



新加坡佛牙寺

BUDDHA TOOTH RELIC TEMPLE
(SINGAPORE)



Life and Works of Master **Shi Fa Zhao**



Life and Works of Master Shi Fa Zhao

Life and Works of Master Shi Fa Zhao

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Email: odc@mcu.ac.th

ISBN: 978-616-300-913-5

Printed by: 21 Century Company,
19/25 moo 8 Bangkurat Bangbuathong Nonthaburi 11110

First Printing Edition 2024

500 copies

Published by Dhammaduta College
Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University
79 M.1, Lamsai, Wangnoi, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya 13170



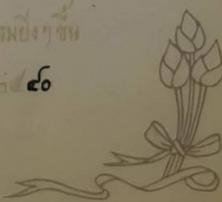




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การเผยแพร่องค์กรทางการศึกษา 9 แห่งประเทศไทย

๑๐๖ ประวัติพัฒนา ๑๐๖ ทฤษฎีการพัฒนาทุกเชื้อชาติ ๑๐๖





The Honorary Doctorate Degree
on Venerable Shi Fa Zhao
Vice-President of Singapore Buddhist Federation,
The Republic of Singapore

This is the text of citation read on the occasion of the conferring of an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Social Work, at the convocation ceremony held at Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Council, at its meeting No. 6/2008 on April 24, BE 2551 (CE 2008) had unanimously resolved that:

Whereas, Venerable Shi Fa Zhao, forty-eight years of age, was born in 1959 in the Republic of Singapore. He established Maha Welfare Association. He received Public Service Medal Award (PSM) from the Government Republic of Singapore. He was conferred the honorary title of "SASANA KHATHI SKP" and the Clergy name of "Arahan" by His Excellency, Ramaugra Perngchai, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand conferred him the Royal Buddhist title "Phra Vajabhuddanawat" in 1996. The State Peace and Development Council of The Union of Myanmar has also presented to him religious title "MAGHA SADDHANAMAGOTTHAKADESINA". He was conferred the title of the Dharmachakra Gold Wheel Award by the Prince of Thailand for the General Constitution of the Maha Sangha in 1987. At the present, he has been Abbot of Golden Pagoda Buddhist Temple, President of Golden Pagoda Buddhist Temple Management Committee, President of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple Singapore, Jerome Committee, President of Maha Welfare Association, Chairman of Maha School Management Committee, Advisor of Maha Sub-Committee, Vice-president of Singapore Buddhist Federation, Vice-president of Singapore Buddhist Community Federation, Vice-president of Maha Bodhi School Management Committee, Vice-Chairman of Steel Law San Buddhist Temple Construction Maha Committee, Member of Maha Tissa School Management Committee etc.

Through the meritorious deeds and academic excellence mentioned above, Venerable Shi Fa Zhao is regarded as the Buddhist monk who produces remarkable welfare and benefit for his country and the world and to deserve the praise and salutation. Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Council has unanimous resolution to confer an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Social Work on him.

Given on 17 May 2008 (CE 2008)



Phra Dharmachakra
The President
of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Council



Honorary Ph.D. Degree

Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University

Bangkok, Thailand

In accordance with a resolution adopted by the University Council, an Honorary
Doctorate Degree of Ph.D. (honoris causa) in Social Work is hereby conferred on

Venerable Shi Fa Zhao

In recognition of whose merits and excellence, the issuance of this certificate
is approved and authorized.

Given on May 11, B.E. 2551 (CE 2008)

P.D. *Korayum*
President
University Council

Doctor

R. Smith
Dean





Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University

This is to certify that

Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao

Golden Pagoda Buddhist Temple

is Recognized as an Honorary Dhammaduta Bhikkhu.

On the Occasion of the 30th Anniversary of
the Overseas Dhammaduta Bhikkhus Training Program
and 10th Anniversary of Dhammaduta College, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University
Awarded on the 25th May 2024

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Rector

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Vice-Rector for Foreign Affairs

P.m. Prayam

(Dr. Phrakhrusutaratanaabundit)

Director, Dhammaduta College

ပြည်ထောင်စု မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
နိုင်ငံတော် အားလုံးသာယာရေးနှင့် ဦးမြို့ဒရေးကောင်စီ အစိုးရ



မဟာ သွမ်မောတိကဓားတော်

(သာသနပြု ဒုတိယဆင့်)

ရွှေသာသနပါတီတော်ရှင်၏ ရွှေသာသနရာရွှေ့တိုင်း၊
သီရိ ဆောင် ပညာရွှေ့တို့နှင့် ပြည်ထောင်စီးပွဲသာ

စက် ဘုရားရွှေ့တိုင်း၊

ရွှေသာသနရေး နှုတ္တရားကျောင်း

Ven. Shi Fa Zhao

ဘရှင်မြတ်သာ

မဟာ သွမ်မောတိကဓားတော်

ဘွဲ့ထောင်စီးကို ဆက်ကပ် လူမှိမ့်ပါသည်

ပေါ်

နိုင်ငံတော် အားလုံးသာယာရေးနှင့် ဦးမြို့ဒရေးကောင်စီ

သာသနရေးတော်နှင့် ရွှေသာသနရေးတော်နှင့် နှုန်းနှင့် နည်းလောင်းရေးတော်နှင့် ၁၃-ရှုံး (၄-၁၀၀၀)

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အဂ္ဂမဟာသဒမ္မလောတိကဓာတ္တော်

(သာသနာဖြူ ပာမဆင်)

ရွှေသာသနာရိုစိကရရှုက် ရွှေသာသနာပိတေသနရွှေကျေ

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သီလ သာမဏီ ပညာရိုက်တို့နဲ့ ပြည်နဲ့တော်မွေသာ

Buddha Tooth-Relic Temple (Singapore),
Golden Pagoda Buddhist Temple, Singapore

Ven. Shi Fa Zhao

ထရိုင်ပြတ်သား

AGGAMAHASADDHAMMAJOTIKADHAJA

ဆုတေသနပိတေသနကို ဆက်ကပ်လျှော့ခိုးပါသည်

၃၇၅

နိုင်ငံတော်ဝေးချမ်းသာယာဂရုဏ် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးဝေးကောင်စီ

အသုတေသနတော်မွေသာ ပြည်နယ် အကောင်းဆုံး ပြည်နယ် ၂၄၄ (၇-၁၂၀)





Foreword

This book is dedicated to the life and works of Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit also known as Ven. Master Shi Fa Zhao, the abbot of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple, Singapore and a patron of the Thai sangha community and Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University. He consistently offers scholarships to the students of Mahachulalongkorn rajavidyalaya University, Papariyattidhamma School and general school in Thailand. He also provides financial support to social work organizations and builds many Chinese schools in the north of Thailand.

The book is written by Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs, as a token of gratitude to Master Shi Fa Zhao. It comprises six chapters that delve into Master Shi Fa Zhao's life, his work, his efforts in propagating Buddhism through education, welfare works, and public construction projects. The final chapter explores the relationship between Master Shi Fa Zhao and Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University.

Master Shi Fa Zhao's mission is to propagate Buddhism and spread its teachings worldwide, not just in Thailand. He has traveled to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to further this cause.

I am deeply grateful to Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit for his kindness and assistance, and to Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno for creating this book in honor of his master. I also extend my gratitude to the editor, administrators, and staff of Dhammaduta College and International Relations Division for their contributions to this book



(The Most Venerable Somdej Phramahathirachan)

Abbot of Wat Phra Chetuphon Wimonmangkalaram

Board of The Sangha Supreme Council of Thailand

President of the Regulatory Office

for Overseas Dhammaduta Bhikkhus

Foreword

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit, also known as Ven. Master Shi Fa Zhao, has had a long-standing relationship with Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University. For many years, he has offered numerous scholarships to Ph.D., M.A., and B.A. students across all faculties of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, as well as to students of the high school affiliated with the university. This high school is led by Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs, who is one of his disciples.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno wished to create this book as a tribute to Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit on the occasion of his birthday anniversary. This book reveals about life and works of Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit also known as Ven. Master Shi Fa Zhao.

I am extremely grateful to Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit for his kindness and compassion towards Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University. I also appreciate Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs, for writing this book in honor of his master. I am much obliged to the editor, administrators, and staff of Dhammaduta College and the International Relations Division, who all played a part in the creation of this book.

พ.บ. วัชรธรรมชัย

(Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmawatcharathheeracharn)

The Rector

Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University

Foreword

This book reveals the life and work of my teacher, Master Shi Fa Zhao, who is a patron of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University and the Thai Sangha community. As his student, I feel very happy and proud. He has been very kind to me, showing me Buddha's teachings, principles of mind control, and people administration.

I have always invited him to offer scholarships to the students of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University for many years, and he has never refused my invitation. He personally came to Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University to offer the scholarships.

My team and I wrote this book to honor my master on his birthday anniversary this year. This book consists of six chapters which reveal his life and work, propagating Buddhism through education, welfare works, public construction, and the last chapter shows Master Shi Fa Zhao's relationship with Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University.

The administrators, staff of Dhammaduta College, and International Relations Division are immensely grateful to Master Shi Fa Zhao for his kindness.



(Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseso)

Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs

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Chapter I

Life of Venerable Shi Fa Zhao

Venerable Shi Fa Zhao, a Singaporean monk, is a famous figure in Singapore. He is also known as Master Fa Zhao. His ancestors came from Meizhou City in Guangdong Province, China. He was born on 22 June 1959, according to the Buddhist calendar on 17 May 1959 at house number 912C in Queenstown, Singapore. His parents, Mr. Bao Long Li and Mrs. Cai Jiao Lin named him Lai Meng Wah. He has three older sisters and six brothers in his lay family, making him the youngest member.



Past Life

Venerable Shi Fa Zhao was given by his father to an uncle and aunt who were unable to have children, to be adopted as their legal heir. When they first laid eyes on the newly-born Venerable Shi Fa Zhao, they were overjoyed. The Venerable Shi Fa Zhao received excellent care, education and living conditions from his adoptive parents, Lei Gui Long (Mr. Gui Long Sae Lee), and Tan Cui Ping (Mrs. Suiping Sae Tang), who lived at number 56 Jingyuan Lu, Singapore.

According to Singapore's Ministry of Defense, men who reached the age of 18 must serve a two-year military draft. In 1977, Venerable Shi Fa Zhao was drafted and served the country until the end of 1979. After his discharge, he had a deep faith in the teachings of Buddhism. He consulted and asked for permission from his adoptive parents to become a monk for studying and following the teachings in the Dhamma and Vinaya in order to please and help all beings in this life. He prayed that the merit of this ordination would help the adoptive parents gain wisdom, achieve the Dhamma, and commit to practicing according to the teachings of Buddhism forever: *I would like to ask my adoptive father and mother to congratulate and support me in this determination.* Then he was ordained as a monk on August 10 of the same year. In 1980, he traveled to Taiwan to further his monastic training under Master Bai Sheng, who was the president of the Chinese Buddhist Association of Taiwan, at the Bì Yán Sì temple in Hsinchu District.



Life of Monkhood

The adoptive parents who cared for Venerable Shi Fa Zhao were a good family. In 1970, they all decided to convert to Buddhism out of faith and respect for the abbot (Lingshan Temple), a monk diligently practicing the teachings of the Buddha. They asked to become disciples of Senior Chang Henj. All of them received the Buddhist names: the adoptive father - Jué Lěi, the adoptive mother - Jué Luán, Venerable Shi Fa Zhao - Jué Huǎng. After that they became a full-fledged Buddhist family, and practiced maintaining one's precepts in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha.

During that time, Venerable Shi Fa Zhao, while still in his youthful laymanhood, practiced meditation and participated in Dhamma Sutta (Bhaisajayaguru Buddha) activities for forty-nine days each year. These activities are held every year at the Chu Chi Lin Meditation Center. Whenever Venerable Shi Fa Zhao recited the Dhamma Sutta (Phra Bhaisajayaguru Buddha), he felt and trusted the power of kindness and blessings in the Dhamma Sutta that has compassion and help for the people in the world and was willing to give up everything that the people of the world prayed for their blessings. After that he became more faithful to Buddhism. Therefore, he resolved to become a monk and committed to following the Bodhisattva's Dhamma Sutta for the rest of his life and propagating the Dhamma Sutta with the utmost reverence. His goal was to ensure all living beings could experience peace, tranquility, and happiness in society forever.

After the adoptive parents were informed of Venerable Shi Fa Zhao's strong faith and belief in the principles of Buddhism, they were pleased and supported his decision to ordain as a monk. On August 10, 1978, Venerable Shi Fa Zhao was ordained and was under the care of the Mahayana sect of Lín Jì Zōng (Lin Jie Zhong) at Lóng Shānsì/Hē Yún Tang temple; a preceptor as a disciple of the senior monk Miào Huá (Miao Hua). Venerable Shi Fa Zhao received a new Buddhist name as Xīn Guāng/Fǎ Zhào. He received the sponsorship for this ordination ceremony from his aunt Kēkāilián Gū, who was responsible for Ti Hiang Temple and invited the senior monk Wéi Xīn to preside over the cremation ceremony. The ordination ceremony of Venerable Shi Fa Zhao was held at Wat De Cág Gǔ Miào/Dān Róng Bǎi Gé (Ancient Temple Kasitikarapha Tanyong Bai Ke District), Singapore. In the ordination ceremony, in addition to adoptive parents, relatives, and friends, there were more than two hundred friends from various lotus associations and believers of the Zhengxin Buddhist Association of Lingshan Temple. They all gathered joyfully to listen to the Dhamma sermon of Master Miao Hua.

Visit the Republic of China and Taiwan

The year after, Venerable Shi Fa Zhao traveled to Bì Yán Sì (Bi Yan Temple), located in Hsin Tzu District, as a province in Taiwan to receive monkhood. The ceremony was presided over by a senior monk, Phra Dhammadajarn Master Bai Sheng, who was the president of the Chinese Buddhist Association of Taiwan. After Venerable Shi Fa Zhao received the full

monkhood, he visited various temples in Taiwan and met with many respected senior monks. Later, he noticed the hardships of people in society. Therefore, he got the idea to create a social support and an assistance facility. It started with studying of the teachings in the Dhamma Sutta (Phra Bhaisajyakuru Buddha) and after that finding the problems and obstacles. So, he found a way to solve the problem without delay and giving up. He believed that the well-being of a society is tied to both its suffering and its fortune, which are psychologically related. Life in modern era is full of physical and mental diseases. Purifying the inside or outside of the mind must rely on the teachings of Buddhism. When the mind is pure, the land will be pure. If the mind is not clean, the nation will not be clean. *This is the truth. The truth is the truth. This truth is the truth.* As the teaching of the Buddha says.

In 1981, Venerable Shi Fa Zhao returned to the Republic of Singapore by having received the kindness from the abbot, Phra Dhammajarn Master Guang Gong at Guang Gong-Longshan Temple, who held the licensee of the Zhi Gui Buddhist Association. Mr. Chen Yongqing invited him to be the acting administrator of the Zhi Gui Buddhist Association, where Phra Dhammajarn Master Meaw Hua serves as the abbot. The Zhi Gui Buddhist Association was originally founded by the mother of Chen Menlian's and Mr. Chen Yongyu, the former president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce.



Dhamma Sutta for the Retribution Ceremony of Emperor Liang

Venerable Shi Fa Zhao who is the designer, recorder and publisher of the Dhamma Sutta (Emperor Liang Wu Di's version of the Apologize for all mistakes Ceremony - the asking for forgiveness Ceremony). He accomplished this by himself. Melodies and expressions for chanting invented by Venerable Shi Fa Zhao are very sweet. The people who have listened to Dhamma Sutta, felt much faith in precepts and Dhamma. This Dhamma Sutta has been in existence since the Liang Dynasty. Its history has spanned more than a thousand years. If one follows the scriptures (asking for forgiveness from Emperor Liang) and prays to show humility to the grace of the Buddha, Dhamma, and Sangha, one can repent with respect and wholeheartedly in reflecting on one's own mistakes and avoid anger and jealousy. You will be able to repent and purify your karma and will definitely receive a new birth. You will be born in heaven and receive endless benefits.



Great Metta Sutta

The Maha Metta Sutta is a method of practice aimed at reaching the land of Buddha's Sukhavati. It is believed that through the powerful influence of Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva, practitioners can alleviate anxiety and external difficulties by reciting and worshiping the Mahametta Sutta. Those who practice it with strong determination may successfully progress on the path. This practice is seen as a form of seeking forgiveness and is associated with Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva, consisting of *the thousand arms, thousand eyes, vast and perfect loving kindness, inexhaustible grace and no obstruction*. It is another form of asking for forgiveness.



The First Silent Dhamma Practice

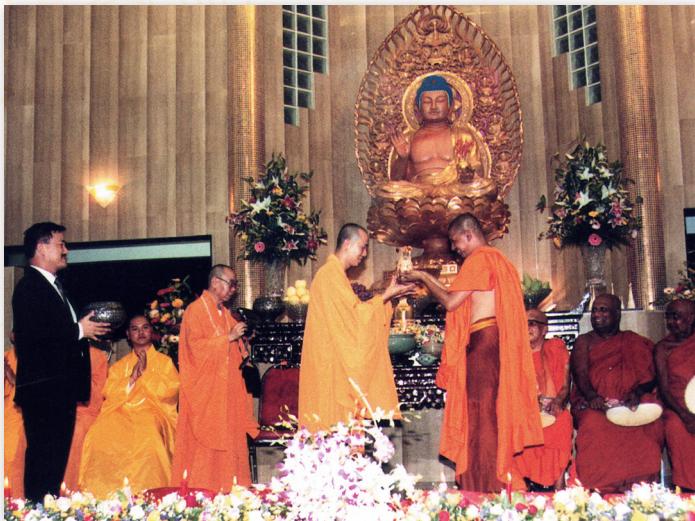
On November 25, 1992, Venerable Shi Fa Zhao began a year-long practice of silent meditation and studied the Dhamma Sutta (Phrabhaisajchayaguruvaidūrayaprabhātathāgata). The ceremony marking the commencement of silent meditation was attended by senior monks from Taiwan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Dado Rinpoche of Nepal, among others. They gathered to offer prayers and congratulations to Venerable Shi Fa Zhao. Phra Ajarn Chin Zhe was invited to represent and to offer blessings to Venerable Shi Fa Zhao for practicing silent meditation. During the silent meditation practice, His Holiness Somdej Phra Buddhacarya of Thailand visited Wat Chedi Thongyim, showing kindness and paying special attention and concern for the health of Venerable Shi Fa Zhao. On November 25, 1993, marked the conclusion of the year-long practice of studying the Dhamma Sutta (Phrabhaisajchayaguruvaidūrayaprabhātathāgata).





The Second Silent Dhamma Practice

On March 3, 2017, the Venerable Shi Fa Zhao, the founder of the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and Golden Pagoda Buddhist Temple, began his second practice of silent meditation. Many staff members, volunteers, and the devotees gathered at the Hundred Dragon Hall in the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple in the morning to chant and praise the Triple Gem: *Namo, the Buddha virtues, the Dhamma virtues, the Sangha virtues, Chai Mongkol and 88 Buddhas*. All disciples asked for blessings and joined in sending off Venerable Shi Fa Zhao to enter a three-year period of silent meditation wishing him good health during this time. The three-year practice of silent meditation concluded on March 7, 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to celebrations within the country, various foreign monks and masters could only send messages to celebrate and congratulate Venerable Shi Fa Zhao.



Golden Pagoda Buddhist Temple



In order to enjoy happiness in this life, one must have accumulated a store of mundane merits in the past. In order to attain perfect Enlightenment, one needs to accumulate both mundane and super-mundane merits. In the Mahayana Tradition, the cultivation of perfect Wisdom and great Compassion forms the two wheels of the vehicle which propels one forward on the spiritual path, helping sentient beings to accumulate extensive merits and ultimately achieve perfect Buddhahood.

The Venerable Shi Fa Zhao is greatly concerned about the suffering of sentient beings. In order to help them to become free from all trials and tribulations, he promoted the practice of the Medicine Buddha. This is because through

invoking the power of the Medicine Buddha, sentient beings can become free from all forms of obstacles and disasters, enjoy a happy and fulfilling life, and progress swiftly on the spiritual path all the way until perfect Enlightenment.

In 1988, the temple established its Sukhavati Chanting Group which brings together both members of the Sangha and lay devotees to propagate the Pureland Practice. Based on the Buddhist ideals of Loving-kindness, Compassion, Joy and Equanimity, the group strives to encourage people to engage in virtuous actions and cultivate merit and wisdom. It emphasizes the methods of generating faith in Amitabha Buddha; cultivating an aspiration to be reborn in the Amitabha Pureland; and the practice of reciting the name of Amitabha Buddha. So that when the time of death arrives, the practitioner is able to depart from this life happily and peacefully and attain a rebirth in the Amitabha Pureland to further his spiritual practice and development there under the guidance of Amitabha Buddha. Members of the Recitation group also actively participate in various community and charitable projects as the experience of community welfare work serves as a skillful way to develop loving kindness and compassion and pacify the mind. There are currently more than six hundred members in the Sukhavati Chanting Group.

Due to the blessings of the Triple Gems, a suitable piece of land for a new temple dedicated to the Medicine Buddha was acquired in 1989. The new temple was named Golden Pagoda Buddhist Temple. Construction work on the new



temple began in 1990 and was completed in early 1992. In the same year, it became a registered society under the Registrar of Societies. Subsequently in 1995 it was registered as a charitable organization. Currently GPBT has forty thousand devotees.

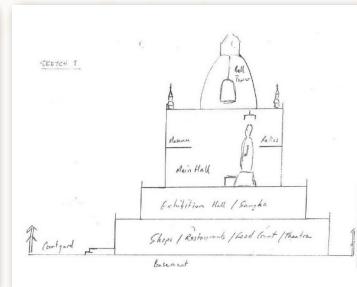
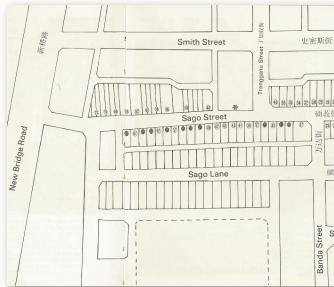
The Golden Pagoda Buddhist Temple is designed to meet the requirements of modern Dharma propagation works. Under the guiding inspiration of Venerable Shi Fa Zhao's compassionate vow, the temple serves as a means to bring the profound Buddhist teaching to the general public for a blessed and purposeful life. It serves as an abode of peace and tranquility. The design emphasizes simplicity in spatial planning, staying true to the teachings of Buddha. The design incorporates the use of materials and symbolic ornamentations, creating a tranquil spiritual sanctuary and a place of respite for devotees and the monks; a space that can soothe the mind, body and spirit of oneself.



The large single space is the main prayer hall, dining hall and the surrounding external verandas at the 1st & 2nd floor which facilitates the mass of people who often come to the temple. This aids for better flow during major temple's events. The Upper floors are restricted mainly for the administration staff. The space can be used for meetings and a part of it has been allocated for the monks' quarters. As one proceeds up the rooftop, devotees will enjoy the panoramic view of the surroundings with a grand golden Stupa centrally positioned surrounded by lush landscape and water features; a culmination of humility and dignity of the spirit of Buddha.



Buddha Tooth Relic Temple



The Buddha Tooth Relic Temple & Museum building design was conceptualized and designed by Venerable Shi Fa Zhao, aided by a team of local and overseas consultants. Many draft designs were developed on the basis of combining the best arts and culture of the great Tang Dynasty of China, with the principles of the Buddhist Mandala, as its core design philosophy. A great amount of research had been made to ensure their accuracy and authenticity.

In early 1997, Venerable Shi Fa Zhao was approached by Singapore Tourism Board (STB) to develop a proposal for a temple at Sago Lane, on rear half of the vacant site.



Given the short notice, a draft proposal was submitted four days later for the Golden Mandala Buddhist Temple, based on the principles of the Buddhist mandala and taking into account the needs of tourists visiting the temple. As space was a constraint, the building would have a modern, high-rise design and numerous facilities. This proposal was not developed further.

Subsequently in early 1998, we were again approached by Singapore Tourism Board (STB) to develop a traditional Chinese temple and opera stage for the entire Sago Lane vacant site, so as to blend into the Chinatown landscape.

By April 1998, we submitted a comprehensive proposal, with detailed architectural plans for the Gajah Ratna Buddhist Temple. This proposal included various facilities, activities and events to be organized for both locals and tourists. This proposal was not adopted by STB.



With the gift of the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic from the late Venerable Cakkapala of the Bandula Monastery in Myanmar and the success of its exhibition held in 2002 at Suntec City in Singapore, it was clear to all that the existing Golden Pagoda Buddhist Temple premises would be inadequate to house and exhibit the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic for public veneration. Thus, Venerable Shi Fa Zhao was very determined to secure the vacant Sago Lane site for the construction of a new temple and planning began soon after.



Venerable Shi Fa Zhao soon realized that the two earlier proposed designs based on the Golden Mandala Buddhist Temple in 1996 (Version 1) and the Gajah Ratna Buddhist Temple in April 1998 (Version 2) were unsuitable as they were inadequate to meet the needs of accommodating the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic for veneration and also, not in line with the style to be adopted in its Chinatown locality



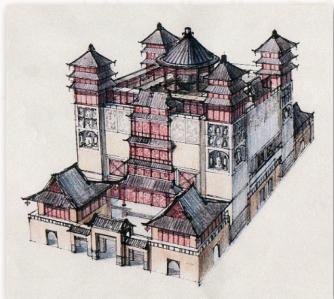
Hence, he began to research and review the various traditional Chinese temple architectures. He scoured libraries, book stores and the internet for materials to spark inspiration and make improvements to his ideas. It was only whilst he was in seclusion at the Dharma Retreat, away from his daily work commitments, that he found his vision.

In January 2003, due to the urgency to create a suitable temple design, he met and articulated his vision of "a golden temple" to Mr. Tan Yen San, a local architect. The main components and facilities were discussed and a rough sketch was made for further development.

In February 2003, the design of a modern temple with glass walls (version 3) was presented to Venerable Shi Fa Zhao. As it was deemed too contemporary, he wanted it changed to retain a more traditional Chinese

temple look mainly for it to blend well with the vibrancy and heritage of the Chinatown locality.

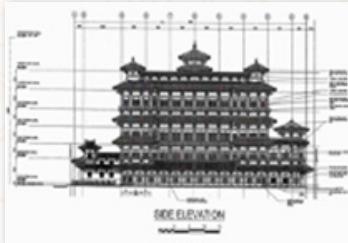
In April, another building design (Version 4) was produced but it still did not portray sufficient traditional Chinese features.



Subsequently, a postgraduate student from China who was doing his Masters of Architecture course at the National University of Singapore was recruited. He assisted in incorporating the various elements selected by Venerable Shi Fa Zhao, developed a more Oriental aesthetic design and presented a three-dimensional drawing (version 5). However, it was not what was envisaged.

The search for the ideal temple plan continued and it led to trips to China to look for architects who specialized in traditional Chinese temple designs. In May 2003, the Changshu Architectural Company was approached to develop the design for Buddha Tooth Relic Temple & Museum. They built a scale model to study the building features and specifications. Their proposed style of the roof and exterior design was modelled after a southern Chinese style architecture (version 6). However, Venerable Shi Fa Zhao preferred a traditional northern Chinese look.

The Beijing architectural firm, Landscape Architecture Corporation of China (LACC) was appointed next to improve on the design. After several meetings, LACC drew up a proportionately balanced traditional timbered facade (version 7).



As the models of the proposed roof and exteriors leaned towards a less preferred Ming dynasty design, the architects were directed to replace them with an ancient Tang dynasty architecture for

its roof and timber structures (version 8), all in accordance with the wishes of Venerable Shi Fa Zhao.



The conceived design when shown on a three-dimensional drawing was not very appealing due to the original timber colour of its external façade. It was obvious that its dull colour



would not make the temple prominent in the Chinatown urban landscape. After further studies on Tang dynasty temples in China and Japan, it was decided that traditional red lacquer paint be applied on the timber structures, with green colour for the timber windows and gold colour to define the edges. This version gained Venerable Shi Fa Zhao's approval and this final design was used for the construction planning of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple & Museum – a temple which embraced the traditional Chinese design with modern facilities and state-of-the-art architecture. It took many months of research and amendments before the vision was conceptualized. This was only made possible by the tremendous effort, cooperation and creativity of Venerable Shi Fa Zhao and the project team, as well as various contractors and supplies.

The result is a testimony to the tremendous effort, cooperation and creativity of Venerable Shi Fa Zhao and the hardworking consultants' team, as well as various contractors and suppliers.

He has devoted himself with his uncountable performances to do various benefits for the nation and Buddhism for a long time, i.e. the propagation of Buddhism, Sangha education, cultural preservation, assistance of the suffered ones, promoting education for the underprivileged people, Social and public welfare affairs, etc. Luang Phor's works are empirical evident to the public. As a person who has contributed benefits to the nation and Buddhism both domestic and abroad. He has received a number of honorable positions and the honorable awards as follows:



On September 8, 1992, he had received the “Position of Phra Sivalee” award from the Sri Lankan Buddhist Sangha for his contributions to Buddhism.



On December 5, 1996, he had received new ranking title Phra Vithethamanusith from His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

On December 5, 2013, he had received new ranking title “Phra Chin Ratchathmmanusit” from His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.



On May 14, 1997, he had received the Royal Award. "Semadhammachakra Pillar" as a person who has done a beneficial contribution to Buddhism from Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.



On March 19, 2000, he had received the title "Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja" as a promoter of the propagation and restoration of Buddhist temples in Myanmar and promoting the development of the Sangha from the Peace and Development Council of the Republic of Myanmar.

On August 9, 2004, he had received “Public Service Medal (PBM)” as a benefit contributor for social progress, racial harmony and religious progress in Singapore from President Nathan of the Republic of Singapore.



On May 11, 2008, he had received an honorary doctorate degree of social work from the Council of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Thailand, as a person who had devoted himself to the study of Buddhism in Thailand and the development of local society from Somdej Phra Buddhacarya (Kieaw Upaseno), who performed the duties of the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand.

On April 26, 2010, he had received the position “Agamahasadamo Zudi Kadakya” as a person who had done contributions to promote peace Development and progress of Buddhism in Myanmar from the Peace and Development Council of the Republic of Myanmar.



Chapter II

Propagating Buddhism through Education



Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit, also known as Master Shi Fa Zhao, the Abbot of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple in Singapore, is not only a role model monk missionary for the propagation of Buddhism but also an exemplary teacher for the world. He has strived to teach disciples around the world to behave firmly in good morals, complying with the teachings of the Buddha. He exemplifies strict adherence to moral conduct. His conduct beautifully embodies firm principles rooted in Buddhism. He has encouraged monks, novices, nuns, or the general public in education and claimed that: "Education is the foundation for developing the mind, the nation, and religion. If everyone has proper education, and correct knowledge, it will lead to an understanding of the true religion. When people understand religion, they

will develop mentally. Whenever the mind is developed, it will be pure. A person whose mind is pure, can protect Buddhism or propagate Buddhism to various countries."



This is his great aspiration: Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit aims to spread Buddhism through education. His disciples from all over the world have come to understand his ideas and have excellently supported him by providing scholarships in Singapore and abroad. Each year, he leads a group of disciples to give scholarships to schools in remote areas in Thailand, Burma, Sri Lanka, etc.





In Thailand, Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit has been distributing scholarships for more than 20 years to over 80 Chinese schools that are struggling and lacking funds, especially Kuang Fu Witthayakhom School. This school, located far from civilization in the northern part of Thailand, is the first and only accredited Chinese school in the region, according to the Ministry of Education. Each year, Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit provides a large

number of scholarships to this school, which currently has 1,300 students. The school is located in a remote area where the road conditions make traveling difficult, posing a challenge for the children of Kuangfu Witthayakhom School who wish to study. To address this issue, Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit built another school named Chi Kuang School at Ban Huai Nam Yen, Mae Suai District, Chiang Rai Province. This has provided children in remote areas with a new opportunity for education in Chiang Rai Province.

Providing Scholarships to Monks and Novices Throughout Thailand

In the year 2004, Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit distributed scholarships to graduate and undergraduate monk and novice students from all regions of Thailand, with Mr. Decha Detnatee coordinating the scholarship distribution at Phutthamonthon Main Auditorium.











Building Phrapariyatthamma School



H.H. Somdet Phra Maha Wirawong, Committee of Sangha Supreme Council of Thailand, graciously gave a certificate of appreciation to the Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit, and his group of disciples who traveled from Singapore for donating funds to build the 101 year Anniversary Pavilion of Somdet Phra Yanvajirodom (Luang Por Wiriyang Sirindharo) on Saturday, July 23, 2022, at the TerdPhraKiat Building, Phrapariyattitham School, Wat Phongploy.



Granting Scholarship (Wat Mahawong School)



Knowledge can be given without the need for explanation or embellishment. Good manners and behavior can inspire others to control their own behavior, effectively teaching by example. One should not display negative behavior that might lead to regret later. The best opportunity in life is to do your best to help others. We should not set a bad example that might undermine others' faith in us. We strive to purify our mind. This is Buddhism. Today, I and Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs of Mahachulalongkorn rajavidyalaya University, jointly awarded scholarships with great happiness. We visited three locations to grant scholarships together. At the first location, Wat Mahawong School, we granted scholarships to 340 students. Today, I have lived a very happy and meaningful life. Even though my donation is small, they have felt the Buddha's great love. May they live in peace and be with the Buddha.



Granting Scholarship (Wat Yothin Pradit School)

The second is Wat Yothin Pradit School. We have granted scholarships to 320 students. The director said that these children came from very poor families. Students gathered in the auditorium to pay homage to Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit and sing the triple gems. The children's voices and praises were the purest, making people who participated in the scholarships feel pure and peaceful. The mission of the monks is like farming i.e. farming millets becomes seedlings, from seedlings to paddy, and then harvested to get rice, cook rice into steamed rice. The Dhamma of Buddhism is like a seed. The nature of animals is not different from our own Dhamma: Buddha. Therefore, these are called Dhamma and Buddha. Seeds are far removed from rice and steamed rice. However, we don't think it's too far-fetched to believe that seeds can become food. The highland ethnic school in the northern region is where we have come to provide scholarships and stationery

to the Ci Yin Chinese School. Jiao Lian Chinese Language School, Wawee Witthayakhom School, Ban Huai Nam Yen School, Ban Huai Kla School, Ban Huai Khai School, Ban Huai Masa School, Pha Daeng Luang School, Wat Pa Ngio School, and participated in social welfare activities and helping victims of natural disasters, etc.



Building a School to Teach the Chinese Language, Ci Yin.

In 1993, Chinese language teaching was organized in the Wawee Subdistrict area, Mae Suai District, Chiang Rai Province. This was an initiative by Phra Ajarn Chin Panya Pachanusit and Khun Decha Detnatee, who invited Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit (Fa Zhao) to visit the Yunnan Chinese community in the highland area of Wawee Subdistrict, Mae Suai District, Chiang Rai Province.

He encountered the poor and difficult living conditions of the people in the area and felt compassion for them, especially for children of school age who had fewer educational opportunities than children in general plain areas.

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit (Fa Zhao), as a supporter, initiated a development plan to help raise funds and provide a budget to fully support the provision of Chinese language teaching in schools and villages. Later, there were constructions of a village main gate, a police guard tower, and a village main road. He then distributed scholarships successively to students in schools that provide Chinese language instruction to children in the area but could not cover all areas.

From the past to the present, there are countless amounts of love and kindness that Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit (Fa Zhao) has shown towards schools in the highlands. The school is grateful for his kindness. They have no words incomparable enough to express their gratitude. The school has taken the Master's kindness and compiled it into a great stream of love that nourishes this highland land forever. Thank you to Khun Decha Detnatee, an expert committee member acting as the representative of Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit (Fa Zhao), who has been kind and caring for over 40 years without ever being discouraged from the director of the school.



Granting Scholarship to Ci Yin Chinese Language School

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit (Fa Zhao) has given scholarships and care for ethnic students in the Chiang Rai highlands every year, led by Mr. Decha Detnatee, an expert committee member, acting as a representative.

Mr. Decha Detnatee has received approval to be the manager in giving scholarships to children who have studied well but are poor and underprivileged. Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit (Fa Zhao) donated 1,726 scholarships and he has been distributed at Phutthamonthon Auditorium, Nakhon Pathom Province.

In the following year, we distributed 1,000 scholarships at Wat Saket Ratchawora Mahawihan, Bangkok, including a school bag. Later, we distributed scholarships to underprivileged children with learning materials at the Bang Pla Subdistrict Administrative

On the other hand, the most important thing in developing human potential is that Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit (Fa Zhao) firmly believes that "Education can truly help raise the status and mental level of people because education is the foundation for all forms of development. Moreover, it is also a way to truly heal and help people in the highlands escape poverty and to expand their opportunities and ability to lead society and the nation to be more prosperous. Even though, it has taken a long time of more than 20 years until now, he has devoted all his capacity to provide educational opportunities for children in the highlands. Therefore, children in Wawee Subdistrict, Mae Suai District, Chiang Rai Province and nearby areas, those who have graduated from school and village, have the opportunity to continue their education at a higher level. They are able to develop knowledge and abilities on a par with children in general and go out to pursue a career earning high income. They can raise and support their family members with quality.

With his kindness, Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit (Fa Zhao) has organized an activity for students who have achieved good grades to go on excursion with students at Metta School Singapore for two consecutive years. He paid all expenses.



In the same year, he sponsored a personal donation to manage a scholarship "Charity Voice of Kindness" offering to 100 monks and novices, in this good time, he had given gifts and encouraged school administrators, including village headmen, assistant village headmen, and Subdistrict Administrative Organization employees in Wawee Subdistrict, and distributed dry food to 6 villages and distributed scholarships to students from 8 schools, donated a computer to each of the schools, presided the opening ceremony by Ven. Phra Sophon Vajiraporn. And conducted by Mr. Decha Detnatee and Mr. Sakon Detnatee, expert committee.

This year, although Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit (Fa Zhao) will observe the precepts, practice Dhamma and keep silent speech. We are still concerned about the education of children in highland areas because the school buildings, which have been built and used for a long time, are now in a state of disrepair, leading to building collapses and ruined roofs.



Whenever it rains, teaching and learning must be halted for the day. Upon learning of this situation, Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit (Fa Zhao) immediately approved the budget to replace the roofs of all three buildings. In addition, he donated 30 computers, 6 air conditioners, and learning manuals from a school in Singapore.

In the same year, Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit (Fa Zhao) delegated the task of awarding scholarships to Khun Decha Detnatee, Khun Sakon Dechnathee, and a group from Bangkok. They also supported the summer ordination, which was represented by Deputy Wanlop Maichampa, who presided over the certificate presentation ceremony. The Reverend District Officer Monk of Mae Suai District officiated the summer ordination ceremony for novices.

During the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the whole world has gone silent. But Ven. Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusith did not remain in silence. He was merciful to village schools in the nearby area and gave various items to villagers affected by the COVID-19 virus as well.



Chapter III

Propagating Buddhism through Welfare Works

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit, also known as Master Shi Fa Zhao, is deeply involved in various social welfare activities. He participates in many charitable activities, providing both material and emotional assistance to the residents of poor areas. He has established an aid station to provide shelter and assistance to vulnerable groups. These include autistic children, lonely elderly people, and the physically and intellectually disabled.

In addition to his social work, he is also actively promoting environmental protection. He leads people in protecting the environment, supports the development of green areas, and promotes low-carbon lifestyles. His efforts are aimed at creating a living environment with a better quality of life.







On Sunday, September 4, 2022 at 5:09 p.m., Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit, the Abbot of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple in Singapore, and Most Venerable Shi Ming Yi, also known as Phra Withet Satsana Nuwat, the Abbot of Foo Hai Ch'an Temple in Singapore, traveled with a group of monks and disciples to host a merit-making ceremony and perform funeral prayers.

The ceremony was held in honor of His Royal Highness Somdej Phra Maha Ratchamangalajarn, the former abbot of Wat Paknam Bangkok, at the Rattanachatsorn Worakuru Room under the base of Buddha Dhammakaya Thep Mongkol at Wat Pak Nam.

Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmawatcharacharn, the Rector of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, along with the Vice Rector for Academic Affairs, the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs, and the Vice Rector for Public Relations, offered a welcoming ceremony to the Sangha from Singapore.





On this occasion, the Dhammaduta College and the International Relations Division of Mahachulalongkorn rajavidyalaya University joined in offering hospitality and facilitation.

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit has made significant contributions to society and has provided assistance to underprivileged communities. Recognizing the lack of development opportunities, he has built different schools to ensure that children have ample places to study and gain knowledge. Examples of his contributions include the 'Metta Home for the Disabled' and the 'Metta Home Day Activity Centre'.



慈光福利协会
METTA WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Metta Home for the Disabled and the Metta Home Day Activity Centre

The Metta Home for the Disabled and Metta Home Day Activity Centre were set up by in December 2000 to offer community care options to adults with intellectual disabilities aged between 18 and 55.

Funded by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), the former is a purpose-built facility designed to accommodate 103 residents, whereas the latter is supported by the MSF and Tote Board Social Service Fund to provide day care services for up to 50 beneficiaries.

Our programs aim to equip all recipients with the skills and means to lead independent and fulfilling lives, thus achieving social integration and quality of life. Tending to them with holistic care and working closely with their primary caregivers is a multidisciplinary team comprising a social worker, training officers, staff nurses, assistant nurses, and nursing and therapy aides



Adult Residential Services

Centered on the concept of a seamless care continuum, our services seek to integrate our residents into the normal flow of life, while ensuring that their transitions into different life phases are planned around their needs and priorities.

Characterized by enhanced versatility and accessibility, our programmes are structured to suit residents of various age groups and disability profiles.

With moderate to severe disabilities affecting higher functional limitations in them, our training and intervention strategies focus on developing their capabilities in self-help, community living, socialization, perceptual-cognitive and motor skills.

Mastery of self-help skills is taught via training programmes and assimilated into their daily routines to help them carry out activities of daily living with minimal assistance.

Group sports are introduced with the objectives of interaction, rehabilitation and fitness in mind.

Encouraging normal patterns of living and boosting their emotional well-being are community-based programmes that engender warmth and integration.

Outings to places of interest and use of public amenities are conducted thrice weekly in small groups to maintain relevant community exposure, from which they learn to adopt appropriate social behaviour.

Attending to their health care needs round-the-clock are qualified live-in nurses. In addition, specialist intervention services like physiotherapy and occupational therapy are carried out for residents and day care beneficiaries who suffer from impaired motor skills, while sensory activities are included for residents with severe to profound disabilities.





Metta PreSchool @ Punggol



Metta PreSchool @Punggol has been in operation since its official opening on 31 July 2010. The centre receives cases from SG Enable through referrals from hospitals. Enrolment will take place after the initial screening process is complete. Our centre specializes in early intervention programme for children under two to six years old from various races and religions who are diagnosed with mild to severe autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and/or intellectual disabilities. Early intervention can help maximize the potential development of the infants and children.

The children attend a 3-hour session programme twice a week. The multi-disciplinary team consists of teachers, occupational therapists and speech and language therapists. They come together to discuss and set specific and measurable 1-year goals for the Individualised Education Plan (IEP) of each child. The IEP focuses on 6 domains: fine motor, gross motor, adaptive, cognitive, social communication and social skills.

Programmes and Services:

The centre provides a variety of exploratory activities, such as sand play, water play, indoor & outdoor activities, circle time, outings, arts & crafts, reading, big group activities, role play, and cookery based on the themes of each month to enhance the children's learning experience. The centre also provides an hour of hand bell session for the children every week. The hand bell session trains the children to focus their attention by following instructions and executing actions, such as tapping the bell. These lessons help to improve the child's communication skills, and memory in recalling songs that they have learned. Most importantly, the children love to sing and play alongside their peers during the hand bell lessons.

Metta Preschool teachers communicate regularly with the children's parents through various modes, such as harnessing digital technology from mobile apps, text messaging and social media, to informal meetings, written notes on communication books and a half-yearly Parent-Teacher Conference (PTC). The teachers also conduct home and mainstream preschool visits to observe the child and share ideas on how to improve the child's learning both at home and in school. This helps the child progress with the continuous support and resources from the preschool.

Supported by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), National Council of Social Service (NCSS) and Metta, we provide customised intervention programmes for these children in order to address their developmental lags, promote a satisfactory level of independence and realise their potential.

Early diagnoses of their disabilities coupled with appropriate intervention programmes can help them cope with the disabilities, prevent the conditions from deteriorating and maximise their development and capabilities.



Metta Day Rehabilitation Centre for the Elderly

Metta Day Rehabilitation Centre for the Elderly was established in June 1998 to provide rehabilitative care to those suffering from physical impairment due to stroke, Parkinson's disease or other injuries.

Our services are geared towards maximising our patients' independence level, while offering respite to their families and caregivers regardless of race, language, or religion. Our centre executes our vision of care to maximise their functional level by providing a comprehensive range of rehabilitative and social support services all under one roof.

We focus on assisting our daily clientele in regaining maximum functional capability through rehabilitative treatment and engaging in active lifestyles by means of social programmes.

Metta School



Metta School was established in 2001 by Metta Welfare Association with the support of Ministry of Education (MOE) and National Council of Social Service (NCSS). The school began its operations at a holding site at Chai Chee Lane. In 2005, Metta School moved to its current building in Simei. In 2008, it obtained the Approved Training Centre (ATC) status to start the ITE Skills Certification (ISC) 1-module course; and in 2013, the school started the ISC 4-module course as approved by ITE. The new extension block became operational within the same year. In 2014, Metta School was one of five pilot schools for the S2W Prototype.

Metta School offers special education to students with Mild Intellectual Disability (MID) and to children who have Autism (ASD), aged between 7 to 21 years. Our students

face functioning challenges and limitations in areas of daily life, such as communication, self-care, social skills, safety as well as the skills needed to live and work in the community.

Arts @ Metta

Youth Employment Support was formed in 2007 to equip graduates of Metta School with life skills that promote integration and independence to remain inclusive in the society.

Arts@Metta is one of the programmes under Youth Employment Support. The programme aims to increase employment opportunities for Metta School graduates diagnosed with mild intellectual disability with/without autism through comprehensive training and development in visual arts. At Arts@Metta, we strive to empower our youths with special needs with life skills that promote integration, independence, and socialization.

Key Thrusts

- To cultivate the artistic talents of youths with special needs.
- To provide a safe, open and nurturing environment where their talents can thrive.
- To implement effective training programmes and support services that benefit their holistic development.

- To develop a sustainable model of supported employment for these youths.

Our programmes enable our youths with special needs to continue their mastery of visual arts – namely batik painting and pottery – in a creative and inclusive environment, paving avenues for self-expression and personal development.

Through the programme, our youths with special needs will learn to uphold proper decorum and assimilate concepts such as service attitude, work quality, punctuality, task completion, handling of job load and time management.

Besides equipping our youths with special needs with essential life skills, this programme also creates supported employment opportunities by leveraging on commissioned projects and retail sales to help fund supported employment, thereby empowering them with hope and dignity.

Support services available:

- Corporate Social Responsibility programmes
- Social development and life skills training
- Caregivers' Support

Individuals who have developed essential life skills have successful secured open employment opportunities in the food and beverages services, social and personal services and sales and administration sector.



Maitri School/Building



In November 2019, Ministry of Education (MOE) announced that Metta Welfare Association (Metta) would be setting up a second Special Education School, Maitri School to provide education for students with moderate to severe Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), aged 7-18. Co-locating with Maitri School, the Maitri Building will serve a continuum of supporting services for graduated students (Alumni).

The subject site will be at 20 Pasir Ris St 51, Singapore 518902 and the buildings are slated to be ready by 2028. Our vision for the students with Autism is to lead an independent and meaningful live and be equipped with skills for daily living, emotional management and regulation as well as vocational skills.



Maitri Campus - New project by Metta Welfare Association

慈明村-慈光福利协会属下新建设项目



Maitri School Website



As a Buddhist, Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit has always been committed to promoting harmony in society. He actively participates in social welfare activities, promoting the concepts of tolerance, understanding and love. He contributes positively to the harmonious development of Singaporean society by leading and organizing various exchange activities to promote mutual understanding and integration between different religions and cultures. At the same time, He also actively participates in solving social problems, speaking for the rights and interests of disadvantaged groups and promoting social justice and equality.

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit is an exemplary leader and a role model in the eyes of the majority of believers. He practices Dharma and discipline, purifying his mind and practicing merit, becoming a leader for many

Buddhists. Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit's daily behavior is dignified and respectful, and his words and actions are consistent, establishing the correct concept and attitude of life for everyone. He provides careful teaching to his disciples, helping to resolve confusion in their lives, encouraging them to cultivate moral character, and become talents beneficial to society and their families.

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit is committed to spreading Buddhism throughout the world and promoting world peace and the progress of human civilization. He has traveled to various countries many times, holding lectures and seminars on Buddhism, and disseminating Buddhism and Singapore's Buddhist culture to the international community. Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit also actively participates in the activities of international Buddhist organizations to promote the status and influence of Buddhism in the international community. He exchanges and studies with Buddhist figures from various countries, promoting the development of various forms of Buddhism and the prosperity of international Buddhist exchanges.

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit is a highly respected teacher in the Buddhist community in Singapore. He has contributed to the development of Buddhism in Singapore and the progress of society through five perspectives: spreading Buddhism and promoting Buddhist culture, dedication to social welfare, promoting unity in society, personal conduct, and transnational influence. His efforts and dedication have brought positive energy to society and inspired more people to seek inner peace and liberation in their Buddhist faith and practice.



Chapter-IV

Propagating Buddhism through Public Construction

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit's leadership and managerial acumen have left an indelible mark on numerous Buddhist organizations, educational institutions, and charitable foundations. In 1981, he assumed the role of Superintendent at Zhi Gui Fo Si Monastery, a position he held until 1992. This appointment, recommended by Venerable Shi Guang Qia and Venerable Shi Qing Hui, attested to his wisdom and ability to inspire others.



Driven by his vision to establish a haven for spiritual seekers, Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit founded the Golden Pagoda Buddhist Temple in 1988, assuming the roles of Abbot and President of the Management Committee.

This temple has become a sanctuary for those seeking solace, guidance, and a deeper understanding of Buddhist teachings.

His philanthropic endeavors extend beyond the confines of his temples, as he also established the Metta Welfare Association in 1994. Through this organization, Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit has touched countless lives, providing care and support to the underprivileged, the elderly, and those facing physical and mental challenges.

In 2001, Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit founded the Metta School, an institution dedicated to nurturing and educating students with special needs. His commitment to inclusivity and compassion has transformed the lives of countless children, empowering them to reach their fullest potential.



One of his most significant achievements came in 2003 when Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit established the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple in Singapore. This architectural marvel serves as a testament to his devotion and commitment to preserving Buddhist heritage and providing a spiritual sanctuary for practitioners from all walks of life.

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit's contributions extend beyond Singapore's borders. As the Vice President of the Singapore Buddhist Federation, he has played an instrumental role in fostering interfaith harmony and promoting the teachings of Buddhism in the wider community. Additionally, his involvement in various harmony circles and educational committees demonstrates his unwavering dedication to social cohesion and the well-being of future generations.



The exceptional efforts of Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit have garnered him recognition and accolades from esteemed individuals and organizations worldwide.

In 1992, the Supreme Council of Maha Sangha of Sri Lanka bestowed upon him the title of "Sasana Keerthi Sri Seevali," an honour that celebrated his unwavering commitment to the Buddhist faith and his significant contributions to the global Buddhist community.

In 1996, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand recognized Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit's spiritual eminence by conferring upon him the title of "Chaokun Phra Vithethamanusith." This prestigious honour reflected his profound impact on the dissemination of Buddhist teachings and the promotion of peace and harmony.



Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit's dedication to spreading the Dharma was further acknowledged when the Princess of Thailand awarded him the esteemed "Dharma Cakara Gold Wheel Award" in 1997. This accolade celebrated his tireless efforts to alleviate suffering and promote the principles of compassion and wisdom.

The State Peace and Development Council of The Union of Myanmar honoured Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit in 2000, conferring upon him the distinguished title of "Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja." This recognition exemplified his unwavering commitment to fostering peace, understanding, and spiritual enlightenment.

In 2004, the President of the Republic of Singapore, S.R. Nathan, acknowledged Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit's outstanding public service by awarding him the "Public Service Medal Award (Pingat Bakti Masyarakat or PBM)." This prestigious accolade celebrated his tireless efforts in uplifting the community and promoting social welfare.

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit's relentless pursuit of knowledge and his unwavering dedication to service led to the conferment of an honorary doctorate degree in social work by the Mahachulalongkorn Mahajavidyalaya University Council in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2008. This distinguished recognition further solidified his reputation as a leading figure in the field of social work and education.

The State Peace and Development Council of The Union of Myanmar once again, honoured Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit in 2010, conferring upon him the title of "Aggamaha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja." This accolade recognized his invaluable contributions to the propagation of the Dharma and his unwavering commitment to fostering peace and harmony.

In 2011, Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit's exceptional dedication to public service and community welfare was acknowledged by the President of the Republic of Singapore, Dr. Tony Tan Keng Yam, who awarded him the "Public Service Star Award (Bintang Bakti Masyarakat or BBM)." This prestigious honour celebrated his selfless contributions to society and his tireless efforts to alleviate suffering.

The profound impact of Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit's spiritual guidance and philanthropy was further recognized when His Majesty the King of Thailand bestowed upon him the title of "Phra Achan Chin Rajah-Dhamma-Nusith Sophithsasana-Kitjathorn" in 2013. This prestigious title celebrated his unwavering commitment to promoting Buddhist teachings and fostering spiritual growth.

In December 2014, the Supreme Council of Assigiri Sangha of Sri Lanka honoured Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit by conferring upon him a distinguished Sangha title, further recognizing his immense contributions to the propagation of the Dharma and his role as a revered spiritual leader.

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit's compassionate heart and unwavering dedication to alleviating suffering have driven him to initiate numerous charitable projects across various countries.

In Sri Lanka, he has extended his support to the Gangaramaya Temple in Colombo, providing crucial assistance through dana for the Sangha in 1992 and 1994. In 2004, he generously donated to aid the victims of the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami. His commitment to humanitarian relief continued in 2010 when he contributed to assist those affected by the floods in Sri Lanka.

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit's charitable endeavors extended to the construction of the Na Sevana Medical Center and Mediation Hall in Sri Lanka, where he donated in June 2014. Furthermore, he has shown unwavering support to Sri Jinaratna Vocational Training School, donating essential equipment in February 2021.

Beyond Sri Lanka, Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit has also dedicated himself to charitable works in Myanmar and Thailand. In Myanmar, he was actively involved in the construction of the Seik Phu Taung Monastery Youth Development Center, contributing to various projects such as laying interlocking bricks in November 2016 and the construction of a school dining hall with a donation. Moreover, he played a vital role in the Chain Khar Mi Dhamma Lone Kaung Monastery and Dharma Rock Mountain Monastery School, where he facilitated the laying of interlocking bricks, constructed school buildings, and provided playgrounds for the students.

In Thailand, Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit's charitable works included the construction of the School Hall at Ci Yin School in December 2015, a scholarship fund for Ci Ying School and scholarships for Thai primary schools. Additionally, he supported the Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University by establishing a Sangha Scholarship for 390 monks.

Continuing his mission to create positive change and uplift the community, Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit has embarked on two significant projects in Singapore. The first project is the construction of the new Maitri School Campus, which comprises Maitri School and Maitri Building. This ambitious endeavor aims to provide a state-of-the-art educational facility that nurtures the holistic development of students. Construction is set to commence in 2024, with the campus expected to be operational by mid-2027.

The second project involves the renovation of the Singapore Chinese Buddhist Association building. Scheduled to commence in 2023 and be completed in 2024, this renovation project aims to revitalize the association's headquarters, creating a space that embodies the teachings of Buddhism and fosters community engagement.

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit has a three-decade-long, most cordial and fruitful relationship with Gangaramaya Temple of Colombo, Sri Lanka, from the time it was headed by Ven Galaboda Gnanissara Thero. It is one of the most mutually fulfilling and beautiful relationships carved along the path of dhamma. And due to this personal connection, Sri Lanka too benefitted immensely from these relationships.

As a Buddhist, Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit has always been committed to promoting harmony in society. He participated in projects related to social welfare activities by promoting the concepts of tolerance, understanding, and love and unity in the nation. Phra Achan

Chin Ratchathammanusit has made a positive contribution to the harmonious development of Singaporean society by leading and organizing various exchange activities to promote mutual understanding and integration between different religions and cultures. At the same time, Master Fa Zhao also participated in solving social problems, spoke for the rights and interests of disadvantaged groups and promoted social justice and equality.

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit is an example leader and an example in the eyes of most believers. He practiced Dharma and discipline, purified mind and practice merit. He would honor everyone equally. He covered with everyone and helped everyone when he was asked the help. Everyone would be given importance and he had established the correct concept and attitude of life for everyone. The Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit gave careful teaching to the disciples and resolved confusion in the lives of disciples and encouraged them to cultivate moral character until becoming people who are useful to society and their families

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit is a highly respected as a teacher in the Buddhist community in Singapore. He has contributed to develop of Buddhism in Singapore and the progress of society through five perspectives: spreading Buddhism and promoting Buddhist culture, dedicating to social welfare, and promoting unity in society. His efforts and dedication have brought positive energy to society and

inspired more people to seek inner peace and liberation in their Buddhist faith and practice.

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit tried to explain to his disciples about public construction which is another way to propagating Buddhism. Building temples and monasteries not only provides physical spaces for Buddhist worship and meditation but also serves as centers for spiritual learning and community gatherings. These structures can be designed with architectural elements that reflect Buddhist symbolism and aesthetics, creating serene environments conducive to contemplation and practice.

Constructing stupas and pagodas, traditional Buddhist monuments, can serve as focal points for Buddhist communities and landmarks for the broader public. These structures often contain relics or sacred texts and are considered places of pilgrimage and veneration.

Establishing meditation centers in urban areas provides accessible spaces for people to learn and practice meditation, a central component of Buddhist practice. These centers can offer classes, workshops, and retreats to support individuals in developing mindfulness and inner peace.

Building libraries and study centers dedicated to Buddhist scriptures and teachings enables people to deepen their understanding of Buddhist philosophy and ethics. These facilities can house a collection of texts in various languages and offer educational programs and seminars on Buddhism.

Constructing community halls and multipurpose facilities provides spaces for Buddhist communities to come together for religious ceremonies, cultural events, and social gatherings. These venues can also host outreach programs and activities to engage with the broader community and promote interfaith dialogue and understanding.

Engaging in environmental conservation projects, such as planting trees, creating green spaces, or restoring natural habitats, aligns with Buddhist principles of compassion and stewardship of the Earth. By undertaking such initiatives, Buddhist organizations can contribute to environmental sustainability while promoting awareness of the interconnectedness of all life.

Establishing social welfare programs, such as providing healthcare, education, or humanitarian aid to disadvantaged communities, reflects the Buddhist values of compassion and altruism. Constructing facilities like schools, hospitals, or shelters can directly benefit those in need and exemplify the Buddhist commitment to relieving suffering.

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit said that propagating Buddhism through public construction is multifaceted and impactful.

Public construction projects focused on Buddhism, such as temples, monasteries, and stupas, play a crucial role in preserving and promoting Buddhist culture and heritage. These structures serve as living monuments that uphold traditional architectural styles, artwork, and rituals, thereby safeguarding the rich cultural legacy of Buddhism for future generations.

Buddhist temples, meditation centers, and study facilities provide dedicated spaces for spiritual practice, offering practitioners opportunities for meditation, prayer, study, and contemplation. By creating environments conducive to introspection and mindfulness, public constructions support individuals in their spiritual journeys and foster personal growth and inner peace.

Buddhist construction projects serve as hubs for community building and engagement, bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds who share a common interest in Buddhism. These spaces facilitate social interactions, cultural exchange, and mutual support among practitioners, fostering a sense of belonging and solidarity within the Buddhist community.

Facilities like dharma libraries, study centers, and educational institutions contribute to the dissemination of Buddhist teachings and values to a wider audience. Through classes, workshops, seminars, and outreach programs, these constructions promote greater understanding and appreciation of Buddhist philosophy, ethics, and practices among both practitioners and the general public.

By embodying principles of compassion, non-violence, and interdependence, Buddhist constructions serve as symbols of peace and harmony in society. They offer spaces for dialogue, reconciliation, and conflict resolution, fostering greater tolerance, acceptance, and cooperation among individuals and communities.

Public constructions undertaken by Buddhist organizations often prioritize environmental sustainability and social responsibility. Initiatives such as eco-friendly building practices, green infrastructure projects, and social welfare programs reflect Buddhist values of ecological stewardship, humanitarianism, and altruism, contributing to the well-being of both people and the planet.

Buddhist constructions serve as platforms for cultural exchange and interfaith dialogue, fostering connections and mutual understanding among different religious and cultural groups. By opening their doors to visitors of diverse backgrounds, Buddhist facilities promote dialogue, respect, and cooperation, advancing the cause of global harmony and understanding.

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit had contributed many public constructions such as:



1. Metta Welfare Association (Metta)

Metta Welfare Association (Metta) was founded in 1992 by Venerable Chao Khun Fa Zhao BBM. He is also the President of Golden Pagoda Buddhist Temple and Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and Museum.

Registered as a society in 1994, Metta is presently endorsed by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Education (MOE). We are also members of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS), Singapore Hospice Council and Singapore Disability Sports Council.

As a recognition of our efforts in pursuing Business Excellence, we have been awarded the Singapore Quality Class (SQC) with People certification in October 2018.

Metta was also awarded the Charity Transparency Awards (CTA) in 2019. The Award recognizes charities with good disclosure practices that the Charity Transparency Framework (CTF) recommends to encourage charities to be more transparent and to recognize them for their disclosure efforts.

Metta's Motto

Compassionate love to share. Brightens hope to those we care.

Vision

Inspired by The Great Compassionate Vows of The Medicine Buddha, we aim to provide social services for the community, regardless of race or religion.

Mission

We are dedicated to delivering social service programmes for individuals and families by collaborating with our donors, partners, vendors and community organizations.

In Thailand, in the year 1993, Chinese language teaching was organized in the area of Wawee Subdistrict, Mae Suai District, Chiang Rai Province. In the first time Phra Ajarn Chin Panya Pachanusit and Khun Decha Detnatee who invited Master Fa Zhao to visit the Yunnan Chinese community at the highland area, Wawee Subdistrict, Mae Suai District, Chiang Rai Province. Visiting of Master Fa Zhao, he looked the poor and difficult living conditions of the people in the area and felt the compassion for the people and children. Especially children who have less educational opportunities than children in urban areas. Master Fa Zhao was the patron and helped raise funds for providing a budget to fully support of Chinese language teaching at schools and villages. Later he donated a lot of money to build a gatehouse to enter the village and police guard tower village entrance road and distribute scholarships to students.



Chapter V

Propagating Buddhism through Dhamma Talk



Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit has been committed to spreading the principles of Buddhist law widely in Singapore. His work promotes Buddhist culture through various cultural activities in temples, Buddhist schools, and communities. These efforts are designed to help people understand Buddhism and receive more benefits from the religion.



Lectures and courses on Buddhism are organized by Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit to make complex Buddhist knowledge easier for the general public and those interested in Dhamma. At the same time, Master has also established several Buddhist research centers and publishing houses. These institutions publish many Buddhist dharma books and research results, playing an important role in promoting Buddhist academic research and disseminating Buddhist knowledge.

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit always teaches his disciples to follow the Buddha's teaching and to live with compassion. Propagating Buddhism through teaching involves sharing its teachings, principles, and practices with others in a way that inspires understanding, reflection, and adoption. In this chapter, the editor team concludes and collects Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit's teaching which he always teaches about the principles of living life and practicing with the Buddha's Dhamma to his the disciples in many places and from the Buddhist books.

DEEP UNDERSTANDING

Before teaching, it is essential to have a deep understanding of Buddhist teachings oneself. This includes studying Buddhist scriptures, philosophy, and practicing meditation. Without a solid understanding, it's challenging to convey the teachings authentically.

CLARITY IN COMMUNICATION

Buddhism can be quite profound, so it's important to communicate its concepts clearly and simply. Avoiding jargon and using everyday language can help make the teachings accessible to a wider audience.

TAILORING THE MESSAGE

Different audiences may have different interests and levels of understanding. Tailoring the message to resonate with the specific concerns and interests of the audience can make the teaching more effective. For example, emphasizing mindfulness and stress reduction in a workplace setting, or discussing compassion and ethics in a community setting.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

The most effective way to preach Buddhism is often through one's own actions and demeanor. Living according to Buddhist principles, such as compassion, mindfulness, and ethical conduct, can serve as a powerful example and inspire others to explore the path themselves.

ENGAGEMENT AND DIALOGUE

Teaching shouldn't be a one-way communication. Encouraging dialogue, questions, and discussions can help clarify misunderstandings and deepen understanding. It also fosters a sense of community among practitioners.

RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY

Buddhism encompasses a wide range of traditions and practices. Recognizing and respecting this diversity is important when teaching, as different approaches may resonate with different people.

ADAPTATION TO CONTEXT

Teaching Buddhism may take different forms depending on the cultural, social, and historical context. Being sensitive to these factors and adapting the message accordingly can help make it more relevant and relatable.

EMPHASIZING UNIVERSAL VALUES

While teaching Buddhist teachings, it's important to emphasize the universal values they promote, such as kindness, compassion, wisdom, and inner peace. This can help bridge cultural and religious divides and make the teachings relevant to people from diverse backgrounds.

By embodying the teachings, communicating them clearly, and engaging with others respectfully, one can effectively propagate Buddhism through teaching, helping others discover its transformative potential for themselves.

Propagating Buddhism through teaching involves sharing its core principles, practices, and teachings with others in a way that inspires understanding and encourages individuals to explore the path of Buddhism.

Here's a step-by-step guide on how to propagate Buddhism through teaching

STUDY AND PRACTICE

Before engaging in teaching, it's crucial to deepen your own understanding of Buddhist teachings and practices. Study sacred texts, such as the Dhammapada, the Sutras, or the teachings of prominent Buddhist teachers. Practice meditation, mindfulness, and ethical conduct to embody the principles you aim to preach.

IDENTIFY YOUR AUDIENCE

Determine who you want to reach with your Teaching. Are you targeting a specific demographic, such as young adults, seniors, or individuals interested in mindfulness? Understanding your audience will help tailor your message to resonate with their interests and concerns.

CRAFT YOUR MESSAGE

Develop a clear and concise message that communicates the core tenets of Buddhism in a way that is accessible to your audience. Focus on universal principles such as impermanence, suffering, compassion, and mindfulness. Use simple language and relatable examples to convey complex concepts.

CHOOSE YOUR PLATFORM

Decide how you want to deliver your message. You can preach in person at Buddhist centers, temples, or community gatherings. You can also utilize digital platforms such as social media, podcasts, or blogs to reach a wider audience. Consider using a combination of traditional and modern methods to maximize your impact.

ENGAGE YOUR AUDIENCE

Encourage active participation and engagement during your Teaching sessions. Invite questions, facilitate discussions, and create opportunities for individuals to share their own experiences and insights. Foster a sense of community and connection among your audience members.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As a preacher of Buddhism, it's essential to embody the principles you teach in your own life. Demonstrate kindness, compassion, and wisdom in your actions and interactions with others. Your personal example will speak volumes and inspire others to follow the Buddhist path.

BE RESPECTFUL AND INCLUSIVE

Respect the diversity of beliefs and backgrounds among your audience members. Be inclusive and welcoming to individuals from all walks of life, regardless of their religious or cultural affiliations. Emphasize the universal values of Buddhism that transcend differences and promote harmony and understanding.

ENCOURAGE FURTHER EXPLORATION

Encourage individuals who are interested in Buddhism to deepen their practice and study further. Provide resources such as books, websites, or local meditation groups where they can continue their journey. Offer guidance and support to those who seek it.

BE A WISE PERSON WITH MORALS

In order to achieve real liberation, justice, and happiness, we have to face the reality of life and revamp ourselves constantly.

Wisdom and morals are interlinked qualities that guide individuals in living a meaningful and ethical life.

Here are some principles and practices that a wise person with strong morals might embody:

SELF-REFLECTION

A wise person regularly reflects on their thoughts, actions, and intentions. They strive for self-awareness and honesty about their strengths, weaknesses, and areas for growth.

EMPATHY AND COMPASSION

Understanding the perspectives and feelings of others is central to wisdom and morality. A wise person practices empathy and compassion, seeking to alleviate suffering and promote the well-being of all beings.

INTEGRITY

Acting with integrity means aligning one's actions with their values and principles. A wise person upholds honesty, fairness, and transparency in all their dealings, even when faced with challenges or temptations.

HUMILITY

True wisdom involves recognizing the limits of one's knowledge and being open to learning from others. A wise person approaches life with humility, valuing the insights and experiences of others and acknowledging that they too have much to learn.

RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY

Wise individuals appreciate the richness of human diversity and respect differences in beliefs, cultures, and backgrounds. They cultivate an inclusive mindset that celebrates the unique contributions of each individual.

RESPONSIBILITY

Wise individuals understand their interconnectedness with the world and take responsibility for their impact on others and the environment. They make ethical choices that consider the long-term consequences and strive to leave a positive legacy.

BALANCE AND MODERATION

Wisdom entails finding balance in all aspects of life—balancing work and leisure, material pursuits and spiritual growth, and individual needs with the well-being of others. A wise person practices moderation and avoids extremes.

CONTINUOUS LEARNING

Wisdom is a lifelong journey of learning and growth. A wise person remains curious and open-minded, seeking new experiences, knowledge, and perspectives that enrich their understanding of the world and themselves.

GENEROSITY AND SERVICE

Wise individuals find fulfillment in giving back to others and contributing to the greater good. They practice generosity in both material and non-material ways, offering their time, resources, and skills to support those in need.

MINDFULNESS AND PRESENCE

Cultivating mindfulness and presence is essential for wise living. A wise person stays grounded in the present moment, fully engaging with their experiences and relationships with clarity and awareness.

By embodying these qualities and principles, a wise person with strong morals contributes to creating a more compassionate, just, and harmonious world.

THE VALUE OF BUDDHA'S TEACHING

The value of Buddhist teachings lies in their ability to offer practical wisdom and guidance for living a more meaningful, compassionate, and fulfilling life. Here are several aspects that highlight the value of Buddhist teachings:

UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF REALITY

Buddhist teachings provide profound insights into the nature of reality, including the principles of impermanence, suffering, and non-self (anatta). By recognizing the impermanent and interconnected nature of existence, individuals can cultivate a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

PRINCIPLES OF ETHICS AND MORALITY

Buddhism emphasizes ethical conduct as a foundation for personal well-being and social harmony. The Five Precepts—refraining from harming living beings, stealing, sexual misconduct, lying, and intoxication—provide guidelines for leading a virtuous and morally upright life.

DEVELOPMENT OF MINDFULNESS AND AWARENESS

Mindfulness, or sati, is a central practice in Buddhism that involves cultivating present-moment awareness and non-judgmental attention. Through mindfulness meditation and mindfulness in daily life, individuals can develop greater clarity, insight, and emotional resilience.

PRACTICE OF COMPASSION AND LOVING-KINDNESS

Compassion (Karuna) and loving-kindness (Metta) are fundamental virtues in Buddhism. By cultivating compassion for oneself and others, individuals can overcome selfishness, reduce suffering, and foster deeper connections with all beings.

PATH TO LIBERATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

Buddhist teachings offer a systematic path—known as the Noble Eightfold Path—that leads to the cessation of suffering and the realization of enlightenment (nirvana). This path includes practices such as right understanding, right intention, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right concentration.

EMPHASIS ON NON-ATTACHMENT AND EQUANIMITY

Buddhism teaches the importance of non-attachment (Nekkhamma) and equanimity (Upekkha) as antidotes to craving and aversion. By letting go of attachment to outcomes and cultivating equanimity in the face of life's ups and downs, individuals can find greater inner peace and contentment.

UNIVERSAL APPLICABILITY

While rooted in ancient Indian culture, Buddhist teachings are applicable to people of all backgrounds, cultures, and beliefs. The universal principles of Buddhism—such as compassion, mindfulness, and wisdom—resonate with individuals seeking meaning, purpose, and transformation in their lives.

INTEGRATION OF MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT

Buddhism recognizes the interconnectedness of mind, body, and spirit and offers holistic practices for their integration. Through meditation, mindful movement (e.g. yoga, qigong), and ethical living, individuals can cultivate harmony and balance within themselves and with the world around them.

Overall, the value of Buddhist teachings lies in their capacity to awaken individuals to deeper truths, alleviate suffering, and inspire the cultivation of wisdom, compassion, and inner peace. Whether applied in daily life or pursued as a spiritual path, Buddhist teachings offer timeless wisdom for navigating the complexities of human existence.

ORDER IN A TURBULENT LIFE AND SOCIETY

In a turbulent life and society, establishing order can be challenging but crucial for maintaining stability, well-being, and progress. Here are several ways to foster order in such circumstances:

PERSONAL DISCIPLINE

Cultivating personal discipline is essential for navigating turbulent times. Establishing routines, setting goals, and adhering to principles of self-care can provide a sense of stability and direction amid chaos.

CLEAR COMMUNICATION

Effective communication is key to establishing order in relationships, communities, and society at large. Clear, honest, and respectful communication fosters understanding, resolves conflicts, and promotes collaboration.

ADHERENCE TO LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Upholding laws and regulations are essential for maintaining order in society. This requires a commitment to justice, fairness, and the rule of law, as well as accountability for those who violate societal norms.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Developing skills in conflict resolution and mediation is crucial for addressing disputes and tensions that arise in turbulent times. By promoting dialogue, empathy, and compromise, conflicts can be resolved peacefully and constructively.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Building strong communities and social networks fosters a sense of belonging, support, and solidarity. Engaging in community activities, volunteering, and supporting local initiatives can strengthen social cohesion and resilience.

EMOTIONAL REGULATION

Developing emotional intelligence and resilience is vital for managing stress, anxiety, and uncertainty in turbulent times. Practices such as mindfulness, meditation, and self-reflection can help individuals regulate their emotions and maintain inner equilibrium.

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Effective leadership and governance are essential for establishing order at various levels of society. Leaders who demonstrate integrity, vision, and competence can inspire confidence, mobilize resources, and navigate crises effectively.

INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Investing in education and skills development equips individuals with the knowledge, abilities, and resilience needed to thrive in turbulent times. Lifelong learning, vocational training, and access to quality education contribute to individual empowerment and societal progress.

PROMOTION OF EQUITY AND JUSTICE

Addressing systemic inequalities and injustices is critical for fostering order and social cohesion. Promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion ensures that all members of society have equal opportunities and access to resources, reducing tensions and disparities.

CULTIVATION OF HOPE AND RESILIENCE

Cultivating hope and resilience is essential for weathering challenges and setbacks in turbulent times. Drawing on spiritual, cultural, and communal sources of strength can inspire resilience, perseverance, and a sense of purpose amid adversity.

By implementing these strategies and fostering a culture of order, collaboration, and resilience, individuals and communities can navigate turbulent times with greater stability, cohesion, and well-being.

THE EDUCATION OF VIRTUE AND MORALITY

Education of virtue and morality is essential for nurturing individuals who contribute positively to society and uphold ethical principles in their actions and interactions. Here's how such education can be approached:

ETHICAL CURRICULUM INTEGRATION

Incorporate teachings on virtue, morality, and ethics into the curriculum at all levels of education, from early childhood to higher education. This can be done through dedicated courses, as well as integration into subjects such as history, literature, and social studies.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Provide opportunities for experiential learning that allow students to apply ethical principles in real-life situations. Service-learning projects, community service, and extracurricular activities can foster empathy, compassion, and a sense of responsibility towards others.

ROLE MODELING AND MENTORSHIP

Encourage positive role modeling by teachers, administrators, and other adult figures in the educational environment. Mentorship programs can pair students with mentors who exemplify virtues such as honesty, integrity, and kindness.

CRITICAL THINKING AND ETHICAL REASONING

Teach critical thinking skills and ethical reasoning to help students navigate complex moral dilemmas and make principled decisions. Engage students in discussions, debates, and case studies that encourage ethical reflection and analysis.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Implement character development programs that focus on cultivating virtues such as honesty, respect, empathy, and perseverance. These programs can include activities, discussions, and reflections designed to strengthen students' moral character and integrity.

VALUES-BASED SCHOOL CULTURE

Foster a values-based school culture that promotes kindness, inclusivity, and respect for diversity. Create clear expectations for behavior and attitudes that align with ethical principles, and provide support and guidance for students to meet these expectations.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Engage families and communities in the education of virtue and morality by promoting collaboration between schools, parents, religious institutions, and community organizations. Encourage open communication and partnership in reinforcing ethical values across different contexts.

ETHICS EDUCATION FOR EDUCATORS

Provide training and support for educators in ethics education, including ethical decision-making, conflict resolution, and creating a positive classroom climate. Teachers who model ethical behavior and values positively influence students' moral development.

INTEGRATION OF RELIGIOUS AND PHILOSOPHICAL TRADITIONS

Recognize and respect the diversity of religious and philosophical traditions, integrating teachings from various sources into ethics education. Encourage dialogue and exploration of different perspectives on morality and virtue.

EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

Evaluate the effectiveness of ethics education programs through ongoing assessment and feedback from students, educators, and stakeholders. Use data and insights to refine curriculum, teaching methods, and support services for optimal impact.

By prioritizing education of virtue and morality, schools and communities can empower individuals to lead ethical lives, contribute to the common good, and create a more just and compassionate society.

WHAT IS THE WISDOM?

Wisdom is a multifaceted concept that encompasses a deep understanding of life, human nature, and the world, coupled with sound judgment and the ability to apply this understanding effectively. Here are some key aspects of wisdom:

Wisdom involves a profound comprehension of fundamental truths about existence, such as the nature of reality, human behavior, and the interconnectedness of all things. It goes beyond mere knowledge to encompass insight into the underlying principles and patterns that govern life.

Wisdom includes practical knowledge gained through experience, observation, and reflection. It involves learning from one's own mistakes and successes, as well as from the wisdom of others.

Wisdom entails the ability to make sound decisions and choices based on careful consideration of all relevant factors. It involves weighing options, foreseeing consequences, and choosing the course of action that aligns with long-term goals and values.

Wisdom involves emotional intelligence—the ability to understand and manage one's own emotions, as well as to empathize with and relate to the emotions of others. It includes qualities such as empathy, compassion, and humility.

Wisdom is characterized by humility and openness to new ideas, perspectives, and experiences. It involves acknowledging one's limitations and being willing to learn from others, regardless of their background or status.

Wisdom involves transcending the narrow confines of the ego and embracing a broader perspective that recognizes the interconnectedness of all beings. It entails letting go of selfish desires and cultivating a sense of interconnectedness, altruism, and compassion.

Wisdom is inseparable from ethical integrity—the adherence to principles of honesty, fairness, and compassion in all aspects of life. It involves acting with integrity, even when faced with difficult choices or temptations.

Wisdom often includes a spiritual dimension—a deep insight into the nature of existence and the ultimate purpose of life. It involves a sense of awe, wonder, and reverence for the mysteries of the universe, as well as a commitment to spiritual growth and self-transcendence.

Overall, wisdom is a holistic and integrative quality that encompasses intellectual understanding, emotional intelligence, ethical integrity, and spiritual insight. It is cultivated through a lifelong journey of learning, reflection, and self-discovery, and it enriches both the individual and the world around them.





Chapter VI

Master Shi Fa Zhao and Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University

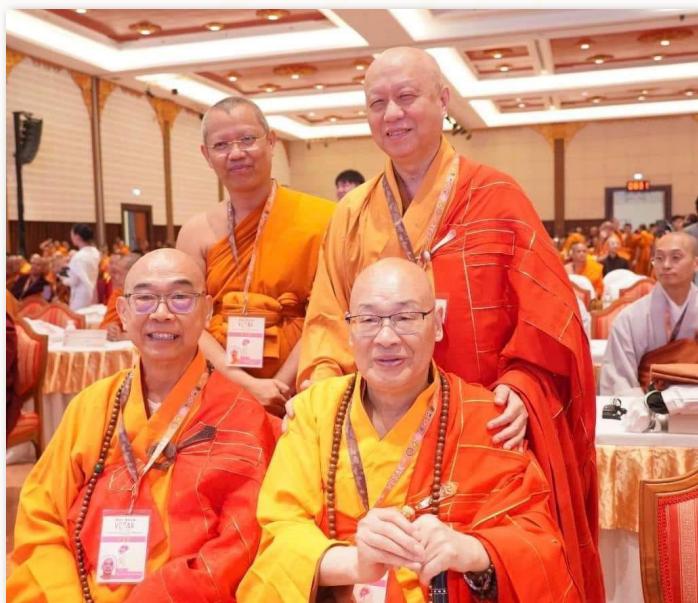


Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit is a significant supporter of education in Thailand. He not only provides scholarships for underprivileged students in rural schools and novices studying in various Buddhist schools but also contributes to numerous charitable organizations and the Thai Sangha Community.

His relationship with Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University is akin to that of a family. Over the years, he has consistently supported scholarships and frequently brings a group of disciples from Singapore to present these scholarships to the students of Mahachulalongkorn rajavidyalaya University.

One of his disciples, Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseso, the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs, often assists in presenting these scholarships. Dr. Paccantaseso holds great love and respect for his teacher, Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit.

Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit has had a long-standing relationship with the administrators of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, dating back to the tenure of the most venerable Professor Dr. Phra Brahmapundit as the Rector. His contributions to Thailand, the Thai Sangha Community, and Mahachulalongkorn rajavidyalaya University are significant.







In recognition of his kindness and good deeds, the University Council of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University awarded him an honorary doctorate degree in Social Work on May 11, 2008. Phra Achan Chin Ratchathammanusit has participated in many activities that contribute to the university and promote Buddhism, often in collaboration with the administrators of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University.

Perform merit-making and chant
Abhidhamma to dedicate to Somdet
Phra Maha Ratchamangalajarn,
the former abbot of Wat Pak Nam

On Sunday, September 4, 2022, at 5:09 p.m., Assistant Professor Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs at MCU, offered a welcome speech to Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit, Abbot of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple in Singapore who came to host a merit-making ceremony and chant Abhidhamma in dedication to Somdet Phra Maha Ratchamangalajarn, the former abbot of Wat Pak Nam.





**The Mahayana Sangha of Singapore hosted
the merit-making ceremony and dedication for
Somdej Phra Maha Ratchamangalajarn**



On Sunday, September 4, 2022, at 5:09 p.m., Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao), Abbot of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple, Singapore, and the Phra Vidhetsasanananuvat (Venerable Shi Ming Yi), Abbot of Foo Hai Ch'an, Singapore, along with a group of monks and disciples, came to host a merit-making ceremony and to perform funeral prayers for Somdej Phra Maha Ratchamangalajarn, the former abbot of Wat Pak Nam, Bangkok. This took place at the Rattanachatsorn Worakuru Room under the base of Phra Buddha Dhammakaya Thep Mongkol, Wat Pak Nam. On this occasion, Most Venerable Professor Dr. Phra Brahmawatcharathieeracharn, the Rector, and Assistant Professor Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs of MCU, along with administrators, lecturers, and staff of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, offered a welcoming ceremony to the Sangha from Singapore. The Dhammaduta College and the International Relations Division of MCU joined in to offer a warm welcome and ensure the convenience of the guests.

Thai-Singaporean Sangha joins in organizing a seminar



On September 8, 2022 at 9:09 a.m., the Thai-Singapore Sangha jointly organized a seminar on the topic “Moving Forward in Unity Thailand-Singapore Sangha Fellowship” to promote cooperation for the propagation of Buddhism among Thai monks and Singaporean monks at the meeting room of Anantara Hotel, Ratchadamri Road, Bangkok.

Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmapundit, members of the Sangha Supreme Council, Vice President of University Council of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, the abbot of Wat Prayurawongsawat Worawihan is the president of the Theravada Sangha and Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao), Abbot of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple, Singapore is the president of the Mahayana Sangha and Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmawatcharattheeracharn, the Rector and Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs, including administrators, lecturers, and staff of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University and the Mahayana Sangha from Singapore participating this function.

On this occasion, Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmapundit gave a special lecture on “Thailand-Singapore Sangha Fellowship” and Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmawatcharattheeracharn gave a speech and Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno as a qualified speaker at the international seminar on “Moving Forward in Unity” and Dr. Phra Sophonvajiraphon, Dr. and Venerable Dr. Shi Ming Yi as moderator.



**Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs, MCU,
making relationship to the
Most Ven. Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathamanusit**



On Wednesday, 29 November 2023 at 7:29 p.m., Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs at MCU, came to pay his respects to the Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathamanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao), Abbot of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple, Singapore at the certification location intercontinental Bangkok Hotel, Bangkok.



Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathamanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao), Abbot of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple, Singapore traveled to Bangkok to perform religious duties and graciously allowed Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno to pay homage and consult with the master about 1) traveling to strengthen diplomatic relations with

the monks of South Putuo Temple, Fujian Province, People's Republic of China on the 17-23 December of this year and 2) ceremony for presenting scholarships to MCU students, no. 1/2024, 15 March 2024.

On this occasion, Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao) graciously granted blessings to the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs to bring good luck and to continue to prosper in Dhamma and Vinaya.

**Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs, MCU,
making friendly relationship with the Rector
of Buddhist College of Minnan, Xiamen City**



On Monday, December 18, 2023 at 2:39 p.m., Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs at MCU, on behalf of Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmawatcharathieeracharn, the Rector, paid a courtesy call on Most Venerable Su Wu, Abbot of South Putuo Temple, President of Buddhist College of Minnan, Xiamen City to strengthen diplomatic relationship and propagating Buddhism.



Most Venerable Master Su Wu was suggested by Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit to invite Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs at MCU and his group to join in the auspicious ceremony celebrating the 99th anniversary of the founding of the monastery and also invited him to deliver a speech in the presence of monks and international dignitaries at the meeting room of Minnan Buddhist College.



On this occasion, the Abbot of Nanputuo Temple, who has a relationship with Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, guided Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs in paying homage to the principal Buddha image and sacred things in the temple. He also graciously offered souvenirs to the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs. At the same time, the Vice Rector offered a Buddha statue and the Auspicious Conch Shell to the abbot.

The Rector of Minnan Buddhist College is scheduled to visit MCU next year to pay a courtesy call to the Rector of MCU and the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs to discuss the ways to organize education and work to spread Buddhism together in the future.

**The Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs at MCU
led the university's executive team to foster
a friendly relationship with the abbot of Chengtian
Temple in Chenzhou City**



On Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 4:39 p.m. Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs at MCU, on behalf of Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmawatcharathiracharn, the Rector, paid a courtesy visit to Phra Dhammajarn Xiang Yuan, Chengtian Temple, Chenzhou City, to strengthen diplomatic relationships and spread Buddhism.



On this occasion, Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao), Abbot of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple, Singapore recommended that Phra Dhammajarn Xiang Yuan, Abbot of Chengtian Temple, get to know the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs of MCU. Then, the Abbot of Chengtian Temple led the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs of MCU and the groups to pay homage to the Buddha image

and sacred objects in the temple. He also graciously offered souvenirs and hosted tea offerings to the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs and the faculty, and the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs of MCU presented an Auspicious Conch Shell to the abbot.

The Abbot of Chengtian Temple is scheduled to visit MCU to pay a courtesy call on the Rector and the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs next year to discuss ways to organize education and work to spread Buddhism together in the future.



**Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit
(Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao) recommends
the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs of MCU
establish a brotherly relationship with the Abbot
of Chue Lin Temple**

On Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 11:39 a.m. Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseso, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs at MCU, on behalf of Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmawatcharathiracharn, the Rector, paid a courtesy visit to Phra Dhammajarn Mingzhi, Abbot of Chue Lin in Chenzhou City, to strengthen diplomatic relations and promote Buddhism.

On this occasion, Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao), Abbot of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple in Singapore, encouraged Phra Dhammajarn Mingzhi, Abbot of Chuelin Temple, to bond with the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs of MCU as brothers and to support each other in times of joy and sorrow, working together to spread Buddhism forever.

The Abbot of Chuelin Temple then led the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs of MCU and his team to pay homage to the Buddha image and sacred objects in the temple. He graciously offered souvenirs and hosted a meal for the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs and his team, who in turn offered the Auspicious Conch Shell to the abbot.



The Abbot of Chuelin Temple is scheduled to visit MCU next year to pay a courtesy call on the Rector and the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs. The purpose of this visit is to discuss ways to organize education and collaborate on spreading Buddhism in the future.



**Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit
(Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao) recommends the Vice
Rector for Foreign Affairs of MCU and the Abbot of
Shanxi Temple, Fuzhou City, become friends**



On Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 3:39 p.m., Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs at MCU, representing Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmawatcharathiracharn, the Rector, paid a courtesy visit to Phra Dhammajarn Zhao Song, Abbot of Shanxi Temple in Fuzhou City. The purpose was to strengthen diplomatic relations and promote Buddhism.

During the visit, Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao), Abbot of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple in Singapore, facilitated a connection between Phra Dhammajarn Zhao Song and the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs, encouraging them to form a friendship and collaborate to advance Buddhism.



The Abbot of Shanxi Temple graciously hosted the Vice Rector and the group, leading them in paying homage to sacred objects and offering souvenirs. In return, the Vice Rector presented an Auspicious Conch Shell. Plans were made for the Abbot of Shanxi Temple to visit MCU in the following year to discuss future collaborations in education and promoting Buddhism.



Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs of MCU
Leading Chanting of Buddha Mantra to Strengthen
Relationship with Abbot of Xianglong Temple,
Fuzhou City

On Friday, December 22, 2023, at 9:49 a.m., Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseso, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs at MCU, along with administrators, led the MCU executive team in chanting the Buddha mantra to enhance the friendly relationship with Venerable Phra Dhammajarn Pu De, the Abbot of Xianglong Temple in Fuzhou City. Following a recommendation by Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao), Abbot of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple in Singapore, Phra Dhammajarn Pu De was introduced to the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs, fostering a friendship to support each other's endeavors in spreading Buddhism. During the visit, the Abbot of Xianglong Temple invited the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs and the group to chant the Buddha mantra, further strengthening the bond between Wat Xiang Long and MCU. Additionally, the abbot hosted a meal for the monks and the visiting group. In return, the Vice Rector presented an Auspicious Conch Shell. Plans were made for the Abbot of Xianglong Temple to visit MCU in the following year to discuss collaborative efforts in education and promoting Buddhism.

**Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit
(Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao) recommended that the
Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs of MCU and the Abbot
of Baofu Temple, Fuzhou City, become dear friends**



On Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 10:39 a.m., Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs at MCU, representing Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmawatcharathiracharn, the Rector, paid a courtesy visit to Phra Dhammajarn Pushan, Abbot of Baofu Temple in Fuzhou City, to strengthen diplomatic relations and promote Buddhism.

During this visit, Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao), Abbot of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple in Singapore, recommended that Phra Dhammajarn Pushan, the Abbot of Baofu Temple, get to know the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs. He graciously facilitated their connection, encouraging them to become close friends and support each other in spreading Buddhism for eternity.

Subsequently, the Abbot of Baofu Temple led the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs of MCU and the group in paying homage to the Buddha image and sacred objects in the temple. He also kindly offered souvenirs and hosted a meal for the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs and the group. Meanwhile, the Vice Rector presented an Auspicious Conch Shell to the abbot.

Plans were made for the Abbot of Baofu Temple to visit MCU in the following year to pay a courtesy call on the Rector and the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs, discussing ways to collaborate on education and the propagation of Buddhism.

The Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs of MCU is fostering a relationship with Venerable Tou Hoi of the Zhejiang Ruian Xieping Temple



On Friday, December 22, 2023 at 7:39 a.m., Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs, MCU, and his group traveled to cultivate a friendly relationship with the Sangha of the People's Republic of China from December 17 to 23, 2023. This event received blessings from Venerable Tou Hoi and the monks from Xiamen, Chenzhou to Fuzhou.

Venerable Tou Hoi from Zhejiang Ruian Xieping Temple is an old friend. We have known each other since traveling to develop a friendly relationship with the Sangha in Sri Lanka in the middle of 2023. On this occasion, the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs invited him to visit MCU next year in order to strengthen these ties and work to spread Buddhism together in the future.



Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs of MCU and Abbot of Chuelin Temple, Chenzhou City



On Friday, December 22, 2023 at 4:09 p.m., Phra Dhammajarn Mingzhi, abbot of Chuelin Temple, Chenzhou City, came to drink tea with the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs at the temple in Shanxi, Fuzhou City, to strengthen the diplomatic relations and spread Buddhism.

After Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao), Abbot of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple, Singapore, kindly recommended that Phra Dhammajarn Mingzhi, Abbot of Chue Lin Temple, and the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs get to know each other, a relationship formed between the two disciples as brothers. He told both disciples to help and support each other, to be there for each other in times of happiness and sorrow, and to work together to spread Buddhism forever.

On this occasion, the abbot of Chuelin Temple offered incense sticks to worship the Triple Gem to the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs, and the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs offered a Buddha image to the abbot of Chue Lin Temple. The abbot of Chuelin has scheduled a visit to MCU to pay a courtesy call on the Rector and the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs next year to discuss ways to organize education and work to spread Buddhism together in the future.

**Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs of MCU and the group
express their gratitude to Phra Ajarn Chin
Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao)**



On Saturday, December 23, 2023 at 6:06 a.m., Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs at MCU and the group paid their respects and thanked Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao), Abbot of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple, Singapore who is merciful and offers patronage to Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs and the MCU executive team who came to establish a diplomatic relationship with the Sangha of the People's Republic of China between December 17 and 23, 2023.

Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao) kindly led the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs, MCU, who is a disciple, to come and establish a friendly relationship with the Sangha of the People's Republic of China and introduced the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs, MCU to his disciples in the People's Republic of China as brothers to work together in education and the propagation of Buddhism.

On behalf of Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmawatcharachiracharn, the Rector, would like to express the gratitude to Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao), Abbot of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple, Singapore who has graciously offered his support to MCU with respect.

The Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs of MCU led the Group back to their homeland safely



On Saturday, December 23, 2023 at 5:17 p.m., Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs, MCU, led the MCU executive team and the people who offered patronage for joining the Buddhist ceremony and developing a friendly relationship with the Sangha of the People's Republic of China, to arrive at Suvarnabhumi International Airport safely.

I would like to express my gratitude to Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmawatcharathiracharn, the Rector, for his kindness in commanding me to perform duties to cultivate a friendly relationship with the Chinese Sangha.

Thank you, Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao), Abbot of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple of the Republic of Singapore, who graciously offered support to travel to perform religious duties and develop a friendly relationship with the Sangha of the People's Republic of China.

I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Decha Detnatee for providing financial support and honoring me as an interpreter to translate conversations and develop a friendly relationship with the Chinese Sangha. I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Chaowarit Wangprakobkul who accepted to be the host for offering the auspicious conch shell to the most venerable monks of the Chinese Sangha and also blowing the conch shell in praise of the Triple Gem in the auspicious ceremony. Also, thank you to my fellow administrators at MCU, and Bhikkhuni Onrampha Chokduangdee, who joined me on this trip to perform my duty to cultivate good relations with the Chinese Sangha.

**Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno,
Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs at MCU Considers
the Scholarship offered by Phra Ajarn Chin
Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao)**



On Friday, March 1, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs at MCU, chaired the consideration of the scholarship offered by Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao). He also presided over the orientation ceremony for MCU students who passed the selection process to receive scholarships.

The event took place at the Theater Zone C meeting room, MCU Academic Building, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya. Assistant Professor Dr. Boonmee Pansa, Assistant to the Rector for Foreign Affairs, delivered the report, and Most Venerable Shi You Guang, representative of Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao), delivered a speech.

Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao), Abbot of The Golden Pagoda Temple in Singapore, has offered scholarships for MCU students. The scholarships are divided as follows:

- 50 scholarships for doctoral students
- 120 scholarships for master's degree students
- 300 scholarships for bachelor's degree students
- Scholarships for high school students at Pali Triam Udom Suksa School and Pali Sathit Suksa School, MCU, with 100 scholarships



Orientation for Scholarship Recipients:

Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit

(Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao)



On Friday, March 1, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., an orientation was held for students who received the "Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao)" scholarship. The event took place in the Theater Cmeeting room at MCU, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya.

Additionally, MCU organized a scholarship award ceremony for the "Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao)" scholarship on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. The ceremony was held at the MCU Auditorium during its 48th Anniversary celebration in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya.



**The Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs Leads
the Administrators, Staff, and Students of MCU
in Arranging the Scholarship Offering Ceremony
Donated by Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit
(Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao)**



On Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseso, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs at MCU, chaired the scholarship consideration meeting regarding the scholarship offering ceremony donated by Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao). He led the administrators and staff from the Dhammaduta College, International Relations Division, Building Facilities Division, and Vehicles Division, along with MCU students, in preparing for the scholarship offering ceremony.

**Scholarship Presentation Ceremony Donated
by the Most Venerable Master Shi Fa Zhao**



Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao), Abbot of The Golden Pagoda Temple in Singapore, has offered scholarships for MCU students. The scholarships are divided as follows:

- 50 scholarships for doctoral students
- 120 scholarships for master's degree students

- 300 scholarships for bachelor's degree students
- 100 scholarships for high school students at Pali Triam Udom Suksa School and Pali Sathit Suksa School, MCU.

**The Rector and the MCU Executive Team Warmly
Welcomed Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit
(Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao) and Most Venerable
Master Shi You Guang**



On Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 8:05 a.m., Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmawatcharathiracharn the Rector, along with Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suraphon Suyaprom, Vice Rector for General Affairs, greeted

and welcomed Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao) and Most Venerable Master Shi You Guang at the VIP room of the main auditorium during the 48th Anniversary of the Crown Prince Mahavajiralongkorn Conference Hall, MCU, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya.

**The Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs at MCU Pays the Respect to Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit
(Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao)**



On Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 4:06 p.m., Asst. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, the Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs at MCU, paid his respects to Phra Ajarn Chin Ratchathammanusit (Most Venerable Shi Fa Zhao), the Abbot of Suwan Chedi Temple (The Golden Pagoda Temple in Singapore), in the visitor room at Suwan Chedi Temple, Singapore.



Offering Auspicious Blessings to Honor His Majesty King Vajiralongkorn on the Coronation Day inside the Golden Temple

On Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 9:09 a.m., Phra Brahmawat-charawimonmuni VI., a committee member of The Sangha Supreme Council of Thailand and assistant abbot of Wat Mahathat Yuwarat Rangsarit Ratchawora Maha Wihan, performed an auspicious ceremony. As the Director of the Vipassana Thura Institute of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University and the president of the Sangha, he chanted Buddhist mantras to offer auspicious blessings. This was done to honor His Majesty King Vajiralongkorn on his coronation day inside the Golden Temple.





**Most Venerable Phra Thamwachiramuni,
Vi., presided over the chanting ceremony
on the auspicious occasion of the coronation day of
His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn, King Rama 10,
at the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple in Singapore**



On Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 09:09 a.m., Most Venerable Phra Brahmawatcharawimonmunii, Vi., a member of the Supreme Sangha Council of Thailand, Sangha Governor of Bangkok, Assistant Abbot of Wat Mahathat Yuwarajrangsarit, and Director of the Vipassanadhura Institute at Mahachula longkornrajavidyalaya University, presided over the auspicious Buddha mantra chanting ceremony to dedicate blessings to His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn, King Rama 10, at the Tooth Relic Temple in Singapore.

Following Most Venerable Phra Brahmawatcharawimonmuni leadership in the ceremony, other esteemed monks, including Theravada and Mahayana monks, such as Most Venerable Master Shi Fa Zhao (Phrarajadhammanusith), the abbot of the Tooth Relic Temple; Phra Rajavithetpanyakhun, the Abbot of Wat Buddhapadipa, United Kingdom; Phrarajadilok, Assistant to the Abbot of Wat Awut Wikasitaram Temple; Phra Rajawahiradhamsunthon, the Abbot of Wat Sunthon Thammathan Temple; Phra Panyadhammavithet, the Deputy Abbot of Wat Ananda Mettayarama Temple, Singapore; Phra Yanawachiravong, Assistant to the Abbot of Wat Phra Chetuphon Wimonmangalarama Temple; Phrakhrubhavanawithan, Vi., the Abbot of Wat Sanghapadipa, UK; and Phramaha Surasak Paccantaseno, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs of MCU and Assistant to the Abbot of Wat Ratchasitthram Temple, attended the chanting ceremony to bestow blessings and auspiciousness upon His Majesty King Rama 10.

Subsequently, the venerable chief monk led the Sangha in circumambulating around the sacred tooth relics enshrined in the Golden Pagoda.

Please note: The Buddha Tooth Relic Temple graciously invited all the monks to participate in the chanting ceremony inside the shrine, where the sacred tooth relics are enshrined according to the temple's ritual.



Buddha Brasicharoen

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