



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE

The conference fee is US\$100, payable upon registration. Space is limited, so be sure to register early.

MEALS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Arrangements have been made for participants to stay at a quiet, traditional countryside resort hotel about 15 minutes outside Ulaanbaatar. Accommodations vary from hotel rooms to traditional ger (tents). The hotel offers rooms, large and small ger, restaurant, snack shop, and sauna. De-luxe rooms are also available at the Chingghis Khan Hotel, the proposed conference site.



Vegetarian meals and tea will be provided. Boiled water, hot drinks, and bottled soft drinks will be available and are safe to drink. Feel free to bring herbal teas and any special dietary extras you may require.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation from the airport to the conference accommodations will be provided on June 30. Return transportation to the airport will be provided on July 6 and 8. Taxi service is available for participants who arrive or depart on other days.

DEADLINE FOR PAYMENTS

Payments for registration, bus, meals, and accommodations must be received by May 1, 2008, to guarantee availability.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Citizens of the U.S., India, and various other countries do not need visas for a short stay. Citizens of other countries should check with the Mongolian embassy in their countries for up-to-date visa information.

CURRENCY

The Mongolian currency is called tögrög (MNT or tugriks). The current exchange rate is approximately 1200 tögrögs to the U.S. dollar. The U.S. dollar is an accepted form of payment and it is a good idea to carry a reasonable amount of small U.S. dollar bills. Euros and most other convertible currencies may also be changed at Ulaanbaatar exchange counters.

HOW CAN I HELP? SHARE THE WEALTH

A central aim of Sakyadhita is to foster the active engagement of women in developing countries. Many women would love to take part in this historic gathering, but lack the financial means to do so. We encourage you to take this opportunity to enrich their lives and help expand the women's international network. Sponsoring a nun or laywoman from a developing country – Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, Cambodia, India, Laos, Nepal, Thailand, or Sri Lanka – is a contribution toward gender justice and world peace. If you are not able to attend the conference in person, you can open up new worlds for someone who would otherwise never have this opportunity. A sponsorship of \$500 includes food, lodging, registration, and the temple tours. Sponsorship for transportation and partial sponsorships are also greatly appreciated!



CONFERENCE PLANNING

We welcome your participation in the conference planning! If you would like to help, please contact Sakyadhita International at: sakyadhita@mac.com.



SIGN ME UP!

- ☐ Registration fee: \$100
- ☐ Meals (Breakfast, lunch, and tea, June 30-July 7): \$200
- Accommodations (June 30-July 7)
 - ☐ Hotel (double): \$180
 - ☐ Hotel (single): \$360
 - ☐ Ger (shared tent): \$100
- ☐ Airport and conference transportation and tours: \$60
- ☐ Contribution to help sponsor a woman from a developing country:
 - ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$800
 - ☐ Other _____
 - ☐ I would like to sponsor a ☐ nun ☐ laywoman from _____ (country/tradition).
- \$_____ Total amount enclosed

- ☐ Please send me information on the optional tours to Erdene Zuu Monastery and Buryatia.
- ☐ I can offer the following talents or ideas:

Deadline for registration or requesting refunds is May 1, 2008. Registration fee is not refundable.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Country: _____

Phone/Fax: _____

Email: _____

Send to: Carol Stevens, Secretary
Sakyadhita International
923 Mokapu Blvd.
Kailua, HI 96734 U.S.A.

For Further Information
On Sakyadhita and the conference:
www.sakyadhita.org

On Mongolia:
www.mongoliatourism.gov.mn
Email: sakyadhita@mac.com

Sakyadhita

10th International Conference
on Buddhist Women

*"Buddhism in Transition:
Tradition, Changes, and Challenges"*



Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Conference: July 1 to 5, 2008
Temple Tours: July 6 and 7, 2008

MONGOLIA: LAND OF THE ETERNAL BLUE SKY
Mongolia, located between Russia and China, has three major mountain ranges and rivers running in three directions. The altitude varies between 560 and 1,374 m (1,837 and 4,508 ft). Temperatures range widely from -40 to + 38 C (-40 to 100 F). The fragile ecosystem encompasses arid deserts and range lands, with half the country covered in permafrost. The vast desert expanses and gentle rolling hills of Mongolia are home to millions of sleepy-looking Bactrian camels, fluffy sheep, impressive yaks, and spirited horses. A sparse human population of 2.7 million shares this landscape, 36 percent under 14 years old. Sixty percent of the people are nomads who live in round tents called *ger*, with the others settled in towns or the capital city of Ulaanbaatar.



Ulaanbaatar is situated in a northern valley area at 1,350 m (4,430 ft) above sea level. The summer climate in July is pleasant, with an average temperature of 16 C (62 F) and occasional rain. The roads, mostly unpaved, transport travelers by bus, minivan, and taxi. Favorite local foods include mutton and dumplings; vegetarian dishes and the cuisines of many countries are also available. Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, about 80 km (50 mi) outside the capital, boasts of some of the loveliest scenery in the country. For shopping, Mongolian cashmere is world famous.



BUDDHISM IN MONGOLIA
Mongolia was made famous by Chingghis Khan, the fearsome 13th-century warrior who conquered vast territories, but was also known for his tolerance toward Christians, Muslims, Manicheists, and shamans living in his realm. His grandson established a lama-patron relationship with the Tibetan scholar Sakya Pandita, whose nephew Chogyal Phagpa spread Buddhism at the Mongolian court, including to Khubilai Khan. When Altan Khan came to power in the 16th century, he met the Tibetan Buddhist teacher Sonam Gyatso and gave him the title Dalai Lama, meaning “ocean of wisdom.” Their meeting touched off a revival of Buddhism, which flourished as the dominant religious tradition with a strong monastic order that continued up to the 1930s.



At the beginning of the 20th century, there were 583 monasteries and temple complexes and 243 incarnate lamas in the Mongolian territories, including 157 in what today is called Inner Mongolia. By 1920, there were said to be 110,000 monks (about 1/3 of the male population), who controlled much of the country’s wealth. In the 1930s, under Stalin, more than 30,000 Mongolians, mostly monks, were arrested and disappeared. All the monasteries but one were closed and religious worship and ceremonies were outlawed. Not until 1990 was freedom of religion restored. Since then, there has been a phenomenal revival of Buddhism (and other religions) in the country. Monasteries have reopened and Mongolians are reviving their Buddhist traditions.

SAKYADHITA: DAUGHTERS OF THE BUDDHA
Since 1987, Sakyadhita has worked to benefit women and enhance their capacity to work for peace, justice, and the welfare of all living beings. We hope you will join us at the 10th Sakyadhita International Conference on Buddhist Women to learn more about Mongolia and link up with a vibrant community of Buddhist women dedicated to global transformation.

In July 2008, Buddhist women and friends from around the world will meet in Ulaanbaatar, capital of Mongolia, to exchange ideas and learn from one another. As traditional cultures con-



front new global realities – social, political, and economic – ancient beliefs and practices are being adapted to meet the needs of contemporary life. Buddhists throughout the world are aware of the tremendous changes occurring in their societies and the many challenges they face in maintaining their traditional values in today’s fast-paced, often troubled world. How can Buddhist ideals – loving kindness, compassion, generosity, and wisdom – be useful in meeting these challenges? What roles can women play to help their families and communities maintain and nurture their Buddhist values?

BACKGROUND OF THE CONFERENCE
Since 1987, Buddhist women have been meeting internationally every two years. Representing over three hundred million Buddhist women worldwide, we have forged friendships and created a global alliance to work toward a more sane and peaceful world. These fruitful and affirming exchanges have had lasting intellectual, spiritual, and personal significance for thousands of women. Gatherings in India, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Ladakh, Cambodia, Nepal, Taiwan, Korea, Malaysia, and the U.S. have stimulated a global movement among Buddhist women around the world, working for inner peace, communal harmony, and global justice. Proceedings from these conferences have been compiled in a series of books, videos, and newsletters that document the achievements of Buddhist women’s 2,500-year history.

BRINGING WOMEN TOGETHER
In tune with Sakyadhita’s mission of global cooperation, the 10th Sakyadhita International Conference on Buddhist Women is being organized by representatives of a variety of Buddhist organizations in Mongolia working in partnership with members of Sakyadhita’s International Conference Planning Committee. Sakyadhita is the world’s most active international association of Buddhist women, a global alliance dedicated to nurturing women’s potential for compassionate social engagement. The aim is to create opportunities for the exchange of learning, training, and experience with Buddhists and friends from diverse cultures, religions, and social backgrounds.



CONFERENCE PROGRAM
Leading Buddhist scholars, practitioners, artists, and social activists from around the world will offer ideas and insights on critical issues facing contemporary society. Morning meditations and evening chanting will provide glimpses of the world’s rich Buddhist traditions. Small group discussions, interdisciplinary panels, and workshops will facilitate dialogue among participants. The overall conference theme is “Buddhism in Transition: Tradition, Changes, and Challenges.”

- PROPOSED PANEL THEMES**
- Buddhist Women in Times of Transition
 - The Challenges of Multiculturalism
 - Breaking with Tradition: The Issue of Legitimacy
 - Buddhism and Consumerism
 - The Future of Monasticism
 - Buddhist Women and Interreligious Dialogue
 - Engaging the Younger Generation
 - Buddhism and Cultural Change: Issues of Family
 - Buddhist Values and Environmental Health
 - Buddhism, Politics, and Human Rights

- PROPOSED WORKSHOP THEMES**
- Buddhist Meditation Traditions
 - Working Together: Alternatives to Hierarchy, New Models of Organization
 - What’s the Problem? (Problem-solving Skills)
 - Buddhism, Women, and Health
 - Nonprofit Management Skills for Branches, Chapters, and Grant Recipients
 - Lifestyle Choices
 - Buddhism in the Workplace
 - Notes in a Nutshell and Other Skills for Sakyadhita Writers

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

June 30	Arrival in Ulaanbaatar
July 1	Opening Ceremony at the Mongolia Cultural Palace
July 2-4	Conference Sessions: Meditation, talks, discussions, and workshops
July 5	Closing Ceremony at the Mongolia Cultural Palace
July 6	Temple Tour in Ulaanbaatar
July 7	Excursion to Manjusri Monastery

