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For Non-Muslims Only

Starting 2020 with calm & clarity

1st of January 2020 was not just the beginning of a new year, but also of a new decade. Let us start the new decade with clarity on how we should spend our time, so that our lives become more meaningful and purposeful. When time is well-spent, it becomes our teacher and friend. Time devoted to developing our minds by deepening our gratitude and strengthening mindfulness will result in more peace and joy. Be faithful in carrying out our worldly duties, and also in learning and internalising the Dhamma, to make full use of the favourable supporting conditions we currently enjoy. We wish you and your loved ones a great year ahead with blessings of good health, success and happiness.





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25 – 27 October, Hulu Selangor

From 25 to 27 October, 23 Friends of Wisdom Park (FoWP) Singapore Chapter retreated to Wisdom Park for Dhamma learning and practice. Nalanda founder Bro. Tan delivered daily Dhamma teachings, encouraging everyone to temporarily disconnect from city life and tune in to nature. With the welcomed respite from hectic activities, the group strengthened their mindfulness and reflection.

Bro. Tan also taught the importance of working well together to serve Buddha-Sāsana, which became the subject of active discussions and reflections. We thank FoWP for joining us at Wisdom Park to experience for themselves the great potential of this educational campus to train future generations of Buddhists.

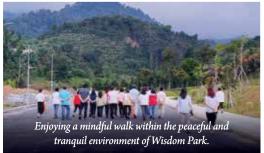














26 October, Sri Serdang

On 26 October, over 90 members of Firefly Mission Singapore, led by their President Dr. Ng Yee Kong, visited Wisdom Park to learn more about the educational facility and how they can support this noble project.

Nalanda founder Bro. Tan shared the objectives and progress of Wisdom Park's development, which greatly inspired the visitors as Firefly Mission too strongly advocates for education as a key enabler of community advancement.

We thank Firefly Mission for strengthening our long-standing friendship and camaraderie. We also thank their services by planting several trees and shrubs during the visit. *Sādhu*!















26 October, Sri Serdang

On Saturday 26 October, Nalanda Free School held its annual 'Appreciation Day' to honour its teachers and volunteers, as well as to celebrate the students' achievements.

The event highlight was the presentation of "Best Student Award", "Most Improved Student Award", and "Most Enthusiastic Learner Award". Everyone was inspired by the students' academic improvements and positive learning attitudes.

We thank the Free School's selfless teachers for making a positive and lasting impact on the students with their care and commitment. May our students continue to strive for academic excellence and cultivate wholesome values to enhance their quality of life.





















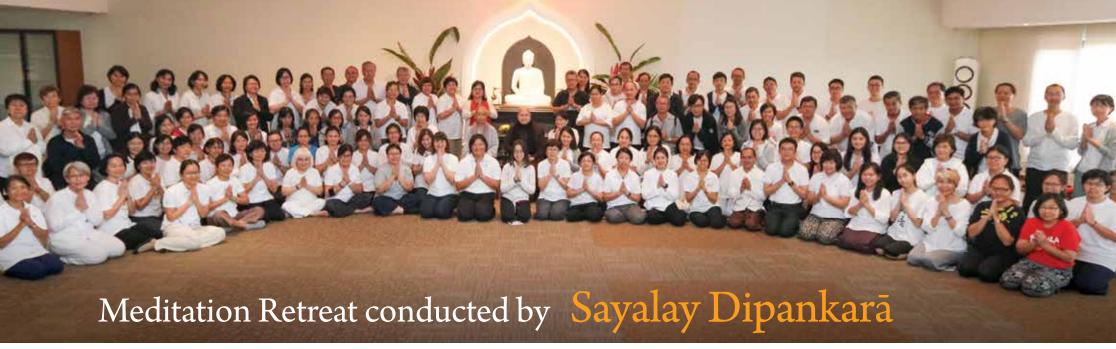




On Sunday 27 October, Nalanda Youth Centre volunteers spent a joyful day providing services at the Mon Refugee Children Learning Centre in Kuala Lumpur. This was part of the 'Silver Lining' programme, which is an avenue for Buddhist youths to offer voluntary services to the community.

After chanting and meditating together with the children, Bro. Zhen Shun gave a Dhamma sharing on the importance of keeping the Five Precepts. The children also learned the values of team-work and cooperation through fun and challenging games.

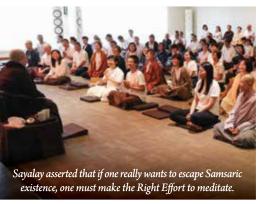
Volunteers shared how they were inspired by the children's culture of simplicity and contentment. We thank our youths and donors who contributed essential items and educational materials for the learning centre. May the children be well and happy!



16 November, Sri Serdang

On Saturday 16 November, 120 meditators gathered at Nalanda Centre to participate in the one-day meditation retreat conducted by Ven. Sayalay Dipankarā. Sayalay first advised us to imbue our minds with loving-kindness (mettā) every moment of the day. She said that just as rain falls from the top of one's head and flows through the body, even so we should let mettā start from our mind and suffuse our whole body. When we feel relaxed and at peace, we can then radiate mettā to other beings and develop concentration.

Sayalay also guided meditators on mindfulness of the breath. As taught by the Buddha, one gains calmness and concentration by being mindful. She advised us to watch out for wandering thoughts and let them pass instead of attaching to them. We extend our gratitude to Sayalay Dipankarā for her compassion in teaching us. We wish Sayalay good health, peace and happiness.











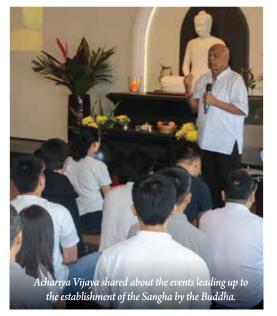












On Sunday 17 November, more than 300 devotees streamed into Nalanda Centre to pay tribute to the Mahā Sangha in our annual observance of 'Sangha Day'. This important occasion enables the Buddhist laity to express gratitude and support to the Sangha (monastic community) by offering robes and other requisites, thus practising generosity and humility through the acts of giving.

Achariya Vijaya shared that the Sangha has preserved the Buddha's teachings with their practice and propagation for over 2,600 years. Millions of people, including ourselves, have benefitted from their compassionate guidance. With understanding and gratitude, devotees presented offerings to the venerable monks with reverence. We rejoice in the wholesome contribution and participation of all devotees and volunteers. Sādhu anumodāna!





November, K.L., J.B. and S.P.

Nalanda Branches in Kuala Lumpur, Johor Bahru, and Sungai Petani commemorated 'Sangha Day' with keen participation and devotion from their communities in the month of November.

At Nalanda Johor Bahru Branch, it was the first time they were observing 'Sangha Day', bringing this wholesome programme to the south. At all three branch centres, devotees had the opportunity to listen to Dhamma talks and gain deeper understanding of the Sangha's relevance and significance.

The symbiotic relationship between the monastic and lay disciples of the Buddha is a crucial factor for the endurance of Buddha-Sāsana. We thank all devotees and volunteers for your kind contributions and support for 'Sangha Day'. Sādhu anumodāna!















Nalanda founder Bro. Tan was recently invited to participate in the "Global Buddhist Congregation 2019" – a gathering of Sangha members, Buddhist teachers, scholars and local communities – organised under the auspices of All India Bhikkhu Sangha. The event was held from 22 to 24 November, in the city of Aurangabad near to the world-famous Ajanta and Ellora Caves. The 3-day event was attended by more than 35,000 people.

Bro. Tan delivered a series of talks at this historic gathering to different groups of audiences – covering topics such as Buddhist culture being the way we live our lives; developing wealth of character in a lecture to entrepreneurs; and instilling a useful purpose of life in a talk to Buddhist youths. He also participated in discussions to revitalise Buddhism in India, which is one of Nalanda's core Dhammaduta missions. May the light of Dhamma continue to brighten in India!













From 28 November to 1 December, 80 campers gathered at Pure Karma Buddhist Centre in Ulu Tiram, Johor for Nalanda Teenagers' Learning Camp themed 'Step Up'. During the camp, participants learned about the meaning of taking refuge in the Three Jewels, and also about the Buddha's inspiring life.

The hands-on learning activities focussed on the values of respect and gratitude to help them make wiser decisions and overcome challenges in life. They were introduced to aspects of Buddhist cultivation such as daily meditation, chanting, and reflections.

We thank the Dhamma School facilitators, organisers and volunteers for enabling so many teenagers to learn and experience Dhamma. May the participants continue to develop good values and virtues throughout their lives.













A Decade of Noble Service to the Community

Ten years ago, on 11 December 2009, Nalanda Centre in Sri Serdang was ceremoniously launched in the presence of venerable Sangha members, leaders and members of the Buddhist community from all over Malaysia. Since then, Nalanda Centre has been hosting many pivotal educational programmes that have inspired and impacted the lives of thousands.

We are forever thankful to Nalanda founder Bro. Tan for his vision, foresight, and courage in leading our mission to provide holistic Buddhist education for integral human development. We are also grateful to the Society's leadership, members, benefactors, volunteers and devotees from near and far who have been supporting Nalanda faithfully over the past decade. May you rejoice in all the noble work carried out at Nalanda Centre, and be blessed with happiness, success, spiritual progress and peace.















6 January, Hulu Selangor

Construction of the Administrative Centre, Guest Lodges 03 and 04 at Wisdom Park is on target for completion by mid-2020. These buildings make up a combined floor space of 31,500 square feet, and will enable the campus to cater for larger learning groups.

In the meantime, the 'Green Warriors' – our faithful squad of volunteers who have been working hard there every weekend for the past 18 months – have planted 714 trees and thousands of shrubs around the campus. We thank all donors, benefactors and volunteers for their support and contributions which will certainly leave a noble legacy beyond our lifetime.

Sponsorship of construction costs

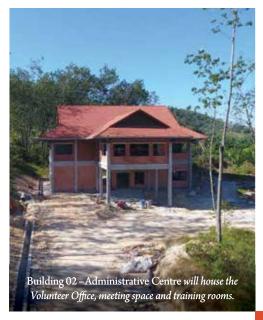
We need good Dhamma teachers and leaders to prevent Buddhism from declining. The active support of the community will enable this vital facility to be built for the effective propagation of Dhamma. We invite you to donate any amount to fund the development of Wisdom Park. Donations can be made at Nalanda Centre in Sri Serdang, or via bank transfer to:

"Nalanda Buddhist Society"

Maybank account number: 5121-4702-3622

Learn more about this noble project to bring Buddhist education to the forefront. Visit www.wisdompark.org for information and the latest updates on the project.



















Wisdom Park was buzzing with activities on 7 and 11 December as Nalandians took the opportunity to deepen their Dhamma learning and perform voluntary service. Students of the Adult Dhamma School and Nalanda members spent early part of the day working together planting trees and grass.

In the afternoon, there were learning sessions and discussions centred on the factors and qualities which enable people to work well together. As Wisdom Park will soon serve as a training campus for Buddhist teachers and leaders, it is essential to start working on these essential qualities and reflect on how we can personally contribute towards building a harmonious community.

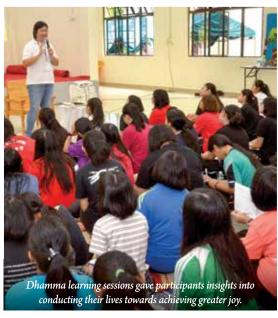
We thank our teachers and volunteers for enabling us to have a meaningful experience and to learn Dhamma at Wisdom Park. We look forward to more opportunities to support this noble project!



13 – 16 December, Kelantan

From 13 to 16 December, 120 teenagers gathered at Wat Machimmaram, Kelantan for a Dhamma camp themed "The Happiness Equation". This was the 10th camp in 8 years co-organised by Persatuan Peranakan Cina Kelantan, Persatuan Meditasi Mettārama Kota Bharu, the Dhammarakkhita Group and Nalanda Dhamma School.

Campers learned the components of true happiness, which is to be free from craving and develop kind thoughts for all beings. Through activities, they also cultivated contentment, gratitude and loving-kindness. We thank the organisers and wish the young campers continued spiritual growth and progress. Sādhu anumodāna!



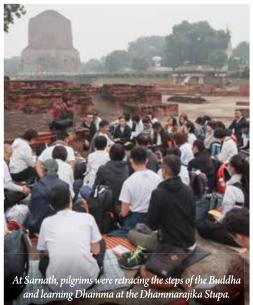


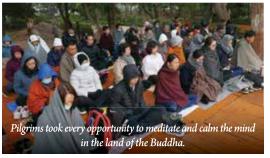


















From 14 to 28 December, 68 pilgrims embarked on 'Buddhayatra', a spiritual journey to India and Nepal led by Nalanda founder Bro. Tan. A 'Buddhayatra' is not a sight-seeing tour but a journey of faith with insightful learning, reflection, and spiritual growth, as we retrace the path taken by our Enlightened Teacher 26 centuries ago.

The pilgrims visited places associated with the Buddha's life, including Uruvela, Rajagaha, Nalanda, Vesali, Kusinara, Lumbini, Savatthi, and Isipatana near Benares. They were greatly inspired by the Buddha's compassion to relieve the suffering of beings, and their faith in the Three Jewels strengthened. Our deepest thanks and gratitude to Bro. Tan for leading the pilgrims on this journey of a lifetime.



19 – 22 December, Sri Serdang

From 19 to 22 December, 80 Dhamma School students joined the Stay-in Camp themed 'Heart to Heart' at Nalanda Centre.

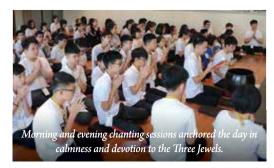
Students deepened their understanding of $D\bar{a}na$ (generosity), $S\bar{\imath}la$ (morality) and $Bh\bar{a}van\bar{a}$ (mental cultivation) through talks and hands-on activities such as preparing dinner for the poor and participating in the monthly $Pindac\bar{a}ra$ (monks on alms round).

Bonding amongst students was strengthened as they supported each other in outdoor activities and in preparations for the School Honours Day. Well done to our young students who truly embraced the spirit of learning and service!











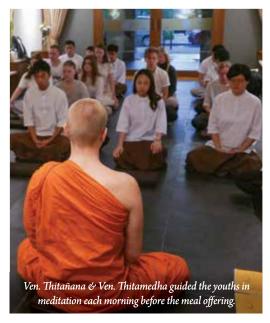




28 – 30 December, Sri Serdang

Nalandians were happy to welcome Venerable Thitañana, founder of the Estonian Therāvadā Sangha, the Venerable Thitamedha, and nine youths from the Baltic country to Nalanda Centre for an exchange programme. The group had also visited other Southeast Asian countries including Thailand, Cambodia, and Singapore to learn about Asian culture and the Buddhist way of life.

Members of Nalanda Youth Centre hosted our Estonian friends warmly, all of whom truly appreciated the rich experience of Nalandian culture and hospitality. We thank them for visiting, and wish them fruitful progress in their Dhamma journey.

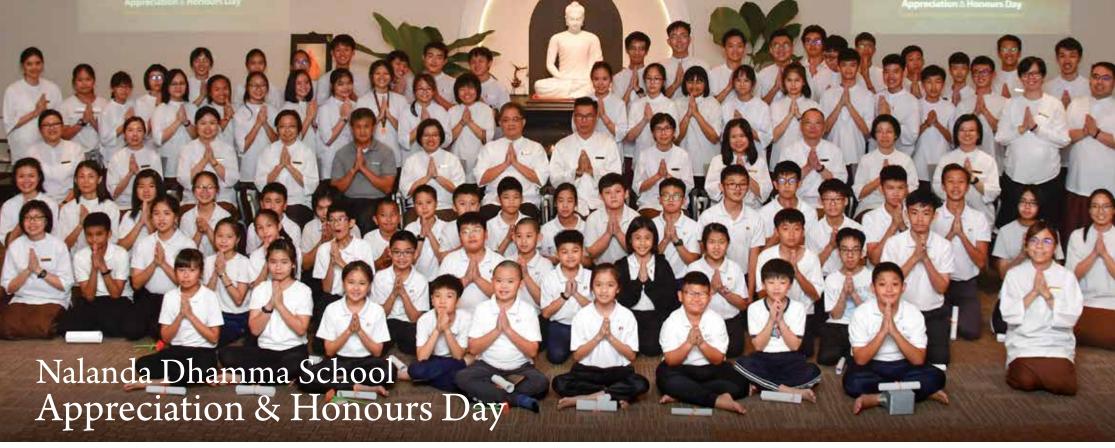












31 December, Sri Serdang

On 31 December 2019, Nalanda Dhamma School facilitators, students and their parents, alumni and guests gathered for the Appreciation & Honours Day. This annual event allows students to express gratitude to their teachers and to celebrate their progress.

We rejoiced as certificates and medals were presented to recognise the students' efforts, personal growth and selfless service. For the second consecutive year, the *Dhammavijaya Challenge Trophy* was won by Naga House.

We congratulate the School for another productive year of learning. May the Dhamma continue to take root and grow in the hearts of our Dhamma School students.











15th Anniversary of Nalanda Dhamma School

On 1 January 2020, Nalanda Dhamma School celebrated its 15th anniversary with utmost gratitude to our founder, Bro. Tan, and all benefactors for their selfless support. Since its inception, the School has focussed its efforts in performing the 'Miracle of Education', with the theme 'The Heart' of Education is Education of the Heart' as its guiding philosophy.

We have witnessed students gradually changing for the better through understanding the purpose of life. Many of its alumni are now serving the Buddha-Sāsana, advocating harmony and truthful living within their circles of influence.

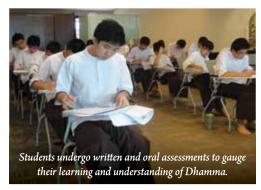
May Nalanda Dhamma School continue to guide many more students in the future towards achieving integral character development. *Sādhu anumodāna*!

















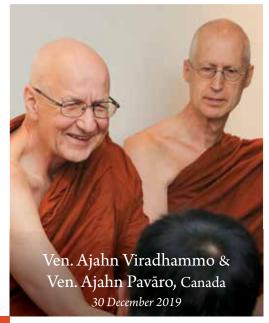


Sangha members visiting Nalanda Centre



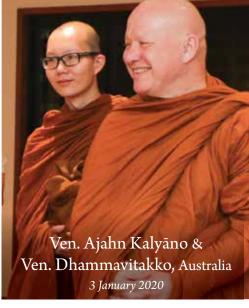




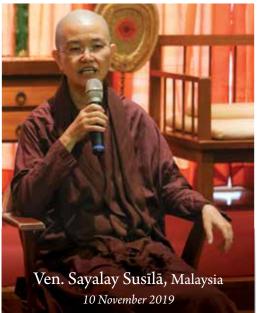


Ven. Ajahn Kāruniko, U.K.

1 December 2019

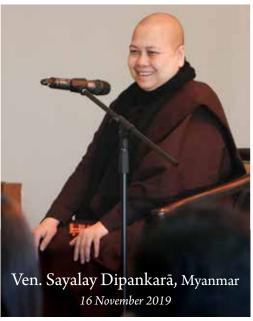




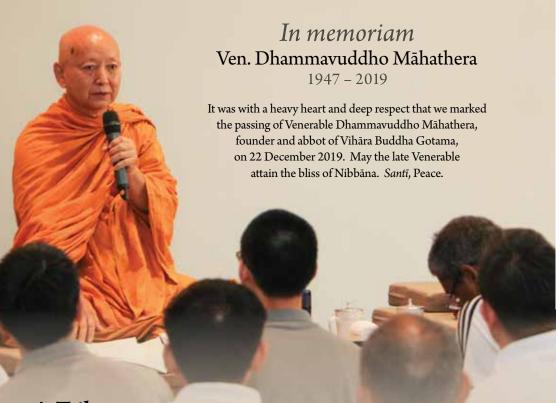












A Tribute A life well-lived brings happiness to many

As a layman, Ven. Dhammavuddho graduated from University Malaya in 1971 and worked as an Electrical Engineer. He went forth into in the Mahāyāna tradition in 1983, but was reordained three years later in Thailand under the Therāvadā tradition.

In 1998, Venerable established Vihāra Buddha Gotama (VBG) in Temoh, Perak and served as its abbot until his passing. VBG caters primarily for monks and nuns to study, practise and promote the Buddha's discourses (*Sutta*) and monastic discipline (*Vināya*).

Ven. Dhammavuddho was widely regarded as a staunch practitioner and a compassionate teacher. His talks in English, Hokkien and Cantonese, as well as his numerous booklets, have reached out to countless devotees who spoke fondly of his gentle but firm advice.

Ven. Dhammavuddho was a strong supporter of Nalanda Buddhist Society's educational programmes, and we are ever grateful for his guidance and encouragement. Let us continue to learn, practise and propagate the Buddha's teachings, just as Ven. Dhammavuddho did.

Memorial Service Sunday, 22 March 2020 | 9 am - 12 pm

22 March 2020 marks the full 3 months since the passing of Ven. Dhammavuddho. Nalanda Centre in Sri Serdang will be hosting a special memorial service in honour of him, with meditation, chanting and a Dhamma sermon, followed by *Sanghika Dāna*. All are welcome.

Upcoming Programmes

January - March 2020

Nalanda Centre

NEO Centre K. L. /

Taman O.U.G. &

Happy Garden

Nalanda Centre

Nalanda Centre

Nalanda Centre / Seri Kembangan market NEO Centre K. L. /

Taman O.U.G. & Happy Garden Nalanda Centre

-		
JAN Dhanma School's 15th Anniversary	01	Nalanda Dhamma School's 15th Anniversary
	04	Pindacāra – Alms-round by Sangha members at the morning markets in Taman O.U.G. & Happy Garden
		Nalanda Institute BPS 403 Convocation
	09	Full-moon Uposatha Service
	18	<i>Pindacāra</i> – Alms-round by Sangha members in Seri Kembangan
FEB	01	Pindacāra – Alms-round by Sangha members at the morning markets in Taman O.U.G. & Happy Garden
	08	Full-moon Uposatha Service
	09	Tea-offering Ceremony & Gratitude Day
	15	<i>Pindacāra</i> – Alms-round by Sangha members in Seri Kembangan
	16	Nalanda Johor Bahru Branch A.G.M.
T	22	Nalanda Kuala Lumpur Branch A.G.M.
Tea Ceremony	22	N II d C :





09	Tea-offering Ceremony & Gratitude Day	Nalanda Centre
15	<i>Pindacāra</i> – Alms-round by Sangha members in Seri Kembangan	Nalanda Centre / Seri Kembangan market
16	Nalanda Johor Bahru Branch A.G.M.	NEO Centre J.B.
22	Nalanda Kuala Lumpur Branch A.G.M.	NEO Centre K.L.
23	New-moon Uposatha Service	Nalanda Centre
07	Pindacāra – Alms-round by Sangha members at the morning markets in Taman O.U.G. & Happy Garden	NEO Centre K. L. / Taman O.U.G. & Happy Garden
	Nalanda Sungai Petani Branch A.G.M.	NEO Centre S.P.
08	Full-moon Uposatha Day 8-Precepts Programme	Nalanda Centre
18	Nalanda Patron's Day	Nalanda Centre
21	Pindacāra – Alms-round by Sangha members in Seri Kembangan	Nalanda Centre / Seri Kembangan market
22	17th A.G.M. of Nalanda Buddhist Society	Nalanda Centre
24	New-moon Uposatha Service	Nalanda Centre

Weekly activities at Nalanda Centre include "Sunday Service" (Sundays, 9 am – 12 pm) and "Meditation & Dhamma Sharing" (Wednesdays, 8 pm – 10 pm). For full details or updates on Nalanda's many programmes, kindly visit our website at www.nalanda.org.my or Facebook www.facebook.com/nalanda.org.my

Nalanda Centre will be closed from 22 – 30 January for the Lunar New Year. The Centre will reopen as usual at 9.00 am on 31 January. May you and your loved ones enjoy good health, peace and success!



Dhamma Reflection

Cratitude is an important spiritual quality and also a vital ingredient for living joyfully. It is the acknowledgement and appreciation for the good things done for us. The people with the most gratitude are the ones who know that even cows and buffaloes have helped us in our lives, what more our parents and teachers. Feeling grateful even to animals, how could we harm our fellow human beings to whom we owe so much more? This way of thinking adds a joyous quality to life instead of drifting into negativity with thoughts of "I deserve more than this. They didn't do enough for me". We can also be grateful for all of our life experiences, whether pleasant or unpleasant. This will help in our spiritual progress and also bring us peace and happiness.

'Like' our Facebook fanpage at **www.facebook.com/nalanda.org.my** to connect with Nalanda for more Dhamma-rich news, views and articles!

Nalanda Contacts Please visit our website for directions to Nalanda.

Nalanda Buddhist Society Malaysia

Nalanda Centre, 3357, Jalan 18/31, Taman Sri Serdang, 43300 Seri Kembangan, Selangor.

Tel. No. +603-8938 1500 / 1501 Website www.nalanda.org.my

E-mail info@nalanda.org.my Facebook www.facebook.com/nalanda.org.my

Nalanda Centre is open daily from 9.00 am to 10.00 pm. For visits, kindly call to make appointments.

Nalanda Education & Outreach (NEO) Centre, Kuala Lumpur

524 A, 1st Floor, Jalan Riang 12, Taman Gembira, 58200 Kuala Lumpur.

Tel. No. +603-7971 7151 E-mail neo-kl@nalanda.org.my

Facebook www.facebook.com/NeoCentre.KL

NEO Centre KL is open every first Saturday of the month from 7.30 am to 5.00 pm; Tuesdays to Thursdays: 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm; and every Sunday from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

Nalanda Education & Outreach (NEO) Centre, Johor Bahru

30, Jalan Dedap 26, Taman Johor Jaya, 81100 Johor Bahru, Johor.

Tel. No. +607-350 3870 E-mail neo-jb@nalanda.org.my

Facebook www.facebook.com/NeoCentre.JB

NEO Centre JB is open on Sundays: 8.30 am to 12.00 pm; Mondays to Wednesdays: 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm; and on New-moon / Full-moon weekdays: 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm.

Nalanda Education & Outreach (NEO) Centre, Sungai Petani

210, Jalan Bandar Mutiara 2/2, Bandar Mutiara, 08000 Sungai Petani, Kedah.

E-mail neo-sp@nalanda.org.my Facebook www.facebook.com/NeoCentre.SP

NEO Centre SP is open on Fridays: 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm; and on Saturdays: 9.00 am to 12.00 pm.