

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Alex Amies is a cloud architect in the IBM Cloud Development Lab team. His primary areas of expertise are cloud computing, J2EE application development, and security. Alex has published 9 papers and 3 patents and is the primary author of the book *Developing and Hosting Applications on the Cloud*. He has also worked on translation teams for *Encyclopedia of Buddhist Arts*, *365 Days for Travelers*, and *FGS Buddhist Dictionary*, Website design for hbreader.org and paradeofthebuddhas.org. Chinese-English reader and translation tools. Besides, he has contributed to collection and curation of historic content for incorporation into the GIS system with a focus on Chinese and Buddhist history and has technically helped with data management systems.

Dr. A.T.Ariyaratne graduated from Mahinda College, Galle, and got higher education at Vidyodaya University. He is the Founder and the present President of the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement of Sri Lanka, a grass-roots humanitarian organization based on the concept of "sharing of labour, thought and energy for the awakening of all." Sarvodaya has been active throughout Sri Lanka since 1958, and Dr. Ariyaratne has received many national and international awards in recognition of his commitment to the nation and its people, including the highest national award, the Sri Lankabhimanya Award from the President of Sri Lanka in 2007. Dr. Ariyaratne was also honoured with a Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) degree from Sri Jayewardenepura University and a Doctor of Humanities (D.H.) degree from Amelio Aguinaldo College of Medicine in the Philippines.

Geoffrey Bamford is Senior Professor in Archaeology and Director of the Centre for Heritage Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. Professor Bamford is a fellow of the Sri Lanka Council of Archaeology, a member of the Advisory Committee of the

Department of Government of Sri Lanka, and the General secretary of the International Association for Asian Heritage.

David Blundell is currently the director of the Asia-Pacific Spatio Temporal Institute, Top University Project in Digital Humanities, Research and Innovation-Incubation Center, National Chengchi University, Taipei. He received a doctorate in anthropology from the University of California based on the life histories of Buddhist practitioners making their own ethnographic films in Sri Lanka. He is now conducting researches with the Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative (ECAI), School of Information, University of California, Berkeley, as anthropology and language editor. As a filmmaker, Professor Blundell received the United Nations Day of Vesak 2014 Award for Best Documentary, *Arising Light: Dr B R Ambedkar and the Birth of a New Era in India*. His publications concern the anthropology of belief systems, anthropology of religions, visual anthropology, aesthetic anthropology, geographic information systems (GIS), languages and cultures, and Southern Asia and Asia-Pacific as a Cultural Area.

Peter Daniels is an ecological economist at the School of Environment and Science, Griffith University at the Gold Coast in Australia. Dr. Daniels has published widely in the fields of ecological, environmental, welfare, and social economics and has contributed to many international conferences and agencies (including the European Environmental Agency, OECD and United Nations) concerned with sustainability indicators, alternative economic systems, and the role of ethics and belief systems on environmental impacts and wellbeing. His major research foci include sustainable consumption, well-being, and techniques for measuring and reducing the impact of humans on nature. Dr. Daniels is an editor of the *International Journal of Social Economics* and a reviewer for many other journals including Ecological Economics and the Journal of Industrial Ecology.

D. Dayalan, Director, Archaeological Survey of India, is a notable archaeologist in India. He has explored a large number of archaeological sites in various states of India and also participated in more than 12 excavations, including the recent excavations of Buddhist sites at Sanchi, Satdhara, Kanaganhalli and

Kaveripumpattinam. He has worked in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Delhi and was responsible for the management and conservation of large number of monuments and sites in the respective states. Dr. Dayalan is an accomplished scholar and author of twelve books on various topics. He has contributed more than 90 research papers in reputed journals on Archaeology, Art and Architecture, conservation and heritage management, Epigraphy and Numismatics. His recent book on Buddhist Remains of South India is the outcome of his meticulous documentation of all the Buddhist relics of South India.

Rev. Shi Hua Dhammaruchi (Rev. William Edwards) was ordained as a Buddhist Minister by Ven. Chao Chu and Ven. Havanpola Ratnasara Nayaka Thero of the Buddhist Sangha Council of Southern California in the January of 1997. Rev. Dhammaruchi has authored articles published in the Buddhist periodicals: Common Sense, Turning Wheel (magazine of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship), and The Buddhist Times. In September of 2001, Rev. Dhammaruchi moved to Jefferson City, Missouri, with his family and founded the Vipassana Buddhist Church/Center for Buddhist Development. In 2005, he was invited to participate in, and be one of the featured speakers at, the Global Buddhist Conference: Buddhism in a Post-Tsunami Context in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He was a former commissioner on the City of Jefferson Human Relations Commission, and president of the Capitol Area Interfaith Alliance (CAIA) in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Simerjit Kaur obtained M.A. (Philosophy) degree from Department of Philosophy, University of Delhi; M.A. Buddhist Studies (Gold Medal), and M.Phil. from the Department of Buddhist Studies, University of Delhi. He qualified for UGC JRF/SRF in Pali, Philosophy and Buddhist Studies and received MANF (UGC) fellowship. Mr. Simerjit translated and edited a book on Buddhism, entitled, "Living Affinity", written by Master Hsing Yun, and wrote a lot of articles on different aspects of Buddhism. In addition, he participated and presented research papers to 25 International and National Conferences held in India and abroad. Since July 2017, he has been working as a Lecturer in Kalindi College, University of Delhi. Currently, he is pursuing his research

on “Niyāma, the Regulators of Cosmic Order.”

Satyendra Kumar Pandey obtained M.A. (Gold Medal), M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees from the Department of Buddhist Studies, University of Delhi, and then received UGC Fellowship (JRF/SRF). He wrote four books on Abhidhamma and Buddhism, and several articles on the different aspects of Buddhism, translated and edited three books on Buddhism, and Ancient Indian History and Culture, also participated in more than 100 international and national conferences held in India and abroad. He has been working as Assistant Professor in the Department of Buddhist Studies, since July 2009. He has expertise in the field of Buddhist Philosophy especially Abhidhamma Philosophy, Pāli Language and Literature.

Miroj Shakya is an Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Co-Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of the West, Rosemead, California, USA. Dr. Shakya earned his Ph.D. in Religious Studies majoring in Buddhist Studies from University of the West. He is a Project Coordinator of the Digital Sanskrit Buddhist Canon Project and Rare Buddhist Sanskrit Manuscript Preservation Project. He is also a Convener of the Sanskrit Language Working Group, Union Catalogue of Buddhist Texts sponsored by the International Association of Buddhist Universities (IABU), Bangkok, Thailand. He is an editor of the “Catalog of Digitized Rare Sanskrit Buddhist Manuscript” series. Dr. Shakya has received the Straniak Foundation Grant as a visiting scholar in Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, and has worked with ECAI, International Area Studies, University of California, Berkeley.

Waruni Tennakoon is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Language Studies at the Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka. She completed her Ph.D. at the Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka. She researches on the link between English and Buddhist literature and tries to build a rapport between the two identifying their necessary and similar features to be included in the mainstream literature. She has produced a number of articles on Buddhist literature and contemporary issues for which the Buddhist teachings could be effectively applied.

Ven. Thich Duc Tuan is the Abbott of Phap Vuong Temple in California, U.S.A., the President of Vietnam Buddhist Association in America, Vice Secretary General and Head Buddhist Ritual Committee of Vinh Nghiem Headquarter, and Member of the National Department of International Buddhist Affairs. He is a working Doctor of Industrial and Organizational Psychology, Southern California University, U.S.A. His areas of interest include Buddhist traditional ritual ceremonies, Chinese calligraphy and literature, and meditation theory and practice. Ven. Thich Duc Tuan is also a Buddhist chaplain at Stanford Hospital and Regional Medical Center of San Jose, U.S.A.

Most Ven. Dr. Thich Nhat Tu is the Founder of Buddhism Today Foundation since 2000. He made valuable contribution as an editorial member of Hue Quang Encyclopedia of Buddhism (9 volumes, 1992-2007). He is editor-in-chief of the first ever audio Vietnamese Tripitaka, the ongoing Vietnamese Tripitaka Translation project and Buddhism Today Series (over 250 books) as well as editor of more than two 200 CD albums on Buddhist music. He has authored more than 80 Vietnamese books on applied Buddhism. He has traveled extensively around the world to give public Dharma talks to Vietnamese communities in Vietnam, Canada, America, Australia and Europe and has given over 4,000 VCDs on various dharma topics. Master Thich Nhat Tu now serves as Vice Rector of the Vietnam Buddhist University, Vice Chairman of the National Department of International Buddhist Affairs. Several Universities conferred upon him the title of Doctor Honoris Causa in appreciation of his excellent contribution to Buddhist education, his works on Buddhist academic research and leadership in international Buddhist communities.

Khanh T. Tran is an environmental consultant with over 35 years of experience in computer modeling, air quality and weather studies. He received his degrees in Engineering from the University of California. Since 2001, he has founded and operated the website vnbaolut.com that provides daily weather and tropical storm forecasts for Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. He also developed a software to translate Mahayana texts from Chinese to English and Vietnamese. He is the founding

member of Tue Quang Wisdom Light Foundation that sponsors the development of the Vietnamese Tripitaka and the TranTien Foundation that operates a medical clinic and childcare facility for the poor and disadvantaged in Hue, Vietnam.

ABOUT THE EDITORS

Most Ven. Dr. Thich Duc Thien obtained his Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies from Delhi University in 2005, currently is Vice President-Secretary General of Executive Council of National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha (VBS); Vice Chairman of Vietnam – India Friendship Association; Head of the Department of International Buddhist Affairs of VBS; Vice Rector of Vietnam Buddhist University in Hanoi; and Senior Lecturer of Vietnam National University, Hanoi (Tran Nhan Tong Academic Institute).

He served as Secretary General of the 2014 United Nations Day of Vesak in Vietnam and continues to hold a major role in UNDV 2019. He has published, edited, and translated many books in Buddhist studies and history. He has received many prestigious recognitions from the Government of Vietnam (the Third-Class Labor Order), from the Royalty of Cambodia (the General Order), and from the Government of India (the Padma Shri Order).

Most Ven. Dr. Thich Nhat Tu obtained his D.Phil., in Philosophy from Allahabad in 2002, is the Founder of Buddhism Today Foundation since 2000. He made valuable contribution as an editorial member of Hue Quang Encyclopedia of Buddhism (9 volumes, 1992-2007). He is editor-in-chief of the first ever audio Vietnamese Tripitaka, of the ongoing Vietnamese Tripitaka Translation project and Buddhism Today Series (over 250 books), as well as editor of more than two 200 CD albums on Buddhist music. He has authored more than 80 Vietnamese books on applied Buddhism. He has traveled extensively around the world to give public Dharma talks to Vietnamese communities in Vietnam, Canada, America, Australia, and Europe and has produced over 4,000 VCDs on various dharma topics.

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