



มูลนิธิ เสฐียรโกเศศ-นาคะประทีป
Sathirakoses-Nagapradipa Foundation



The 20th Biennial INEB Conference

Buddhism in a Divided World Peace · Planet · Pandemic

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- Wongsanit Ashram
- International Network of Engaged Buddhists
- Spirit in Education Movement – SEM Asia
- SEM College
- School for Wellbeing
- Towards Organic Asia
- Pajarayasara Magazine



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Sathirakoses-Nagapradipa Foundation and Its Organizations

Overview

The Sathirakoses-Nagapradipa Foundation is a Thai non-governmental organization (NGO) (registered on May 6, 1969) with a spiritual, environmental, and activist vision. The foundation is named after two prominent Thai scholars, Sathirakoses and Nagapradeepa, who were the intellectual link of the traditional and modern Thai society. Founded by Sulak Sivaraksa in 1968, it has become the ‘mother’ foundation for several sister organizations that have continued to struggle at the grassroots, national, regional and international levels for freedom, human rights, traditional cultural integrity, social justice and environmental protection.

One characteristic that distinguishes SNF from other Thai NGOs is its deep commitment to spiritual development. Members of SNF believe that inner change (personal development) and outer change (political, economic, and structural changes) must go hand in hand to bring about a transformation of society. Together with the people of Siam and other concerned citizens from around the world, our network’s efforts focus on cultivating seeds of peace and to lay the foundation for meaningful social transformation.

Empowering Communities for Sustainability

One network goal focuses on structural reform at all levels of society. Members of the SNF (and its sister organisations & affiliates) serve and work with the poor and marginalized, listening to and learning from the people. We seek alternatives to the destructive patterns of living which are so prevalent in the world today. At the same time, we also look for skillful means to transform the structural violence that supports such patterns. Many projects use an alternative educational approach which is aimed to empower grassroots leaders so that they can help communities preserve cultural diversity and traditional wisdom, eradicate poverty, exploitation and oppression, and promote living in harmony with nature. We also promote fair trade to support these communities to move forward and become self-reliant.

SNF has operated continuously since its founding. The sister organizations are shown below and were established at various times since SNF’s founding in 1969:





Wongsanit Ashram

Wongsanit Ashram was founded in 1984 by social activist Sulak Sivaraksa and colleagues on land donated to SNF by the heirs of M.R. Supasawat Wongsanit and Mom Samer Sawatdiwat, M.R. Saisawasdee.

The Ashram is a spiritual activist community for living and learning together that is devoted to developing and promoting an alternative lifestyle which is grounded in Buddhist Dharma, cultural diversity and environmental sustainability. Along with conserving nature and the environment, the ashram was also designated as a refuge for social activists to seek deeper spiritual dimensions.

Its community members use natural agriculture practices as a means of supporting community welfare by growing vegetables and fruits that are non-toxic for consumption. These fresh products are also prepared in meals for workshops and community members.

Projects coordinated by the Wongsanit Ashram include:

- ❖ Renewal of the Wongsanit Ashram
- ❖ Wongsanit Ashram Learning Center for novices, marginalized children and teachers
- ❖ Wongsanit Ashram Food court and community products
- ❖ Support livelihood and strengthening community in Nan Province
- ❖ Wongsanit Ashram community productions

Contact: info@wongsanit-ashram.org

Website: <https://wongsanit-ashram.org/2019/>





International Network of Engaged Buddhists

In 1989, the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB) was established in Thailand by Sulak Sivaraksa and a group of Buddhist and non-Buddhist thinkers and social activists. INEB works at three levels: country, regional and international. INEB operates as an autonomous organization under the Bangkok-based Sathirakoses-Nagapradipa Foundation (SNF). INEB was formed as a networking platform for Buddhist and faith-based organizations, activists, and individuals in 25 countries across Asia, Europe, North America and Australia. From this diversity, an understanding of socially engaged Buddhism has emerged which integrates the practice of Buddhism with social action for a healthy, just, and peaceful world.

INEB's overall mission and vision is to develop the perspective and practice of socially engaged Buddhism through its objectives that:

1. Promote understanding, cooperation, and networking among inter-Buddhist and inter-religious social action groups
2. Act as an information resource related to areas of social concern
3. Facilitate conferences, education, and training based on Buddhist values and practices that support and strengthen socially active individuals and groups

Projects coordinated by the INEB Secretariat include:

- ❖ Asian Network of Buddhists for Child protection
- ❖ Climate and Ecology (Eco-temple projects and the Inter-religious Climate & Ecology Network)
- ❖ Holistic Healthcare (Buddhist Psychotherapy and Chaplaincy)
- ❖ Peace and Interfaith Collaborations (Sangha for Peace and more)
- ❖ INEB Institute for Transformative Learning (School for English Engaged Social Service and more)
- ❖ Gender and Women's Empowerment
- ❖ Young Bodhisattva Training
- ❖ Digital Bodhisattva
- ❖ Pandemic Emergency Response

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Website: <https://www.inebnetwork.org/>





Spirit in Education Movement – SEM Asia

The Spirit in Education Movement - SEM was established on February 14, 1995, under auspices of social activists and educators with funds from the Right Livelihood Award, which was awarded to Ajarn Sulak Sivaraksa that same year. Its vision is to be an alternative college, offering spiritually-based, holistic education underpinned by Buddhist and ecological principles, that also welcomes other religious and spiritual traditions.

SEM designs learning experiences that create an environment to awaken people's spirit and cultivate wisdom rather than intellect. SEM embodies a holistic approach to higher learning that serves as a catalyst for personal and social transformation in the context of modern society.

SEM Asia coordinates projects in 4 countries – Siam/Thailand, Burma/Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia. The scope of SEM's activities include:

- ❖ Capacity building
- ❖ Networking
- ❖ Building collaborative partnerships and relationships
- ❖ Mobilize communities and promote or advocate for identified community issues
- ❖ Supporting inclusive participation, gender equity, and diversity
- ❖ Preserving cultural integrity
- ❖ Peacebuilding, increasing conflict sensitivity, intra and interfaith dialogue

Projects coordinated by the SEM Asia include:

- ❖ Promoting a Culture of Peace and Sustainability in Myanmar (PCPSM)
- ❖ Inter-faith Peacebuilding and Community Resilience in Myanmar
- ❖ Advocacy and Humanitarian Response to the Myanmar Military Coup
- ❖ Buddhist and Faith Leaders' as Influencers on Migration and Human Trafficking Issues in the Thai-Myanmar border

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SEM College

SEM College is built on the roots of working more than 30 years with engaged spirituality and Grassroots Leadership Training (GLT) in Myanmar, Southeast Asia and beyond while continually evolving and adapting in order to effectively address the needs of today's society in local communities. SEM College is for people committing themselves to work for social reconstruction at all levels side by side with self-transformation.

In order to bring about social change, SEM College's approach is participative, reflective and contemplative that supports young grassroots leaders to help build just, sustainable and resilient communities in a holistic and inclusive manner. The participants are guided to look through a lens of personal engagement, incorporating different practices (from meditation, inner healing, compassionate communication, etc.)

SEM College is offering: a Thai course for Awakening Leadership Training (Thai ALT); and an International Awakening Leadership Training course for Training of Community Facilitators. These provide immersive experiential learning platforms in Thailand, as well as post-training mentoring, and an MA for international program supported by respective partners. Each offers opportunities to:

- ❖ Nourish and encourage participants to gain new perspectives, deep compassion and awakened awareness of the inner and outer structures driving the present global, regional, national and local situations (mindset shift) in order to lead their communities for positive change;
- ❖ Contribute to organizing and rebuilding local communities for resilience and sustainability; and
- ❖ Network among participants from different ethnic and religious backgrounds.

In order to provide more resources on diverse topics, SEM College also has SEM Press which publishes books in the Thai language.

Contact: **International ALT - blt.ineb@gmail.com**





SCHOOL FOR WELLBEING
Studies and Research

School for Wellbeing

The School for Wellbeing Studies and Research is an independent action-research and vision exchange platform which was founded on 20 August 2009. The School is supported by a growing international partnership and network of change makers. It is the 9th campus of the Right Livelihood College (RLC) - RLC Bangkok.

In collaboration with the Centre for Bhutan & Gross National Happiness Studies, Bhutan, the School for Wellbeing:

- ❖ Explores wellbeing and happiness as driving forces for inner and social transformation
- ❖ Coordinates study-visits to Bhutan and contributes to conferences
- ❖ Is a platform for action-research and vision exchanges

The School for Wellbeing initiated the Earth Trusteeship Working Group (ETWG) and promotes the co-creation of Eco-Peace.

Connecting the Commons (CTC) is a collaborative project with “commons” initiatives in Thailand and in the Asia-Pacific region.

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Towards Organic Asia

Towards Organic Asia (TOA) is a partner-driven network, managed by the coordinating team in Bangkok, Thailand. TOA began as an initiative of Vandana Shiva, a leading environmental activist from India, to strengthen and move forward the existing movement of agro-ecology in Asia. Inspired by the Bhutanese’s “100 percent Organic Country” policy and global movement of Gross National Happiness, Hans and Wallapa van Willenswaard co-founders of the School for Wellbeing Studies and Research, started the TOA Programme in 2011, in collaboration with CCFD – Terre Solidaire, Thailand Green Market Network and Suan Nguen Mee Ma social enterprise.

TOA envisions organic agriculture/agroecology as the means to strengthen the spirit of community, economic sufficiency, and care for the Earth. A holistic and integrated approach to organic agriculture/agroecology as not only a food production system, but that encompasses the interdependencies between agriculture and local cultures, self-sufficiency, sustainable livelihoods, climate resilience, food and seed sovereignty. TOA’s efforts to promote organic agriculture/agroecology are at the heart of global transformation.

Our mission is to strengthen the organic network among diverse stakeholders in Asia, which will promote common understanding and cooperation in agroecology and social wellbeing. TOA will contribute to developing dynamic Asian models of agroecology for influencing policy and inspiring a wider movement within the region and beyond. In order to achieve its mission, TOA is implemented through activities involving stakeholders in 4 areas, Training, Technology, Advocacy, and Youth that link to organic agriculture and agroecology.

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Pajarayasara Magazine

The 52-year-old socially progressive Thai language journal *Pajarayasara Magazine* is published three times annually and focuses on articles about Thai history, culture, the arts, religion, and politics. This journal appeals to a range of people from university students to academics, and the older generation who have read it through the years. It is for sale in bookshops throughout the country.

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