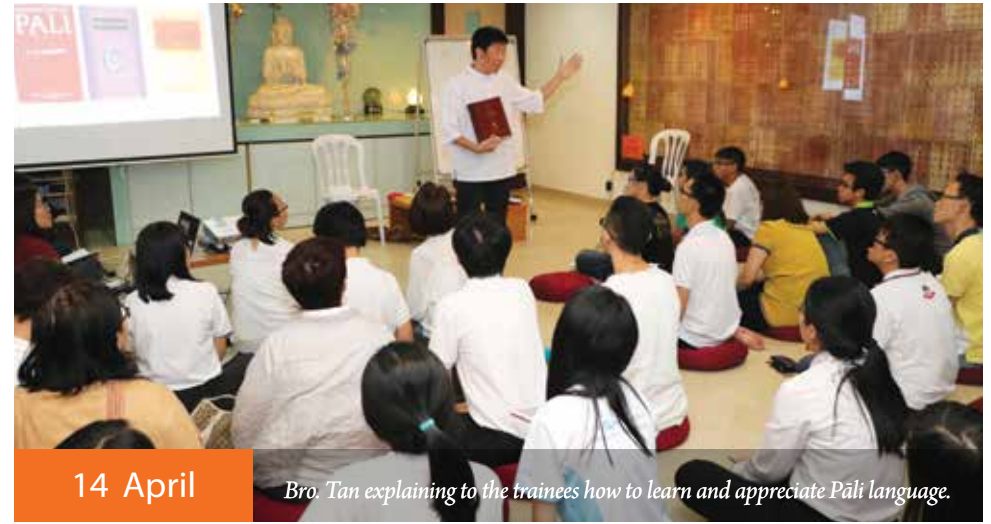


Leading meditation and teaching at NEO Centre Kuala Lumpur on Thursday, 23 March.



7 – 9 April

PBUM members with Ven. Shi Ji Chi after her talk at Nalanda Centre.



14 April

Bro. Tan explaining to the trainees how to learn and appreciate Pāli language.

PBUM Buddhist history camp

From 7 to 9 April, Persatuan Buddhist Universiti Malaya (PBUM) held a camp at Nalanda Centre on the history of Buddhism. 30 students gathered for three wholesome days to learn from Venerable Ji Chi the development of Buddhism throughout the past 2,500 years – from its emergence in ancient India to how it evolved into three main traditions of *Theravada*, *Mahayana*, and *Vajrayana*, today.

The camp was truly engaging as there were many group discussions, presentations, and talks. Ven. Bhikshuni Ji Chi however added meditation sessions throughout the three days to achieve a finer balance

between intellectual stimulation and mental calmness.

Ven. Ji Chi remarked that learning the history of Buddhism is very important in developing strong conviction and understanding of Dhamma. This is because tracing the roots of the teaching helps us to appreciate it, to be inspired, and grateful for the efforts of those who preserved and propagated it.

We thank PBUM for choosing to organise their camp at Nalanda Centre, and for giving us the opportunity to assist in their Dhamma-learning activities. We wish them more fruitful learning and practice in future. Sadhu anumodana.



Meditation session conducted by Ven. Ji Chi.



Students presenting the outcome of their discussion.

Special talk at YBAM headquarters

On Friday 14 April, Bro. Tan was invited to present a special lecture on Pāli language by Persatuan Buddhist Universiti Malaya's (PBUM) *Miao Xi* Dhamma Speaker Training Workshop. The talk held at the Young Buddhist Association of Malaysia (YBAM) Headquarters was well-attended by young Dhamma-speaker trainees and Nalandians.

'*Pālibhasa*' (literally, 'language of the text') was derived from the dialects widely-spoken in ancient Magadha and its neighbouring polities during the Buddha's time. Back then, it was known as '*Magadhi*', and it existed alongside Sanskrit during the Mahājanapada Period (around the 6th century BCE).

Tracing its interesting development back to the Indo-European family of languages, Bro. Tan introduced the basic linguistic structure of Pāli, including its alphabets and grammar. He then guided participants in reading and understanding a few stanzas of basic Pāli texts.

Bro. Tan also spoke about the significance of the language in the preservation of the Buddha's teachings, such as in the first rehearsal of the *Dhamma-Vinaya* at Rajagaha three months after the Buddha's *Māha Parinibbāna*. During the fourth *Sanghayana* in Aluvihāre, Sri Lanka (circa 80 BCE), the Buddha's words were inscribed for the first time on *ola* palm leaves due to external threats, which might have led to the perishing of the hitherto orally-preserved Dhamma.

Fortunately for us today, Pāli language is written in various scripts, including Devanagiri and Roman, for the convenience of all to study the teachings of the Buddha.

Bro. Tan remarked that the most precise meaning of the Dhamma is still preserved in the Pāli language. Thus, there is great value in learning it – as it leads us directly to the exact utterances of the Blessed One. All avid Dhamma learners and practitioners are thus encouraged to learn this rich and beautiful language.



25 – 27 March

Paying respects to Ven. Dhammasara of Pa-Auk Vipassanā Hermitage.

Bro. Tan's visit to Batam, Indonesia



Observing Dhamma School session on Sunday.



Fruitful meeting with Dhamma teachers.



Visiting Pa-Auk Meditation Centre in Rempang.

Bro. Tan was recently invited by devotees to the island of Batam in Riau Province, Indonesia, from 25 to 27 March. The purpose of the visit was to share his experience with local teachers on ways to improve the management of vihāras and Dhamma schools.

Teachers at Vihāra Dhammamulia, a large Theravada monastery in Batam Centre, had a fruitful meeting with Bro. Tan on improving the effectiveness of Buddhist education for children and teenagers. The teachers were curious about the success factors of Nalanda Dhamma School in Sri Serdang, and were fascinated to learn them.

Bro. Tan, accompanied by Nalandian youth Neville Lee, also visited the Pa-Auk Tawya Vipassanā Dhura Hermitage in Rempang. They paid a courtesy visit to its abbot Sayadaw Dhammasara, and exchanged ideas on meditation and Dhamma propagation with him. They also paid respects to a few other bhikkhus residing at the lovely hermitage.



8 – 9 April

Warmly welcoming our Indonesian friends on their first visit to Serdang.

Visit by friends from Jakarta

Over the weekend of 8 and 9 April, Nalanda Centre hosted a visit by our friends from Pa-Auk Tawya Vipassanā Dhura Hermitage (PATVDH) in Beji, Java. The group of ten was led by Bro. Phang Hok Lij on their first-ever visit to Serdang. Upon arrival, the visitors were warmly received by Nalandians, and brought on a tour of the Centre.

The main purpose of their visit was to meet with Nalanda founder Bro. Tan to seek his advice on organisational structuring, management, and development. After productive discussions, our friends were hosted to a hearty dinner at Nalanda Book Café in Sri Petaling. Rounding off their wholesome weekend visit, the group participated in the Sunday morning service to experience the dynamic learning culture at Nalanda.

The visit has added another link to the existing strong bonds between Indonesian Buddhist groups and Nalanda. We truly rejoice in their good work in propagating *Buddha-Dhamma* in Java and beyond. Sadhu anumodana!



Discussion with Bro. Tan on management.



Nalanda Centre building tour.



Dinner hosted at Nalanda Book Café.

An amazing charity run!

Nalanda e-Run 2017 was successfully held in Sri Serdang, Selangor on 16 April. At 6.45am on that day, 2000 people took part in a mass aerobics exercise to warm up for the charity event to raise funds for community education. With a concise speech by Organising Chairman Bro. Vincent Lee to thank everyone for their support, followed by the singing of the national anthem, the eager runners were flagged off at 7.10am.

There were a total of 12 categories for individual participants according to gender and age, and a "Fun Run" team event for groups of families and friends.

We thank you for participating in this meaningful and important event to promote community growth through holistic education. Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the organising team, sponsors, volunteers, and runners for your enthusiastic support. We are truly grateful to you!



16 April

Thank you very much to all Nalandians and volunteers of e-Run 2017. Well done everyone!



Arriving before dawn to register for the charity run.



Warming up with aerobics exercise at 6.45am.



Runners pacing themselves at the beginning of the race.



The first few runners coming through the finishing line.



Dhamma School students entertaining the crowd.



Senior citizens supporting the event.



The lucky ones handed goodies by Chan Fong.



Showing visitors some of our community programmes.



9 February

The WACANA organising team was led by Nalanda Institute Director Achariya Tan Siang Chye.

Organising team's plenary visit to venue of WACANA Conference

In early February, the organising team for WACANA 2017 Buddhist Conference conducted a site visit of the proposed venue at *The Saujana Hotel* near Subang Airport. The team was there to inspect the ballroom, function rooms, and other facilities available at the resort, and to plan for the conference logistics.

Nalanda Institute will be hosting WACANA 2017 carrying the theme "*The Buddha Word – Discovering the Essential*" in collaboration with the Theravada Buddhist Council of Malaysia (TBCM) on 1 July.

This year's WACANA Conference will be the fifth edition; the inaugural conference was held in 2007, followed by the 2008, 2009, and 2011 editions. The highly successful and popular past gatherings discussed pertinent

issues affecting the *Buddha-Sāsana*, with regards to Buddhist education, leadership, Dhamma propagation in Malaysia, and the relevance of Buddhism to modern societies.

We invite all concerned Buddhists, Dhamma teachers, leaders, and practitioners, to attend and pool our ideas at WACANA 2017, so that we can protect, preserve, and propagate the true teachings of the Buddha for the benefit of generations to come.

Registration for WACANA 2017 is open and can be done easily and speedily on-line at: <https://www.nalanda.org.my/wacana/>

We look forward to your active support and participation in the Conference. Let us move forward and upward as one united community!

WACANA 2017

Conference Theme
**The Buddha Word :
Discovering the Essential**

1 July
Saturday, 8am – 5pm

The Saujana Hotel
Jalan L. T. Subang, Selangor

WACANA is the premier Malaysian Buddhist Conference where the Sangha and laity gather to discuss pertinent issues that affect the Buddhist movement. The purpose of this Conference is to address the challenge many people face today in learning about Buddhism – what exactly did the Buddha teach? What teachings, doctrines, and practices constitute the '*Buddha Word*'?

WACANA 2017 will host an illustrious panel of Sangha members and prominent community leaders to discuss this critical issue. We invite all concerned Buddhists to attend the Conference so that we can pool our ideas and resources to propagate the true teachings of the Buddha for generations to come.

Please register on-line for this inspiring Conference at : www.nalanda.org.my/wacana

Jointly organised by
Nalanda Institute Malaysia and **Theravada Buddhist Council of Malaysia**

Wisdom Park Site visit in April



The proposed site of Wisdom Park is gently undulating, and covered by lush greenery. The first phase of the project will include well-equipped guest lodges and activity centres.



Bro. Tan (centre) and Wisdom Park Development Committee members making another site visit on 21 April 2017.

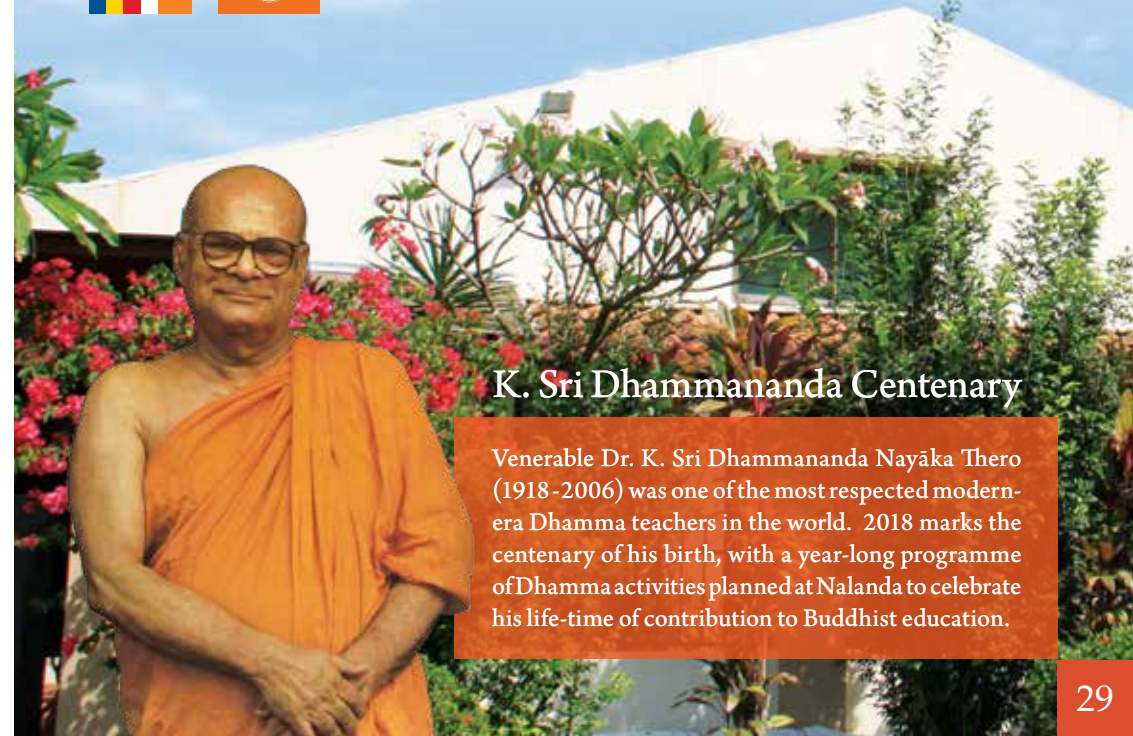
K. Sri Dhammananda Centre Project — Building for the future of our community

For more than a decade, Nalanda Dhamma School has been committed to providing holistic Buddhist education to students aged 10 to 17. Since its establishment in 2005, the School has been imparting knowledge, skills, and values necessary for success and happiness in life to an increasing number of students yearly.

Nalanda Dhamma School is looking to expand our capacity to continue providing quality Buddhist education effectively. We are planning to reconstruct the existing School premises at Nalanda House into a larger facility capable of accommodating 100 students. (The current capacity is just for 40 students.) We also wish to offer students a more conducive environment for their study and practice of Dhamma. This will be of great benefit to our children, families, and the community for a long time to come.

The reconstructed building will be named the *K. Sri Dhammananda Centre* in honour of our late Spiritual Adviser, Venerable Dr. Kirinde Sri Dhammananda Nayāka Thero. The building is expected to be ready by the end of 2018, in time to celebrate the centenary of his birth.

We urge the whole community to help raise funds for this meritorious and vital project for the welfare of our present and future generations. Thank you!



K. Sri Dhammananda Centenary

Venerable Dr. K. Sri Dhammananda Nayāka Thero (1918-2006) was one of the most respected modern-era Dhamma teachers in the world. 2018 marks the centenary of his birth, with a year-long programme of Dhamma activities planned at Nalanda to celebrate his life-time of contribution to Buddhist education.

Buddhist Era 2561
Buddha Day
 Wesak Observance
 7 – 10 May 2017

Special Programmes

Blood donation & Organ pledge campaign
 捐血活动与器官捐赠登记
 7 May, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

'Buddha Jayanti' Exhibition 佛陀日展览会
 7 – 10 May, 10.00 am – 6.00 pm

Forum in Mandarin:
 "Getting to know the Buddha"
 《遇见佛陀》 华语座谈会
 7 May, 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Worshipping of Buddha Relic 膜拜佛舍利
 9 & 10 May

Mass Food Offering 膳食招待信众
 10 May, 5.30 pm

Buddha Relic Procession 佛舍利出游
 10 May, 7.30 pm

Wesak Theme
Buddha
 Our Teacher & Refuge
 佛陀
 伟大的导师及皈依处

All are welcome to Nalanda's Wesak celebration!
 欢迎大家踊跃出席，谢谢！

Upcoming Events

May & June 2017

MAY



Buddha Day
 B.E. 2561

01	Nalanda Day – Nalanda Buddhist Society's 14th Anniversary	Nalanda Centre
05	Dhamma talk by Achariya Vijaya Samarawickrama	Buddhist Maha Vihara
06	Pindacāra – Alms-round by Sangha members at the morning markets in Taman O.U.G. & Happy Garden	NEO Centre KL / Taman O.U.G. market & Happy Garden
07-10	Buddha Day – Wesak Observance B.E. 2561 This year's theme is "Buddha – Our Teacher & Refuge"	Nalanda Centre
10	Buddha Day – Wesak Observance B.E. 2561 This year's theme is "Buddha – Our Teacher & Refuge"	All NEO Centres in KL, JB, and SP
19	Lecture series on the 'Dhammapada' by Bro. Tan Ho Soon	Buddhist Maha Vihara
20	Pindacāra – Alms-round by Sangha members at the morning market in Seri Kembangan	Nalanda Centre / Seri Kembangan market
26	New-moon Uposatha Service	Nalanda Centre

JUN



Meditate with
 Ven. Gavesi

03	Pindacāra – Alms-round by Sangha members at the morning markets in Taman O.U.G. & Happy Garden	NEO Centre KL / Taman O.U.G. market & Happy Garden
09	Full-moon Uposatha Service	Nalanda Centre
16	Lecture series on the 'Dhammapada' by Bro. Tan Ho Soon	Buddhist Maha Vihara
17	Pindacāra – Alms-round by Sangha members at the morning market in Seri Kembangan	Nalanda Centre / Seri Kembangan market
23	Dhamma talk by Achariya Vijaya Samarawickrama	Buddhist Maha Vihara
24	New-moon Uposatha Service	Nalanda Centre
25-29	Meditation Retreat with Ven. Gavesi *	Nalanda Centre

* Registration is required for these programmes / activities.

Special programmes :

5th Nalanda National Members' Convention * - 29 April – 1 May

Nalanda 'Gimhāna Period' - 28 May – 9 July

Dhamma Living Camp for Young Adults * - 1 – 4 September

Weekly activities at Nalanda Centre include "Sunday Service" (Sundays, 9am–12pm)
 and "Meditation & Dhamma Sharing" (Wednesdays, 8pm–10pm).

For full details or updates on Nalanda's many programmes, kindly visit our
 website at www.nalanda.org.my or facebook www.facebook.com/nalanda.org.my

Four Principles of Living

Buddhism implores its followers to lead wholesome lives guided by wisdom and compassion. Thus, Nalandians choose to live spiritually and gratefully by following these *Four Principles of Living*, namely :

1. Leading a life of simplicity, modesty, and moderation.
2. Maintaining a serene, calm, and contented mind.
3. Living gracefully and harmoniously with the community.
4. Living in accordance to *Dhamma*.

'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

Nalanda Centre, 3357, Jalan 18/31, Taman Sri Serdang, 43300 Seri Kembangan, Selangor.

Tel. No. +603-8938 1500 / 1501

Website www.nalanda.org.my

E-mail info@nalanda.org.my

Facebook www.facebook.com/nalanda.org.my

Nalanda Centre is open daily from 10.00 am to 10.00 pm. For visits, kindly call to make appointments.

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

Facebook www.facebook.com/NeoCentre.KL

NEO Centre KL is open every first Saturday of the month from 7.30 am to 5.00 pm;
Mondays to Thursdays : 8.00 pm to 10.00 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

Facebook www.facebook.com/NeoCentre.JB

NEO Centre JB is open on Sundays : 8.30 am to 11.30 am; Mondays to Wednesdays : 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm;
and on New-moon / Full-moon weekdays : 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm.

Nalanda Education & Outreach (NEO) Centre, Sungai Petani

210, Jalan Bandar Mutiara 2/2, Bandar Mutiara, 08000 Sungai Petani, Kedah.

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

Facebook www.facebook.com/NeoCentre.SP

NEO Centre SP is open on Fridays : 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm; and on Saturdays : 9.30 am to 12.00 pm.