

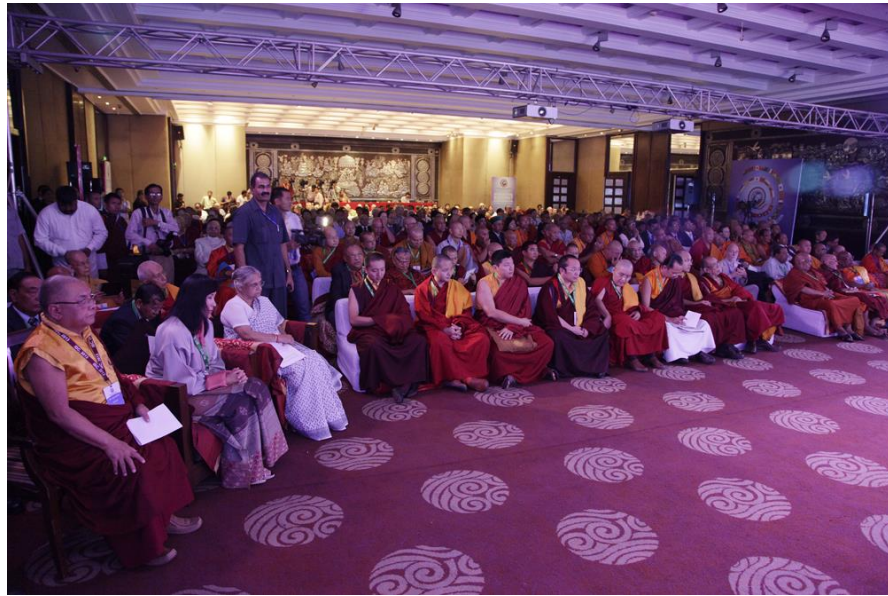


**International Buddhist Confederation**

**Annual Activity Report**  
**2014- 2015**

**INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CONFEDERATION (IBC)**  
**Important activities so far**

**First Founding Members Conclave**  
**09 to 12 September 2013 at Hotel Hyatt Regency, New Delhi**





The conclave was attended by 280 members from 34 countries, representing more than 320 organizations. The attendees included the Sangharajas, Mahanayakas and Khamba Lama of Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Mongolia and Russia, and representatives of the Supreme Patriarch of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism. Video messages from His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who were travelling to the US and Europe respectively, were also played.



**Talk on Milarepa**  
**04 April 2014 at Sri Sathya Sai International Centre, New Delhi**



This was the first in a series of talks by His Holiness the 17<sup>th</sup> Gyalwang Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje on the essence of the teachings of Jetsun Milarepa, the great yogi and mystic of Tibet, who is also known for his One hundred thousand Songs of Awakening. The programme was attended by more than 450 persons, with over 100 foreigners, including nationals from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Japan, Malaysia and Mexico.

**Participation in the UN Day of Vesak celebrations and IBC meeting  
08 to 10 May 2014 in Ninh Binh, Vietnam**



A 6-member IBC team from India, including Secretary General Ven. Lama Lobzang, Global Envoy Mr Lalit Mansingh and Deputy Secretary General Dr B. Mungekar attended the UN Day of Vesak celebrations at Ninh Binh, Vietnam hosted by the National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha (NVBS). On the sidelines of the celebrations 23 members of IBC from 13 countries met and discussed issues related to setting up of regional/national IBC chapters, corpus and the possibility of holding festivals of Buddhist heritage of India in various countries.



**Visit to Sri Lanka and formation of IBC Chapter  
02 July 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka**



Taking forward the IBC mandate for an inclusive and participatory body with representation of all traditions and Buddhists worldwide, the first IBC Chapter was formed in Sri Lanka during the visit of Ven. Lama Lobzang, Secretary General, IBC accompanied by Kishore Thukral. Mr. Jagath Sumathipala, President of the All Ceylon Buddhist Congress, was selected as the President of the Sri Lanka chapter.

**Meeting with President of Sri Lanka and Mahanayakas  
July 2014 in Sri Lanka**



Ven. Lama Lobzang, Secretary General, IBC called on His Excellency Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of Sri Lanka, in Colombo, and discussed with him a proposed visit to India in 2015 for an IBC event marking the conclusion of the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary year of Anagarika Dharmapala of Sri Lanka, the co-founder of the Mahabodhi Society of India with Justice Ashutosh Mukherjee. Ven. Lama Lobzang also called on the Mahanayakas of the Asgiriya and Malwathu mahanikayas in Kandy, and the Mahanayaka of the Amarapura mahanikaya in Colombo.



**Explanatory Talks on 'Preparatory Teachings and Receiving the Kalachakra Empowerment'**  
**03 to 14 July 2014 in Leh, Ladakh**



IBC, in association with the the 33<sup>rd</sup> Kalachakra Organizing Committee, Ladakh Buddhist Association and the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS), Choglamsar, organized two week-long explanatory talks on 'Preparatory Teachings and Receiving the Kalachakra Empowerment' at CIBS Leh, Ladakh. These talks were held on the sidelines of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Kalachakra puja by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and were delivered by Andy Wistreich, founder President of the International Kalachakra Network.



**Divinity in Syllables: Exhibition of Buddhist and Islamic Calligraphy**  
**08 to 16 August 2014 at the India International Centre, New Delhi**



Works of master calligraphers Jamyang Dorjee from Sikkim and Anis Siddiqui from Delhi were displayed at the exhibition, which was inaugurated by the Secretary, Tourism, Government of India, Shri Parvez Dewan, and attended, among others, by His Holiness the 17<sup>th</sup> Gyalwang Karmapa, Most Ven. Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche and Maulana Dr. Mufti Mohd. Mukarram Ahmed.

**3<sup>rd</sup> International Festival of the Buddhist Heritage of Ladakh**  
**24 to 30 August 2014 in Leh, Ladakh**



The Festival was organized in collaboration with the Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre, Leh and the Nav Nalanda Mahavihara, Bihar. Besides promoting Ladakh as a special pilgrimage destination worldwide, especially in South East Asia, the festival also aims to foster an understanding and appreciation of the diverse ethnicities and cultures of Ladakh, and its ancient and vibrant Buddhist heritage. All events during the festival were well attended by locals as well as tourists, both Indian and international.

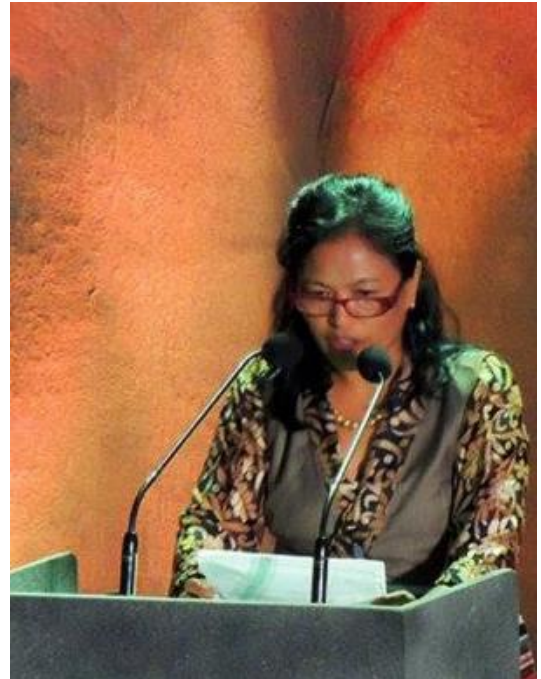
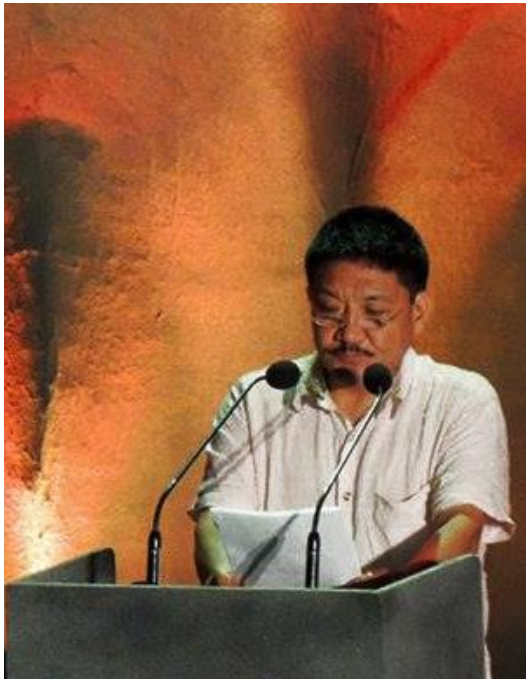
**Meeting with the Department of Karmik and Adhyatmik Affairs, Arunachal Pradesh  
22 September 2014 at Arunachal Bhawan, New Delhi**



It was attended by Ven. Lama Lobzang, Secretary General of IBC, accompanied by Kishore Thukral, Executive Director, Communications, and Ashok Wangdi, Projects and Planning met Shri Jambey Wangdi, Chairman of the Department of Karmik and Adhyatmik Affairs, Arunachal Pradesh. The meeting was also attended by MLAs Shri Japu Deru, Shri Kumsi Sidisow, Shri Jambey Tashi and Shri Passang D. Sona. Subjects discussed included holding of a medical camp in Tawang, development of a Buddhist circuit in the Himalayas and cultural exchange programmes.



**Participation in the Grand Buddhist Council in Sri Lanka  
26 to 29 September 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka**



An IBC delegation comprising His Eminence T.K. Lochen Tulku Rinpoche, Vice President of IBC, Mrs AngDawa Sherpa of Nepal, Deputy General Secretary of IBC and Ven. KonchokNamgyal, President of theLadakhGompa Association attended the Grand Buddhist Council convened by theBodhuBalSena (BBS), Sri Lanka. The council was also attended by Ven.Virathu of Myanmar. IBC was invited by BBS as part of its endeavour to engage with the new emerging Buddhist movements in Sri Lanka and Myanmar

**Visit to South Korea and establishment of IBC Chapter  
04 to 08 October 2014**



On 06 October 2014 Ven. Lama Lobzang, Secretary General, IBC and Kishore Thukral visited Daegu and called on the Supreme Patriarch of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism (JOKB). On 08 October they also called on the President, JOKB in Seoul. It was agreed that the JOKB would be the IBC chapter in South Korea, and that all matters related to IBC would be handled by its Department of Social and International Affairs which would support and provide assistance to IBC for its development.



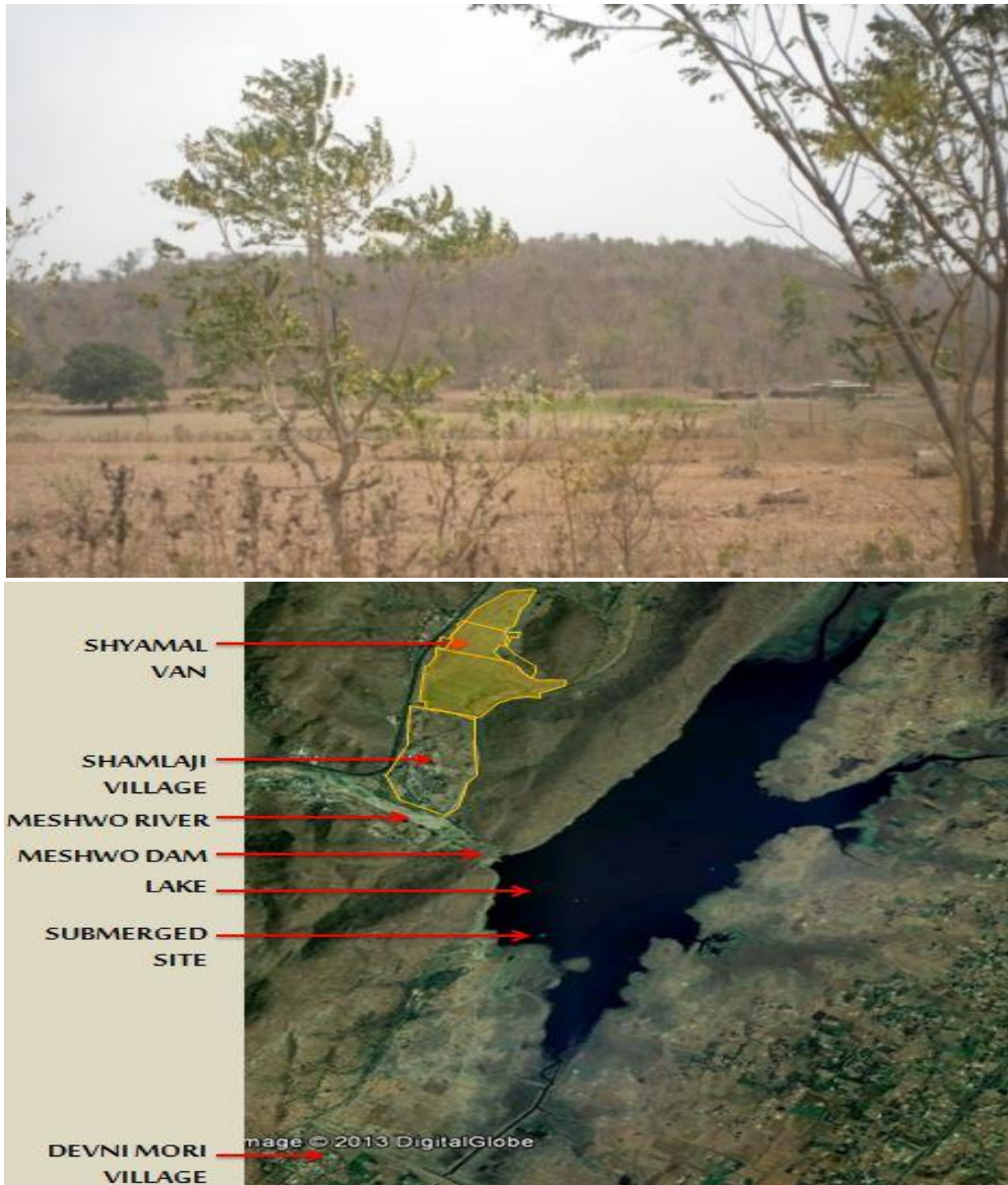
**Visit to Japan**  
**09 to 12 October 2014**



Ven. Lama Lobzang, Secretary General, IBC accompanied by Kishore Thukral, visited Tokyo and met senior functionaries of the Japan Buddhist Federation (JBF) and the Rissho Kosei-Kai sect, besides Rev. Eisho Kawahara and other high priests of important temples in Japan. He also called upon the Ambassador, Her Excellency Mrs Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa and discussed the proposed “Joint Prayer and Chanting for Peace, and in Memory of Victims of Tsunami and Nuclear Disasters in Japan” to be organized by IBC in November 2014 as a part of the Festival of India in Japan



**Devni Mori and Project on the Buddhist heritage of Gujarat**  
**19-20 October 2014**



An IBC delegation comprising Ven. Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche (President), Ven. Lama Lobzang (Secretary General), Dr Harsha Kumara Navaratne (Deputy Secretary General), Kishore Thukral and Ashok Wangdi visited Gandhinagar, Gujarat and met the Secretary, Tourism and the Secretary, Pavitra Yatradham Vikas Board in connection with the proposed construction at Devni Mori of a Grand Relic Vihara to house the Buddha relic discovered there in the early 1960s. The delegation also visited the proposed site at Devni Mori

**Poetry and Literary Conclave: Songs of Milarepa**  
**27 October 2014 in New Delhi**



The conclave, organized in collaboration with the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi was attended by approximately 100 prominent poets and scholars from all over India. His Holiness the 17<sup>th</sup> Gyalwang Karmapa delivered the keynote address.



**Joint Prayer and Chanting for Peace, and in Memory of Victims of Tsunami  
and Nuclear Disasters in Japan (as part of the Festival of India in Japan)  
04 to 10 November 2014**



IBC took a 12-member delegation of senior Indian Buddhist monks, led by His Holiness Gaden Tri Rinpoche, head of the Gelug Tradition (from Ladakh) to hold joint prayers with senior Japanese Buddhist priests of various temples and orders in Kumamoto, Fukushima and Hiroshima. The schedule also included a reception by the Ambassador of India in Tokyo attended by top Buddhist religious leaders and opinion makers of Japan, including the leadership of the Japan Buddhist Federation (JBF). The second phase of IBC participation in the Festival of India will be in May 2015.



**Visit to Nepal and formation of IBC Chapter  
17 to 21 November 2014**



Ven. Lama Lobzang, Secretary General, IBC visited Nepal and witnessed the coming together of the apex bodies of all three major Buddhist religious traditions in Nepal (Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana) to form the IBC chapter in the country. The three Core Team members are Ven. Phupu Chhembe Sherpa (Mahayana), President, Nepal Buddhist Federation, as Coordinator, and Ven. Dharma Murti (Theravada), Vice President, All Nepal Bhikkhu Federation and Ven. Prof. Dr. Nareshaman Vajracharya (Vajrayana), President, Nepal Traditional Buddhist Association as members.

**IBC Governing Council Meeting  
10-11 December 2014 in Rajgir, Bihar**



Out of a total 54 members of the Governing Council, 38 were present. These included 2 Presidents (His Eminence Dr.Ashin Nyanissara, Mahasayadaw of Myanmar, and Her Royal Highness Ashi Kesang Wangmo Wangchuk, Princess of Bhutan), and 3 Vice Presidents (Ven. Banagala Upatissa of Sri Lanka, Ven. Thich Quang Ba of Australia and Mr Jamie Cresswell, President of the European Buddhist Union). During the 2 days members discussed proposed amendments to the IBC Constitution. A Working Group consisting of 11 members, including the Secretary General in ex-officio capacity, was formed to guide and assist the Secretariat in its functioning.



**Conference on Challenges in the Himalayas: Education, Health and Buddhist Culture**  
**20-21 December 2014 at Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh**



The Honourable Minister of State for Home, Government of India, Shri Kiren Rijiju, Honourable Minister of Tourism, Art and Culture, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Pema Khandu, Mr Richard Gere and 10 other prominent personalities as well as local MLAs and 500 delegates from all over Arunachal Pradesh attended the conference.



**Meeting of Richard Gere with the Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi  
05 January 2015 in New Delhi**



Mr Richard Gere, Global Envoy of IBC and Chairman of the Gere Foundation called on the Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in New Delhi

**Memorandum of Understanding between IBC and Ministry of Tourism, Gujarat  
11 January 2015 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat**



 Government of Gujarat	 11-13 Jan 2015 <b>Vibrant GUJARAT 2015</b> The Global Business Hub   The Smart Summit
<b>MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (Strategic Partnership)</b>	
<p>This Memorandum of Understanding is entered on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 at Mahatma Mandir, in Gandhinagar during Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2015</p> <p style="text-align: center;">between</p> <p style="text-align: center;">International Buddhist Confederation, New Delhi, India and The Government of Gujarat</p> <p>International Buddhist Confederation, New Delhi, India wishes to forge Strategic Partnership in the area of tourism to setup Buddhist Tourism Circuit across various Buddhist sites in Gujarat.</p> <p>Government of Gujarat would facilitate International Buddhist Confederation to obtain necessary permissions / registrations / approvals / clearances etc. from the concerned departments of the State, as per the existing policies / rules and regulations of the State Government.</p>	
<p>For and on behalf of Government of Gujarat</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(AUTHORISED SIGNATORY)</p> <p>Sonal Mishra, (IAS) Secretary Tourism, Government of Gujarat</p>	<p>For and on behalf of International Buddhist Confederation</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(AUTHORISED SIGNATORY)</p> <p>Ven. Lama Lobzang Secretary General International Buddhist Confederation</p>

At the Vibrant Gujarat Summit in Gandhinagar IBC signed an MoU with the Ministry of Tourism, Gujarat for the preservation, development and promotion of Buddhist heritage sites in Gujarat



### Important forthcoming programmes

- **Talk on Ajarn Sulak Sivaraksha**– 07 March 2015 in Tibet House, New Delhi. This talk on “Gandhi’s Truth Force in the Age of Climate Change” by Ajarn Sulak Sivaraksha, one of Asia’s leading social thinkers and activists from Thailand, is being organized in collaboration with Tibet House, New Delhi
- **Dialogue on Vinaya** – 18 and 19 March 2015 in New Delhi between the highest ranking Theravada monks from Sri Lanka and high ranking monks of the Nalanda tradition. The 16-member Sri Lankan delegation will consist of 4 Mahanayakas, 2 Anunayakas and other high ranking monks and religious opinion makers
- **International Conference in Nepal: Buddha’s Birthplace** – A conference under the aegis of IBC’s Nepal chapter to evolve a Concrete Consensus Project (CCS) towards a development initiative for Lumbini and other sites of Buddhist heritage in Nepal, in order to neutralize Chinese influence, and to develop interconnectivity between holy sites in Nepal and India. It is proposed to invite international experts, scholars, religious hierarchy of all three traditions in Nepal, representatives of Buddhist communities and social organizations in Nepal, and Buddhist organisations worldwide to participate in this conference
- **Symposium: Buddhist Sanskrit Texts in Indian and Japanese collections** - May 2015, Kyoto and Tokyo Japan. As part of the Festival of India in Japan, this was earlier scheduled for November 2015, but rescheduled for May 2015
- **Conference on “Global Hindu-Buddhist Initiative for Democracy Promotion and Conflict Avoidance”** in collaboration with the Vivekananda International Foundation, The Brookings Institute and the Tokyo foundation
- **Events to coincide with His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s visit to UK** – June and September 2015. Constituent members of IBC in UK, namely the Buddhist Society, Network of Buddhist Organisations, Buddhist Cultural Centre (BCC), NABU (an environmental NGO) and Lady Mohini Kent Noon, along with Lord Bheekhu Parekh, Lord Patel, Lord Stone and the Akshardham Temple Management Board are keen to organise events to coincide with HH the Dalai Lama’s visit to UK from 27 to 30 June 2015. The idea is to unveil IBC in a grand manner in the UK by taking advantage of the buzz surrounding the visit by HH the Dalai Lama, who is also a Patron of IBC
- **Conclave on Inter-faith Understanding** - in Sri Lanka, under the aegis of IBC, Sri Lanka chapter and International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB), Bangkok
- **International Conference on Sustainable Goals** - in Colombo, to be jointly organized by IBC, Sri Lanka chapter and INEB with participation by senior Buddhist leadership, especially from Sri Lanka and India. Resource person is Harsha Kumara Navaratne, Deputy Secretary General of IBC, Chairman Sevalanka Foundation and Chairman, INEB

- **Conclave on SAARC Buddhist Circuit Pilgrimage and Tourism** - The concept was suggested by Shri Suresh Prabhu, Honourable Minister of Railways, earlier in August 2014 during an interaction with Dr. Harsha Kumara Navaratne, Deputy Secretary General of IBC and Shri Sheshadri Chari. Shri Suresh Prabhu offered full support to IBC initiatives.
- **General Assembly meeting** – The bi-annual meeting of the General Assembly of IBC will be held in April 2015. 300 members are expected to attend this meeting. Elections and amendments to the Constitution are the main items on the agenda.
- **International Festival of Sacred Arts and Music at Bodhgaya**
- **Boudha Mahotsav** - This grand festival of the Buddhist heritage of India will be organized by IBC in association with the Nav Nalanda Mahavihara, Bihar Tourism, Uttar Pradesh Tourism, Andhra Pradesh Tourism and Telangana Tourism in Bodhgaya, Kushinagar, Amravati, Nagarjunakonda and Lumbini.