



## TRAVEL TO THAILAND

The weather in Bangkok is equally warm and toasty year-round with temperatures from 24 to 33°C (75 to 91°F) in June. Light cottons are recommended. Visitors to the Kingdom of Thailand need passports (valid for at least six months from the date of entry). Citizens from many countries may get tourist visa exemptions or visas on arrival.

## HOW CAN I HELP?

Sponsor someone to attend the conference! Only with your help will nuns and laywomen from developing countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, Cambodia, India, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, Thailand, or Sri Lanka) be able to attend. Enlarge the circle of compassion – support a life-changing experience for a future Buddhist woman leader!

## TEMPLE TOUR

The temple tour on July 19 will take us to Ayutthaya, the ancient capital of Thailand, an hour outside of Bangkok. Located at the confluence of three rivers, Ayutthaya was a grand center of trade and government from 1351 to 1767 CE. By 1700, it was described as the largest and wealthiest city in the world. Sadly, the city was razed to the ground during the Burmese invasion of 1767, yet Ayutthaya is still the epitome of Thailand's unique cultural heritage and lifestyle. As Mae Chee Sansanee Sthirasuta's hometown, this tour will be a rare opportunity to experience the richness and beauty of Thai art and culture through a personal lens.

## DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION

Registrations must be received by May 1. Space is limited, so register early. Email: [sakyadhita@gmail.com](mailto:sakyadhita@gmail.com)

## PANEL TOPICS

Buddhist Women of Thailand

Buddhist Women of the World

Leading Buddhist Women

The Many Forms of Compassion

Lineage, Authority, Leadership

Speaking of Other Religions...

Mr. Dharma, Ms. Samsara: Challenging Stereotypes

Warming Up: Buddhist Women & Global Sustainability

New Directions for Buddhist Social Transformation

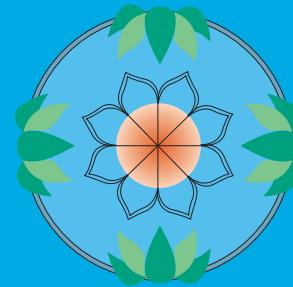
Ethics & Awareness

Peaceful Mind, Peaceful World

The Bhikkhuni Issue Revisited

Women Transforming Buddhist Temples

Practical Dharma: Linking Buddhism & Human Needs



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# Sakyadhita

12<sup>th</sup> Sakyadhita International Conference  
on Buddhist Women

Bangkok, Thailand

June 12-18, 2011

Conference Theme: LEADING TO LIBERATION



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Temple Tour ~ June 19



## *Leading to Liberation*

### THE SAKYADHITA CONFERENCES

Sakyadhita International Association of Buddhist Women continues to bring women of the world together through global conferences. Founded in 1987, Sakyadhita is dedicated to fostering gender equity, scholarship, social networking, and harmony among Buddhist women. The 12<sup>th</sup> Sakyadhita Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, will continue this tradition of uniting dedicated practitioners and allies – nuns, lay-women, and those who are neither lay nor ordained – to encourage their work for the spiritual and secular well-being of the world.

### ABOUT THAILAND

In Thailand, the Land of Smiles, visitors encounter some of the most hospitable, kind, and friendly people in the world. A joyful spirit permeates this unique country, where vibrant traditions of theatre, dance, music, and art help retain traditional culture, as they embrace fresh contemporary forms. A cheerful “sawasdee” (Good day!) is sure to elicit a glowing response from young and old.



The Kingdom of Thailand is home to 65 million people. Its four geographical regions offer breathtaking natural beauty. Bangkok, with a population of 7 million, is the political, commercial, industrial, educational, and entertainment capital of the country. While the official language is Thai, English is spoken in major tourist locations. Ethnic Chinese, Indian, Malay, Mon, Khmer, Burmese, Lao, and other groups speak a wide variety of languages and dialects.

Thailand's rich Buddhist legacy features the Grand Palace Temple and Emerald Buddha in Bangkok, the world heritage site in Ayutthaya, and Doi Suthep Temple outside Chiangmai. Attractions also include world-class beaches, river voyages, industrious elephants, botanical splendors, and trekking expeditions to tribal areas along the borders. World famous Thai cuisine tempts travelers with delicious tropical fruits, vegetarian delights, and an abundance of regional specialties.

Buddhism, the official religion, is evident everywhere in Thailand. Thousands of Buddhist images adorn innumerable temples (*wats*) that are home to a quarter of a million monks and nuns. Theravada Buddhism was introduced to Thailand during the Sukhothai period (13<sup>th</sup> century) and has enjoyed royal patronage ever since. The discourses of the Buddha (*suttas*) are chanted in Pāli and the Vinaya (monastic discipline) is held in high esteem. Saffron-robed monks on their daily alms round can be seen everywhere. The country's religious diversity is evident among the animistic hill tribe populations and Muslim majority areas in the southern provinces that border Malaysia.

### CONFERENCE LOCATION

The 12<sup>th</sup> Sakyadhita Conference will be hosted at Sathira-Dhammasathan, a learning community founded in central Bangkok in 1987 by Mae Chee Sansanee Sthirasuta. The center's programs for children, teenagers, parents, and abused women promote peace, harmony, compassion, and enlightenment among people of all ages, genders, and walks of life. The eco-friendly center is home to Savika Sikkhalaya Buddhist Institute, an education project based on experience gained from over 24 years of Sathira Dhammasathan's social services. The center is a delightful and inspiring venue for this historical gathering. Tropical gardens, lotus ponds, and outdoor pavilions offer a welcoming atmosphere for our Sakyadhita gathering.



*Photos are from the conference venue and Ayutthaya.*

