Commemorating 100th Anniversary of UOC

1st International Conference on Buddhist Studies 2021

organized by
The Department of Buddhist Studies,
Faculty of Arts,
University of Colombo

Theme

Theravāda Buddhist Scholasticism in First Millennium of Sri Lanka

Preamble

Reaching centenary hundred milestones in Sri Lankan Academic stage is a great achievement of the University of Colombo. In this memorable landmark, the Department of Buddhist Studies, being the infant of the faculty expects to organize an international conference focusing the national and international academia. We firmly believe that the academic discussions and standard publications come out as a result of organizing this conference would lead to attract the eminent scholars in the field of Buddhist Studies, thereby the blaze of glory of the University would disseminate to them.

Rationale of the theme

At present, three major schools of Buddhism along with the Early Buddhist teachings are studied world-widely. They are mainly based on four different scriptural traditions handed down in four different languages. The canonical texts belonging to the Mahāyāna school is partially preserved in Sanskrit and Classical Chinese, Vajrayāna school preserves its

successive knowledge in classical Tibetan. The Mahāvihāra being the leading school of the Theriya branch transmitted a relatively completed canon in Pāli, a Middle Indic language. Succession of the teachers of the Mahāvihāra school at Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka, were able preserve the Theriya canon of the Buddha's Teaching in its pristine purity in tandem with highly sophisticated series of interpretation of meaning over the centuries.

For any given relating to Buddhism based on Mahāyāna and Vajrayāna texts, infinite sources of funding bodies are available. In many countries in the world, especially in the Europe, scholars who are well trained in Sinology and Tibetology are introducing a great deal of research projects. They encourage their students to carry out their research on these two streams. On the contrary, within these countries, the centers that lay a heavy emphasis on Theriya Buddhist studies are quite a few. Even modern academia, Sri Lankan scholars are in responsible for perpetuating, developing and spreading the Theravāda teaching than Thailand and Myanmar. Among the Theravāda countries, leading of the tradition is heirs. Accordingly, the world seriously expects the Theravāda teaching than Mahāyāna or Vajrayāna from Sri Lankan academia.

In such circumstances, it would be great if the University of Colombo could hand down the leadership of Sri Lankan Theravāda academia by organizing a standard conference and academic interactions with the eminent local foreign scholars. Theravāda tradition has been developing for 23 centuries in Sri Lanka. Particularly, the period that compiled Pāli exegetical works was the golden era of the tradition. A number of philosophical arguments, academic debates took place during the time of scholastic were incredible. Nonetheless, such Theras' scholastic teachings have still been covered by unread exegeses. The conference aims to reveal the knowledge of the scholastic works of the Theras' the 1st century to 10th that unfolded.

Sub-topics:

- Historical background of Theriya scholasticism
- Leading figures of Theravāda scholasticism
- Theriya scholastic works in the Abhidhamma literature
- Theriya scholastic contributions in the monastic law code (Vinaya) literature
- New doctrinal orientation of Theriya scholasticism

- Creative hermeneutical strategies developed within the Mahāvihāra school
- Scholastic tenets appearing in the Visuddhimagga
- Theriya scholasticism reflected in the Sutta-commentaries

Tentative dates:

- Date of abstract submission 30th July
- Notification of acceptance 30th August
- Deadline for full papers 15th November
- Deadline for presentations 30th December
- Date of the conference (12th – January- 2022)

Guideline for Abstract Submission

Medium: Abstracts should be submitted in English
Limitation: Word range of an abstract is 250-300
Font: Times New Roman or Times Ext New Roman
Font: Title should be 14 and the body of the abstract should be 12 in size
Keywords: Maximum number of the keywords is 05
Author: The author/s of the abstract is/are requested to submit a short biography
Submission: All the abstracts should be submitted to icbsc2022@gmail.com

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