

Press Release
June 16, 2015

14th Sakyadhita International Conference on Buddhist Women
Yogyakarta, Indonesia | June 23 to 30, 2015

“Compassion and Social Justice”

We are pleased to announce the 14th Sakyadhita International Conference on Buddhist Women Buddhist to be held in Yogyakarta from June 23 to 30. The theme, “Compassion and Social Justice,” will set the stage for participants from all over Indonesia and around the world to draw connections between spiritual cultivation, social transformation, and gender justice.

Women have made many contributions to the spiritual and material well-being of human society. Now they are poised to play an even greater role in shaping a more just and peaceful world. Nevertheless, Buddhist women are frequently excluded from the processes that shape their communities, such as negotiations among governments, scholarly forums, religious leaders, and social structures. Decision makers are often unfamiliar with Buddhist women’s contributions, while Buddhist women may remain disconnected from the larger issues that affect their daily lives. The 14th Sakyadhita Conference will be an opportunity for dialogue about how compassion and spiritual development can help shape a more just and peaceful world.

Indonesia is home to some of Asia’s oldest Buddhist cultural monuments, dating back as early as the 5th century. Today, Buddhist communities are found in central Java, Sumatra, Lombok, Bali, and islands throughout the archipelago. Buddhist cultural elements mix freely with indigenous cultural forms to create a colorful tapestry of sounds, images, and ideas.

The 14th Sakyadhita Conference is a rich Dharma festival that is open to men and women of all backgrounds and religious communities. Soon, almost 1,000 people will arrive, including 525 from 40 different countries and 475 from virtually every province of Indonesia. For 8 days, they will gather to celebrate women’s potential and, together, envision a more just and compassionate world. In 58 panels and 98 engaging workshops, they will gain wisdom from leading scholars and social activists ~ learning and practicing the skills we all need to change ourselves, change the world, and create a healthy future. As a finale, they will visit Borobudur and other stunning cultural legacies to celebrate Indonesia’s spectacular contributions to the world’s collective Buddhist heritage!

Dharma Talks

- June 24 Ajahn Brahm on “Buddhism with Compassion, Buddhism with Justice”
- June 26 Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo on “The Six Paramitas”
- June 28 Venerable Thubten Chodron on “Open Heart, Clear Mind”

Panel Presentations

Buddhist Women of Indonesia

Compassion & Inner Transformation
Indonesian Buddhist Women in Historical Perspective
Buddhist Culture in Indonesia
Implementing Compassion & Social Justice
Diversity & Multiculturalism
Bhikshuni Ordination: Benefits & Barriers
Equality, Respect & Lay/Monastic Relations
The Future of Buddhist Feminism
Buddhist Women & Compassionate Activism
In the Spirit of Compassion
Breakthroughs in Buddhist Education
and more!

Interactive Workshops

Coffee & Zen
Buddhist Women's Leadership & the Environmental Crisis
Unlearning Sexism
Batik: Then & Now
Maritime Buddhism & Borobudur
Mindfulness Yoga
Drawing Mandalas
Dharma in Action
Nature as a Vehicle for Healing & Compassion
Exploring Alternatives to Religious Extremism and Violence
The Many Benefits of Relaxing in Meditation & in Life
Sacred Chants in Praise of the Feminine
Women's Struggles for Freedom
Tai chi
Smiling at Samsara: Life Happens
Women in Religious Leadership
and many more!

For Further Information

Website: <http://sakyadhita.org/> (English)
<http://www.sakyadhita-indonesia.org> (Indonesian)
Blogs: <http://awakeningbuddhistwomen.blogspot.com> (English)
<http://awakeningbuddhistwomen-indonesia.blogspot.com> (Indonesian)
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sakyadhita.international> (English),
<https://www.facebook.com/sakyadhita.indonesia> (Indonesian)

Contacts

Heru Suherman Lim [herusuhermanlim@yahoo.com] (Indonesian)
Karma Lekshe Tsomo [tsomo@sandiego.edu] (English)