

## PROJECT REPORT

# GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS AND ENGAGED BUDDHISM

November 1, 2009 to November 1, 2010

Amount granted by Niwano Peace Foundation JPY 500,000

Code No.: 09-A-256

Recipient

SUAN NGUEN MEE MA social enterprise

Honorary Advisor

SULAK SIVARAKSA



Preparing for the INEB Peace Walk, Chiangmai, November 2009, Thailand

Realized in collaboration with the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB) and the School for Wellbeing Studies and Research (School for Wellbeing)

# ACTIVITY REPORT

## Introduction

### General outline of the Project Structure

#### Ajarn Sulak Sivaraksa

Founder Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation (SNF) in 1968

INEB Founder 1989 and Chairman Advisory Committee

Advisor School for Wellbeing Studies and Research



#### Suan Nguen Mee Ma social enterprise

Suan Nguen Mee Ma was registered as a company in 2001. SNF is the founding shareholder of the company. Shares are held by NGO's affiliated with SNF (40%), business friends each 5% (total 40%) and the managers Wallapa and Hans van Willenswaard (20%). The dividend of the company is donated to SNF. Suan Nguen Mee Ma organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> international conference on Gross National Happiness ("GNH3") in Thailand, November 2007.



As a result of an action-research project titled *GNH Movement project* (2008-2010) Suan Nguen Mee Ma initiated the **School for Wellbeing Studies and Research**. The Secretariat of the School for Wellbeing is taken care of by Suan Nguen Mee Ma. The founding partners of the School for Wellbeing are:

- Faculty of Political Science, International Relations, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
- Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation (SNF), founded by Sulak Sivaraksa in 1968; the SNF is the legal umbrella of INEB
- The Centre for Bhutan Studies (CBS), Thimphu, Bhutan

The School for Wellbeing and INEB (both affiliated with the Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation) work closely together, in particular in the field of Buddhist Economics and alternative development. At present the School for Wellbeing realizes an action-research project (2010-2013) supported by Thailand Research Fund titled *Well-Being Society scenario project*.



Collaboration between the School for Wellbeing and INEB, together with a diversity of INEB partner organizations and individuals, resulted during the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary INEB conference in the establishment of an **INEB Project Group on Buddhist Economics and alternative development**. Gross National Happiness is appreciated as a developing country's challenge to the existing development paradigm characterized by unbalanced emphasis on economic growth indicated by Gross Domestic Product (GDP).



In preparation to the **INEB international conference in 2011 in Bodhgaya**, an international weekend conference will be convened by the European Buddhist Union, 18-19 June 2011.

## Part 1

### Participation of a delegation from Bhutan to the 20st Anniversary of INEB conference, Chiang Mai, 9-17 November 2009.

#### Background information: Gross National Happiness

The history and evolution of the concept of Gross National Happiness have been documented widely. The most recent public highlight was the much acclaimed speech of the Prime Minister of Bhutan addressing the UN General Assembly, September 2010.



H.E. Prime Minister Jigmi Y. Thinley

H.E. Jigmi Y. Thinley argued that the 9<sup>th</sup> Millennium Development Goal (MDG) should be “happiness for all”. In Bhutan the Prime Minister prime pumped efforts towards Education Reform, Organic Agriculture, Media Freedom and Civil Society involvement.

The first survey to determine the GNH Index (launched in 2008) was succeeded by a much more extensive survey in 2010.

The core of the GNH philosophy is represented by the following principles:

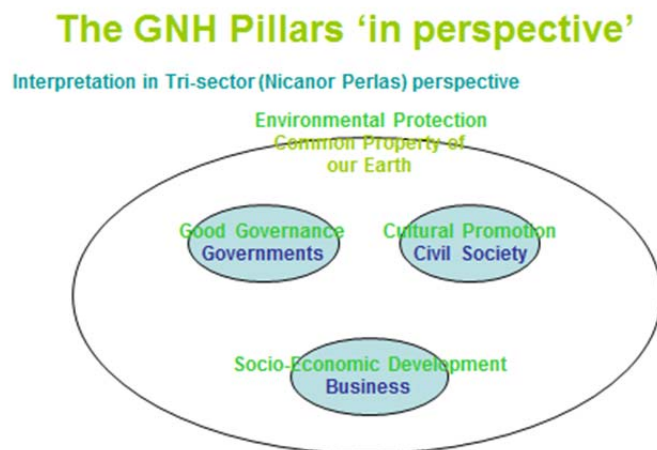
### Gross National Happiness “a new development paradigm”

#### Four Pillars:

- Cultural development
- Good governance
- Equitable economic development
- Environmental protection

## The “GNH Movement”

The remarkable series of GNH conferences (Bhutan 2004, Canada 2005, Mekong region 2006, Thailand 2007, Bhutan 2008, Brazil 2009, USA 2010) incited a global process of reflection, research, social innovation and impulses for policy development involving a diverse partnership. Suan Nguen Mee Ma plaid its role with the *GNH Movement action-research project* supported by Thailand Research Fund. The following scheme represents part of the related analytical process:



One of the main conclusions of the action-research was identification of the urgent need for “consensus building leadership” among the above mentioned three sectors in order to guide societal development towards increased quality of life or “wellbeing” within the limits of a healthy environment. This would imply strengthening of feminine quality, empowerment of civil society and determination to engage in dialogue.

## Bhutan delegation to the INEB 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference



Tashi Zangmo, Executive Director Bhutan Nuns' Foundation

In November 2009 INEB, the International Network of Engaged Buddhists, celebrated its 20st anniversary. At this occasion an international conference was organized in Chiang Mai, and the Buddhist University meditation centre situated in the surroundings.

The delegation from Bhutan, invited to the conference thanks to the grant of **Niwano Peace Foundation**, consisted of:

1. Ven. Khenpo Rinpoche, Abbot, Pema Choling Nunnery, Bumthang, Bhutan
2. Tashi Zangmo, Executive Director Bhutan Nuns' Foundation [www.bhutannuns.org](http://www.bhutannuns.org)
3. Ani Rinzin Lhamo, Nun, Pema Choling Nunnery, Bumthang, Bhutan



Ani Rinzin Lhamo, Pema Choling Nunnery

The Bhutan delegation closely worked together with other participants during the conference and contributed in particular to three areas:

1. **The INEB Himalayas network**
2. **The gender network**
3. **The Buddhist Economics network**

**As a result of the new involvement of the Bhutan delegation to the INEB bi-annual conference, Tashi Zangmo, Bhutan Nuns' Foundation, was appointed member of the INEB Executive Committee.**

The issues of Buddhist Economics and Gross National Happiness were introduced to the plenary assembly by Prof. Hisashi Nakamura and the subsequent plenary discussion was moderated by Hans van Willenswaard.



Prof. Hisashi Nakamura (left) receives the Life Time Achievement Award from Ajarn Sulak (right).

Prof. Hisashi Nakamura accepted the Life Time Achievement Award from Sulak Sivaraksa, Founder, and Chair of the Advisory Board of INEB.

## Brief overview of progress in the three areas of cooperation

### 1. The Himalayas network

One of the important results of the exchanges in the Himalayas network was that Deerpark Institute, Bir, North India, took responsibility for the organization of the next bi-annual INEB conference. By now it is known that this conference will take place 26-29 October 2011 in Bodhgaya.

Dzongsar Jamyang Kyentshe Rinpoche, the Founder and Spiritual Guide of Deerpark Institute, as well as a number of monasteries in Bhutan, his home country, will be present at the INEB conference in Bodhgaya.

### 2. The gender network

The exchanges on *gender* in Chiangmai resulted in significant empowerment of activities supporting Buddhist nuns, and female lay persons, including in Bhutan.

The representation of the Bhutan Nuns' Foundation and Pema Choling Nunnery in the INEB conference was prepared by the visit of Ven. Dhammananta, Thailand, to Bhutan in April 2009, organized by Suan Nguen Mee Ma social enterprise in collaboration with the School for Wellbeing Studies and Research. Ven. Dhammananta, a pioneering nun in the Theravada tradition brought a Buddha image from her temple in Thailand to Bhutan, and presented it to Prime Minister Lyonchho Jigmi Y. Thinley. The Prime Minister donated the same in turn to the Bhutan Nuns' Foundation, at that moment still in the process of being established.



Ani Rinzin Lhamo participates in alms round

Remarkably, during the INEB conference monks and nuns from a great diversity of Buddhist denominations participated side by side in a public alms round in the early morning. Many lay people from Chiang Mai donated food and medicines.

### 3. The Buddhist Economics network

The introduction on Buddhist Economics by Prof. Hasishi Nakamura resulted in a lively plenary discussion and two break-out sessions. In the break-out sessions an impressive number of participants from various Asian countries exchanged experiences. Links between economy and ecology were emphasized (climate change caused by corporate greed). The possible role of Buddhist organizations in the areas of consumers' initiatives, social responsible investment and mindful business, and the dawn of an alternative vision on macro-economic development was explored. As well as the need for stronger support of the Buddhist community to the small-scale organic farmers' movement. The



exchanges resulted in the formation of Working Group on Buddhist Economics and Alternative Development. Several meetings are scheduled: see **Part 3**.

Prof. Hisashi Nakamura advised the Executive Committee during its meeting on how to prepare the INEB conference 2011 in Bodhgaya regarding the issue of Buddhist Economics.

In February 2011 the South-East Asia launching of the film *The Economics of Happiness* produced by Helena Norberg-Hodge is scheduled in Bangkok. The film will also be launched in Japan, New Delhi, Europe and USA. The film includes interviews with Samdhong Rinpoche and Khyentshe Norbu [www.theeconomicsofhappiness.org](http://www.theeconomicsofhappiness.org)

Collaboration with the Buddhist Economics Research Network was established. The network organized conferences in Hungary (2008) and Thailand (2009). A major common effort will be made to organize an international weekend-conference in the Netherlands organized by the European Buddhist Union (EBU) in June 2011: see **Part 3**.

### **Buddhist Economics at the grass roots: the role of women**



The nuns of Pema Choling monastery, Bumthang, Bhutan. Central: Ven. Abbot Khenpo Rinpoche.

Back in Bhutan the Pema Choling Nunnery, supported by the Bhutan Nuns' Foundation, initiated a project in the local community teaching people how to better collect and separate (needed as modernization brings in plastics etc.) waste, and apply new composting techniques. The grass-root recycling principle is seen as an important window to an alternative economy. The nuns, many of them still in their young age, are able to recruit cooperation of the local women who have a pivotal position in social transformation.

Pema Choling Nunnery is situated 10,5 km from Jakar, in Bumthang, Central Bhutan. Terton Pema Lingpa (1450-1521), one of the most significant ancient wisdom teachers of Bhutan, in his time dived up mystic messages from the depths of a lake-like spot called the *Burning Lake* in a mountain stream in Bumthang. These messages also included the prediction that once a nunnery would arise at the nearby plateau. A *terton* is a treasure finder of messages hidden by Padmasambhava also called Guru Rinpoche. Guru Rinpoche introduced Buddhism in Bhutan in the first century. The vision of Terton Pema Lingpa was manifested and realized by Gangteng Tulku Rinpoche (1955-...), a present incarnation of Pema Lingpa in the year 2000: in that year local women were enabled to start constructing a new monastery. Nuns are in a disadvantaged position. The nunnery is now a lively centre for education and social action in Bhutan. It attracts increased international interest.

A leading role in these community activities was performed by Ani Rinzin Lhamo. In 2005 she was one of the participants of the **INEB Young Boddhisatva's training programme**. She became a role model for young socially engaged nuns in Bhutan.

### **Diversity of Buddhist schools represented in INEB**

The Bhutan delegation strengthened the profile of Vajrayana Buddhism as an indispensable element of the diversity of Buddhist streams working together within the INEB framework towards social engagement.

The Bhutan delegation participated fully in the retreat preceding the conference, guided by Dharmachari Lokamitra (India/U.K.), attracting nearly 100 participants. The Bhutanese group, together with participants from Ladakh, led several chanting sessions both during the retreat and the conference. The conference attracted almost 250 participants from 25 countries plus impressive involvement of the local communities.

## **Part 2**

### **Thai delegation return-visit guided by Phra Paisal Visalo, Abbot Wat Pa Sukato, Thailand, to Pema Choling Nunnery, Bhutan, 17-28 April 2010.**

#### **Introduction**



Phra Paisal Visalo, Abbot, Wat Pa Sukato, Thailand

Phra Paisal Visalo has been a pioneer of engaged Buddhism since he became a monk more than 25 years ago. He was a student of Ajarn Sulak and took up the position of Lord Abbot of Wat Pa Sukato, a well-known meditation centre in Chayapum. He is the author of numerous books, a speaker at public meetings and a frequent resource person in the media. He leads environmental conservation walks, is a tireless Peace mediator and member of the Advisory Board of INEB.

Phra Paisal Visalo spoke at the invocation ceremony of the 3<sup>rd</sup> international conference on Gross National Happiness at Wat Hin Mak Peng, Nongkhai. Wat Hin Mak Peng is a well-established temple in the Theravada forest tradition. The temple is situated at the border of the Mekong River, opposite Vientiane, the capital of Laos.

The 'GNH3' conference supported by **Niwano Peace Foundation** attracted over 900 participants dispersed over a period of one week, including a Youth Camp, community-based gatherings in Nongkhai, as well as academic and practitioners' exchanges in Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.



Collaboration to give permanent follow-up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Gross National Happiness, November 2007, was given institutional shape by means of the *School for Wellbeing Studies and Research*. The School for Wellbeing was established in August 2009. Its patron is the Prime Minister of Bhutan, H.E. Jigmi Y. Thinley. The three founding organizations of the School for Wellbeing are:

- Faculty of Political Science, International Relations, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
- Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation (SNF), founded by Sulak Sivaraksa in 1968; the SNF is the legal umbrella of INEB
- The Centre for Bhutan Studies, Thimphu, Bhutan

Phra Paisal accepted to be an Advisor of the School for Wellbeing with special attention to the collaboration between INEB and the 'school'.

Suan Nguen Mee Ma social enterprise takes care of the Secretariat of the School for Wellbeing.

### **Return study-visit to Bhutan**

The Thai delegation to Bhutan in 2010 consisted of 9 self-financing participants and 2 participants sponsored by Niwano Peace Foundation. The two NPF-sponsored delegation members were:

1. Phra Paisal Visalo, Advisor INEB
2. Woranut Churuangasuk, manager publishing house Suan Nguen Mee Ma; attendant of Phra Paisal Visalo

Among the resource persons visited in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan, during the study visit were:

- **Dasho Karma Ura**  
- President, Centre for Bhutan Studies; Co-founder and Executive Committee Member of the School for Wellbeing. Dasho Karma Ura is the author of numerous books, the latest with the title *Value Education in Bhutan*. He also directed the unique wall-paintings in Dochula Temple depicting the history of Bhutan, including contemporary history.
- **Dasho Kinley Dorji**  
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communication. Dasho Kinley Dorji gave an overview of Bhutan's policies regarding Information and Communication technology, in particular how it is related to education reform. He is the author of the book *Within the Realm of Happiness* which includes a passionate episode regarding his studies in Japan. The book was translated into Thai and published by Suan Nguen Mee Ma publishers.
- **Aum Sangay Zangmo**  
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education. She co-organized the international workshop on Educating for Gross National Happiness in Bhutan where experts and practitioners of alternative education of all over the world exchanged views and formulated advice to the Government of Bhutan.
- **Lam Gembo Dorji**  
- Secretary, Central Monastic Body. Lam Gembo Dorji interrupted his life of meditation in reclusion because his outstanding management skills were recognized as indispensable for the progress of monastic culture in Bhutan. He enjoyed meeting Phra Paisal Visalo again, after their first encounter during the GNH3 conference, and welcomes closer cooperation between Vajrayana and Theravada Buddhism.

INEB and the School for Wellbeing work closely together on exploring alternative development paradigms and Buddhist Economics. The above mentioned resource persons all are Advisors of the School

In Bumthang the study-tour included visits to, among others:

- Membartsho, the *Burning Lake*
- Pema Choling Monastery
- Ura Village

In 2011 the School for Wellbeing plans a second study-visit. This year it will be with a Mekong region delegation. The theme will be (to be confirmed): *Economic Development in Bhutan and the role of organic agriculture. Towards "Organic Asia"?*

### Visit to Pema Choling Monastery



The Thai delegation visits Pema Choling nunnery. Left front: Ani Rinzin Lhamo. Central: Phra Paisal Visalo and Ven. Khenpo Rinpoche.

The activities of Pema Choling Monastery include:

- 9 - year shedra (Buddhist university) course of study of highest level Buddhist philosophy.
- basic education that includes English, Dzongkha (Bhutanese language), math, geography, history, logic, philosophy, debate.
- support and community for destitute elderly women.
- medical care and instruction in basic health and hygiene.

- vocational training in Bhutanese traditional arts.
- preservation of Bhutanese cultural heritage.
- acquisition of administrative skills.
- teacher training to benefit future generations.
- self-sufficiency and self-determination.
- direct and positive impact on villages surrounding the Center.

The Thai delegation exchanged questions and experiences with the Abbot and nuns of Pema Choling nunnery and an interesting dialogue emerged on how Vajrayana and Theravada Buddhism could grow closer and unite in joining Buddhist and interreligious, as well as secular networks in order to promote compassion and social responsibility.

It is seen as an important question whether Bhutan can help forging a bridge between Chinese and Tibetan Vajrayana Buddhism, tragically divided by political conflict. Help of denominations from other parts of Asia, witnessed by growing Buddhist communities in Europe and the USA, may be needed.

## Part 3 (Future)

### 3.1.

#### International Workshop on Engaged Spirituality and alternative development, 18-19 June 2011

Provisional announcement:

International Weekend Conference  
18-19 June 2011



### ENGAGED BUDDHISM: common targets of social transformation in the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

Convener:

Frans Goetghebeur

European Buddhist Union

[www.e-b-u.org](http://www.e-b-u.org)

in collaboration with

International Network of Engaged Buddhists  
Buddhist Economics Research Platform  
School for Wellbeing Studies and Research

Expected resource persons:

Laszlo Zsolnai, Harsha Navaratne, Jotika Hermsen, Bernie Glasman, Paula de Wijs-Koolkin, Phra Paisal Visalo, David Loy, Hisashi Nakamura, Marlies Musch, and many others

Venue:

Naropa institute, Cadzand, the Netherlands (a unit of the Tibetan Institute, Belgium)

This weekend conference with resource persons from Asia, Europe and USA is meant to strengthen the foundation for future collaboration on Buddhist Economics and alternative development. **We intend to request the Niwano Peace Foundation to support the participation of resource persons from Asia, including from Bhutan, in this groundbreaking gathering.**

The European Buddhist Union remarkably gained health during the recent chairmanship of Frans Goetghebeur, Founder of the Tibetan Institute in Belgium. It is expanding its membership among national representative organizations in Europe and international movements based in Europe. Frans Goetgehebeur was appointed a Member of the Advisory Committee of INEB during the conference in Chiangmai.

The weekend conference is not meant to be a purely religious or Buddhist gathering. Co-organization with the School for Wellbeing emphasizes the emerging partnership including a secular perspective, while collaboration with partners from other religions and philosophies will be actively solicited.

### **3.2.**

#### **FROM ACTIVITY TO PARTNERSHIP**

##### **Observations and conclusions:**

- **The INEB Young Bodhisatva programme has proved to be effective in identifying young leaders who can lay the foundation of engaged spirituality as a decisive human resource towards a sustainable future.**
- **The GNH3 conference in 2007 supported by Niwano Peace Foundation resulted in continued networking, action-research and consolidated partnership towards alternative development. The School for Wellbeing Studies and Research, under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Bhutan, brings together the academic, independent NGO as well as (semi-)government sectors to form a creative think tank and platform for “consensus building” dialogue.**
- **It is hoped that Suan Nguen Mee Ma can continue receiving some support from Niwano Peace Foundation in order to continue the collaboration with Bhutanese partners as initiated by the Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation founded by Sulak Sivaraksa. In particular support for Asian participation in the weekend conference convened by the European Buddhist Union in June 2011, the Netherlands, will enable the collaborative process to proceed, with growing results.**
- **It is recommended that at the institutional level Rissho Kosei Kai and INEB develop long term partnership towards youth leadership training and sustainable development. There is a strong need for a powerful profile of Buddhist organizations in the framework of intercultural and secular efforts to address climate change.**
- **Active engagement of schools of Vajrayana Buddhism as nurtured in Bhutan, in collaboration with pioneers of socially engaged Theravada Buddhism (from Thailand; and other denominations from other countries) may help overcoming political divide in the region.**
- **The dedication of nuns and female lay persons is essential for Buddhism to grow towards its task to lead civilization to sustainable and just development.**



## APPENDIX: INEB Conference in Bodhgaya



### The 2011 Bi-Annual Conference of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB)

## **The Future of Buddhism:**

### ***From Personal Awakening to Global Transformation***

Venue: Wat Pha Bodhigaya

Location: Bodhgaya, India

Date: October 26-29, 2011

Contact: For registration and for more information, please contact INEB Secretariat  
[conference@inebnetwork.org](mailto:conference@inebnetwork.org) or visit [www.inebnetwork.org](http://www.inebnetwork.org)

**Registration Deadline: 31 August 2011**

#### ***International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB)***

The International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB) brings together activists, spiritual leaders, academics, and young people from more than 20 countries in Asia, Europe, America, and Australia, in areas of common concern: to integrate the practice of Buddhism with social action for a healthy, just, and peaceful world. INEB is rooted in the treasure of personal relationship that raises the original spirit of *sangha* in a contemporary, multi- cultural context. INEB aims to promote understanding and cooperation among Buddhists; to articulate the perspective of engaged Buddhism and train Buddhist activists; to serve as a network of information and resources on

engaged Buddhism; and to cooperate and collaborate with activists from other spiritual traditions and social change organizations.

### **INEB's Key Areas of Concern and Engagement:**

- Peace and reconciliation
- Environment
- Gender
- Alternative education
- Human rights and social justice
- Alternative development and economics
- Reform and revival of Buddhist institutions
- Youth and spiritual leadership development
- Dharmic Arts and Culture
- Interfaith dialogue and collaboration

### **Main Conference Program**

#### **Objectives**

- Promote dialog and exchange on social issues of common concern among Buddhists from all traditions and regions, as well as socially concerned non-Buddhists
- Develop programs and activities among participants and existing INEB working groups for the next two year period
- Communicate INEB working group and regional network activities to the broader community
- Engage active new members to expand and strengthen the network
- Celebrate the spirit of kalyanamitra and the efforts of the previous two year

#### **Morning Programs at Maha Bodhi**

In the morning, participants will walk to the Maha Bodhi for a morning program of meditation, chanting, prayers, and Dharma talks. The programs will be organized to include spiritual practices from all traditions. Representatives from local Bodhgaya temples and organizations will be invited.

#### **Generational Sharing**

Generational Sharing will be a morning plenary session on Day 1 and 3 and will provide an opportunity for senior leaders with a history of active social engagement to share their experiences and challenges and to inspire young leaders. Rather than giving a formal speech on an issue, they will informally share their personal history starting with their youth and how they started on their current path. They will explain the challenges they have faced and the strategies they have used to overcome them. Special emphasis will be given to the balance between spiritual practice and social

action. After their initial talk, the program will be opened to questions. During the open session, questions from young participants will be prioritized.

### **Roundtable Discussions**

Morning roundtable discussions will be organized on Day 2 and Day 4 to stimulate in-depth and critical dialog on social issues of common concern to all Buddhist traditions. The session will use a “fishbowl” format. Eight to twelve key resource people with informed views on the selected topic will sit at the round table. All other conference participants will be seated around them as observers. The roundtable participants will include lay and ordained men and women from different Buddhist contexts with a wide range of experiences and perspectives. For the first 2 hours, the roundtable participants will have an in-depth facilitated dialog on the proposed themes. For the final 1 hour, general participants will have the opportunity to ask questions, share views, and engage in the dialog.

#### ***Day 2 Roundtable: Dharma for the Future***

Themes include:

- Relevance of the Dharma in modern society
- Opportunities and challenges in different countries and cultural contexts (e.g. declining, stagnating, reviving, spreading)
- *Dharmaduta* and Buddhist education
- Impact of new information and communication technology
- Buddhism in popular culture

#### ***Day 4: Sangha for the Future***

Themes include

- Meaning of Sangha
- Lay-monastic relations in modern society
- Vinaya in modern society
- Dana and materialism
- Dana and Buddhist institutions

### **Learning for the Future**

Afternoon sessions will provide an opportunity for active learning and exchange. These sessions will range from hands-on workshops and training programs to experience-sharing sessions organized by key resource people, for example:

- Challenges of *sangha*
- Non-violent communication skills
- Active learning techniques

- Financial sustainability
- Using new media
- Dharmic education for children
- Right livelihood
- Organic agriculture
- Death and dying

An estimated 20 sessions are planned: 10 will be conducted on Day 1 and Day 3, and 10 will be conducted on Day 2 and Day 4. Participants will have the opportunity to choose sessions according to their interests and experience.

## Evening Programs

### ***INEB Fair (Day 1)***

The INEB Fair will provide an opportunity for INEB members and conference participants to share their work, exchange ideas, and attract new members to existing thematic working groups. “Stalls” or tables will be arranged for people to share posters, videos, photos, publications, food, etc. Musical entertainment will also be provided. Participants will be free to walk around the grounds, learn about programs in different regions, exchange ideas, and socialize.

### ***Buddhist Film Festival and Art Exhibition (Day 2)***

Short films, documentaries and feature films on Buddhist themes will be shown at multiple screening areas around the main conference venue.

### ***Cultural Performances (Day 1, Day 3)***

Local and international performing artists will perform for conference participants and local guests.

### ***Maha Bodhi Candlelight Procession and Dedication (Day4 )***

The conference will close with a candle procession to the Maha Bodhi and a dedication of merit.

## Community Involvement

### ***Youth Volunteers***

Conference logistics will be managed by Indian youth from the Bodhgaya region. They will have the opportunity to participate in a pre-conference workshop and training program with youth from INEB's international network.

### ***Mornings Maha Bodhi Programs***

Morning meditation, chanting, and Dharma talks will be organized with Bodhgaya temples and religious groups to ensure participation and promote inter-communal exchange.

### ***INEB Fair, Buddhist Art and Film Festival, Cultural Performance***

Local people and organizations will be invited to participate in the evening sessions at the conference venue. Local artists will have an opportunity to perform and share their work.

### ***Study Visits***

On 30 October, the day after the conference, study tours will be organized to visit service projects by local organizations.

### ***Shramadana***

*Shramadana* means giving time, energy, and skills for the benefit of others. The conference organizers will work with local service organization to plan a *shramadana* opportunity (e.g. environmental cleanup) for conference participants.

## **Affiliated Events (before and after the main conference)**

\* to be confirmed

### ***International Youth Volunteer Workshop (October 19-23, 2011)\****

Young leaders from INEB's international network will join local Indian volunteers for a 5-day workshop and training program in Bodhgaya before the conference.

### ***Buddhist Art Workshop (October 19-25, 2011)***



A workshop with Buddhist artists will be held in Bodhgaya before the conference. Their work will be exhibited in Bodhgaya during the main conference. Exhibitions are also being organized in New Delhi, Colombo, Bangkok and Tokyo.

### ***INEB Advisory Committee and Executive Committee Meeting (October 30, 2011)***

The annual INEB AC/EC meeting will be held after the conference. (by Invitation)

### ***Buddhist Clergy Retreat at Saranath (November 1-7, 2011)\****

A retreat for ordained Buddhist clergy from all traditions is planned at Saranath after the conference.

### ***Lay Buddhist Retreat / Pilgrimage to Buddhist Sites\****

Buddhist retreats and pilgrimages will be organized as optional post-conference events.

## **Speakers**

\*To be confirmed

Ven. Samdhong Rinpoche*	Tibet/India	Sulak Sivaraksa	Siam (Thailand)
Ven. Bhikkhuni Chao Hwei Shih	Taiwan	Rev. Alan Senauke	USA
Ven. Pomnyun Sunim	South Korea	Harsha Navaratne	Sri Lanka
Ven. Khyentse Rinpoche	Bhutan	Dhammachari Lokamitra	UK/India
Ven. Sangasena	Ladakh/India	Rev. Okano	Japan
Ven. Bhikkhuni Dhammananda*	Siam (Thailand)	Bernie Glassman*	USA
Ven. Tenzin Palmo*	UK/India	Joan Halifax*	USA
Ven. Tsering Palmo	Ladakh/India	Robert Thurman*	USA
		Shantum	India
		Jonathan Watts	USA/Japan
		Robina Courtin*	India/Australia
		Ron Coleman*	Canada/Bhutan
		Jill Jameson	Australia
		Ouyporn Khenkaew	Siam (Thailand)

## **INEB 2011 Conference**

## Draft Program

Pre-Conference Events	
October 19-23, 2011	International youth volunteer workshop
October 19-25, 2011	Buddhist art workshop

Conference*	
Arrival and Registration: October 24-25, 2011	
Day 1: October 26, 2011	
06:00 – 07:00	Morning Program at Maha Bodhi
07:00 – 08:30	Breakfast
08:30 – 08:45	Traditional lamp lighting
08:45 – 09:00	Welcome by organizers
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome by INEB Chairperson
09:30 – 10:15	Opening speech by Ajahn Sulak Sivaraksa
10:15 – 10:45	Tea
10:45 – 11:30	Generational Sharing (plenary)
11:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 17:00	Learning for the Future: Program A (~10 sessions, break for tea)
17:30 – 19:00	Dinner
19:00 – 22:00	INEB Fair (stalls and cultural performances)
Day 2: October 27, 2011	
06:00 – 07:00	Morning Program at Maha Bodhi
07:00 – 08:30	Breakfast
08:30 – 11:30	Dharma for the Future (plenary fishbowl format, break for tea)
11:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 17:00	Learning for the Future: Program B (~10 sessions, break for tea)
17:30 – 19:00	Dinner

19:00 – 22:00	Buddhist Film Festival
<b>Day 3: October 28, 2011</b>	
06:00 – 07:00	Morning Program at Maha Bodhi
07:00 – 08:30	Breakfast
08:30 – 11:30	Generational Sharing (plenary)
11:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 17:00	Learning for the Future: Program A (~10 sessions, break for tea)
17:30 – 19:00	Dinner
19:00 – 22:00	Cultural Performances
<b>Day 4: October 29, 2011</b>	
06:00 – 07:00	Morning Program at Maha Bodhi
07:00 – 08:30	Breakfast
08:30 – 11:30	Sangha for the Future (plenary fishbowl format, break for tea)
11:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 17:00	Learning for the Future: Program B (~10 sessions, break for tea)
17:30 – 19:00	Dinner
19:00 – 22:00	Maha Bodhi Candlelight Procession and Dedication

<b>Post-Conference Events</b>	
October 30, 2011	Study visits to local organizations
October 30, 2011	INEB Executive Committee / Advisory Committee meeting
November 1-7, 2011	Clergy retreat at Saranath
	Optional lay retreat
	Optional pilgrimage to Buddhist sites (organized by Manuski and YBS?)

\*Schedule for *shramadana* social action to be confirmed with Bodhgaya organizers

## Conference Participants & Dana

An estimated 250 – 300 people are expected to participate in the conference. Special attention will be given to ensure strong youth participation and engagement in all conference activities. Furthermore, INEB works very hard to bring participants from regions that are in crisis and who need support. Therefore, if you can afford to pay more than the full fee for this conference, your donation (dana) will be gratefully received to help those who cannot afford the whole fee. Support for such needy participants to attend will enrich your own conference experience!

### **Conference fees**

Fees include the programme in its entirety: registration fee and food.

**\$US 80** payable by participants with **low income** or **countries from the South**

**\$US120** payable by participants with **medium income** or **developing countries**

**\$US180** payable by participants with **high income** or **countries from the North**

\*For further details on accommodation packages, please visit our website

**Download Registration Form, [please click](#)**

**For registration and for more information, please contact:**

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#### **Conference Organizers**

***Deer Park Institute***

Deer Park Institute is a project under Siddhartha's Intent Society, a registered educational society that was formed in March 2006 by Dzongsar Jamyang Khyentse Rinpoche with a distinguished board and advisory board. SI India's core vision is to restore the non-sectarian spirit of the great university of Nalanda to its country of origin, preserving and propagating India's profound classical wisdom traditions for the benefit of all who live here, as well as the many who come from all over the world pursuing an inner quest.