



8th Buddhist-Christian Colloquium

Buddhists and Christians Working Together for Peace through Reconciliation and Resilience



**Catholic Pastoral Center, Phnom Penh
26-30 May 2025**

Total Participants: 150

- ☐ **International Participants: 50 People**
- ☐ **Local Participants: 100 People**
- Catholics: 50
- Buddhists: 50

Detailed Program

WELCOME DAY (Monday, 26 May 2025)

18:30 – 19:30 **Welcome Dinner at JD Polman Hotel** (*International Participants*)
*Local Catholic Participants from Phnom Penh Vicariate, Battambang Prefecture
and Kampong Cham Prefecture have dinner at Phnom Penh Thmey.*

DAY I (Tuesday, 27 May 2025)

Buddhist-Christian Understanding of Peace in Reconciliation and Resilience

06:30 – 07:30 **Opening Mass at the Pastoral Center** (*Optional*):
Celebrated by **H.E. Bishop Olivier Schmitthaesler**, *Apostolic Vicar, the
Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh.*

08:00 – 08:15 **Registration & Welcome All Participants**

08:15 – 08:30 Arrival of Samdech and the Minister of Cults and Religions of Cambodia

08:30 – 10:00 Inaugural Session

Moderator: **Rev. Dr. In-gun Kang, S.J.**, *Director, MAGGA Jesuit Research Center; Consultor, Vatican Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue (co-moderating with representatives from the Ministry of Cults and Religions of Cambodia).*

- ☐ Welcome by the Moderator
- ☐ National Anthem of Cambodia
- ☐ Traditional Blessing Dance

➤ **Lighting the Candle by Buddhist and Catholic Representatives**

- ☐ **H.Em. Cardinal George Jacob Koovakad**, *Prefect, Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue, Vatican.*
- ☐ **H.E. Bishop Olivier Schmitthaeusler**, *Apostolic Vicar, the Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh.*
- ☐ **H.H. Samdech Am Limheng**, *The Sanghanayaha of the Mahanikaya order the Kingdom of Cambodia, President, Sangha Council of the Mohanikay Order of Cambodia.*
- ☐ **H.H. Bour Kry**, *Great Supreme Patriarch, Dhammayut Order of Cambodia.*

Welcome Addresses: *Each for Seven Minutes*

1. **H.E. Bishop Olivier Schmitthaeusler**, *Apostolic Vicar, the Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh.*
2. **Archbishop Felix Anthony Machado**, *Former President, Office of Interreligious Dialogue, Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC).*
3. **H.E. Archbishop Peter Bryan Wells**, *Apostolic Nuncio to Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia.*
4. **H.Em. Cardinal George Jacob Koovakad**, *Prefect, Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue, Vatican.*
5. **H.H. Samdech Am Limheng**, *The Sanghanayaha of the Mahanikaya order the Kingdom of Cambodia, President, Sangha Council of the Mohanikay Order of Cambodia.*
6. **H.H. Bour Kry**, *Great Supreme Patriarch, Dhammayut Order of Cambodia.*
7. **H.E. Chay Borin**, *Minister of Cults and Religions of Cambodia.*

10:00 – 10:30 Group Photo & Coffee/Tea Break

- *Note: After the coffee break, all invited participants are kindly requested to proceed to the first academic session. Samdech and the Minister will depart after the photo session. Any honorable guests from the inaugural ceremony who wish to attend the academic session are warmly welcome.*

10:30 – 11:30 Session 1: Concepts of Peace in Reconciliation and Resilience

Moderator: **Rev. Dr. In-gun Kang, S.J.**, *Director, MAGGA Jesuit Research Center; Consultor, Vatican Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue.*

Keynote Addresses

1. **The Contextual Meaning of the Colloquium Topic: *Buddhists and Christians Working Together for Peace through Reconciliation and Resilience*** (15 minutes);
H.E. Msgr. Indunil J. Kodithuwakku K., *Secretary, Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue, Vatican.*
2. **Buddhist Concept of Peace, Reconciliation, and Resilience** (20 minutes);
Ven. Hin Hung Sik, *Executive Vice President, The Hong Kong Buddhist Association; Senior Fellow, Center of Buddhist Studies, The University of Hong Kong.*
3. **Christian Concept of Peace, Reconciliation, and Resilience** (20 minutes);
Rev. Dr. Leo D Lefebure, *Professor, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, Georgetown University.*

11:30 – 13:30 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30 **Session 2: Peace, Reconciliation & Resilience Stories in the Buddhist Christian Scriptures**

Moderator: **Mr. Gerald Kong**, *Executive Secretary, Archdiocesan Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenism Center of Singapore (AIRDECS), Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore.*

Talks/Presentations

1. **Peace, Reconciliation & Resilience in the Old Testament** (15 minutes);
Msgr. Peter Zhang, CDD, *Vicar General for Interreligious and Ecumenical Relations, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore.*
2. **Peace, Reconciliation & Resilience in the Pali Tipitaka** (15 minutes);
Ven. Bhikkhu Tejananda Pisith San, *the Head of Research for Postgraduate Studies at Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University, Cambodia.*
3. **Peace, Reconciliation & Resilience in the New Testament** (15 minutes);
Dr. Thomas Cattoi, *Professor, Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome.*
4. **Peace, Reconciliation & Resilience in the Mahayana Sutras** (15 minutes);
Ven. Huei Kai, *Deputy Abbot, Fo Guang Shan Monastery (FGS); Professor Emeritus, Nan Hua University, Taiwan.*

Panel Discussion, Q&A (25 minutes).

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee/Tea Break

16:00 – 17:15 **Session 3: Group Sharing** (10 groups; each with a moderator and a reporter)

Questions for Group Sharing (75 minutes): **(10 places for groups).**

1. *In what ways can the concepts of reconciliation and resilience, as understood in both Buddhist and Christian traditions, be applied to promote peace in contemporary conflicts?*
2. *How can Buddhists and Christians collaborate more effectively to foster resilience in communities facing social, economic, or environmental challenges?*

➤ *Note: The group report will be on the second day.*

17:30 – 18:15 Reading Scriptures & Meditation

1. **Reading the Scriptural Citations from the 2024 Vesak Message** (10 minutes):
Dr. Angeliki Ziaka, *Central Committee Member & Programme Executive for Interreligious Dialogue at the World Council of Churches (WCC), Geneva.*
2. **Buddhist Meditation** (10 minutes): **Most Venerable Dr. Ananthsak Phathasira**, *Abbot, Panongbouathong-Tai Monastery; a Lecturer; Member of the Committee for Sangha Education of CBFOL, Laos.*
3. **Christian Meditation** (10 minutes): **H.E. Msgr. Enrique Figaredo, S.J.**, *Apostolic Prefect, the Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang, Cambodia.*

18:15 – 20:00 Dinner & Social (*Outside Space*)

A documentary video will be shown during dinner.

DAY II (Wednesday, 28 May 2025)

***Ethics, Rituals, Education and Spiritualities
for Peace, Reconciliation and Resilience (PRR)***

06:30 – 07:30 Mass at the Pastoral Center (*Optional*):
Celebrated by **His Eminence Cardinal GEORGE JACOB KOOVAKAD**
The Vatican Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue

08:30 – 09:30 Session 4: Expanding the Edge of PRR

Moderator: **Rev. Fr. Daniele Mazza, PIME**, *Southeast Asia Regional Superior of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME).*

Talks/Presentations

1. **Ethics in Jataka Tales & Their Relevance for PRR Today** (15 minutes);
Ven. Elayapattuwe Nagithawansha Thero, *Chief Incumbent, Puran Gallen Vihara, Kalapura, Sigiriya, Sri Lanka.*
2. **Saint Francis of Assisi: Integral Advocacy for PRR** (15 minutes);
H.E. Simon Peter Poh Hoong Seng, *Archbishop, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Kuching, Malaysia.*
3. **The Role of Ritual & Spirituality for a Nonviolent Society** (15 minutes);
Ven. Dr. Guo Xing, *Assistant Professor, the Department of Buddhist Studies at the Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts (DILA), Taiwan.*
4. **Education as a Path to PRR: the Role of Schools** (15 minutes);
H.Em. Cardinal Stephen Chow, S.J., *Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong.*

09:30 – 10:00 Coffee/Tea Break

10:00 – 11:20 Session 5: Case Narratives for PRR in Cambodia

Moderator: **Prof. Wai Lun Tam**, *Research Professor & Emeritus Professor, the Chinese University of Hong Kong.*

Talks/Presentations

1. **Buddhist Case: Maha Ghosananda and the *Dhammayietra* (Peace Walk) Movement** (20 minutes). **H.Em. Samdech Yon Seng Yeath**, *Rector of Preah Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University; Vice-president of Cambodian Sangha Secretariat; Vice-Head of Phnom Penh Buddhist Governor.*
2. **Christian Case: The Life and Work of Mr. Tun Channareth, 1997 Nobel Peace Prize recipient for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines** (20 minutes). **Sr. Denise Coghlan, RSM**, *Senior Adviser, Metta Karuna Reflection Center, Siem Reap, Cambodia.*

Panel Discussion, Q&A (30 minutes).

11:20 – 13:00 Lunch Break

13:00 – 14:15 Session 6: Regional Narratives of PRR

Moderator: **Ven. Shi You Wei**, *Abbot of Di Zang Lin Temple, Singapore.*

Talks/Presentations (*Each 10 minutes*)

1. **Mongolia:** H.Em. Cardinal Giorgio Marengo & Ven. Batt sengel Asralt.
2. **Vietnam:** H.E. Bishop Joseph Tri, Rev. Fr. Bao Loc & Ven. Thich Tinh Nguyet.
3. **Myanmar:** H.E. Archbishop Marco Tin Win & Ven. Nanda Sa Ra.
4. **Korea:** Rev. Fr. Park Jaechan, Ven. Junehan, and Rev. Deoksang Jo.
5. **Taiwan:** Rev. Fr. Raphael Ling & Ven. Yan Tong.
6. **Sri Lanka:** H.E. Bishop Jude Nishanta Silva, Rev. Fr. Alex Nilantha & Ven. Sooriyawewa Sumedha Thero.

14:15 – 15:30 Session 7: Group Sharing (10 groups; each moderator and reporter)

Questions for Group Sharing (75 minutes): **(10 places for groups).**

1. *How can the examples from today's session inspire practical peace and reconciliation efforts in your own context?*
2. *What challenges do religious communities face in peacebuilding, and how can they strengthen resilience in these efforts?*

15:30 – 15:40 Coffee/Tea Break

15:40 – 16:40 **Each Group Report** (Each group 5 minutes)

Moderator: **Dr. Phon Sophal**, *Director of Saint Paul Institute (SPI), Takeo, Cambodia.*

16:40 – 17:00 Meditation

- 1. Buddhist Meditation** (10 minutes): **Ven. Bhikkhu Kassapa Hun Khamra**, *Deputy Director of Vipassana Dhura Buddhist Center of the Kingdom of Cambodia.*
- 2. Christian Meditation** (10 minutes): **Fr. Mark Ropez, S.J.** *Director of Fe y Alegria in Cambodia.*

17:00 – 17:50 Session 8: Concluding Session

Moderator: **Rev. Fr. Suwat Luangsa-ard**, *Deputy Secretary General, Catholic Bishops' Conference of Thailand.*

- 1. Summary of the Colloquium Discussions** (10 minutes):
H.E. Don Norbert Marshall Andradi, *Bishop, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka.*
- 2. Open Discussion:** Reflections, Key Takeaways, and Suggestions (30 minutes);
Open Sharing from Participants.
- 3. Reading of the Final Statement** (5 minutes): **Rev. Fr. William LaRousse, MM**, *Assistant Secretary General of the FABC; the Executive Secretary of the FABC Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (OEIA).*

17:50 – 18:30 Words of Thanks and Gift Presentation

1. Vote of Thanks

- a. H.E. Bishop Olivier Schmitthaesler**, *Apostolic Vicar, the Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh* (5 minutes).
- b. H. Em. Samdech Yon Seng Yeath**, *Rector of Preah Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University; Vice-president of Cambodian Sangha Secretariat; Vice-Head of Phnom Penh Buddhist Governor* (5 minutes).
- c. Rev. Fr. Paulin Batairwa Kubuya, S.X.**, *Under-Secretary, Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue, Vatican* (5 minutes).

2. Presentation of Gifts (Speakers & International Participants)

Gifts will be presented to all speakers and international participants, with the following presenters each offering gifts to a portion of the recipients:

- a. Presented by H.E. Msgr. Indunil J. Kodithuwakku K.**, *Secretary, Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue, Vatican.*
- b. Presented by H.E. Bishop Olivier Schmitthaesler**, *Apostolic Vicar, the Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh.*
- c. Presented by H.Em. Samdech Yon Seng Yeath**, *Rector of Preah Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University; Vice-president of Cambodian Sangha Secretariat; Vice-Head of Phnom Penh Buddhist Governor.*

18:30 – 18:40 Group Photo (Speakers & Participants)

18:40 – 20:00 Dinner & Social (*Outside Space*)

DAY III (Thursday, 29 May 2025)

Buddhist Christian Encounters for Peace in Cambodia (Field Visits)

- 06:30 – 07:30 Mass at the Pastoral Center (*Optional*):**
Celebrated by **H.Em. Cardinal Giorgio Marengo, IMC**, *Apostolic Prefect, the Roman Catholic Apostolic Prefecture of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.*
- 07:30 – 08:30 Travel to Botum Watey Reachavararam (*Visit Two Buddhist Patriarchs*)**
- 08:30 – 09:30 Courtesy Visit to His Holiness Noun Nghet, Great Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Cambodia, at Wat Botum Watey, Phnom Penh.**
- 09:30 – 10:30 Courtesy Visit to His Holiness Bour Kry, Great Supreme Patriarch of the Dhammayut Order of Cambodia, at Wat Botum Watey, Phnom Penh.**
- 10:30 – 11:30 Visit to St. Joseph Parish, Site of the Historical Memory of Cambodian Martyrs.**
- 11:30 – 12:30 Lunch at St. Joseph Parish, Phar Touch**
- 12:30 – 14:30 Travel to Takeo Province**
Walking Together for Peace: A visit to places where Buddhists and Christians walk together for peace, education, human development, and cultural exchange.
- 14:30 – 15:30 Visit to Buddhist Monks at Wat Ang Metrey**
- 15:30 – 16:30 Visit to Handicraft Center**
- 16:30 – 18:00 Visit to Chamcar Tieng (Smile of Mary Parish)**
- 18:00 – 19:00 Dinner and Cultural Performance**
- 19:00 – 21:00 Travel Back to Phnom Penh**

DEPARTURE DAY (Friday, 30 May 2025)

Optional Trip to Vipassana Center in Udong

Number of Participants: 50 People (Mainly International Participants)

Transportation: 01 Bus and 01 Prieb So Van

Coordinated by: The MAGGA Team and Mr. Keo Vichet

07:30 – 08:30 Travel from Phnom Penh to Udong

Departure from JD Polman Hotel at 7:30 AM. Please have breakfast and check out before this time. Kindly leave your luggage at the hotel reception for safekeeping.

- 08:30 – 09:00** **Meeting with Deputy Abbot, Ven. Bhikkhu Kassapa Hun Khamra, at the Vipassana Hall.**
- 09:00 – 10:30** **Tour of the Vipassana Dhura Center (Various Buildings)**
- 10:30 – 11:00** **Meditation**
Led by Ven. Bhikkhu Kassapa Hun Khamra at the Vipassana Hall.
- 11:00 – 12:30** **Lunch at the Vipassana Center**
Prepared by the Center and Sponsored by the MAGGA Jesuit Research Center.
- 12:30 – 13:30** **Return to the JD Polman Hotel in Phnom Penh**

- *Note: As a sign of friendship and gratitude, MAGGA will offer some of its publications to the Vipassana Dhura Buddhist Center. Participants who wish to share in this expression of goodwill are welcome to contribute a small donation during the trip.*

Phnom Penh, May 11, 2025

This program is the fruit of a collaborative effort involving the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue (Vatican), the Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh, Saint Paul Institute, Buddhist institutions including Preah Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University, and the MAGGA Jesuit Research Center, with ongoing input from keynote speakers and members of the local organizing team.

On Behalf of the Organizing Committee for the 8th Buddhist-Christian Colloquium,



Rev. Dr. In-gun Kang, S.J.
Director, MAGGA Jesuit Research Center
Consultor, Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue



Dr. Phon Sophal
Director of Saint Paul Institute