



International Tipitaka Chanting Council

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PRESS RELEASE

ELEVENTH TIPITAKA CHANTING CEREMONY

Bodhgaya November 15th, 2015

The International Tipitaka Chanting Council is pleased to announce the forthcoming eleventh International Tipitaka Chanting Ceremony to be held in Bodhgaya, India, from December 2nd to 13th 2015. Over 4000 monks and their followers from the countries of Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos PDR, Indonesia, India, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Vietnam will open the event on December 2nd, followed by a program of resounding of the Buddha word and evening Dharma talks in the days that follow. A 10,000 square foot food tent will be erected on the Kalachakra grounds beside the main temple in Bodhgaya, and food will be offered to all participants during the period of the ceremony. Each day international representatives will offer food and gifts to the senior monks from participating countries.

Eminent Sangharajas and great Buddhist leaders will be present to give key-note addresses at the opening ceremony. At this ceremony, the Light of Buddhadharma Foundation will offer gifts to the senior monks to be presented under the Bodhi Tree. It is anticipated that the Sangharaja of Cambodia will be present in person, with the personal representatives of the Sangharajas of Bangladesh, Thailand, and Laos PDR also present at the assembly.

Following the opening day, the gathering will chant from the Pali Canon, reciting the ancient record of the teachings of the Buddha in the traditional manner. There will be Dharma talks every evening given by senior teachers from Myanmar, Thailand, and Sri Lanka. Great Tipitakadharas (learned masters who know the entire Tipitaka by memory) will also be presenting the teachings of the Buddha. The Honourable Governor of Bihar, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, will be our Chief Guest among other officials.

The Eleventh Ceremony will be the second year the event has been organized by the Sangha of Cambodia, and it is anticipated that large numbers of Cambodian laypeople will be present for the event. On December 13th, the assembly will open a new walking pathway from the Jethian Valley to the Mango grove, the site of an ancient meditation park on the outskirts of Rajgir. The Light of

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Buddhadharma Foundation will be offering the first ever King Bimbisara statue to the Bamboo Groove on December 13th. It is expected that a thousand followers will join in this historical walk.

Commenting on the importance of the event, the Most Venerable U Nyaninda, President of the International Tipitaka Chanting Council said:

'We are delighted to gather at the place of enlightenment for the eleventh time. It is particularly encouraging to see the numbers attending this important gathering grow from year to year, and to witness the large increase in Indian laypeople attending the event alongside their fellow Buddhists from so many Asian countries.'

Wangmo Dixey, the primary sponsor and Executive Director, Light of Buddhadharma Foundation International said:

"It is truly great blessings to hear the sound of the Dharma return back to the Motherland of India! We rejoice that the great sangha of Cambodia under the leadership of Venerable Puey Metta is organising the event for the second time. May we dedicate all our good actions to inner harmony and world peace for the benefit of all beings. We are so grateful to the people of Bodhgaya and to all international participants who make this ceremony so auspicious and fruitful."

For further information on the International Tipitaka Chanting Council please see the website: www.tipitakachantingcouncil.org. For the Light Of Buddhadharma Foundation International please see www.lbdfi.org . A press conference will be held at 3 pm on the Kalachakra ground on December 4th 2015, and press packets are available on request.

For more information, please contact:

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