



Conference on Shan Buddhism and Culture

8-9 December 2007

SOAS, University of London



First Circular

The SOAS Centre of Buddhist Studies and the Shan Cultural Association UK (SCA-UK) are organising the first ever gathering in the West of academics working on Shan Buddhism and Culture. The conference is aimed at bringing together scholars in the field and sowing the seeds for future international collaboration among researchers on Shan history and culture.

Today the Shan people live in the Shan State of Myanmar, northern Thailand and southern China, and as Diaspora communities worldwide. For centuries, they have practised Theravada Buddhism. However, their unique culture and ways of practising Theravada Buddhism remain little studied. This conference will explore and increase awareness of their unique history, culture and religion.

The conference will coincide with the celebration of the Shan New Year, and the SCA-UK will host a cultural show in the evening from 6 to 9pm at the Brunei Gallery, SOAS. Prominent Shan composers and singers led by the renowned musicians, Dr. Sai Kham Lek and Sai Htee Seng, will participate. The show will include also Shan classical and modern dances.

Main panels:

History, Sociology & anthropology, Language & literature and Music.

Call for papers:

A call for papers is now addressed to scholars, experts and research students interested in presenting a paper to the conference. Proposals of c. 250 words should be sent to jk53@soas.ac.uk by Friday 7th September 2007.

Funding:

A limited amount of travel funding and some accommodation is available. Priority will be given to those without institutional support and those coming from Asia. Please indicate a request for such assistance indicating your financial status with your proposal.

Registration:

Because places are limited, please book in advance by email. The registration fee for non-speakers is £10 to include refreshments and Shan food.

We look forward welcoming you to the conference and the Shan New Year celebration.

Jotika Khur-yearn (Secretary)

Organising Committee

Conference on Shan Buddhism and Culture

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