Nalanda Buddhist Society TM

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For Non-Muslims Only

Celebrating 20 years of '*Making Lives More Meaningful*'

From its inception, Nalanda has been focusing on providing holistic Buddhist education, facilitating personal spiritual development, and the joyful propagation of *Buddha-Dhamma*. Over the past 20 years, many have found deeper meaning in their lives through the educational programmes and community service opportunities at Nalanda. On this occasion, we humbly thank the monastic community, all Dhamma teachers and spiritual guides, Buddhist leaders, members, devotees and volunteers, both past and present, who have worked together selflessly and tirelessly. *Thank you to all of you!*



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Our late Spiritual Adviser, Ven. Dr. K Sri Dhammananda bestowed us the name 'Nalanda'. We humbly pay tribute and honour him by being relentless in our missionary work focusing on holistic education for the well-being and benefit of others.

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20 Years, 20 Milestones

2023-2026

Building *Phase 2 of Wisdom Park* to educate and train competent lay Dhamma teachers, develop future Buddhist community leaders, and to propagate Buddhist values, culture and practices to the public.

11 December 2022

The new Nalanda Education & Outreach (NEO) Centre in Happy Garden was officially opened and operational.

3 May 2022

Nalanda Community Centre located above the Book Café, Sri Petaling was launched to cater for programmes that promote the Six Well-beings.

10 August 2020

Phase 1 of Wisdom Park was completed, comprising three guest lodges, a management centre, parks, pavilions, and other ancilliary infrastructures.

1 May 2019

Nalanda Dhammaduta College was launched to congregate and train Dhamma speakers.

6 October 2018

Nalanda House was rebuilt into K. Sri Dhammananda Centre in conjunction with the centenary celebration of Nalanda's late Spiritual Adviser, as well as Nalanda's 15th Anniversary.



1 May **2003**

Nalanda Buddhist Society was formally established. Nalanda Dharma Centre in Sri Serdang was officiated by Ven. Dr. Kirinde Sri Dhammananda (1918 – 2006), who gave our Society its name and mission.

1 January 2005

Nalanda Dhamma School was established to provide quality and effective Buddhist education, focusing on the holistic development of knowledge, skills, values, culture and spirituality for children and teenagers.

1 July 2007

Nalanda Institute Malaysia was established to offer structured Buddhist educational and leadership training programmes. It also gathers the Sangha and laity to discuss issues affecting the Buddhist movement.

1 May 2009

Nalanda Book Café, Sri Petaling was launched. It serves as a platform for communities to gather in the spirit of holistic well-being.

11 December 2009

The opening of Nalanda Centre Sri Serdang was officiated by Ven. Dr. H. Sri Pandita Gunaratana.

1 July 2010

Nalanda Free School was established to provide free academic tuition and other educational support to needy students.

1 May 2011

Pustaka Nalanda (the Library) was launched by Ven. B. Sri Saranankara to provide learning resources and reference materials.

11 December 2011

Nalanda Education & Outreach (NEO) Centre in Happy Garden was established. This is the first of Nalanda's outreach centres to be operational, providing the community a place to learn.

1 May 2012

Nalanda Youth Centre was established for young adults to serve the community and learn leadership skills. Its premises, which includes the Youth Library, was launched on 1 May 2014.

Nalanda's Focus

Education, Development, Propagation

Nalanda's focus from its inception has always been on providing quality Dhamma education, personal spiritual development, and the joyful propagation of Buddha-Sāsana.



20 August 2016

Nalanda *Dhamma Families* were formed to strengthen Dhamma learning and practice.

1 July 2017

Nalanda Volunteer Centre and Nalanda Training & Enhancement Centre were formed.

11 December 2015

Nalanda Education & Outreach (NEO) Centre in Sungai Petani was established for undergraduates and Kedahans to learn the Buddha's teachings in a holistic manner.

8 August 2015

Wisdom Park Vision Plan was launched. Its Development Committee was formed on 14 October 2015 to conceptualise a Master Plan for Wisdom Park and construction began in 2018.

1 May 2013

Nalanda Education & Outreach (NEO) Centre in Johor Bahru was established. It caters to the needs of the community in the South, as well as for devotees from Singapore.

Meditation Retreat with Venerable Ajahn Vajiro

2 January, KKB

n Monday 2 January, Ajahn Vajiro conducted a 1-day meditation retreat for members and regular volunteers. Ajahn reminded us to be persistent in being in the present moment and not be distracted by thoughts of the past or future. We live only in this exact moment, and we need to be cognisant of the fact that life is a process of receiving and responding to experiences. Mindfulness allows us to also gauge the situation and respond in a wholesome manner.

We are grateful to Ajahn Vajiro for visiting us and his valuable advice for us to progress in our Dhamma cultivation. May Ajahn be blessed with good health and success in all his noble endeavours. Sadhu anumodāna!







Members brought Ajahn on a tour of Wisdom Park.





Youths host Universiti Malaya & Nottingham University students



Youths shared their reflections and how they can adopt the learnings from the Dhamma talk.



Students toured Nalanda Centre to learn about the rich Buddhist symbolism embedded in its interiors.

8 January & 19 March, Serdang

On 8 January & 19 March, Nalanda youths hosted 16 students from Persatuan Buddhist Universiti Malaya and 17 students from University of Nottingham Malaysia respectively for Dhamma learning and fellowship at the Youth Sunday Service.

The students learned about gratitude and reflected on the development of effort and wisdom. They asked questions to clear doubts and participated in peer group discussions to enhance their learning in better managing challenges.

We rejoice in their genuine curiosity to learn the Buddha's teachings and look forward to welcoming them back to Nalanda to grow in the Dhamma.

Hosting *bhikkhus* from Sangha Theravāda Indonesia

3 – 4 February, Serdang

On 3 & 4 February, we were privileged to host 11 monks from Sangha Theravāda Indonesia and 5 Indonesian friends on their first visit to Nalanda and Wisdom Park.

As they toured Wisdom Park and Nalanda Centre, leaders briefed them on the various Dhamma educational programmes organised for the community. Devotees also seized the opportunity to learn from the monks in Dhamma discussions and Q&A sessions.

We are inspired by the monks' spirit of 'mettā' (loving-kindness) and 'samaggi' (unity and concord). We wish venerable sirs good health and may they be blessed with success in their noble endeavours. Salam mettā dari umat Nalanda.





Devotees in a Q&A session with Ven. Dr. Santacitto to seek advice on our Dhamma practice.



Treasured is the opportunity to meet with well-practised disciples of the Blessed One.







deep gratitude for their gracious visit.

Mandarin Bhāvanā Day with Ven. Jutipañño

The Mandarin retreat was the first programme held at the newly-redeveloped NEO Centre KL after its opening on 11 December 2022

11 February, Kuala Lumpur

On Saturday 11 February, 85 participants who are new to meditation practice joined '*Bhāvanā Day*' with Ven. Jutipañño Mahāthero at NEO Centre Happy Garden.

Meditation is a practice where we continuously bring attention to the breath and release our thoughts without judgement. This leads to an emotionally stable state of mind and enables us to replace unwholesome habits with more beneficial ones. Venerable's candour and down-to-earth style of teaching greatly helped the participants.

We thank Ven. Jutipañño for leading us in a peaceful day of *bhāvanā*. May Bhante be blessed with good health, happiness, and peace. *Sadhu anumodāna*!











Devotees took the opportunity to show their gratitude to venerable sir by offering requisites.



Heartfelt Gratitude & Love at 'Tea- Ceremony'









Let us show care for our loved ones

Let us show care for our loved ones at every available opportunity.



a more valuable gift than the traditional 'ang-pow'.

12 February, Sri Serdang

On Sunday 12 February, devotees, volunteers and Dhamma School students gathered at Nalanda Centre for "*Tea-Offering Ceremony and Gratitude Day*", the first held since the Covid-19 pandemic. This annual tradition hosted by Nalanda Dhamma School is an opportunity for us to express our appreciation to our parents, teachers and elders.

In this simple but meaningful programme, children reflect with gratitude the support they receive from their family and bow reverentially to their elders with love.

We extend our thanks to Dhamma School facilitators for organising this event to strengthen family bonds. *Sadhu anumodāna*!



Scan this QR Code to watch the video.



care and support given by their family.



'Day of Mindfulness' for young adults

We rejoice in the learning spirit of the participants and their efforts to develop mindfulness and clarity of mind.

18 February, Sri Serdang

On Saturday 18 February, 30 young adults gathered at K. Sri Dhammananda Centre to learn how to develop calmness in the midst of a hectic working life and learn to be more proactive rather than reactive. Bro. Tan Siang Chye introduced teachings of mindfulness, loving-kindness and mindful eating to anchor participants in present moment awareness. This reduces distracting thoughts and helps us to develop a focused mind in order to live a life that is firmly grounded.

We thank Bro. Siang Chye for leading us in an insightful day. We also thank the youth organisers, volunteers and participants for being part of this meaningful programme. Sadhu anumodāna!





like to achieve at this one-day retreat.



To bring ourselves to the present moment, we can place our attention on our breath.



to overcome restlessness and torpor.



Youths learning to observe the elements in the body during standing meditation.



Teenagers discover true blessings in life

18 – 20 February, KKB

On 18 to 20 February, 45 Dhamma School students started their school holidays meaningfully with a stay-in programme at Wisdom Park, exploring the theme of *"Blessings in Life"* as taught by the Buddha.

Immersed in Dhamma learning sessions, activities and service, their gratitude developed manifold for their blessingsin life, and for those who have supported them. With a zeal to also be a blessing to others, they prepared dinner for a children's home in Kuala Kubu Bharu, and brought cheer through friendship and service.

May our teenagers continue to be energetic towards learning and practising the wise teachings of the Buddha.







Dhamma through Drama – students portrayed

how one should strive to avoid unwholesomeness.





Hosting visits by Centres of Higher Learning

21 February, Sri Serdang

n Tuesday 21 February, Nalanda leaders welcomed representatives from 大马佛 教大学 Dharma Buddhist University (DBU), Bentong and Sekolah Tinggi Agama Buddha Nalanda, Indonesia to Nalanda Centre for a leadership exchange. Central to the discussion were sharings of the various Dhamma educational endeavours by each organisation. The leaders rejoiced in the varied programmes and agreed that supplementing learning with Dhamma practice and service is essential to develop Dhamma teachers and leaders.

We thank DBU and Nalanda Buddhist College Indonesia for visiting us and forging this friendship. May all your noble endeavours bear abundant fruits in the Sāsana!









We thank the leaders for this fruitful exchange. May the Buddha-Sāsana flourish in our communities as we work towards spreading the noble Teachings of the Buddha.

Exchange between the three organisations to learn about the

Hosting Mahāyāna society leaders at Wisdom Park







25 February, KKB

On Saturday 25 February, Nalanda welcomed leaders of Dharma Drum Mountain Malaysia 法鼓山马来西亚道场, Kuan Jin Kok Temple 观音阁古寺, Tzu Chi Malaysia 马来西亚慈济, and Young Buddhist Association of Malaysia to Wisdom Park to learn more about this educational facility dedicated to training Dhamma teachers and developing Buddhist leaders.

The group was briefed on the purpose, and potential of this facility for Buddhist education. Everyone rejoiced in the progress made within the past year, and extended their well-wishes in carrying out the mission of holistic education. Thank you for visiting us and we wish you joyful propagation of *Buddha-Dhamma*.

Fruitful Retreat with Ven. Ajahn Pavaro

We extend our appreciation to Ajahn Pavaro for guiding us in this retreat and wish him good health to continue in his noble work in Canada.

9 – 11 March, KKB

From 9 to 11 March, 40 devotees and volunteers checked in at Wisdom Park for a meditation retreat conducted by Ven. Ajahn Pavaro. He gave instructions to retreatants on their practice before they alternated between hourly sitting and walking meditation. Over the next three days Ajahn also held daily 'Q&A' sessions to address their questions.

Ajahn likened our meditation practice to gardening; our daily effort in the establishment of mindfulness will reap results in time, just as a gardener who provides the right conditions consistently - the seeds will germinate and grow on their own. "Our duty is simple, we just need to observe the breath and bring our mind to the present moment."



Buddhist Gem Fellowship leaders joined the offering of lunch dāna whilst on a leadership exchange to Wisdom Park.









Observing Nalanda Patron's Day



Sis. Nandinī shared the purpose of Patron's Day & led the transference of merits to all our benefactors.







Venerable monks relaying their recollections of the late Ven. K. Sri Dhammananda.



On Saturday 18 March, Nalanda observed 'Patron's Day', an annual programme to commemorate and appreciate all donors, benefactors and volunteers who have contributed tremendously to the growth of Nalanda, and by extension, to the development of Buddhist education.

Members, devotees and Dhamma School students gathered to pay homage at the memorial stupa of the late Ven. Dhammananda at the Buddhist Mahā Vihāra in Brickfields. On this day, we also offered $p\bar{u}ja$ for the wellbeing of our benefactors, past and present and transfer merits to those who have passed away.

Let us recollect those before us, whose contributions and sacrifice have made it possible for us to learn the Dhamma and find deeper meaning in life. We wish all our benefactors everywhere true blessings of joy, peace, and liberation! *Sadhu anumodāna*.



Unity & Harmony at Milestone 20th A.G.M.

We thank all members for making this important meeting a joyous and harmonious gathering. Let us grow in our spirituality as well as in our ability to contribute to the Sāsana.

19 March, Sri Serdang

n Sunday 19 March, members of Nalanda Buddhist Society gathered for the 20th Annual General Meeting at Nalanda Centre. Everyone rejoiced in the increasing number and quality of programmes held in the past year and discussed the upcoming programmes. They also voted heartily for a landmark approval in building Phase 2 of Wisdom Park. Sadhu anumodāna!

Being election year, members also voted for the new Board of Management. We thank outgoing Board members for their invaluable services and congratulate the new Board for their commitment and eagerness to serve the Society and community.









any transgressions and thanking members for their support.

The newly-elected Board of Management 2023/2025

Nalanda

anniversary

2003-2023

| President | Sis. Buddhinī Tan | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| Deputy President | Bro. Charlie Teng | |
| Honorary Secretary | Sis. Livin Leow | |
| Honorary Treasurer | Sis. Lim Kah Hong | |
| Assistant Secretary | Sis. Santī Cheang | |
| Assistant Treasurer | Sis. Belle Yeoh | |
| Board Members | Sis. Evelyn Chow | |
| | Bro. Lee Kong Foo | |
| | Bro. Louis Chan | |
| | Bro. Tan Say Kee | |

Sis. Foo Ai Li

Inaugural Family Dhamma School launched!

Nalanda 20th anniversary 2003-2023

When families cultivate virtues and wholesome values together, they progress towards living more meaningful lives.

19 March, Kuala Lumpur

On Sunday 19 March, over 70 parents and their children started learning together at the new Family Dhamma School held at NEO Centre KL. This programme was newly launched in conjunction with Nalanda's 20th Anniversary to provide a learning platform for families to grow spiritually and achieve domestic bliss.

In this first-of-its-kind programme, participants learn as a family and also with their peers, as Dhamma School facilitators apply a blended approach and tailor-make engaging programmes. We rejoice in their learning spirit and wish them progress on the spiritual path as a family unit. *Sadhu*!











at Dhamma School sessions.



Free School starts its 13th academic year

20 March, Serdang

On Monday 20 March, Nalanda Free School started the new academic year as new and returning students excitedly gathered for their classes held on weekdays from 8pm.

Free School Teachers prepared for the new term with a training session by Teacher Chua, an experienced educator of 38 years. She shared on how to better connect with students using kind language, encouragement and by having sincere care for them. A teacher's role extends beyond imparting knowledge to being a mentor and friend to students in need.

May our teachers and students have a successful academic year ahead.



Teacher Chua explained how she managed to connect with past students who resisted help from teachers.



Free School, the teachers dedicated them to all beings.



Free School Principal Dr. Chwee Fang thanked the volunteers for making a difference to all the students.





School Coordinator Sis. Nandini and teachers work tirelessly to help the children in their academic subjects.

Every session starts with a short meditation session for students to quieten the mind and prepare for class.



student has time to highlight where they need help.

'Happy Young Adults' learn together

March – May, Kuala Lumpur

Since 28 March, over 40 young adults have been meeting for the *'Happy Young Adults'* programme every Tuesday at Nalanda Community Centre in Sri Petaling. Organised by Nalanda Youth Centre, participants have an average of 6 years work experience and are charting their career paths whilst facing challenges which are new to them.

In this two-month programme, participants learn from seasoned corporate figures who are also Dhamma practitioners, about various teachings of the Buddha to help us thrive at work and find deeper meaning in their life's pursuits. We wish the participants a fruitful and joyous learning journey with your peers.



Participants shared the problems at work and how they can learn to overcome them.



Bro. Tan Siang Chye shared about achieving well-being at both the workplace and in life in order to live more meaningfully.

With a better understanding of how we approach challenges, may you find more fulfilment and growth in your careers.

Blessed weekend of hosting *bhikkhus* at Nalanda Centre

31 March –1 April, Serdang

On 31 March to 1 April, Nalanda Centre was abuzz with energy to host members of the monastic Sangha from across Malaysia. 15 monks from Sāsanārakkha Buddhist Sanctuary, and 11 monks from monasteries across the peninsula spent the night at Nalanda Centre before attending an '*Asubha*' (contemplation on 32 parts of the body) workshop at Xiao En Memorial the next day.

We recollect with fondness this meaningful weekend of hosting the Order of the Buddha's disciples; those who are worthy of offerings, hospitality, gifts and reverential salutation. May venerable sirs stay in good health and strive on in their noble aspirations. *Sadhu*.



Ven. Jayabodhi and Ven. Guan from Kulim.









of K. Sri Dhammananda Centre.

Witnessing the graceful practice of the monks invoked deeper faith in the Three Jewels.

Members and volunteers gathered joyously to welcome, serve and learn from the monks, one of the highest blessings as expounded by the Buddha – 'Samanānañ ca dassanam' translated as 'sight of the holy men'.

Leadership Exchange with Dharma Drum Mountain

1 April, Petaling Jaya

On Saturday 1 April, Nalanda leaders went on a leadership exchange visit to Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Centre Malaysia 法鼓 山马来西亚道场 Petaling Java. Greeted warmly by Ven. Chang Zao (常藻法师) and Society leaders, the group engaged in deeper discussions about the various ways and challenges in propagating Dhamma.

Ven. Chang Zao shared that volunteers and devotees alike are encouraged to cultivate mindfulness every moment. Devotees who gain an appreciation of the teachings also develop a keen ness to develop themselves through service.We are heartened by their admirable Dhamma propagation efforts and wish them every success!







An exchange of tokens with gratitude for the fruitful discussion and hospitality.



how devotees progress to become volunteers.



Leaders visit teachers of Thai Forest Tradition

Nalanda 200th anniversary 2003-2023

Leaders had a fruitful discussion with Ven. Ajahn Jayasāro. This learning trip was held in conjunction with Nalanda's 20th Anniversary; after two decades of service, it was timely to pay respect to teachers who have supported us and draw from their wisdom the direction in leading our community for the coming decades.

5 – 8 April, Thailand

From 5 – 8 April, 8 Nalanda leaders from Management and Education divisions had the honour of visiting four *Kruba Ajahns* in Thailand – Ajahn Jayasāro, Ajahn Nyanadhammo, Luang Por Ganha, and Luang Por Piak, to seek advice on Buddhist education, community leadership, and spiritual practice.

The vast experience, deep wisdom and skillfulness of the *Kruba Ajahns* were truly insightful, uplifting the group with deeper inspiration and vision to continue leading the Nalanda community. May the leaders continue to lead the community towards a more hopeful and brighter future!



wisdom exemplified by his decades of practice.









Nalanda leaders paying respects to Ajahn Nyanadhammo, Abbot of Wat Ratanawan.



WISDOM PARK OPEN DAY

8 & 9 JULY, KUALA KUBU BAHRU

'Wisdom Park' – Malaysia's first integrated Buddhist education hub is dedicated to train Dhamma teachers and develop Buddhist leaders.

The first phase of its development is complete and we invite you to visit for a personalised tour during the Wisdom Park Open Day 2023 on Saturday, 8 July or Sunday, 9 July.



Register to book a slot with the QR code above.



佛学校及义学校筹募经费。

Upcoming Programmes

May – July 2023 * Registration is required.

| | | * . | Registration is required. |
|-------------------------|---------|---|---|
| MAY | 01 | Nalanda Day – Nalanda Buddhist Society's 20th Anniversary | Nalanda Centre |
| | 03 | Buddha Day Eve Service | Nalanda Centre |
| | 04 | <i>Pindacāra</i> – Alms-round by Sangha members Buddha Day Service Dhammapada Study Series – Session 1 Mass Food Offering Heritage Procession | Nalanda Centre |
| | 05 | Film Screening – Dhammayatra | Nalanda Centre |
| | 06 | <i>Pindacāra</i> – Alms-round by Sangha members at the morning markets in Taman O.U.G. & Happy Garden | NEO Centre KL / O.U.G. & Happy Garden |
| | | Peace Walk & Dhamma talk by Ach. Vijaya | NEO Centre KL |
| | 07 | Blood Donation Drive | Nalanda Centre |
| Buddha Day B.E. 2567 | 13 | Dhamma talk by Ven. Ajahn Achalo | Nalanda Centre |
| | 20-21 | Stay-in Programme for BPS104* | Wisdom Park |
| JUN | 06 | <i>Pindacāra –</i> Alms-round by Sangha members at the morning markets in Taman O.U.G. & Happy Garden | NEO Centre KL / Taman O.U.G. & Happy Garden |
| A BOARD | 03-05 | Youth Study Tour to Bujang Valley* | Sungai Petani |
| | 10 & 29 | Dhammapada Study Series Session 2 & 3* | Nalanda Centre |
| | 16-25 | Meditation Retreat by Ven. Gavesi* | Wisdom Park |
| Meditation Retreat | 17 | <i>Pindacāra –</i> Alms-round by Sangha members in Seri Kembangan | Nalanda Centre/ Seri Kembangan market |
| JUL | 01 | Nalanda Institute's 16th Anniversary | Nalanda Centre |
| | 02 | <i>Dhamma Day</i> - Asalha Full-moon | Nalanda Centre |
| Wisdom Park Open Day | 08 & 09 | Wisdom Park Open Day* | Wisdom Park |
| | 08-10 | Sutta Study Workshop with Ven. Aggacitta* | Wisdom Park |
| Den - | 22 | Dhamma Teaching by Ven. Ajahn Jayasāro | Nalanda Centre |
| | | | |

Nalanda Buddhist Society wishes all A peaceful and spiritual Wesak! 祝愿各位同仁安宁、祥和!

42

20th Anniversary Message

Namo Buddhaya! Salam mettā to all of you!

On this joyous occasion of our 20th Anniversary, Nalanda Buddhist Society extends our deepest appreciation and gratitude to all past and present spiritual teachers, leaders, members, volunteers, donors, benefactors, and Dhamma friends in Malaysia and abroad for your relentless support to Nalanda's educational mission over the past years. It is by virtue of your selfless support that we have been unhindered in offering hundreds of Dhamma programmes every year that facilitate children, youths and adults to open their hearts and minds to the Buddha's noble teachings, and gradually transform to be more happy, compassionate, peaceful and wise.

The theme of our anniversary is *"Making Lives More Meaningful"*. It is a narrative of our work over the past 20 years in providing holistic education, facilitating personal spiritual development, and joyful propagation of *Buddha-Dhamma*. It is also our aspiration to ennoble ourselves with the sublime Dhamma, and uplift others along this arduous path.

The resilience and unity of Nalanda leaders and the community was exemplified when the global community faced the Covid-19 pandemic. Amidst lockdowns, we overcame adversity to ensure that Dhamma programmes continued to reach and benefit the community. A significant achievement during the lockdown is the completion of constructing Phase 1 of Wisdom Park in August 2020. Having completed system set-ups, load-testing and intensive training of core volunteers, this integrated educational campus will be open from August 2023 for the Buddhist community to host programmes for the purpose of training Dhamma teachers and developing Buddhist leaders.

We invite you to celebrate and rejoice in all wholesome deeds that everyone accomplished together over the past 20 years. We are determined to continue our efforts in prolonging the *Buddha-Sāsana*. Thank you for being a part of this beautiful and inspiring journey. Let us continue to make lives more meaningful, one person at a time, starting with ourselves.

May all beings be blessed with peace and happiness, and always be guided by the Dhamma to eventually realise the final bliss of Nibbāna. *Sadhu anumodāna!*

From

The Board of Management

Nalanda Buddhist Society Malaysia

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

- T +603-8938 1500 / 1501
- E info@nalanda.org.my
- W www.nalanda.org.my
- F www.facebook.com/nalanda.org.my

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