

Curriculum Vitae (August 2021)

Ordained name: Ven. Bhikkhuni Dhammananda

Name: (acc. to passport) Ven. Chatsumarn **Kabilsingh**

Lay name: Associate Prof. Dr. Chatsumarn Kabilsingh

Age: 77 (born October 6, 1944)

Marital Status: Divorced with three grown sons

Contact: dhammananda9d@gmail.com; www.thaibhikkhunis.com

Postal address: 195 Petkasem Hwy, Muang Dist. Nakhonpathom, 73000, Thailand

Education

B.A. Hons in Philosophy from Visva Bharati U, Santiniketan, India

M.A. in Religion from McMaster U, Canada (Canadian Teaching Fellowship)

Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies from Magadh U, India

Experiences

Tutorial leader at McMaster U, Canada, 1970-1973

Teaching Buddhism and Eastern Philosophy at Thammasat U, Bangkok for 27 years (1973-2000)

Associate Member of Royal Institute, 1985-2000

Translated 27 books on Tibetan Buddhism including *Freedom in Exile* by H.H. the Dalai Lama, and *Dalai Lama, My Son*

Author and translator of more than 100 books

Regularly attends international conferences on Buddhism and environment, women, since 1973

Media

Ran TV program for Dharma talk every Sunday for 7 years 1993-2000

Editor of *Yasodhara*, International Buddhist women newsletter in English (1984-2013)

Columnist for a weekly magazine on Buddhism in *Matichon Weekly* for 25 years upto 2020, and for *Kom Chad Luk* daily newspaper on Dharma and News up to 2012

Awards and recognitions

2004 UN Outstanding Buddhist woman

2005 One of the 1000 Peace Women Nominated for Nobel Peace Award

2005 Prestige woman as Educator

2009 Honored by Komol Keemthong Foundation

2012 one of 999 Tara Award for social work, Thailand

2012 Sakyamuni International Award from India

2019 one of a hundred outstanding women for BBC

Ordination

Became the first ordained Theravada bhikkhuni in Thailand 2003 and has been engaged in giving education on ordination for women and training for monastic since 1984.

Regularly organizes training for Buddhist women and monastics

Offered international course on "Living Buddhism"

Offers temporary ordination twice a year to more than 700 female novices (samaneri) since 2009

Commitments

To establish an order of ordained women in Thailand where such status is neither available nor recognized.

To bring about a better understanding of Buddhism to the larger public and to serve the Buddha in the best way she can.

As an educator, while working as a professor at Thammasat University for 27 years, she is well remembered by her students for a memorable style of teaching. She is concerned with the standard of Buddhist education of the country and has opened her temple as a ground for learning for everyone, Buddhists, non-Buddhists.

Her temple has become an international center for foreigners who seek to have a better understanding of Buddhism, both at a philosophical level and practical level. Some of her books on Buddhism are bilingual. She is one among the very few learned scholars and even less as monastic who is capable to deliver the sermon and teaching to both Thai and international audience. Her role as educator is outstanding both in Thailand and abroad.

On Nov.29,2014 she was appointed as the first Thai Pavattini (bhikkhuni teacher) by Ven. Mahinda Maha Nayaka among 20 monks in Koh Yoh, Thailand.

She is also one of the founders and active member of the Network of Asian Theravada Bhikkhunis (started in 2012). Under the banner of the Network, she organized international monastic training every year. Asian Buddhist Conference (ABC) was also organized in Thailand 2016 and Indonesia 2018. The 2020 conference was scheduled for Nepal but had to be postponed due to the pandemic. At the same time the Network is providing a venue and support for international ordination for bhikkhunis in Theravada.

During the pandemic, her temple reached out to answer to social need by providing food ration to families around the temple every week for 10 weeks. Also offered direct assistance to those who could not have access to the government.

The temple is known for socially engaged activities and also as an eco- friendly temple.