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“Happiness is not something ready made. It comes from your own actions”

–Dalai Lama



## 40 YEARS VIETNAMESE BUDDHIST CONTRIBUTIONS IN VICTORIA

Nalanda Institute was established by President Thich Linh Tan in early 2014, after 12 years of aspiring to study abroad in France and India. They aimed to serve the spiritual life of people in Melbourne in two ways: 1) examine the Buddha's teachings and 2) develop Zen. They returned to Melbourne in late 2011 and began teaching classes and by 2013, the Nalanda Institute Australia Association & UK was formed. He taught long-term Dharma classes (8-9 years) and short-term sessions in Australia and abroad in centres such as Nalanda Institute UK, Linh Son Pagoda, Collingwood, Quang Minh Temple, Hoa Nghiem Temple, An Quang Temple, Tibetan Buddhist Society, Jade Buddha etc... In addition there were activities such as: chanting, praying, opening retreats, teaching meditation for parents and teachers Deer Park Primary School, organizing spiritual excursions at homeland and abroad, pilgrimages to Buddhist Holy sites, celebrating Buddha's Birthday, Ullumbana and Lunar New Year... He also actively contributes to social charities such as for bushfires, Western Joan Kirner hospital, Cancer Foundations, India and Vietnam. Nalanda Institute has been continuously developing spiritual life. Due to the spread of the Corona pandemic, it is not possible to continue normal classes and so all of Thay's five classes have been moved online with the use of Zoom.

For more info please visit the website: <https://viengiac.de/2020/04/40-nam-cong-dong-phat-giao-viet-nam-tai-victoria/>



Every year during the season for celebration of Buddha's Birthday, Buddhists from all over the world eagerly celebrate the day the Buddha was born with gratitude and respect. The image of Prince Siddhartha who took seven steps, with every step, there was a lotus blooming in each of the seven steps, right hand pointing to the sky and left hand pointing to the earth and uttered (translated from Chinese source) "In all of Heaven and Earth, I am the chief and foremost...".

This has portrayed the birth of an Enlightened One. This statement is a truth of Buddhism with profound intrinsic values and essence of Buddhist Philosophy, but at the same time causes misconceptions, misunderstandings that go against the core teachings of Buddhism. This is because of lack of serious investigation into the Buddha's past lives. On the occasion of the Buddha's Birthday season, Buddhists at Nalanda Institute would like to record the teachings of Ven. Thich Linh Tan in order to clarify the truth of the Blessed One, about his true saying at the time of his birth. The following information will be found in the News section of the website (<https://nalandaaus.site/index.php/news/>) and will be in Vietnamese by Dinh Hieu (Thay's student), please visit the link for further reading.

 **THE DHAMMAPADA**

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**Dhammapada Verse 64 (English)**

Though all through life the fool  
Might wait upon the wise,  
No more Dhamma can he sense  
Than spoon the taste of soup.

**Kinh Pháp Cú Phẩm Ngũ Câu 64 (Vietnamese)**

Người ngu, dầu trọn đời,  
Thân cận người có trí,  
Không biết được Chánh pháp,  
Như muỗng với vị canh.

An explanation of this verse in Vietnamese can be found on our website if you would like to view our student's (Tinh Hao) work. Please visit <https://nalandaaus.site/index.php/news/> or in the News page at [www.nalandaaus.site](http://www.nalandaaus.site).

 **OTHER NOTES**

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- In May, we installed solar panels at the Institute. This is in line with our initiatives to be more environmentally friendly.
- Ullumbana Festival August 17th

Thank you for you reading our newsletter. We apologise if we have made any mistakes throughout the newsletter. We also appreciate any feedback you can leave by emailing us on [admin@nalandaaus.site](mailto:admin@nalandaaus.site).  
Metta, Nalanda Institute.