

WORKSHOP:

“TOWARDS A BUDDHIST UNDERSTANDING OF RELIGIOUS MINORITY RIGHTS”

20. – 21. February 2015

Asia Alinyaung Monastery, Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay Division, Myanmar.

The Asia Alinyaung Monastery, the Buddhist Federation of Norway,
and the Tampadipa Institute.

PROGRAM:

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| | Friday 20. February |
| 09:00-09:15 | Opening ceremony |
| 09:15-09:30 | Welcome speech by Ven. U Seindida, Abbot Asia Alinyaung Monastery |
| 09:30-09:45 | Welcome speech by Mr. Egil Lothe, President of the Buddhist Federation Norway |
| 09:45-10:00 | Welcome speech by Dr. Khin Zaw Win, Director of Tampadipa Institute |
| 10:00-10:30 | Participants present themselves |
| 10:30-11:00 | Introduction to the workshop by Mr. Egil Lothe |
| 11:00-12:15 | Lunch |
| 12:15-13:15 | Looking at the UDHR and ICCPR and the concept of Human Rights. Emperor Asoka and his Edicts on religious pluralism – lessons to be learned? An introductory presentation by Mr. Egil Lothe with comments by the participants. |
| 13:15-14:15 | Dealing justly with followers of other religions: Some issues: a) Freedom and self-determination of the individual. Implications in relation to the “freedom to change his religion or belief” and “the right to marry and to found a family without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion”. b) “Freedom of expression and opinion”. Right speech, wrong speech, hate speech and freedom of speech, c) Equality of human beings. Equal treatment / non-discrimination of all irrespective of religion. d) The issue of diversity. The right of “ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities, ... to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, or to use their own language” e) Buddhist perspectives on the UDHR. Can the concept of HR be rooted in the Dhamma? |
| 14:15-14:45 | <i>Tea/Coffee</i> |
| 14:45-17:00 | Group discussions |
| | Saturday 21. February |
| 09:00-10:00 | Comments by Ven U Seindida |
| | Comments by U Myint Swe, President Religions for Peace |
| | Comments by Dr. Khin Zaw Win |
| | Comments by Mr. Egil Lothe |
| 10:00-11:00 | Presentations of group discussions |
| 11:00-12:15 | Lunch |
| 12:15-14:00 | Exploring constructive ways of dealing with religious minority issues |
| 14:00-14:30 | <i>Tea / coffee</i> |
| 14:30-16:00 | Group discussions on a Declaration on Affirming Buddhist Values Regarding Religious Pluralism |
| 16:00-17:00 | Reflections from all participants and concluding session |

