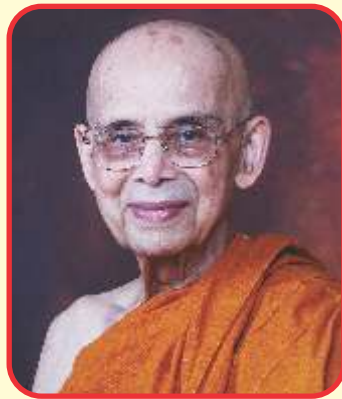


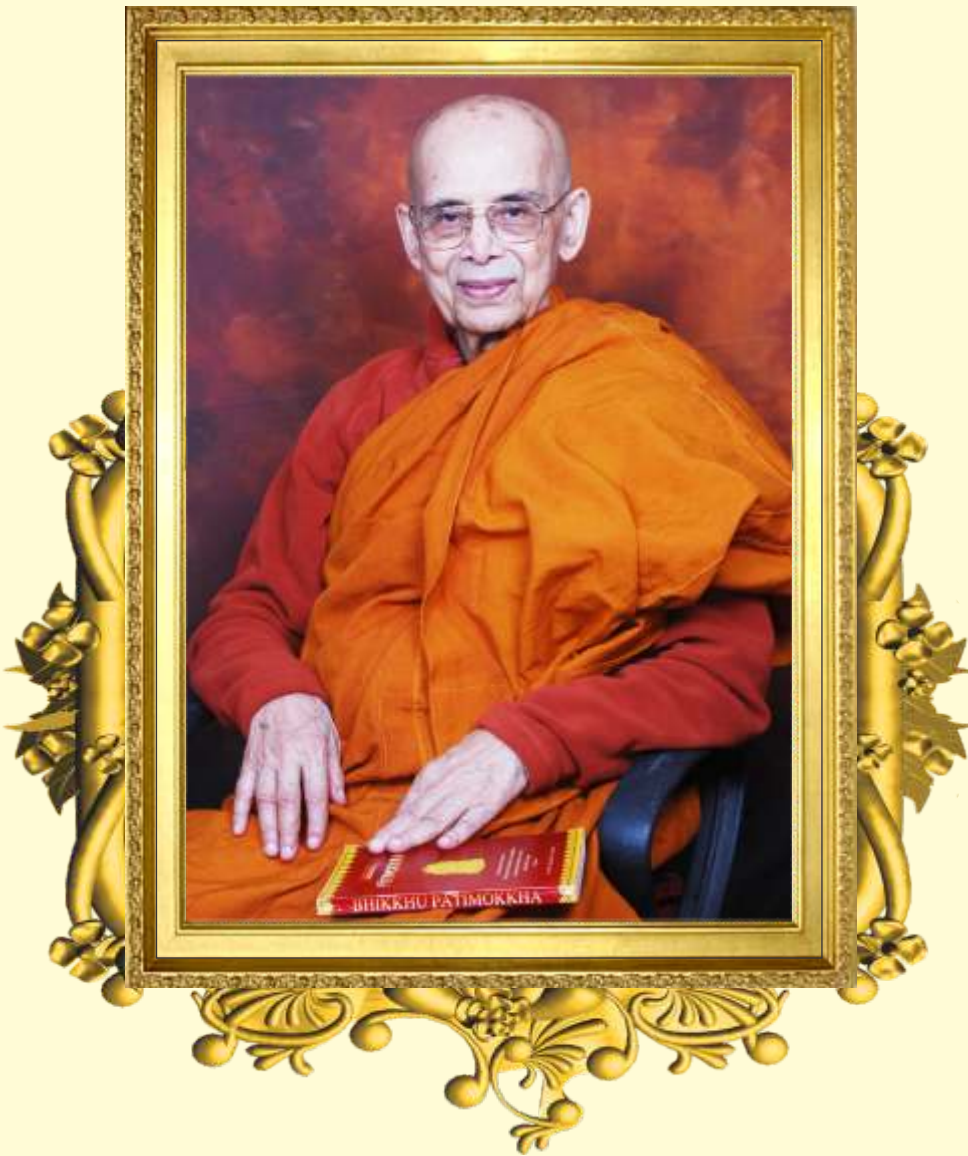
# **Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara And Bodhi Rasmi Pagoda**

*A story of the beginning and progress of a Buddhist Meditation Center*



**Bhikkhu Ananda**

Founder President



**Venerable Dr. Acharya Buddharakkhita**

Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika

Founder of Mahabodhi Organisations



# **Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara And Bodhi Rasmi Pagoda**

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14 Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore – 560 009, India

**Tel:** 080 22250684, **Fax:** 080 22264438

**Email:** [info@mahabodhi.info](mailto:info@mahabodhi.info) **Web:** [www.mahabodhi.info](http://www.mahabodhi.info)

## **Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara And Bodhi Rasmi Pagoda**

*An Offering at the Lotus Feet of Supreme Buddha*

**-Bhikkhu Ananda**

*General Secretary, Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru*

Way back in 1965, a young man was in search of meaning in life and he landed in Maha Bodhi Society where Bada Bhanteji, Most Ven. Acharya Buddharakkhita used to give discourses on Sundays. This young man eager to learn attended a discourse and it had deep impact on his mind. So he attended regularly thereafter Bada Bhanteji's discourses and became interested in spiritual matters. He was very unassuming and humble person and quietly developed strong commitment and became a sadhu with the name Chaitanya. His original name was Raghunath.

Then it was a big gap as Bada Bhanteji left to America. Though he was sadhu in some tradition, his interest in Buddha's teachings always got deeper and he started practicing Vipassana meditation in Sri Goenkaji tradition. Having been convinced about the Buddhist path he gave up other practices and became assistant teacher in Sri Goenkaji tradition. Meanwhile he visited Mahabodhi now and then. When he had heard that Bada Bhanteji had returned from the US in the year 2000 his dedication too increased deeply. By then he had donated a piece of land to the Vipassana Meditation Center in Alur village. After Bhante's return to India, one day he approached me and said that he had a land in Narasipura village near Alur and he took me to show that land. He expressed that it is his earnest wish to donate that land measuring 3 acres to Mahabodhi society so that the Society can run some Dhamma programs there.

In 2001, it was a great occasion of 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Bada Bhanteji. Lot of programs were arranged in Bangalore and Mysore. That was when Chaitanya offered that land to Mahabodhi in memory of his late father Shri Anjanappa and late mother Jyamma. To facilitate the works immediately gave a General Power of Attorney so that some activities could be developed. One day before his birthday on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2001 Bada Bhanteji visited this site with Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena and a group of Swiss and American devotees just after a retreat in Tumkur. The group consisted of Ms. Monica Thaddey, Mr. Nyaya Kurt, Upasaka Finger who later became a monk as





Bada Bhanteji taking walk in the land



The land in the beginning



Watching the Mango grove



Bada Bhanteji, Sanghasena Bhanteji with Swiss and US devotees visiting on 8-3-2001



On the first day of residence



The first day of residence by Ven. Ananda

Ven.Kaccayana, Ken and Visaka Kawasaki of USA, Mr.Gustav Buettner of Germany and other devotees. It was a historical moment as this land had been blessed by Bada Bhante's presence and blessings.

Since Bada Bhanteji and all monks became extremely busy with establishing and running Mahabodhi Monastic Institute, we could not give much attention to the development of the land. Once we thought to make it a retreat center where Bada Bhanteji would stay and conduct the retreats. We even planned some kutis and dug for the foundation. But his involvement in the monastic institute and the need of his presence within the monastery made it impossible for him to move outside. Therefore nothing was done.

Chaitanya used to ask when we would start some activities in that land. After some years once Chaitanya came and told me that since we did not do anything there he prefers to give it to another monk. We said gladly he may do so. But the very next day he called and told that whole night his mind was disturbed about taking the land back and giving to somebody else. He told that he has offered that land to Mahabodhi by pouring water and he dares not to take it back and he don't want to think like that again and asked for forgiveness. We told him that when right time comes it will be taken up. He told it is entirely our wish and we may start any time we like.

The year 2006 was very special as it was the occasion of the 2550<sup>th</sup> Buddha Jayanti and Golden Jubilee of Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru. Bada bhanteji used to think about doing something there. He established on this occasion Bhagavan Buddha University of Theravada Buddhism and one of its expansion plan was to use this land for meditation and dhamma study purpose. But it was only in the year 2008 on the occasion of Bada Bhanteji's birthday on 21 March 2008 that Bada Bhanteji laid foundation stone and called this place as Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara – Institute of Moral and Spiritual Education. After that, again it was a long gap when we could not do much there except now and then going and doing meditation.

It was somewhere in the beginning of 2010. Once Bada Bhante asked me "what is happening in that land?" I told him "nothing". He said "What? Nothing is happening there? Do something and start immediately." So that is how it started with planning. I had few meetings with our architect Mr.Aravind Upadhyaya and we made different drawings for the whole land. As we were finding the land bit small for putting all the buildings of a meditation center we were struggling to manage things. Then Chaitanya heard that we are in need of some more land and he offered immediately another one acre of land adjacent to it. That was kind of him to spontaneously offer open handedly and open heartedly. Such dana will surely bear great merits.





Ven.Buddhadatta bhante leading the alms round with monks



Ven.Sanghasena, Ven.Vajiranyano, Ven.Dhammajyothi, Ven.Tejanija,  
Ven.Rajinda, Ven.Kassapa with the Sri Lankan chanting group in the vihara

After finalizing the drawings we showed to Bada bhanteji the master plan there. He made some changes and it was finalized. It would consist of meditation hall with few rooms for monks and teachers, meditators residence building for about 50 people, kitchen and dining hall, a stupa and a bodhi tree and some staff rooms. We decided to take up the monks rooms and meditation hall first so that some monks can live there. That is how the first construction started by our devotee contractor Mr.A.Rajanna.

In 2011 we were celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Bada Bhanteji and many significant events were conducted as follows:

1. Dhammapada Festival was celebrated for 9 days to mark 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Bada Bhante from 12 to 20 March.
2. Two Night-long Paritta (protection) chanting were held on 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March. 22 monks from Sri Lanka come especially for this occasion.
3. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 – five days there were chanting course, Dhammapada chanting and in the evening Dhamma discourses were conducted. All the 9 days there were hospital dana service.
4. On 18<sup>th</sup> there was Consecration of the land at Dhammaduta Vihara.
5. On 19<sup>th</sup> there was inauguration of University building and discourse by Bada Bhanteji attended by the Governor of Karnataka Shri Hansraj Bharadvaj.
6. Totally 25 books were released on this occasion.
7. Kannada Tipitaka translation volume was released
8. 90 Dhamma talks of Bada Bhante on DVD and 90 MP3 audio CDs were released.
9. On 20<sup>th</sup> March there was inter religious seminar
11. BUDDHADASA - souvenir of 250 pages with 48 color pages was published which contains articles by monks and devotees of Bada Bhante.
12. There were over 90 monks for the program from India and abroad apart from our Mahabodhi 110 monks.
13. Over 50 foreign dignitaries participated in the functions.

To make this occasion still special we had organized a night long chanting of the paritta and we invited Venerable Gnanananda Thero and other venerable monks from Mahamewnava Monastery in Sri Lanka. We also requested Ven.Gnanananda bhanteji to consecrate the dhammaduta land. He so kindly agreed to arrange the monks to do the night long paritta chanting.





Mr.Alex getting the holy thread tied



Ven.Buddhapriya bhante teaching meditation



Mr.Rajanna taking blessings at Bodhi plantation



Ven.Buddhadatta, in charge in front of the main meditation hall with four monks rooms building



The Swiss group in the mango garden of Dhammaduta vihara



Ven.Gnanananda bhanteji giving discourse on the occasion of inauguration of the vihara



Two great donors Ms.Monica and Mr.Chaitanya listening to the Dhamma for sharing merits



Ven. Tejanya Inaugurating the meditation hall

On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2011 all the monks went to Dhammaduta Vihara and did consecration of the place for meditation hall and then chanted Ratana Sutta going around the land. Though the construction of the meditation building was slow nonetheless it went on smoothly in 2012. On the occasion of Dhammapada festival in March a group from Switzerland including Ms.Monica Thaddey had come for the retreat at Mahabodhi society conducted by Bada Bhanteji. During that time lot of discussions were made regarding the future development of the Dhammaduta Vihara.

On the occasion of Dhammapada festival 2013 March 8<sup>th</sup> the meditation hall and four monks rooms were inaugurated. We were thinking of a Buddha statue for the meditation hall and Ven.Gnanananda Thero so kindly donated a statue. That is how we received a beautiful dhyana mudra Buddha image from Mahamewnava monastery by flight in time. On July 15<sup>th</sup> Venerable Buddhadatta bhanteji and Ananda bhanteji went with a group of monks to start residence in the Dhammaduta Vihara for the first time. Ven.Buddhadatta bhanteji took his vassa there. One of the first activities started there was going for alms in the nearby villages. The villagers were more than happy to see the saffron clad monks coming in front of their houses in solemn calmness. They used to offer dana with lot of devotion.

At the Vihara meanwhile the compound wall with stone slabs was built. As water facility was to be made a structure was created to put water tank and beneath it three rooms were created.

On 8<sup>th</sup> August 2013 foundation was laid for Dhamma Vinaya building and puja was conducted by Ven.Buddhapriya Bhante and other monks. The monks went around reciting the Ratana Sutta and sharing merits with all beings. The building was finalized after so many changes and variations. Designed by the architect Mr.Arvind Upadhyaya with the guidance of artist Mr.C.Chandrasekara, Mr.Rajanna, the builder started the work with right earnest. The whole building was planned to be finished in 8 months.

There was biggest loss for Maha Bodhi Society and all others when Bada bhanteji passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013. As we were discussing about how to pay our last respects and where to cremate, it was decided that since lot of public would come and would like to participate we will cremate in the open at the Dhammaduta Vihara which Bada Bhanteji had blessed it. So accordingly a place towards east was selected and a platform built. On 27<sup>th</sup> September 2013 the mortal remains of Bada Bhanteji were consigned to flames in the presence of large gathering of holy Sangha and devotees. Since that moment the place got even more significance. People started visiting the place. On 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October merit sharing ceremony was organized





**Venerable monks doing puja at inauguration of the vihara**



**Vihara building under construction**



**Beautiful garden created**



**Construction of lotus pond around the Buddha statue donated by Rev.Ishitani**



where many people came. Ms.Monica Thaddey, Mr.Alex, Mr.Nyaya, Ms.Mechtild from Switzerland also participated and took blessings at the holy spot. It was then a discussion and planning started what kind of monument we should build there to honor Bada Bhanteji.

During this time in extra ordinary General Body meeting was held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2013 where it was resolved and placed on record the immense service Bada Bhanteji had rendered and Ven.Kassapa Mahathera was nominated as the president of the Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru. Since then he had been guiding the functions of the MBS.

In the March of 2014 as per the target to finish the Dhamma Vinaya building, the inauguration was scheduled. On the occasion of Bada bhanteji's birthday, Dhammapada festival, on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2014 we celebrated Bada Bhanteji's birthday at Maha Bodhi Society and on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014 we went to the Dhammaduta Vihara to inaugurate the Dhammavinaya building, a facility for 48 meditators to stay and meditate. This was built in record time of six months and we thought the best way to inaugurate is by conducting a meditation retreat for three days. In the inauguration the chief guests were Venerable Phrakhru Ghosit Bodisat bhante and Ven.Phrakhru Nekkhammaro from Thailand, Ven.Seevali bhante from Mahabodhi Society of India Sarnath, Ven.Ishitani from Japan, Ven.Bodhidhaja from Switzerland and our Swiss Mahabodhi group attended the program. Ms.Monica Thaddey inaugurated the Dhammavinaya building under the blessing of the holy Sangha. There was Sanghadana and then merit sharing ceremony where the land donor, Sri Chaitanya and the building donor Ms.Monica Thaddey, shared merits by pouring water. Ven.Ishitani has built by his own hands a Buddha image and he brought it from Sankarkovilam in Tamilnadu and he himself built the platform and established it.

By this time it was decided to build a Pagoda at the spot of Bada Bhanteji's cremation as a monument. As we discussed and pondered over what is the best way to honor Bada Bhanteji, it was decided that mere a monument would not serve the purpose since Bada Bhanteji was a person of practice. So it was decided to build a meditation pagoda so that thousands of people will benefit from meditation practice and their punya kamma merits will always reach Bada Bhanteji and all beings. Like that by practicing the meditation we can honor and remember Bada Bhanteji in a right way. Therefore on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014 foundation was laid for Bodhi Rasmi Pagoda by Ven.Phrakhru Ghosit Bodhisat from Thailand in the presence of large number of venerable monks including the pabbajja course monks.

At this time it was felt that there is a need to get bit more land so that the vehicles





**Landscaping of the land**



**laying of water lines**



**Lotus pond in creation**



**Meditation hall from a side view**



**Dining block under construction**



**Inauguration of the meditation hall**



**Ven. Buddhadatta with three vipassana teachers  
Sri Chikkanarayanappa, Sri Chaitanya, Sri Shivappaji**



**Monks developing the garden**

would not come inside and disturb the meditators. This was first suggested by Ms.Monica Thaddey and we felt too felt it so. After discussions with the neighbor and Sri Chaitanya we were able to manage half acre land adjacent where we could build office, registration, manager's room, STP, store rooms and large area for parking. That was another addition in 2014 which made our meditation center bit spacious.

Regarding the designing of the pagoda it was thought over several times and several types. Then it was decided that at least 54 meditation cells with central part for monks would be nice for the available space. That will serve the need of 50-60 meditators that our center can house. Several designs were made with artist Dr.C.Chandrashekar and architect Mr.Madhav Rohidekar. As I discussed with others about the pagoda I also discussed with Ms.Monica Thaddey and she always gave very valuable inputs from her experiences travelling around the world. At last the pagoda design was finalized. Mr.Shankarappa made the structural designs for this special structure.

Then came the challenge of building the upper part of pagoda in a traditional style. Regarding this I discussed this with Ven.Sayale Yasanandi and she told she can look for a Pagoda builder in Myanmar. That was a good solution as the professional pagoda builders would know the subtleties of the work.

A special puja was conducted by Most Ven.Gunawantha Munglang Sayadaw on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014 on the occasion of the first death anniversary of Bada Bhanteji and blessed the place and told that we may start the construction and it will be completed smoothly. For that he would do puja also.

From 26 to 29 December 2014 a special Patthana chanting was arranged. It is a chanting which goes on night and day non stop each monk reciting for half an hour in turns. On 27<sup>th</sup> of December there was earth breaking ceremony and kammavaca was recited by the bhikkhus and sticks were put all around the boundary of pagoda. Soon after that in the first week of January the digging work began and there was another puja on the day the first construction concrete was put. Thus the pagoda work began in January 2015 in full swing.

During 2014 regular meditation courses were conducted. Buddha Dhamma Bhavana courses were conducted by me and a ten day vipassana course for monks was led by Ven.Vinayarakkhita bhanteji and other courses were pabbajja courses for lay people and children. For conducting more children courses a dormitory to house fifty children was built above the dining hall and adjacent to it a toilet and bathing block.

To save water a Sewage Treatment Plant was planned. As per our estimation it will





On the occasion of Bodhi plantation



Planting of the Bodhi Tree



The dormitory and toilet block



Monks cleaning

purify the used water and we will get nearly 98% recycled water which will be used for gardening.

A lotus pond around the Buddha statue had been built and lotus started to bloom beautifully. This Buddha Statue was donated by Ven. Ishitani of Japan at the time of inauguration.

During that time with the hard work of Buddhadatta bhante and under the guidance of experts on horticulture we planted many plants big and small which have started yielding fruits and flowers apart from creating shade.

The next important program had been a one week program with special night long chanting by the monks from Mahamewnava Monastery, Sri Lanka on the occasion of Bada Bhante's 94<sup>th</sup> birthday Dhammapada festival in March 2015. On 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015 many monks visited the Dhammaduta Vihara and did the puja for the smooth completion of the pagoda work.

Then came another important event in the history of the Dhammaduta Vihara. That is the establishment of the sima. Ten Venerable monks from Myanmar came to establish the sima along with other Indian monks. The monks were

1. Aggamahāpandita Ven. Sayadaw Gunikabhivamsa,
2. Ubhatovibhangadhara Ven. Sayadaw Nandhobhasalankara
3. Dvipitakadhara Shwe Nant Thar Ven Sayadaw Thitala
4. Tipitakadhara Ven. Sayadaw Vasetthalankara
5. Pathamakyaw Tha-Sa-A Dhammācariya Ven. Sayadaw Obhasabhivamsa
6. Dvipitakadhara Pāliparagu Ven. Sayadaw Vepullalankara
7. Pāliparagu Ven. Sayadaw Nyanika
8. Vinayadhara Ven. Sayadaw Maghinda
9. Ven. Sayadaw Nyanadhaja
10. Venerable Bhikkhu Pamokkha

They came to establish four simas and on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 totally 27 monks did kammavaca and established Sima in Dhammaduta Vihara and the senior monk named it as Dhamma Vaddhani Sima, meaning '*the place where Dhamma increases*'. Now we are able to ordain new bhikkhus there and also conduct the Bhikkhu procedures.

Meanwhile meditation courses went on and from June 18-23, 2015 a special



## Bada Bhanteji's Funeral



**Governor Bharadvaj and Mr.Sreenivasa Prasad taking final look**



**JSS Sri Shivarathrishwara Deshikendra Swamini paying last respects**



**Sri Nirmalananda Swamini of Adi Chunchanagiri**



**All devotees participate by pulling the rope**



**Carrying the body to Dhammaduta vihara**

meditation course was conducted by Venerable Achan Dtun (Thiracitto) from Thailand with Ven. Tejanya as assistant translator. This was a significant course as the venerable Achan at the end of the course did special puja for the completion of the pagoda and benefit of meditators. By his blessings the works went on smoothly.

In July Venerable Bhikkhu Sangharakkhita took over as the in charge monk of the Dhammaduta Vihara and Ven. Buddhadatta who had so successfully developed it came to Bengaluru monastery as principal of Mahabodhi Monastic Institute. Ven. Sangharakkhita also worked hard to develop a beautiful plantation and looked after building works.

On September 24<sup>th</sup> 2015, on the occasion of the second death anniversary of Bada Bhanteji for the successful completion of the pagoda Most Venerable Gunawantha Munglang Sayadaw came all the way from Ledo Assam again to do special puja. It was a very moving ceremony where he recited the Patthana along with the Buddha qualities. Some special events happened.

After the end of the Vassa a special Kathina festival was organized on 7 and 8 November. During that time over 500 devotees from the Northeast India had come to weave the robes and offer to monks. This entire group visited the Dhammaduta Vihara and participated in a puja.

Meanwhile the pagoda was getting shape with constant changes, new ideas in different branches of construction. A good deal of research work also was involved. Mr. Nyunt Win from Myanmar came with his team of 6 workers and constructed the main upper pagoda in five months. All the seven Myanmar workers did not know any language other than Burmese and it was a challenge for everyone to work with them. With the help of Ven. Nanda bhante and a young Samanera monk who knew Burmese, the whole pagoda work was completed.

The most important suggestions we received was from Ms. Monica Thaddey who always gave valuable inputs from her experience. Be it the central part of the stupa or small Buddhas or Mahaparinibbana statue or Birth statue. Constant discussions have helped a lot to keep on improving our ideas and the construction. So also deeply involved was artist Dr. Chandrashekar who would come up daily with new ideas. It was a kind of full involvement every day throughout the construction period of the pagoda.

At last came the most important part of the pagoda, that is, the enshrinement of the holy relics of Lord Buddha and the arahats. For this we had been collecting relics from different places. Specially Ms. Monica Thaddey had collected some relics and brought



## Bada Bhanteji's Funeral



Moving the body to the spot of cremation



Lighting the funeral pyre by nine monks



Procession of the body



Puja at the Dhammaduta Vihara



The rainbow appeared around the sun as soon as the body was brought to the Dhammaduta Vihara



The funeral pyre

The body placed on the funeral pyre in a jasmine decorated canopy

and handed them to Mahabodhi during our pilgrimage earlier to holy places. A great help came from Ven.Sayale Yasanandi who went to Myanmar and visited some monasteries and monks and explained about the pagoda. Her teacher Most Ven.Jagarabhivamsa of Nagahlainggu Kalaywatawya Monastery encouraged her and extended all help. Venerable Ashin Kittivara so kindly offered a Sacred Buddha relic and Ven.Sundara (Patamyā Sayadaw) popularly called Dhatu Sayadaw offered the relics of Lord Buddha and also Holy Arahats Sariputta, Mahamoggallana, Sivali, Ananda, Maha Kassapa, Bakula. He also offered the diamond bud to be placed on the very top of the pagoda. These holy relics were brought to Bengaluru and they were safely kept. So also the Swiss devotees offered valuable ornaments to be enshrined along with the holy relics. Some devotees from Myanmar, Sri Lanka and India offered valuables to be enshrined along with the dhatus.

With regard to these holy relics one instance need to be mentioned. The holy relic sent by Ven.Ashin Kittivara was received with devotion and the small bottle casket contained only one white piece of holy relic. It was kept in safe and daily I offered worship and lighted incense stick on the top of the safety compartment. It was decided to enshrine the holy relics on the occasion of the 95<sup>th</sup> birthday of Bada Bhanteji on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Few days before the enshrinement ceremony I wanted to make sure the holy relics are correctly placed in caskets and I wanted to arrange them. When I took out the holy relic of the Buddha to my surprise there were two relics. I got confused if it was two or one relic that I had earlier received from Myanmar in the small glass casket. I called Sayale Yasanandi and she too was bit confused and contacted Myanmar to inquire. They told they had given only one piece of the holy relic of the Buddha. Now it had become two! I felt very happy as it is surely a sign of goodness.

As per the plan we started preparing for the enshrinement of the holy relics on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Many monks from Sri Lanka, Myanmar and India came for participation. There was a two day nonstop Patthana chanting in which the Myanmar sayadaws and our Mahabodhi monks participated. We had also announced to the public that those who wish to offer Buddha statues to be enshrined in the pagoda may offer the Buddha statues made in stone or metal. We got over hundred Buddha statues!

For placing the holy relics of Lord Buddha I visited Sri Lanka and with the help of Subodhi Bhante ordered and got made a beautiful silver chetiya with small gold casket within it. Along with that some small brass cetiya caskets also we managed to get. We also ordered four statues to be placed in the Sanctum Sanctorum, in the middle part of the Pagoda to worship. Another most important object was the holy





**Pagoda land consecration 28-12-2014**



**Bodhi Rasmī Pagoda foundation laying by Ven.Phrakhrū Ghosīt Bodhisāt Vajirānyāno and other monks**



**Patthana chanting 26-29 Dec 2014 led by Pamokkha bhantejī**



**Pagoda under construction April 2015**



**During the construction of the pagoda Patthana chanting was conducted**

Tipitaka. When I had requested Vipassana teacher Goenkaji to give a set of Tipitaka to be placed in the Pagoda while he was alive, he gladly offered an entire set of the Tipitaka, Atthakatha and Tika literature all together 143 volumes. Along with these books we also collected the Kannada Tipitaka series of 17 volumes. We had also collected navaratnas, navadhanya and pancha lohas. Sayale got the Satta Sattaha Buddha statues from Myanmar which are to be arranged in a particular way and placed in certain direction. We made copper plate writing in English and sent to Myanmar for translation and it was translated very beautifully by Bhaddanta Agganyanabhivamsa Mahavisuddharama Sayadaw of Mandalay. We are extremely grateful to him. The text is given at the end. All these needed things came from different eminent people and from different directions so graciously, that I felt Bada Bhante is surely influencing many things!

It was a great preparation work of properly putting all the holy relics and other objects which took nearly a day. All the objects were arranged nicely in the meditation hall led by Sayale Yasanandi. On 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015 there was a puja and then the holy objects were carried to the Pagoda in a procession by monks and lay people with great devotion carrying on the head each holy object. All the objects were kept on the platform of the Pagoda and puja was offered. Then the monks queued up the specially prepared stairs and Venerable Bhikkhu Buddhapala arranged nicely in the womb of the pagoda all the holy objects according to the procedure. While this enshrinement was going on the monks were chanting the suttas and Buddha qualities. It was one of the most enchanting moment of sanctifying the pagoda with holy objects. After the enshrinement the monks gave discourses. The special guest was Venerable Jotika Sayadaw of Oo Yin Pariyatti Sarthin Taik, College of Global Peace, Mandalay.

Thereafter the concentration was on the completion of the works for the inauguration of the pagoda on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The central part is very special which contains a small stupa in which holy relics are enshrined. It is surrounded by four Buddha images brought from Sri Lanka. On the walls of this sanctum sanctorum are placed 1008 Buddha images. On the ceiling the Sacred Tipitaka is etched on gold coloured plates. The first circle contains the Vinaya Pitaka texts from all the five books, the second and third circles contain the Sutta pitaka texts from all the five Nikayas. The following suttas are inscribed on the plates.

1. Dhammacakka pavattana sutta
2. Mahasatipatthana sutta





**Ven.Achan Dtun sanctifying the pagoda while under construction 23-6-2015**





3. Kumarapanha
4. Mangala Sutta
5. Ratana Sutta
6. Metta Sutta
7. Dhajagga Sutta
8. Mahakaccanabhaddhekaratta Sutta
9. Cula Suññatā Sutta
10. Dhatu Vibhanga Sutta
11. Sacca Vibhanga Sutta
12. Paticca Samuppada Sutta
13. Vibhanga Sutta
14. Patipada Sutta
15. Vipassi Sutta
16. Sikhi Sutta and other six Buddhas sutta
17. Anguttara Nikaya suttas
18. Khuddhaka Nikaya texts like the Dhammapada

The fourth circle contains texts from all the seven books of the Abhidhamma Pitaka.

The holy umbrellas and sacred Buddha statues to place around the pagoda were donated by the devout Myanmar devotees. All credit goes to the hard work of Sayale Yasanandi who toured Myanmar and told about the Pagoda. People came so voluntarily forward to contribute to the pagoda that too in India out of respect for our country as it is the birth place of Buddha. Their names are in the list of donors below. We have installed 1008 small Buddha statues in dhyana mudra in the sanctum Sanctorum for which Mr.Alex auf der Maur from Switzerland donated. So also Mrs.Kannika Parameshwari gave meditation cushions and Mr.Nandu More sound system. So also our upasakas Kumar and Rajaram contributed towards the gopuram. Many people have contributed with lot of love and respect for Bada Bhanteji and to do punya. A beautiful statue of Bada Bhanteji in life size which will be installed in the pagoda has been sculpted by Pushparaj under the guidance of Dr.Chandrashekar. Mr.Umesh had been of great help for any arrangement and other needs. We are grateful to all of them deeply.

Foundation laying for Dhammavinaya building



Foundation laying puja for Dhamma Vinaya



The construction team of Mr.A.Rajanna is working very hard day and night. In spite of his health problems Mr.Rajanna has been able to complete the works in time. May he and all the workers get lot of punya from building this pagoda.

No amount of our gratitude will suffice to express our thanks to Ms.Monica Thaddey, who is called Mother Monica in Mahabodhi centers. She is mother indeed not just giving the food, shelter, education to so many but she is also the giver of Dhamma. Her heart is filled with generosity all the time and for the sake of Dhamma she has been going to any extent to help people. Such persons are rare in the world. We are very fortunate to have such noble lady as our great Dayika, the giver, the mother, the advisor, the guide and the friend on the Dhamma path. We are just immensely grateful to her.

We are extremely grateful to Shri Chaitanya Raghunath ji for his generosity and very kind heartedness for offering the land. He has offered the land in the name of his parents and surely they will benefit immensely.

Since this pagoda is meant for meditation we thought we will inaugurate it by organizing a four days meditation retreat. Most Venerable Achan Dtun (Thiracitto) bhanteji from Thailand has very kindly agreed to conduct the course. The venerable monks from Myanmar are coming to enshrine the holy umbrella on the top of the pagoda. We are very fortunate to have Ms.Monica Thaddey and others from Switzerland in this function and the retreat. We are very grateful to all the people who have worked so hard to realize this project right from the design level to execution level. So many hundreds of labors have worked. May all the merits accruing from this wholesome deed conduce to their well being and material and spiritual prosperity! May all beings gain much from this noble act of building the pagoda and practicing meditation there. This is an offering at the lotus feet of our Supreme Buddha in very dear memory of our teacher Most Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita.



Sacred Bodhi Mantapa





**Kassapa bhanteji inspecting the construction**



**Ven. Ananda with Ms. Monica Thaddey, Dhammavinaya**



**Ven. Buddhapriya after laying foundation for Dhammavinaya**



Tambalipi - The text in Pali language etched on copper plate placed in the Pagoda

## **Namo tassa bhagavato arahato sammāsammabuddhassa**

### **Bodhiraṃsīcetiyaśamuppādatambapattalekhā**

Sirimato'hmākaṃ bhagavato'rahato lokanāthassa parinibbānato pacchā s a t ṭ h y a d h i k a p a ṅ c a s a t a d v i s a h a s s i m e v a s s e mahābodhidhammadūtavihāratṭhānabhūte 'narasipura' mahāmaṇḍale bengalurunāmanagarassa samīpe mahābodhibuddhavihāramajjhāvutthena bhadantamahākassapattherena bodhiraṃsīcetiyaśaññuttā cirassāraṇiyakathālekhā tambapatte lekhāpitā.

Bengalurunagare mahābodhimahāsamiti samuppādako bhadantācariyabuddharakkhitattherapādo idāni 'Indiyaratṭham'īti voharite mahābhārataratṭhe sabbaññubuddhadesitasaddhammānaṃ punasamupattiyā virūḷhiyā samujjotiyā cādhimattatibbacchando ahosi. Teneva ca so mahātherapādo "mahābhārataratṭhasmiṃ, jotetu buddhasāsana"nti punappunamudānamudānesi, na kevalaṅca mahāthero udānamevudāneti. Api ca kho so mahāthero yathājjhāsayaṃ yathācchandasāṃ mahābharate tattha tattha ṭhāne sambhule buddhavihāre patitṭhāpesi. Daliddhānāthānaṃ janānamatthāya vejjasālāsenāsanamaṇḍapapapāvāpyūdapānādyūpakaraṇāni kārāpesi. Buddhadesitadhammavinayānaṃ pattharaṇāya piṭakapāliyo iṅgalisabhāsāya parivattetvā, muddhāpetvā ca pattharāpesi. So mahāthero uccakammāni karontoyeva vinayācārayuttānaṃ pesalānaṃ bhikkhūnaṃ samuppādāya adhisīlasikkhāsamaḍāpanaṃ pariyattiganthavācanaṅca bhīyoso mattāya accārabhi. Bhadantācariyabuddharakkhitamahāthero bāvisādhikanavasatekasahassime kharistavasse jāyitvā terasādhikadvisahassime vasse divasaṅcārikamakāsi.

Mahātherassa divasaṅcārikācaraṇato paṭṭhāya pañcadināni buddhabhāsita-parittadhammabhaṇaṇaṃ, dhammabhāvanārambhaṇaṅca karonti. Mahātherassa yathājjhāsayaṃ buddhadesitānaṃ dhammavinayānaṃ virūḷhiyā vijjotiyā ca tattha tattha vihāre kammaṭṭhānabhāvanārāmaṭṭhānaṅca patitṭhāpesi. Mahātherassa antimaggijjhāpanatṭhāne "bodhiraṃsi"nāmacetiyaṃ sammāpūjanatthāya bhāvanākammārambhaṇatthāya ca patitṭhāpesi. Cetiyaśa kūṭaṭṭhāne sabbaññubuddhassa ceva buddhasāvākārahantānaṅca nānādhātuyo sammāṭṭhāpanamakāsi.

Bodhiraṃsīcetiya-patitṭhāpanakamme padhānapuggalo Switzerland ratṭhe mahopāsikā Monica Thaddey bhavati. Sā buddhādiratanattayabhattiya matīva





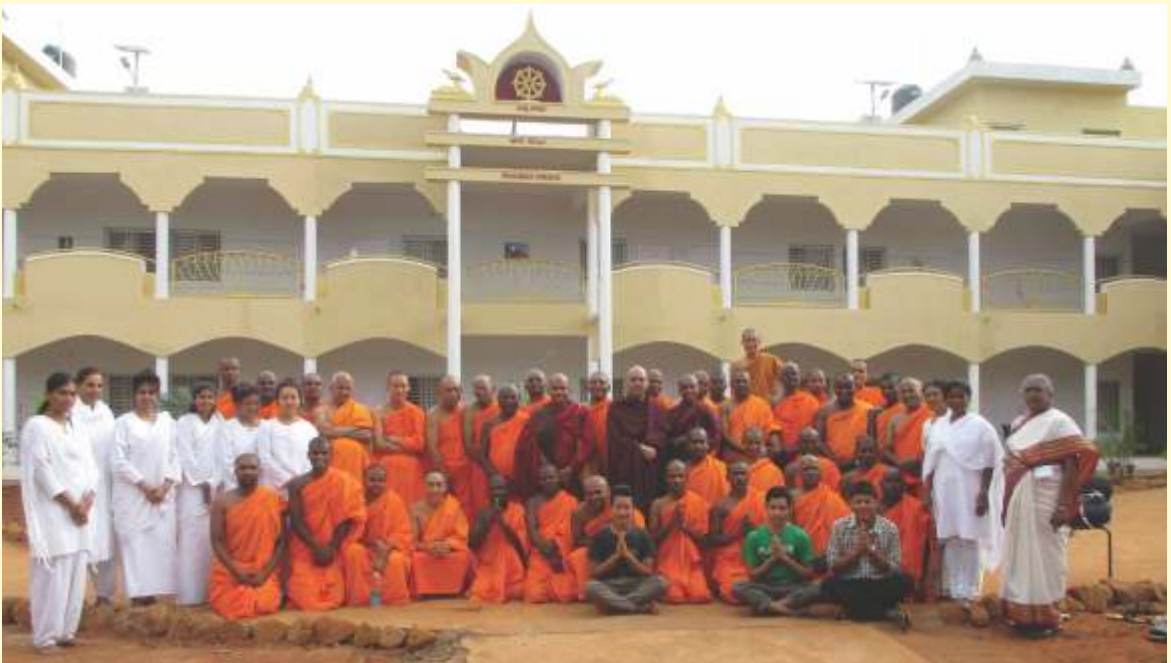
**In the gardens**



**Arrival of Monica and Alex for the inauguration of the Dhamma Vinaya**



**Chanting of Ratana Sutta**



**Pabbajja course**



saddhā pasannā hutvā devasikam . kammaṭṭhānabhāvanārambhaṇaṃ parittadhammabhaṇanañcākāsi. Imasmim manussaloke buddhasāsanāyattadhurāni niccamāvahantī ca sambhavati. Ratanattaye, bhadantācariyabuddharakkhitathere ca pasannattā bodhiraṃsacetiyapatitṭhāpanattham . sammodamānā mahādānamakāsi. Evarūpena pubbhaṅgamapacurapuññakammena mahopāsikā, aññēpi cānuvattakā rajatakahāpanaṇaṇiratanabuddha paṭimācetiya chattādivatthudāyakā vattādukkhato khippameva pamuccantu.

Bodhiraṃsacetiyapatitṭhāpane saṅkharānavidhinā saha cetiyapatibimbachāyārūpaṃ bhadantācariyānandādayo Therā Chandrashekara nāma upāsako Madhava nāma upāsako ca likhanti racayanti. Cetiya patitṭhāpanakaṇḍe bengalurunagaravāsī Rajanna nāma puggalo marammaratṭhiko visukammasippī U Nyunt Win nāmako puggalo ca dhorayhabhāvena pāsādikadassanīyacetiya bhāvaṃ pattuṃ samārabhiṃsu.

Evam cetiyapatitṭhāpanāyattakammakāra kānaṃ mahāpuññabhāgaṃ sabbasattānaṃ bhājema. Cetiya dassa natṭāya bhāvanākammārambhaṇatṭhāya cāgatā sappurissā puññapattiṃ paṭilabhantu. Bhāvanākammayogino bodhiraṃsacetiyassa sītacchāyāyaṃ yathāsukhaṃ maggabrahmacariyaṃ samācarantu.

Bhadantācariyabuddharakkhitamahātherassa pañcanavutivassāyukajātadivase buddhādīnamatṭhidhātuvare, aññāni ca paṇītaratanavattūni antocetiyaṃ patitṭhāpetvā vijāyanasaraṇussavaṃ soḷasādhikadvisahassime kharistavasse tatiyaṃ māse vīsati madine karoma. Bodhiraṃsacetiyassa suvaṇṇacchattaṃ tasmimyeva kharistavasse chaṭṭhamāse chabbīsati madine karissāma. Athāparaṃ bhāvanākammārambhaṇussavañca niccaṃ saṅkharissāma. Imā niravasesā puññapattiyo amhākaṃ mahopakāra kassa anaṅtaguṇasampannassa bhadantācariyabuddharakkhitamahātherassa bhājema. Mahātheravaro vattādukkhato khippameva vimuccatūti. Thatheva sabbesaṃ sattānaṃ imaṃ puññaṃ bhājema. Imaṃ mahāpunnaṃ nibbānassa paccayo hotu!

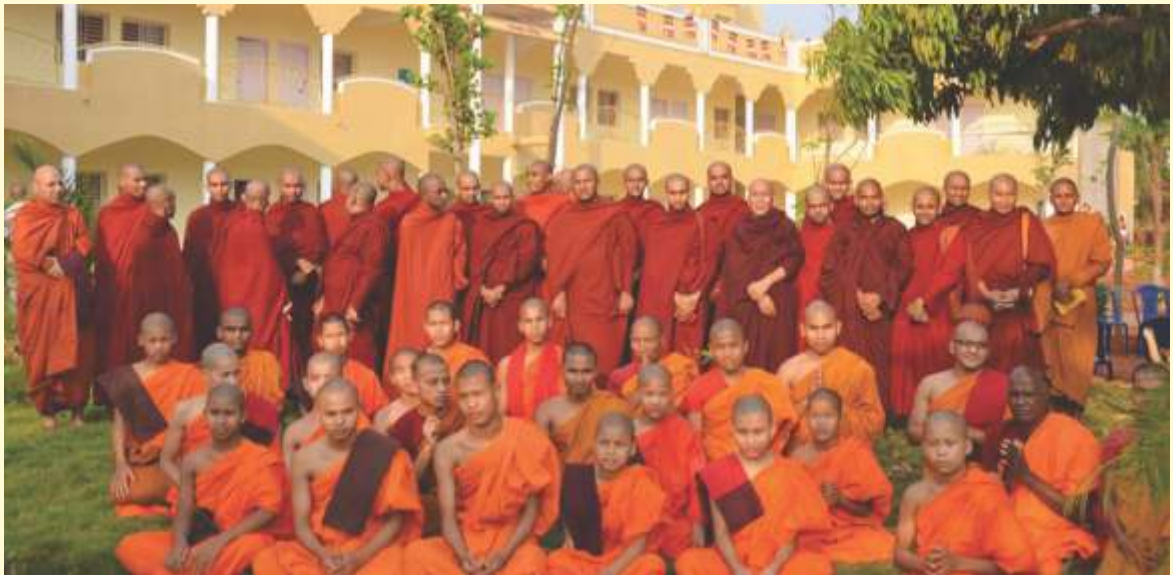
**Ciraṃ tiṭṭhatu lokasmiṃ sammāsambuddhassa sāsaṇaṃ**



The first course of the center participated by Monica and swiss group



Ven.Achan Dtun in meditation hall



Pabbajja course



Ven.Ananda leading Buddha Dhamma Bhavana course participants

*Translation of the Tambalipi – copper inscription into English*

**Namo tassa bhagavato arahato Sammasambuddhassa  
BODHI RASMI CETIYA SACRED RELIC ENSHRINEMENT**

In the year 2560 years after the Mahaparinibbana of the Supreme Lord Bhagava Buddha, this script is written at Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Buddha Vihara in the village of Narasipura near Bengaluru City by the chief of the Mahabodhi Buddha Vihara, Kassapa Mahathera.

It was the wish of Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita, the founder of Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru, to bring back Buddha Dhamma in India. His motto was 'Jotetu Buddha Sāsanam Bhāratasmim Raṭṭhasmim'. In keeping with this wish, he started Buddha viharas all over India and to serve the poor and the needy he started several schools, hostels, hospitals. To propagate the Buddha Dhamma he also translated the original Pali suttas into English and wrote many books. But his main emphasis was on training of the monks who are established in the Vinaya and study of the Dhamma. He was born in 1922 and passed away in 2013.

After his death, five days there were chanting and meditation going on in all the Mahabodhi centers. On the fifth day he was cremated at Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Buddha Vihara. To keep his wish of revival of Buddha Sasana, Dhamma Vinaya meditation center has been built in the Vihara. Now on the spot of his cremation this Bodhi Rasmi pagoda has been built for meditation and devotion. This Bodhi Rasmi meditation pagoda accommodates 60 people to sit in sunyagaras and meditate peacefully. At the top of the pagoda the sacred relics of the Buddha have been enshrined along with the Agga Savaka Dhatu and Arahanta Dhatus. Also enshrined are the holy Tipitaka books, Satta Sattaha Buddha rupas and other Buddha rupas. Faithful puja is offered with the valuable jewelry and stones for the welfare of all beings, specially Nagas, Yakkhas, Devas living in the vicinity.

The main donor of this Bodhi Rasmi Pagoda is Maha Upasika Monica Thaddey of Switzerland country. She being very devout upasika practices meditation daily and chants the paritta suttas and helps the Sasana work all over the world. She has deep faith in the Triple Gem and the Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita and with joyful heart she has contributed to the construction of this Pagoda. May she get lot of merits and may she progress on the path of Nibbana and be liberated from all sufferings!





**Pabbajja course**



**Regular courses for monks of Mahabodhi for one week**



**Establishment of Sima 21-5-2015**



**Sima sammuti**

Many other upasakas and upasikas have also contributed donations to build this Pagoda. Several devotees donated dana of Buddha rupas and umbrellas for the pagoda along with jewelry. May they also earn lot of merits and may they be liberated from all sufferings!

Bhikkhu Ananda, other monks, Upasaka Chandrashekara, Upasaka Madhav worked to plan and design the pagoda and main builder Rajanna of Bengaluru and U Nyunt Win from Myanmar built it beautifully. May they all gain much merits and be free from suffering of Samsara from this punya.

May all those who come here to meditate be successful in their Dhamma practice and enjoy peaceful atmosphere in this Bodhi Rasmi Pagoda! May all beings share the merits of this punya kamma.

The relics and other holy objects are enshrined in the pagoda on the occasion of 95<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita, celebrated as Dhammapada Festival on 20 March 2016. The holy umbrella for the Pagoda will be fixed and the Pagoda will be inaugurated on 26 June 2016. Thereafter regular meditation retreats will be going on.

May our respected teacher and founder Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita share all these merits and may he be fully liberated!

May all beings gain merit from this punya kamma and may all beings be free from suffering!

### **Ciram titthatu lokasmim Sammasambuddha Sasanam!**







**Munglang Sayadaw planting a tree**



**Blessing puja by Munglang Sayadaw on 24-9-2014**



**Munglang bhante blessing the site 24-9-2014**



**Munglang Bhante in deep meditation in the Vihara**



**Munglang bhante putting foundation stone on 24-9-2014**



**Most Ven. Munglang bhante doing puja at the center of the pagoda during construction 24-9-2015**





Ven.Ananda reading the copper inscription



Ven.Buddhapala carrying the main casket



Ven.Dhammadatta carrying the main casket



Ven.Sangharakkhita carrying the main casket



Putting the Casket into the Pagoda



**Large number of monks participation**



**Monks passing on the objects to the top of the pagoda**



**Pagoda stairs**



**Patthana chanting inside the pagoda**



**Pagoda ready for dhatu enshrinement**





A section of devotees



Devotees carrying the holy objects before enshrinement three rounds around pagoda



Holy objects carried three rounds around pagoda



Holy objects placed on the platform of the pagoda



Holy objects ready to be taken to the pagoda



Holy relics are placed in the golden casket with valuables around



Inside placement of the holy objects



Kassapa Mahathera carrying the main casket





## Maha Bodhi Society

14, Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009, India

Tel: 09731635108, 09343158020

Email : info@mahabodhi.info, www.mahabodhi.info



*We cordially invite you with family and friends  
to attend the auspicious program of*

*Inauguration of the*

## **BODHI RASMI PAGODA**

*Enshrinement of Holy Umbrella and  
Diamond Bud on the top of the Pagoda*

*Inauguration of the*

## **Bodhi Prakara**

**On Sunday, the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

At

Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Buddha Vihara  
Village: Narasipura, Dasanapura Hobli,  
Bengaluru North

In the sacred memory of

**Most Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita**  
Founder of Mahabodhi Organizations

**Week-long Paṭṭhāna Chanting**  
**18 - 25 June 2016**

*Yours,*

President, Monks and Members  
Mahabodhi Organizations



## PROGRAM

8:30 AM

### Enshrinement of the Holy Umbrella and the Diamond Bud

On the top of the Bodhi Rasmi Pagoda

*By the most Venerable Monks*

**Ven.Sayadaw Nandhobhasalankara**, Ubhatovibhangadhara

**Ven Sayadaw Shwe Nant Thar Thitala**, Dvipitakadhara

**Ven.Sayadaw Vasetthalankara**, Tipitakadhara

**Ven.Sayadaw Obhasabhivamsa**, Pathamakyaw Tha-Sa-A Dhammācariya

**Ven.Sayadaw Vepullalankara**, Dvipitakadhara Pāliparagu

**Ven.Sayadaw Nyanika**, Pāliparagu

**Ven.Sayadaw Maghinda**, Vinayadhara

**Ven.Sayadaw Nyanadhaja**, Dhammācariya

10:00 AM

### Sanghadana

Lunch offering to the Sangha by lay devotees

11:00 AM

Inauguration of

## BODHI RASMI PAGODA and BODHI PRAKARA

By

**Ven.Achan Dtun (Thiracitto)**, Thailand

Meditation Teacher

*Chief Guest*

**Ms.Monica Thaddey**

President, Mahabodhi Metta Foundation, Switzerland

*Presided by*

**Ven.Kassapa Mahathera**

President, Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru

*The following Monks of Maha Bodhi Society Bengaluru  
and its branches will participate on the occasion*

**Ven.Sayadaw Panyananda,**

Teacher and Guide, Mahabodhi Monastic Institute, Bengaluru (MMI)

**Ven.Bhikkhu Janinda,** Teacher, MMI

**Ven.Bhikkhu Ariyawamsa,** Teacher, MMI

**Ven.Bhikkhu Vijaya,** Teacher, MMI

**Ven.Bhikkhu Pamokkha,** Teacher, MMI

**Ven.Bhikkhu Panyarakkhita,** Chairman, Mahabodhi Arunachal Branches

**Ven.Bhikkhu Panyaloka,** Director, Mahabodhi Namsai Branch

**Ven.Bhikkhu Dhammaloka,** Director, Mahabodhi Mysore Branch

**Ven.Bhikkhu Sangharakkhita,** Treasurer, MBS

**Ven.Bhikkhu Buddhadatta,** Principal, Mahabodhi Monastic Institute

**Ven.Bhikkhu Visuddhananda,** Director, Mahabodhi Chichingchera Branch

**Ven.Bhikkhu Nyanarakkhita,** Director, Mahabodhi Suknachari Branch

**Ven.Bhikkhu Buddhapala,** Director, Mahabodhi Hyderabad Branch

**Ven.Bhikkhu Nyanapala,** Asst Director, Mahabodhi Tawang Branch

**Ven.Bhikkhu Assaji,** Director, Mahabodhi Deomali Branch

**Ven.Bhikkhu Sanghadatta,** Superintendent, MMI

**Ven.Bhikkhu Dhammadatta,** Asst. Treasurer, MBS

**Ven.Bhikkhu Sunanda,** Teacher, MMI

**Ven.Bhikkhu Dhammadipa,** Teacher, MMI

**Ven.Bhikkhu Dhammajyoti,** Teacher, MMI

**Ven.Bhikkhu Sanghavansa,** Teacher, MMI

**Ven.Bhikkhu Dhammagaveso,** Asst Superintendent, MMI

**Ven.Bhikkhu Ratthapala,** Teacher, MMI

**Ven.Bhikkhu Dhammankur,** Mahabodhi School, Chichingchera

**Ven.Sayale Yasanandi,** Principal, Mahabodhi Gotami Nunnery, Bordumsa

**Ven.Sayale Uttamanyani,** Teacher, MMI



## Special Invitees

**Ven.Bhikkhu Tejapanyo**, New Zealand  
**Ms.Marianne Finger**, Switzerland  
**Mr.Alex auf der Maur**, Switzerland  
**Mr.Kurt Nyaya Haverkamp**, Switzerland  
**Ms.Mechtild Saddha Jecker**, Switzerland  
**Ms.Gaby Schweizer**, Switzerland  
**Ms.Helen Von Flue**, Switzerland  
**Ms.Barbara Thaddey**, Switzerland  
**Miss Suwaree Jenjirawatana**, Thailand  
**Miss Nara Pipatcharoenkij**, Thailand  
**Mrs Duangchai Phasomsup**, Thailand  
**Miss Atcharin Vitheethum**, Thailand  
**Mr Soe Hlaing**, Myanmar  
**Ms Wint Thu Thu Aung**, Myanmar  
**Mr Aung Win Oo**, Myanmar  
**Ms Myint Myint Ohn**, Myanmar  
**Mr Nyunt Wai**, Myanmar  
**Ms Khin Khin Kyi**, Myanmar  
**Mr.Wai Min Htet**, Myanmar  
**Ms. Daw Win Win Yee**, Myanmar

### Bodhi Rasmi Pagoda Construction Team

#### Concept and Planning :

**Ven.Bhikkhu Ananda**, Gen.Secretary, MBS

#### Supervision:

**Ven.Bhikkhu Sangharakkhita**, Dhammaduta Vihara, Bengaluru

Artist & Design: **Dr. C. Chandrashekar**

Architect: **Shri Madhav Rohidekar**

Structural Engineer: **Shri Shankarappa**

Construction: **Shri A.Rajanna**

Pagoda Engineer and Builder: **Mr. Nyunt Win**, Myanmar

Buddha Statues & Bada Bhante Statue: **Pushparaj M**

Stone Works: **Jagannath**

Sculpture: **Krishnappa**, Mysore

Steel works: **Arul**

Bodhi Prakara Design: **Ishara and Partner**, Sri Lanka

Advice : **Ven.Bhikkhu Subodhi**, Mahamewanava Monastery Sri Lanka



1008 Buddha statues on walls of pagoda, donated by Mr, Alex

## List of Donors

### Donors from Switzerland

1. Ms. Thaddey Monica Antonia
2. Mr. Auf der Maur Alex Karl
3. Ms. Schweizer Kung Gabriela Ursula
4. Mr. Müller Rudolf Eduard
5. Ms. Alexandra Nadia Städelin
6. Ms. Seemann Petaja Leena Katriina
7. Ms. Spielhofer Giuliani Hildegard Anna
8. Ms. Bucher Irena
9. Ms. Marianne Finger-Jenni
10. Ms. Thaddey Barbara
11. Ms. Von Flüe Helene Marie
12. Ms. Jecker-Rieder Mechtild Maria
13. Mr. Haverkamp Kurt
14. Ms. Panzer Silke
15. Ms. Agatha Morand
16. Mr. Schweizer Christian Matthias

### Donors from Myanmar

17. Ven. Sundara (Patamya Sayadaw) - 1 diamond bud
18. U Soe Hlaing + Daw Mya Sein – jewelry, 1 statue, 3 umbrellas
19. Myat Man chan su family – ovdapatimokkha
20. Daw Yasanandi
21. Daw Soe Soe Win, Son - Mg Khant Myat + Ma Ni Ni - main Umbrella
22. U Nyunt Wae + Daw Khin Khin Kyi - 1 umbrella 1 stupa
23. U Soe Myint Lwin + Daw Khin - 1 Umbrella 1stupa
24. Cho Lat, Son Bone Shan Wint Lttae
25. U Hla Myint + Daw Tin Tin Htoo - 1 stupa
26. U Luphae Win + Daw Than Myint - 2 umbrella

27. Daughter Daw Phyn Phyn thnat
28. Daw Men Mu Thant, Daughter - 1 umbrella
29. Ma Wint Thu Thu Aung
30. Daw Than Nyunt - 1 umbrella
31. U Khin Mg Lin + Daw Than -1 umbrella
32. Tnan Hlay Family
33. U Hlun Lwin + Daw Nilar - 1 umbrella family
34. U Htun Htun Win + Daw Theigi Htun - 1 umbrella
35. Daughter Yun Su Wae + Hlet Hmue Yati
36. U Myint Aung + Daw Nyo Nyo - 1 umbrella family
37. U Aung Myint Family – 1 umbrella
38. U Aung Myat + Daw Soe Soe Maw – 1 umbrella family
39. U Aung Myint + Daw Thet Thet Swe – 1 umbrella family
40. U Kyaw Khant Daughter - 1 umbrella ma thet hlar swe
41. U Tin win Aung + Daw Aye Aye Khaing –1 umbrella
42. U Hla Htay + Daw Thein Myint family -
43. Daw Thin Nyunt Tin, Son Soe Paing Oo, daughter Myat Thander Haling family - 1 umbrella
44. Daw Thet Hnin Soe + Daw Marlar Ngwe -1 umbrella
45. Daw Tin Tin Aye family - 1 umbrella
46. U Win Aung family –1 umbrella
47. U Tin Ngwe Family – 1 umbrella
48. Aye Bank family - 1 umbrella
49. U Kyaw Kyaw Htun - 1 umbrella
50. Daw Lay New Naw Khin Family
51. Daw Yu Yu family - 1 umbrella
52. Daw Hnin Hnin Aye Co – President (UA) (Admin ) – 4 Status
53. Daw Maw Maw Soe (mandalay) – 1 statue
54. U Win Aung + Dr.Khin Ya Wae Aung, daughter Khin Bone Pyae
55. U Hla Myaintg + Daw San Sna Myint, daugther Hnin Ei Ei Khaing
56. U Sein Maw + Daw San San Yee, daughter Aye Su Myat Maw ,
57. Thet Su Myat Maw , San Khant Thura Maw
58. Daw Myat Mon Chan Su Family
59. Ma Poe War
60. U Mya Baw + Daw Ye Ye Ntwe, daughter Mgat Kay Khaing
61. U Aung Win Oo + Daw Myint Myint Own– 1 stupa
62. Daw May Palae– 1 stupa
63. Daw Ni Ni Khin– 1 statue
64. Ma Hnin Ei Ei Khaing– statue
65. Nan Pyar Nyein Thar– 1 Baby Buddha
66. Daw Khin Aye Win + Ma Khaing Gyi
67. Ko Win Hlaing Aye
68. U Aung Win Oo + Daw Myint Myint Own– 1 statue
69. U Tin Win Thet + Daw Myint Myint– 1 statue
70. U Soe Nyunt + Daw Hla Hla Moe– 1 statue
71. U Hla Tin + Daw Khin Aye Hlaing– 1 statue
72. U Win Mg + Daw Yin Yin Myint– 1 statue
73. U Lay Naing + Daw Than Than Myint– 1 statue



### **Donors from Indonesia**

74. Song tong Sen & Family, Indonesia
75. Ambi & family, Indonesia
76. Vivi & family, Indonesia
77. Silvia, Indonesia
78. Acit & Family, Indonesia
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109. Meri, Indonesia

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113. Veena Kumar, Bangalore
114. Lalit Gedam & Mothe, Bangalore
115. Dr. M. Gridhar, Bangalore
116. Shilendra, Hyderabad

117. Mrs,Ramani kangaraaracchi & family, Sri Lanka
118. Aditya Bodh, Bangalore
119. Shailendra, Hyderabad
120. Daw Nanaye Aye, Myanmar
121. Sarayu Rakshita, Sandya, B V Rajaram, Bangalore
122. Venkateshappa. A.N, Bangalore
123. Cheluvvaraj, Bengaluru
124. Mr.K.Kumar, Bengaluru
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148. Ms. Samrudhi Maurya
149. Mr. Naushad Solanki ( Chairman)
150. Mr. Mahindra Chakma
151. Mr. M. Vasudave
152. Mr. Gowtham S.
153. Mr. Right Cause
154. Mr. Mandeep Baruah
155. Mr. Amit
156. Mr. Haumantaraya
157. Mr. Kunal
158. Mr. Nawang Rig Sal
159. Mr. Sukkho Chakma

Apart from the above some have contributed in kind and work. We are grateful to one and all. May all the merits conduce to further progress of all the donors on the path of Nibbana!

Nibbanassa paccayo hotu!

## **Inauguration of the Bodhi Rasmi Pagoda**

**26-6-2016**

It was a peaceful Sunday on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and the group of monks and hundreds of lay people landed in the Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara, Narasipura, for the inauguration of the Bodhi Rasmi Pagoda. The most **Ven.Achan Dtun (Thiracitto)** from Thailand who is direct disciple of Achan Chah, and the following group of monks from Myanmar participated and did the honor of inaugurating the pagoda in a traditional way.

**Ven.Sayadaw Nandhobhasalankara**, Ubhatovibhangadhara

**Ven Sayadaw Shwe Nant Thar Thitala**, Dvipitakadhara

**Ven.Sayadaw Vasetthalankara**, Tipitakadhara

**Ven.Sayadaw Obhasabhivamsa**, Pathamakyaw Tha-Sa-A Dhammācariya

**Ven.Sayadaw Vepullalankara**, Dvipitakadhara Pāliparagu

**Ven.Sayadaw Nyanika**, Pāliparagu

**Ven.Sayadaw Maghinda**, Vinayadhara

**Ven.Sayadaw Nyanadhaja**, Dhammācariya

The inaugural ceremony included mainly the fixing of the holy umbrellas on the top of the pagoda, inauguration of the inner sanctum sanctorum and Bodhi Pakara and Buddha statues. The program started with monks and lay people gathering in the main hall. The lay people undertook nine precepts and then puja was done.

All the monks and lay people then carried the holy umbrellas and other sacred objects in a procession to the pagoda. The honor of carrying the Sasan Flag was done by Chaitanya, the donor of land and Mr.Hlaing from Myanmar. The honor of carrying the diamond bud was done by Ms.Monica Thaddey and Mr.Alex. After going around the pagoda for three rounds chanting the nine qualities of the Supreme Buddha everybody settled in the pendal.

Then it was time to arrange the rope carriage to carry the main holy umbrella which was arranged by Mr.Nyunt Win of Myanmar, who had also built the top part of the



## Inaugural procession of holy umbrellas



Mr.Alex and Ms.Monica Thaddey carrying the diamond bud in the procession



Myanmar devotees taking holy umbrellas to the pagoda



Ven.Achan Dtun and other Venerable monks doing puja before taking the holy umbrellas to pagoda

pagoda. The monks pulled the first rope and piece by piece the umbrella parts were sent up and they were fixed. There was chanting of the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha qualities by the Mahabodhi monks. Then at last the diamond bud was sent and fixed. After the main umbrella 24 smaller umbrellas were carried to fix to the small pagodas all around. The Mahabodhi monks carried and fixed these umbrellas. Then all the monks and lay people went in front of the Pagoda and Ven.Achan Dtun unveiled the inaugural stone and inaugurated the pagoda.

This was followed by the Sanghadana offered by several devotees. After the lunch of the monks the second part of the inaugural program started. All the monks and lay people gathered at the newly built Bodhi Pakara – platform around the holy Bodhi Tree. After chanting the Supreme Buddha's victory verses and lighting the lamps it was consecrated by the monks.

Everybody then came to the statue of the Birth of the Buddha, donated by Ma Nan Pyae Nyein Thar of Myanmar and installed in the middle of the garden. The statue was inaugurated by chanting of the '*Aggo hamasmim lokassa...*' verse, the first words of the Buddha at his birth. Then everybody proceeded to another spot in the garden to inaugurate the Mahaparinibbana statue of the Buddha which was done by chanting the last words of the Buddha '*Handadani bhikkhavo amantayami vo, Vayadhamma sankhara, appamadena sampadetha*'. The Statue is donated by U Htay Hla and Daw Khin Mar Shwe, daughter Dr.Htay Thet Mar, Ma Khin Thu Zar Htay Hla and grand daughter Ma La Won Thar of Mandalay.

After these solemn inaugurations everybody went to the Pagoda to inaugurate the inner sanctum sanctorum. Puja was done by chanting of the paritta suttas. The inner sanctorum consists of a small stupa with Dhatus, four bigger Buddha statues, 847 smaller Buddha statues mounted on the wall around and Tipitaka ceiling – texts from Vinaya, Sutta and Abhidhamma pitakas engraved on gold plated sheets. It was very touching ceremony and then monks and lay people went below to inaugurate the statue of Bada Bhanteji Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita. It is a realistic statue made by Mr.Pushparaj under the guidance of Dr.Chandrashekar.

After inaugurating the pagoda it was time for the Dhamma teachings. Most Ven.Nandobhasalankara Sayadaw gave a Dhamma talk wherein he emphasized the need of practicing the Dhamma in its three ways, viz. morality, concentration and wisdom. Then Ven.Achan Dtun gave an inspiring teaching on purification of the mind. He emphasized on the practice of kusala actions and then meditation. It was followed



## Raising of the Holy Umbrellas



Inauguration of Bada Bhante statue



Ven.Achan Dtun inaugurates by unvailing the stone.  
Ms.Monica Thaddey, Ven.Kassapa Mahathera and others look on



Venerable monks pull the rope to raise the holy umbrella





by presentation of mementos to all the guests and contributors to the pagoda. Ven.Ananda introduced them to the public.

Then the main donor of the Pagoda Ms.Monica Thaddey spoke and told how the plan to build the pagoda was conceptualized and how it came up with the efforts of Ven.Ananda and her wish that it will be used for meditation by many people. She thanked profusely the venerable monks who came for the ceremony. Then in his presidential speech Ven.Kassapa Mahathera, the president of MBS, Bengaluru, said that it is great privilege to pay respects to Bada Bhanteji on this spot by building a meditation pagoda. He thanked all the venerable monks and Ms.Monica Thaddey and the Swiss group who had come all the way to participate. So also many people who came from Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka and some from faraway places. The last part was the merit sharing ceremony. All the donors poured water and shared merits with all beings and specially those who have passed away in their families. Thus the beautiful opening ceremony concluded bringing joy in everybody's heart.

Since this is a meditation pagoda, a 4 day meditation retreat was organized and Ven.Achan Dtun conducted the retreat. There were 58 people participating in the retreat including the 9 venerable monks from Mahabodhi, 8 Swiss people and others from all over India. To be the first participants of the meditation retreat was a great privilege to everyone and the Achan gave inspiring Dhamma talks and guidance and taught meditation meticulously.

May all beings share the merits of all these noble actions! We share merits with Bada Bhanteji Ven.Acharya Buddharakkhita. May he be fully enlightened!



## The Magnificent Pagoda



Achan Dtun meditating inside the Pagoda



The magnificent Sanctum sanctorum



The Swiss group





## **Inauguration of Bodhi Pakara by Venerable monks**



## **Inauguration of Buddha Statues**





## Inauguration of Buddha Statues



Inauguration of the Birth of Buddha statue



Inauguration of Mahaparinibbana statue

## Meditation Retreat



58 meditators were lucky to be the first participants



Ven.Achan leading chanting for meditation participants





## MAHA BODHI SOCIETY BANGALORE



**Maha Bodhi Society, Bangalore**, is a charitable organization established in 1956 by Most **Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita** with the main objective of reviving the precious teachings of the Buddha in the land of its origin, India. Maha Bodhi Society Bangalore is dedicated for the welfare and happiness of people irrespective of religion, race, color or sex. Since its very inception the Society has been actively engaged in rendering various spiritual and humanitarian services. Today, under the able guidance and leadership of Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita, the Society has expanded its activities in different parts of India and abroad with the message of compassion. The society has established monasteries for monks and nuns, Hospitals, Meditation centers, schools, hostels, old age home, charity programs and published hundreds of Dhamma books benefiting thousands of people around the globe. Regular Dhamma teaching programs are conducted on Sundays and Diploma in Buddhist Studies is offered by the Mahabodhi Academy for Pāli and Buddhist Studies. Bhagavan Buddha University of Pali and Theravāda Buddhism is being established for higher studies.