

Thank you all for coming to celebrate the inauguration of Sakyadhita Korea, and thank you all for your kind invitation to be here.

It's a great pleasure and honor to have this opportunity to witness the successful and very auspicious establishment of Sakyadhita Korea.

Since 1987, Sakyadhita has grown to become the largest international network of Buddhist women. To date, we have successfully held 13 international conferences, not to mention numerous smaller meetings all around the world. This year in January, we successfully gathered women from 35 countries in this past conference in Vaishali, India. If you type in the key word "Sakyadhita" on google search, YouTube, Facebook, or blogs, or if you simply search for some information about Buddhist women or women in general, you will find many pages, photos, and video clips reporting the Sakyadhita gatherings. Sakyadhita is EVERYWHERE on the internet! Of course, we could not have achieved all this without the kindness and support of many people, including all of you here, our Korean Buddhist friends. We deeply appreciate that you hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> Sakyadhita International Conference on Buddhist Women in 2004. That was my first time in Korea. Since then, I have kept coming back to Korea.... If I'm not mistaken, this is my 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> trip to Korea!

So please accept my sincere gratitude-- Thank you for so faithfully attending the Sakyadhita conferences in exotic locations around the world. Since 2002, the Korean participants have consistently been the largest organized group to attend the conferences. Please continue to support Sakyadhita Korea!

Today, I wish to also offer my sincere congratulations for all your achievements in establishing Sakyadhita Korea. I rejoice in your great merit in bringing Buddhist women together here in Korea and want to encourage you to continue your path with Sakyadhita. No matter what obstacles lie ahead, please remember you are not alone. You have millions of likeminded sisters in different countries around the world who are also working with pure intentions, the same bodhicitta motivation as you -- the selfless intention to become perfectly awakened in order to liberate all beings from suffering. With this pure intention, as Buddhist women, we can work together to benefit the world in this life – no need to wait for a male rebirth. All around the globe, you have Dharma sisters who have had similar experiences and who have similar aspiration. They are offering their prayers, blessings, and support for the noble aspirations of Buddhist women here in Korea. Welcome to this great sisterhood in the Dharma!

All of you here are cordially invited to join us in Indonesia in 2015. I am sure you will be amazed by the wonderful practice of over 3 million Buddhist friends in the world's largest Muslim country. You will also have a great opportunity to visit Borobordou and many other sacred Buddhist heritage sites there in the delightful company of our Indonesian Buddhist family!

With that, I hope to see you all again in Indonesia in 2015, if not sooner in Korea, Taiwan, and elsewhere.

Thank you all again for your support of Sakyadhita Korea!

Congratulations and thank you once again!