

Residential building for bhikkhuni sangha

Songdhammakalyani bhikkhuni Arama is the first monastery for bhikkhuni sangha in Thailand. Last year (2009) it celebrated its 50th anniversary.

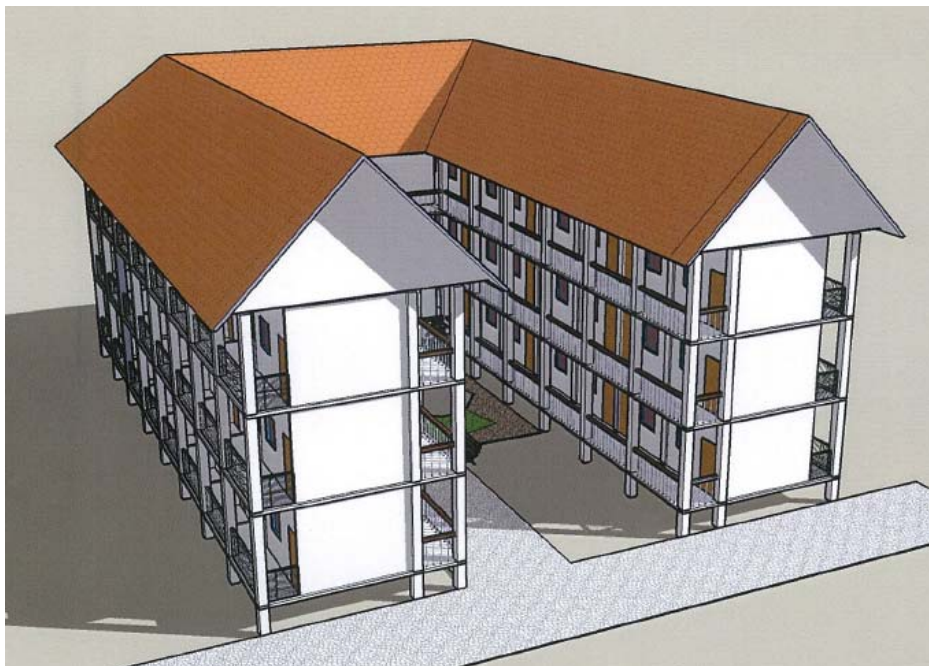
Ven.Dhammananda, the first Thai bhikkhuni ordained in Theravada tradition from Sri Lanka in 2003. First she thought that ordination should be meant for those women who could take it for life in order to establish the bhikkhuni sangha in Thailand. However, in 2009 she expanded the opportunity for women to be ordained temporarily in Temporary Samaneri Ordination (TSO).

The TSO was launched for the first time on April 6, 2009. The project was very well received. At the end of the ordination the participants urged the venerable to consider making a commitment to arrange for TSO on a regular basis.

In 2009 alone there were 82 women ordained and received training as well as Buddhist education for 9 days. As a result these group of women, mostly working and educated women found that the ordination has strengthened their lives towards understanding the teaching of the Buddha and also enhanced their knowledge on Buddhism.

Annually now the temple has offered TSO twice a year, April 6 and December 5.

The immediate concern is proper residence for the ordained ones during the training. With financial limitation, we plan for a residential building nicknamed **ILU** from **I Love YOU**.



That is the first phase of the building will be a straight I shape. The first floor will consists of 8 double rooms with toilet and bath. Second floor will consist of 8 rooms (three residents per/room) with common bath. And the third floor will be large open hall with common bath.

This first phase of I building should be able to house 70 samaneris.

The second phase will continue on to L shape. In this second phase there will be common stairs to provide access to ILU. The space between the U will be a small garden to soften the residential atmosphere.

Some donors would like to have their names put up above the room, but we think it is more artistic to engrave the donor's names (Bht100,000+) on a granite and decorate the garden with the granite sign board.

You can collect a group of friends and relatives to share the expense and join us to be part of this history making process. We intend to write our own history, it will be a very nice **herstory**.

Our bank acc. Songdhammakalyani Fund,etc. #**649 228591-1** Swift code: **SICOTHBK**
Siam Commercial Bank Ltd.Public.Co. Pra Prathone Branch,
410 Desa Rd., Nakhonpathom 73000 Thailand.

More info. www.thaibhikkhunis.org
Contact: dhammananda9d@gmail.com

