

Vesākha and The Inauguration of ārāma Karūṇā Sevena

We are delighted to share a great joy with you (*muditā*). On June 29, 2016, Karūṇā Sevena celebrated the most important Buddhist holiday of the year, Vesākha. On the same day, a completely redesigned and renovated monastery Karūṇā Sevena ([photogallery here](#)) has been

inaugurated. Numerous people worked very hard on this magnificent project for nearly five years and overcame many challenging obstacles. Therefore, our joy from the final accomplishment was enormous.



Karūṇā Sevena welcomed guests from all around the world. Our invitation accepted Bhikkhunī Sucintā, an abbess of the monastery Āneñja Vihāra in Germany and Bhikkhunī Dhammadinnā from Italy, currently based in

Taiwan. In addition, practitioners from Sri

Lanka, USA, Austria, Germany, Poland, Mexico, India and Thailand and, of course, the Czech Republic and Slovakia also joined us for this very special celebration.

The program commenced with a short introductory speech and a presentation of the ārāma reconstruction project. For many years, people have been coming to practice with venerable bhikkhunī Visuddhi. Her monastic quarters, which she compassionately offered, were insufficient and not appropriate for an occupation by the lay supporters. Therefore in order to offer more privacy, Karūṇā Sevena decided to enlarge the ārāma and aimed to create ideal conditions for practice. We wished to establish a place where people could meet in the Dhamma, and together with venerable Visuddhi practice towards the realization of nibbāna. *"Life is short and it is really up to us how we are living it, how we are treating it. How we use time, what type of people we meet up with, and in what kind of Path we practice. Depending upon that, our life is either miserable, or happy. Currently, we only need to develop the right mental energy (virīya) to implement nibbāna,"* said Venerable Visuddhi.

After giving donation to the Venerables (*dāna*), and a short lunch, a group of interested practitioners inspected the house next door, which was offered to the Association Karuna Sevena for a purchase. Thus arose a much greater opportunity for the accommodation of the monks, lay people, especially men, who according to the rules for nuns (*bhikkhunī vinaya*) cannot spend the night in the ārāma. We would like to invite all interested parties to support this project and help us to buy the house by the end



of this summer. It is an unique opportunity that we should not miss.

The program then continued with protective chanting (*vatta parittā*) and sharing of merit (*anumodanā*). After that, the nuns tied Buddhist protective strings. Although it may seem that these rituals have a very religious character, the most people are asking and are very fond of them. During the ceremony prevailed very relaxed atmosphere in the shrine room. Subsequently, bhikkhunī Visuddhi gave an instruction on loving kindness (*mettā*) meditation and we asked the Venerables to share the Buddha's teachings (*dhamma dāna*) with us. The Dhamma talks were very supportive.

This celebration represented a rare opportunity to welcome three *bhikkhunī* together in our small ārāma in the heart of Europe. There are only very few *bhikkhunī* in the world. More about the Venerables:

Bhikkhunī Visuddhi is dedicated to the practice of mettā and satipaṭṭhāna. Venerable has a very individual approach to her students. She shares the Buddha's teachings with adults, mothers, children and students during lectures at schools and leads them to compassion for other beings and helping others. Bhikkhunī Visuddhi is a founder of project Children of the Sun (Suriya Lamai), which supports poor children in need worldwide.

Bhikkhunī Sucintā is an abbess of a Buddhist monastery Āneñja Vihāra in Germany. She has been a Theravada Buddhist nun since 1994 and practiced in countries like UK, USA, Sri Lanka, Burma and Australia. She received higher ordination in Bodhgaya, India in 1998.

Bhikkhunī Dhammadinnā was born in Italy. She is focusing mainly on academic work - studying and comparison of early Buddhist texts (suttas and vinaya) in Pāli, Tibetan, Sanskrit and other languages. She is living and teaching at the University Dhamma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts in Taiwan. Venerable Dhammadinnā is part of bhikkhunī Saṅgha of Venerable Visuddhi.

Although the monastery was inaugurated, it is still being furnished. Venerable Visuddhi is going to withdraw into a meditative seclusion (*vassa*) for a period of three months. The ārāma will open again in November 2016. Thank you to all of you, who participated on the reconstruction either by donation or through work, may your merit bring you happiness. May you reach full awakening of the mind (*nibbāna*).



Written by Ivona Mollberg,

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