# Nalanda Bulletin

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For Non-Muslims Only

## Celebrating 20 years of 'Making Lives More Meaningful'

From its inception, Nalanda has been focusing on providing holistic Buddhist education, facilitating personal spiritual development, and the joyful propagation of Buddha-Dhamma. Over the past 20 years, many have found deeper meaning in their lives through the educational programmes and community service opportunities at Nalanda. On this occasion, we humbly thank the monastic community, all Dhamma teachers and spiritual guides, Buddhist leaders, members, devotees and volunteers, both past and present, who have worked together selflessly and tirelessly. Thank you to all of you!

> Nalanda 2003-2023

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# 20 Years, 20 Milestones

#### 2023-2026

Building *Phase 2 of Wisdom Park* to educate and train competent lay Dhamma teachers, develop future Buddhist community leaders, and to propagate Buddhist values, culture and practices to the public.

Nalanda
20th
anniversary
2003-2023

Nalanda's Focus

Education, Development, Propagation

#### 1 May **2003**

Nalanda Buddhist Society was formally established. Nalanda Dharma Centre in Sri Serdang was officiated by Ven. Dr. Kirinde Sri Dhammananda (1918 – 2006), who gave our Society its name and mission.

#### 1 January 2005

Nalanda Dhamma School was established to provide quality and effective Buddhist education, focusing on the holistic development of knowledge, skills, values, culture and spirituality for children and teenagers.

#### 1 July 2007

Nalanda's focus from its inception has always been on

providing quality Dhamma education, personal spiritual

development, and the joyful propagation of Buddha-Sāsana.

Nalanda Institute Malaysia was established to offer structured Buddhist educational and leadership training programmes. It also gathers the Sangha and laity to discuss issues affecting the Buddhist movement.

#### 1 May 2009

Nalanda Book Café, Sri Petaling was launched. It serves as a platform for communities to gather in the spirit of holistic well-being.

#### 11 December 2009

The opening of Nalanda Centre Sri Serdang was officiated by Ven. Dr. H. Sri Pandita Gunaratana.

#### 1 July 2010

Nalanda Free School was established to provide free academic tuition and other educational support to needy students.

#### 1 May 2011

Pustaka Nalanda (the Library) was launched by Ven. B. Sri Saranankara to provide learning resources and reference materials.

#### 11 December 2011

Nalanda Education & Outreach (NEO) Centre in Happy Garden was established. This is the first of Nalanda's outreach centres to be operational, providing the community a place to learn.

#### 1 May 2012

Nalanda Youth Centre was established for young adults to serve the community and learn leadership skills. Its premises, which includes the Youth Library, was launched on 1 May 2014.

#### 11 December 2022

The new Nalanda Education & Outreach (NEO) Centre in Happy Garden was officially opened and operational.

#### 3 May 2022

Nalanda Community Centre located above the Book Café, Sri Petaling was launched to cater for programmes that promote the Six Well-beings.

#### 10 August 2020

Phase 1 of Wisdom Park was completed, comprising three guest lodges, a management centre, parks, pavilions, and other ancilliary infrastructures.

#### 1 May 2019

Nalanda Dhammaduta College was launched to congregate and train Dhamma speakers.

#### 6 October 2018

Nalanda House was rebuilt into K. Sri Dhammanada Centre in conjunction with the centenary celebration of Nalanda's late Spiritual Adviser, as well as Nalanda's 15th Anniversary.

#### 20 August 2016

Nalanda *Dhamma Families* were formed to strengthen Dhamma learning and practice.

#### 1 July 2017

Nalanda Volunteer Centre and Nalanda Training & Enhancement Centre were formed.

#### 11 December 2015

Nalanda Education & Outreach (NEO) Centre in Sungai Petani was established for undergraduates and Kedahans to learn the Buddha's teachings in a holistic manner.

#### 8 August 2015

Wisdom Park Vision Plan was launched. Its Development Committee was formed on 14 October 2015 to conceptualise a Master Plan for Wisdom Park and construction began in 2018.

#### 1 May 2013

Nalanda Education & Outreach (NEO) Centre in Johor Bahru was established. It caters to the needs of the community in the South, as well as for devotees from Singapore.



#### 2 January, KKB

On Monday 2 January, Ajahn Vajiro conducted a 1-day meditation retreat for members and regular volunteers. Ajahn reminded us to be persistent in being in the present moment and not be distracted by thoughts of the past or future. We live only in this exact moment, and we need to be cognisant of the fact that life is a process of receiving and responding to experiences. Mindfulness allows us to also gauge the situation and respond in a wholesome manner.

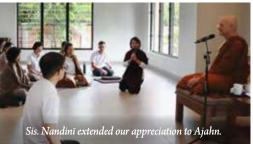
We are grateful to Ajahn Vajiro for visiting us and his valuable advice for us to progress in our Dhamma cultivation. May Ajahn be blessed with good health and success in all his noble endeavours. *Sadhu anumodāna!* 





















#### 8 January & 19 March, Serdang

On 8 January & 19 March, Nalanda youths hosted 16 students from Persatuan Buddhist Universiti Malaya and 17 students from University of Nottingham Malaysia respectively for Dhamma learning and fellowship at the Youth Sunday Service.

The students learned about gratitude and reflected on the development of effort and wisdom. They asked questions to clear doubts and participated in peer group discussions to enhance their learning in better managing challenges.

We rejoice in their genuine curiosity to learn the Buddha's teachings and look forward to welcoming them back to Nalanda to grow in the Dhamma.



#### 3 – 4 February, Serdang

On 3 & 4 February, we were privileged to host 11 monks from Sangha Theravāda Indonesia and 5 Indonesian friends on their first visit to Nalanda and Wisdom Park.

As they toured Wisdom Park and Nalanda Centre, leaders briefed them on the various Dhamma educational programmes organised for the community. Devotees also seized the opportunity to learn from the monks in Dhamma discussions and Q&A sessions.

We are inspired by the monks' spirit of 'mettā' (loving-kindness) and 'samaggi' (unity and concord). We wish venerable sirs good health and may they be blessed with success in their noble endeavours. Salam mettā dari umat Nalanda.











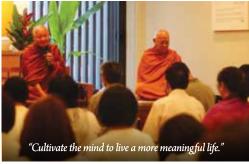


#### 11 February, Kuala Lumpur

On Saturday 11 February, 85 participants who are new to meditation practice joined 'Bhāvanā Day' with Ven. Jutipañño Mahāthero at NEO Centre Happy Garden.

Meditation is a practice where we continuously bring attention to the breath and release our thoughts without judgement. This leads to an emotionally stable state of mind and enables us to replace unwholesome habits with more beneficial ones. Venerable's candour and down-to-earth style of teaching greatly helped the participants.

We thank Ven. Jutipañño for leading us in a peaceful day of *bhāvanā*. May Bhante be blessed with good health, happiness, and peace. *Sadhu anumodāna!* 













#### 12 February, Sri Serdang

On Sunday 12 February, devotees, volunteers and Dhamma School students gathered at Nalanda Centre for "Tea-Offering Ceremony and Gratitude Day", the first held since the Covid-19 pandemic. This annual tradition hosted by Nalanda Dhamma School is an opportunity for us to express our appreciation to our parents, teachers and elders.

In this simple but meaningful programme, children reflect with gratitude the support they receive from their family and bow reverentially to their elders with love.

We extend our thanks to Dhamma School facilitators for organising this event to strengthen family bonds. *Sadhu anumodāna*!



Scan this QR Code to watch the video.





















#### 18 February, Sri Serdang

n Saturday 18 February, 30 young adults gathered at K. Sri Dhammananda Centre to learn how to develop calmness in the midst of a hectic working life and learn to be more proactive rather than reactive. Bro. Tan Siang Chye introduced teachings of mindfulness, loving-kindness and mindful eating to anchor participants in present moment awareness. This reduces distracting thoughts and helps us to develop a focused mind in order to live a life that is firmly grounded.

We thank Bro. Siang Chye for leading us in an insightful day. We also thank the youth organisers, volunteers and participants for being part of this meaningful programme. Sadhu anumodāna!















#### 18 – 20 February, KKB

On 18 to 20 February, 45 Dhamma School students started their school holidays meaningfully with a stay-in programme at Wisdom Park, exploring the theme of "Blessings in Life" as taught by the Buddha.

Immersed in Dhamma learning sessions, activities and service, their gratitude developed manifold for their blessingsin life, and for those who have supported them. With a zeal to also be a blessing to others, they prepared dinner for a children's home in Kuala Kubu Bharu, and brought cheer through friendship and service.

May our teenagers continue to be energetic towards learning and practising the wise teachings of the Buddha.















#### 21 February, Sri Serdang

On Tuesday 21 February, Nalanda leaders welcomed representatives from 大马佛教大学 Dharma Buddhist University (DBU), Bentong and Sekolah Tinggi Agama Buddha Nalanda, Indonesia to Nalanda Centre for a leadership exchange. Central to the discussion were sharings of the various Dhamma educational endeavours by each organisation. The leaders rejoiced in the varied programmes and agreed that supplementing learning with Dhamma practice and service is essential to develop Dhamma teachers and leaders.

We thank DBU and Nalanda Buddhist College Indonesia for visiting us and forging this friendship. May all your noble endeavours bear abundant fruits in the *Sāsaṇa*!



















#### 25 February, KKB

On Saturday 25 February, Nalanda welcomed leaders of Dharma Drum Mountain Malaysia 法鼓山马来西亚道场, Kuan Jin Kok Temple 观音阁古寺, Tzu Chi Malaysia 马来西亚慈济, and Young Buddhist Association of Malaysia to Wisdom Park to learn more about this educational facility dedicated to training Dhamma teachers and developing Buddhist leaders.

The group was briefed on the purpose, and potential of this facility for Buddhist education. Everyone rejoiced in the progress made within the past year, and extended their well-wishes in carrying out the mission of holistic education. Thank you for visiting us and we wish you joyful propagation of *Buddha-Dhamma*.



#### 9 – 11 March, KKB

From 9 to 11 March, 40 devotees and volunteers checked in at Wisdom Park for a meditation retreat conducted by Ven. Ajahn Pavaro. He gave instructions to retreatants on their practice before they alternated between hourly sitting and walking meditation. Over the next three days Ajahn also held daily 'Q&A' sessions to address their questions.

Ajahn likened our meditation practice to gardening; our daily effort in the establishment of mindfulness will reap results in time, just as a gardener who provides the right conditions consistently – the seeds will germinate and grow on their own. "Our duty is simple, we just need to observe the breath and bring our mind to the present moment."











# Observing Nalanda Patron's Day

#### 18 March, Brickfields

n Saturday 18 March, Nalanda observed 'Patron's Day', an annual programme to commemorate and appreciate all donors, benefactors and volunteers who have contributed tremendously to the growth of Nalanda, and by extension, to the development of Buddhist education.

Members, devotees and Dhamma School students gathered to pay homage at the memorial stupa of the late Ven. Dhammananda at the Buddhist Mahā Vihāra in Brickfields. On this day, we also offered *pūja* for the wellbeing of our benefactors, past and present and transfer merits to those who have passed away.

Let us recollect those before us, whose contributions and sacrifice have made it possible for us to learn the Dhamma and find deeper meaning in life. We wish all our benefactors everywhere true blessings of joy, peace, and liberation! *Sadhu anumodāna*.













#### 19 March, Sri Serdang

n Sunday 19 March, members of Nalanda Buddhist Society gathered for the 20th Annual General Meeting at Nalanda Centre. Everyone rejoiced in the increasing number and quality of programmes held in the past year and discussed the upcoming programmes. They also voted heartily for a landmark approval in building Phase 2 of Wisdom Park. Sadhu anumodāna!

Being election year, members also voted for the new Board of Management. We thank outgoing Board members for their invaluable services and congratulate the new Board for their commitment and eagerness to serve the Society and community.









## The newly-elected Board of Management 2023/2025

Sis. Buddhinī Tan President **Deputy President** Bro. Charlie Teng **Honorary Secretary** Sis. Livin Leow Honorary Treasurer Sis. Lim Kah Hong Sis. Santī Cheang **Assistant Secretary** Assistant Treasurer Sis. Belle Yeoh **Board Members** Sis. Evelyn Chow Bro. Lee Kong Foo Bro. Louis Chan

Bro. Tan Say Kee

Sis. Foo Ai Li



#### 19 March, Kuala Lumpur

On Sunday 19 March, over 70 parents and their children started learning together at the new Family Dhamma School held at NEO Centre KL. This programme was newly launched in conjunction with Nalanda's 20th Anniversary to provide a learning platform for families to grow spiritually and achieve domestic bliss.

In this first-of-its-kind programme, participants learn as a family and also with their peers, as Dhamma School facilitators apply a blended approach and tailor-make engaging programmes. We rejoice in their learning spirit and wish them progress on the spiritual path as a family unit. *Sadhu*!















#### 20 March, Serdang

On Monday 20 March, Nalanda Free School started the new academic year as new and returning students excitedly gathered for their classes held on weekdays from 8pm.

Free School Teachers prepared for the new term with a training session by Teacher Chua, an experienced educator of 38 years. She shared on how to better connect with students using kind language, encouragement and by having sincere care for them. A teacher's role extends beyond imparting knowledge to being a mentor and friend to students in need.

May our teachers and students have a successful academic year ahead.















#### March – May, Kuala Lumpur

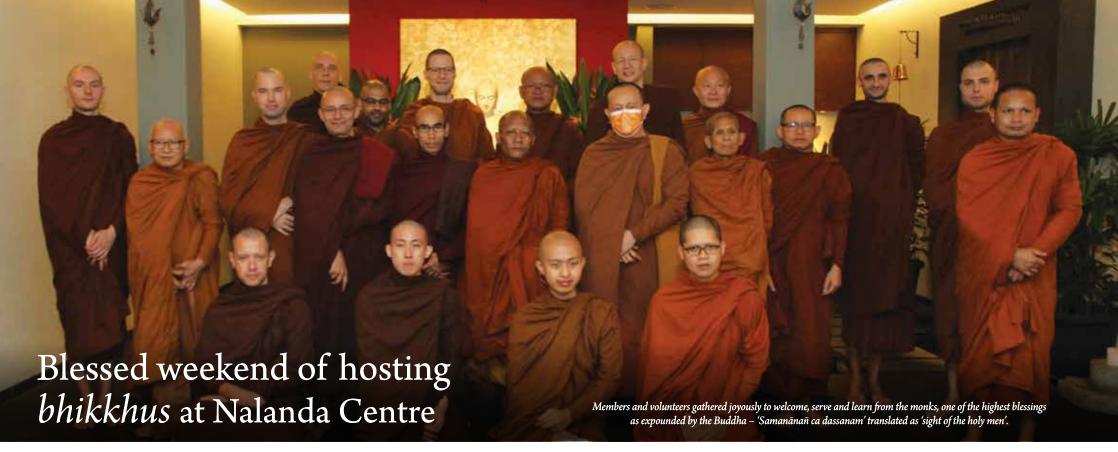
Since 28 March, over 40 young adults have been meeting for the 'Happy Young Adults' programme every Tuesday at Nalanda Community Centre in Sri Petaling. Organised by Nalanda Youth Centre, participants have an average of 6 years work experience and are charting their career paths whilst facing challenges which are new to them.

In this two-month programme, participants learn from seasoned corporate figures who are also Dhamma practitioners, about various teachings of the Buddha to help us thrive at work and find deeper meaning in their life's pursuits. We wish the participants a fruitful and joyous learning journey with your peers.









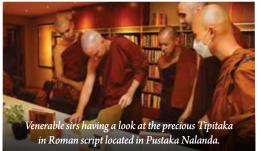
#### 31 March –1 April, Serdang

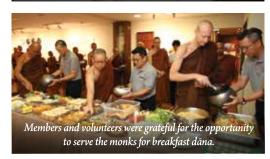
On 31 March to 1 April, Nalanda Centre was abuzz with energy to host members of the monastic Sangha from across Malaysia. 15 monks from Sāsanārakkha Buddhist Sanctuary, and 11 monks from monasteries across the peninsula spent the night at Nalanda Centre before attending an 'Asubha' (contemplation on 32 parts of the body) workshop at Xiao En Memorial the next day.

We recollect with fondness this meaningful weekend of hosting the Order of the Buddha's disciples; those who are worthy of offerings, hospitality, gifts and reverential salutation. May venerable sirs stay in good health and strive on in their noble aspirations. *Sadhu*.















#### 1 April, Petaling Jaya

On Saturday 1 April, Nalanda leaders went on a leadership exchange visit to Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Centre Malaysia 法鼓山马来西亚道场 Petaling Jaya. Greeted warmly by Ven. Chang Zao (常藻法师) and Society leaders, the group engaged in deeper discussions about the various ways and challenges in propagating Dhamma.

Ven. Chang Zao shared that volunteers and devotees alike are encouraged to cultivate mindfulness every moment. Devotees who gain an appreciation of the teachings also develop a keenness to develop themselves through service. We are heartened by their admirable Dhamma propagation efforts and wish them every success!



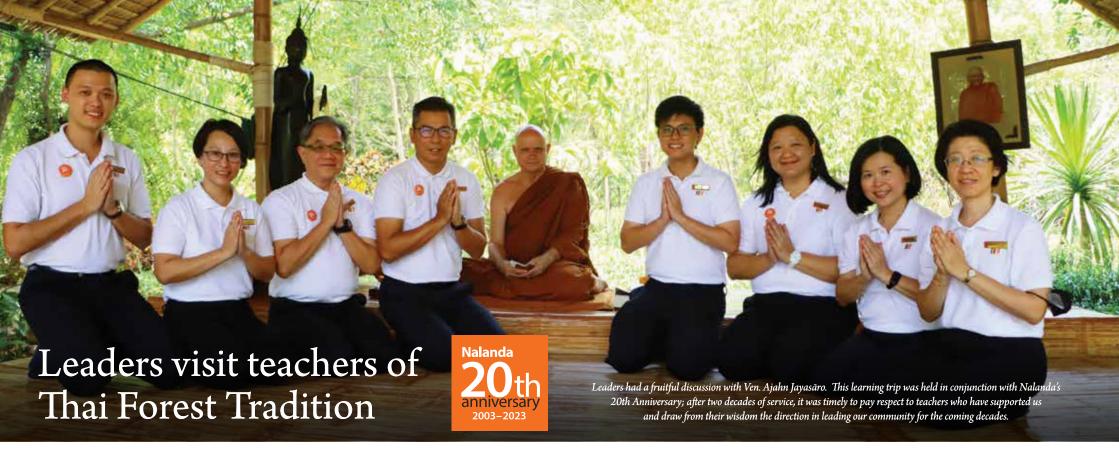












#### 5 – 8 April, Thailand

From 5 – 8 April, 8 Nalanda leaders from Management and Education divisions had the honour of visiting four *Kruba Ajahns* in Thailand – Ajahn Jayasāro, Ajahn Nyanadhammo, Luang Por Ganha, and Luang Por Piak, to seek advice on Buddhist education, community leadership, and spiritual practice.

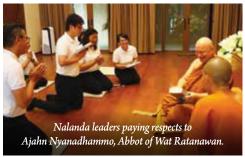
The vast experience, deep wisdom and skillfulness of the Kruba Ajahns were truly insightful, uplifting the group with deeper inspiration and vision to continue leading the Nalanda community. May the leaders continue to lead the community towards a more hopeful and brighter future!













# **WISDOM PARK OPEN DAY**

8 & 9 JULY, KUALA KUBU BAHRU

"Wisdom Park" – Malaysia's first integrated Buddhist education hub is dedicated to train Dhamma teachers and develop Buddhist leaders.

The first phase of its development is complete and we invite you to visit for a personalised tour during the Wisdom Park Open Day 2023 on

Saturday, 8 July or Sunday, 9 July.



Register to book a slot with the QR code above.



# **FAMILY FUN FAIR**

13 AUGUST, SUNDAY | 9AM - 3PM | SRI SERDANG

家庭欢乐日义卖会 八月十三日(星期日)

Fund-raising to support **Nalanda Dhamma School** and **Free School**.

此义卖会是为 Nalanda 佛学校及义学校筹募经费。

## **Upcoming Programmes**

Nalanda Day –

### May – July 2023

\* Registration is required.

Nalanda Centre

## MAY



	Nalanda Buddhist Society's 20th Anniversary	
03	Buddha Day Eve Service	Nalanda Centre
04	Pindacāra – Alms-round by Sangha members Buddha Day Service Dhammapada Study Series – Session 1 Mass Food Offering Heritage Procession	Nalanda Centre
05	Film Screening – Dhammayatra	Nalanda Centre
06	Pindacāra – Alms-round by Sangha members at the morning markets in Taman O.U.G. & Happy Garden	NEO Centre KL / O.U.G. & Happy Garden
	Peace Walk & Dhamma talk by Ach. Vijaya	NEO Centre KL
07	Blood Donation Drive	Nalanda Centre
13	Dhamma talk by Ven. Ajahn Achalo	Nalanda Centre
20 – 21	Stay-in Programme for BPS104*	Wisdom Park
06	<i>Pindacāra</i> – Alms-round by Sangha members at the morning markets in Taman O.U.G. &	NEO Centre KL / Taman O.U.G. & H

## JUN



06	Pindacāra – Alms-round by Sangha members at the morning markets in Taman O.U.G. & Happy Garden	NEO Centre KL / Taman O.U.G. & Happ Garden
03-05	Youth Study Tour to Bujang Valley*	Sungai Petani
10 & 29	Dhammapada Study Series Session 2 & 3*	Nalanda Centre
16-25	Meditation Retreat by Ven. Gavesi*	Wisdom Park
17	<i>Pindacāra</i> – Alms-round by Sangha members in Seri Kembangan	Nalanda Centre/ Seri Kembangan mark
01	Nalanda Institute's 16th Anniversary	Nalanda Centre





		in Seri Kembangan	Seri Kembangan mark
	01	Nalanda Institute's 16th Anniversary	Nalanda Centre
	02	Dhamma Day - Asalha Full-moon	Nalanda Centre
	08 & 09	Wisdom Park Open Day*	Wisdom Park
	08-10	Sutta Study Workshop with Ven. Aggacitta*	Wisdom Park
	22	Dhamma Teaching by Ven. Ajahn Jayasāro	Nalanda Centre
		•	

Nalanda Buddhist Society wishes all A peaceful and spiritual Wesak!

祝愿各位同仁安宁、祥和!

# 20th Anniversary Message

Namo Buddhaya! Salam mettā to all of you!

On this joyous occasion of our 20th Anniversary, Nalanda Buddhist Society extends our deepest appreciation and gratitude to all past and present spiritual teachers, leaders, members, volunteers, donors, benefactors, and Dhamma friends in Malaysia and abroad for your relentless support to Nalanda's educational mission over the past years. It is by virtue of your selfless support that we have been unhindered in offering hundreds of Dhamma programmes every year that facilitate children, youths and adults to open their hearts and minds to the Buddha's noble teachings, and gradually transform to be more happy, compassionate, peaceful and wise.

The theme of our anniversary is "Making Lives More Meaningful". It is a narrative of our work over the past 20 years in providing holistic education, facilitating personal spiritual development, and joyful propagation of Buddha-Dhamma. It is also our aspiration to ennoble ourselves with the sublime Dhamma, and uplift others along this arduous path.

The resilience and unity of Nalanda leaders and the community was exemplified when the global community faced the Covid-19 pandemic. Amidst lockdowns, we overcame adversity to ensure that Dhamma programmes continued to reach and benefit the community. A significant achievement during the lockdown is the completion of constructing Phase 1 of Wisdom Park in August 2020. Having completed system set-ups, load-testing and intensive training of core volunteers, this integrated educational campus will be open from August 2023 for the Buddhist community to host programmes for the purpose of training Dhamma teachers and developing Buddhist leaders.

We invite you to celebrate and rejoice in all wholesome deeds that everyone accomplished together over the past 20 years. We are determined to continue our efforts in prolonging the *Buddha-Sāsana*. Thank you for being a part of this beautiful and inspiring journey. Let us continue to make lives more meaningful, one person at a time, starting with ourselves.

May all beings be blessed with peace and happiness, and always be guided by the Dhamma to eventually realise the final bliss of Nibbāna. *Sadhu anumodāna!* 

The Board of Management

#### Nalanda Buddhist Society Malaysia

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