

Curriculum Vitae of G.A. Somaratne

Contact: gsomarat@yahoo.com

Educational Qualifications

- **PhD** in Buddhism, Northwestern University, USA, 1993
- **MA** in Religious Studies, Northwestern University, USA, 1991
- **BA** Special Degree with First Class Honours, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, 1985 – Major: Buddhist Philosophy
- Monastic training and Language studies: Pali, Sanksrit, Sinhala -1974-1981
- Post-doctoral research – University of Oxford, UK, 1993-1995

Teaching and Research Experience

- **Assistant Professor** in Buddhist Studies, Centre of Buddhist Studies, University of Hong Kong (11/2014-present)
- **Co-Director**, Dhammachai Tipitaka Project, Dhammachai Institute, Thailand (4/2010-10/2014)
- **Professor** in Pali & Buddhist Studies, University of Peradeniya (6/2006—5/2010)
- **Senior Lecturer Grade I** in Pali & Buddhist Studies, University of Peradeniya (4/2001—6/2006)
- **Associate Professor** in Religion, Miyazaki International College, Japan (1/2000—1/2001)
- **Lecturer** in Religion, Miyazaki International College, Japan (1/1996—1/2000)

Administrative Experience

- **Rector**, Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy (7/2010-12/2012)
- **Director**, Research & Publications, Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy (7/2009—2/2010)
- **Director**, SIBA-DCI Research Centre (2011-2014)
- **Chairman**, Higher Degrees Committee, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya (10/2005—10/2008)
- **Head**, Department of Pali & Buddhist Studies, University of Peradeniya (8/2004—6/2007)

Research Publications

- *Dīghanikāya Volume I* (pilot version) of the Dhammachai Tipitaka Project (production of the project of which I was Co-director), 2013.
- *The Saṃyuttanikāya of the Suttapiṭaka, Vol. I (Sagāthavagga): A Critical Apparatus*, Oxford: Pali Text Society, 1998, pp. 539 ISBN 0 86013 367 2
- "Ubhatobhāgavimutta: Liberated from Both Parts or Through Both Ways?" *Thai International Journal of Buddhist Studies*, Mahidol University, 2014.
- "White-clothed Celibate Arahants in Early Buddhism", *Buddhist Studies in Honour of The Venerable Professor Kakkapalliye Anuruddha*, pp151-167. 2009.

- "Saññāvedayitanirodha." *Encyclopaedia of Buddhism*, vol. VII, Fascicle 4, pp. 742—750. 2007.
- "Is Saddhvimutta an Arahant?" *Saragavesi Sāstrīya Saṃgrahaya* – 2005. Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Peradeniya. pp. 301—310.
- "Form and Formless Attainments as Levels of Concentration Freedom." *Sāragavesi Sāstrīya Saṃgrahaya* – 2004, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Peradeniya. pp. 225—238.
- "(Difference between aupadisesa and anupadisesa nibbanas) (in Sinhala)", *Indunena*, edited by Medagampitiye Vijitadhamma, 2003, pp. 63—70.
- "Citta, Manas and Vinnana: Aspects of Mind as Presented in Early Buddhist Pali Discourses." *Dhamma-Vinaya: Essays in Honour of Venerable Professor Dhammavihari* (Jotiya Dhirasekera. 2005. Edited by Asanga Tilakaratne et al. Sri Lanka Association for Buddhist Studies. pp. 169—202.
- "Buddhadhamma." (in Sinhala) *Vibhuti: Sri Vimalabuddhi Abhinandana Sāstrīya Saṃgrahaya* – 2005. Sri Vimaladhamma Maha Pirivena, Dangolla, Kandy. pp. 7—11
- "The Division of the Five Aggregates into Three: A Study of the Buddhist Concept of Individual based on the Pali Canon." *Induvara - Mahācārya A.D.P. Kalansooriya Hara Saraṇiya* – 2004. Edited by Daya Amarasekera. pp. 789—822
- "Buddhist Logic As Reflected in Some of the Pali Canonical Suttas," *Gnanaloka Sambhavana Sastriya Sangrahaya* edited by Prof. Tilak Kariyawasam, 2003, pp. 64—71
- "nāma hā rūpa da? nāma, rūpa hā viññāṇa da?" (in Sinhala) *Sammuti 2 śāstrīya saṃgrahaya*, 2002, pp. 276—280
- "Intermediate Existence and the Higher Fetters in the Pali Nikayas," *Journal of the Pali Text Society*, Vol. XXV, Oxford, 1999, pp.121—154
- "Psyche, Corporeality, and Consciousness: A Buddhist Analysis of the Individual in Refuting a Lasting Self - as viewed in the Pali Canon," *Comparative Culture*, Vol. 4, Miyazaki International College, Japan, 1998, pp. 94—109
- "Reality, Relativity, and the Refutation of Speculative Views in the Madhyamika School of Buddhism," *Comparative Culture*, vol. 2, Miyazaki International College, Japan, 1996, pp. 29—35
- "Moral Framework (dhamma) for Family Economics", The Sixth Convocation, International Buddhist College, Thailand, 2013, pp. 8-26.
- "Modernity in the Ancient Methods of Resolving Monastic Conflicts: A Study of the Sāmagāma Sutta", *Sri Lanka International Journal of Buddhist Studies*, Volume II (online publication): <http://www.sibacampus.com/demo/research.html>
- "Dependently Co-arisen Eco-system: An Early Buddhist Perspective", *MJBS The Mahachulalongkorn Journal of Buddhist Studies*, Volume II 2009, pp. 111—130
- *Pluralism in the Buddha's Teachings: from Exclusive Nibbana to Inclusive Vimutti*, Embassy of Sri Lanka, Kathmandu, Nepal, 2008, pp. 36. ISBN 9937-2-0497-2

- "Buddhist Views on Right Livelihood," *Comparative Culture*, vol. 3, Miyazaki International College, Japan, 1997, pp. 59—74
- "Saṃyuttanikāya." *Encyclopaedia of Buddhism*, vol. VII, Fascicle 4, pp. 687—690
- "Doctrine, Discipline and Dispute", *Prof. Merlyn Peiris Felicitation Volume*, 2006
- "Theravada Buddhist Rituals in Sri Lanka: A Ladder to Heaven." *Pranamalekha: Essays in Honour of Ven. Medagama Vajiragnana*. Edited by Ven. Wilaoye Wimalajothi et al. 2003, pp. 169—178
- (*The Journey of Japanese Buddhism*) (in Sinhala), Kandy, Sri Lanka: Hondahita Printers, 1999, pp. 92 ISBN 955-96686-0-9
- *Studies in Buddhist Philosophy and Religion: Collected Papers of Prof. P.D. Premasiri*, Buddha Dhamma Mandala Society Singapore and Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Peradeniya, 2006, ISBN 955-58909-1-9 (Consultant editor)
- *Dhamma-Vinaya: Essays in Honour of Venerable Professor Dhammavihari (Jotiya Dhirasekera)*. Sri Lanka Association For Buddhist Studies, 2005, pp.336 ISBN 955-1271-00-9 (co-editor)
- "Sri Lāṃkeya bauddha adhyayana viṣayakṣetraya gena yāyutu maga kumakda?" (What should be the direction into which the Sri Lankan Buddhist Studies field to be taken?), *Buddhist & Pali Studies, Most Venerable Palīpāna Sri Chandānanda Mahānāyaka Thera Birth Centenary Commemorative Academic Anthology*, edited by Ven. Godagama Mangala & Ven. Madipola Wimalajothi, S. Godage & Brothers (Pvt) Ltd, Colombo, 2014, pp. 67-82.

Research Presentations and Guest Lectures

- "An Ecosystem: Seeing via the Buddhist Theory of Dependent Co-Arising", International Research Seminar, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Chiang Mai Campus, 2014/10/18.
- "Healthy Thinking and Healthy Action: An Investigation into the Positive Thinking Concepts in Early Buddhism", a public lecture, PhD Programme, Mahidol University, 2014/10/8.
- "Buddhism and Minority religious rights: An Evaluation on the current situation in Sri Lanka", a workshop presentation, Centre of Human Rights, Mahidol University, 2014/10/4.
- "Dependent Origination", a public lecture, the Corporate Body of the Buddha Education, Taiwan, 2013/10/26.
- "Buddhist Path and Practice", a public lecture, Samādhi Centre, Taipei, Taiwan, 2013/10/25.
- "The Buddhist Path of the Sāmaññaphala Sutta in comparison with those of some other Suttas in the DN and MN", a public lecture, the Yuan Kwang Buddhist College, Taiwan, 2013/10/21.
- "Moral Framework (Dhamma) for Family Economics", the 6th Convocation Address, Internal Buddhist College, Thailand, 2013/8/4.
- "An Examination into the Buddhist Path and Practice as Presented in the Sāmaññaphalasutta", a guest lecture, PhD Programme, Mahidol University, Thailand, 2013/3/27.

- “Ubhatobhāgavimutta: Liberated from Both Parts or Through Both Ways?”, a paper presentation, The 2nd conference of the International Buddhist Meditation Centre, Mahācūlālongkorn Rājavidyālaya University, Thailand, 2013/1/9.
- “Middle Way Eclecticism: The Text-Critical Method of DTP”, my farewell lecture, Dhammachai Institute, Thailand, 2014/10/20.
- “New Project of Compiling Pali Canonical Texts” (The Dhammachai Tipitaka Project: Introducing some aspects of the editorial process), the International Symposium on Humanities Studies in the Digital Age and the Role of Buddhist Studies, 16-17 November 2013, University of Tokyo, Japan, 2013/11/16.
- “Textual Criticism and Its Application: Recollecting the Experience in Editing SN I for PTS”, a guest lecture, Nanhua University, Taiwan, 2013/10/23.
- “Editorial Challenges with the New Critical Edition of the *Sīlakkhandhavagga* of the *Dīghanikāya* for the Dhammachai Tipitaka Project”, the *Dīrghāgama* Seminar (18-19 October) Dharma Drum Buddhist College, Taiwan, 2013/10/18.
- “Identifying Pāli Tipiṭaka manuscript families of Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia”, the 6th International Conference of Sri Lanka Association of Buddhist Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka (6-9 September), 2013/9/7.
- “Textual Criticism and Its Application: Recollecting the Experience in Editing SN I for PTS”, Seminar on Editing Pali Texts, organized by the Mahidol University and MCU, Thailand, 2013/8/1.
- “Pāli Textual Criticism: Methodology for Editing Pāli Texts”, at a workshop on Research Methodology organized by Graduate School of International Buddhist College, 2013/1/19.
- “Accounting for the Differences among the Witnesses: A Disciplined Application of the Common Sense”, the 7th Biannual Conference on Cross-Cultural Transmission of Buddhist Texts: Critical Edition, Transliteration, and Translation, K.J. Somaiya Centre for Buddhist Studies, Mumbai, 2012/12/5-7.
- Two presentations on Editing Procedure and Policy making and Translation Procedure and Policy making, a workshop in Mumbai, India, 2012/3/23-24.
- A paper on the Editing Pali Texts as a Resolution of a conflict between Sinhalese Manuscript and the Southeast Asian Manuscripts at the International Conference of the Buddhasravaka Bhikshu University, 2012/2/19
- “Pali Philology: A Way Forward for Buddhist Studies in Sri Lanka”, the keynote address of the 7th National Conference in Buddhist Studies, Sri Jayawardenapura University, 2011/12/17.
- Organized the panel on Buddhist Leadership and Social and Economic Development and functioned as its chief moderator of the three presentation sessions at the United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations International Conference in May 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand.

- "Editing the Pali Canon: Constituting the Non-extant Oral Texts of India from the Extant Palm-leaf Manuscripts of Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia", the Indo-Sri Lanka Buddhist Studies Conference, Kandy, March 2011.
- "In Creating a Buddhist Model for Resolving Conflicts: An Examination into the Discourses of the Buddha", the 4th International Research Seminar of the Research Institute of MCU, Thailand, 2011/1/8-10.
- "Healthy Thinking and Healthy Actions: Buddhist Positive Thinking Concepts as found in the Pali Nikayas," the 4th International Conference of the Sri Lanka Association of Buddhist Studies, SIBA, 2010/10/10-12.
- "Positive Thinking Concepts in the Pali Tipitaka", a guest lecture, the PhD Programme students of MCU, Thailand, 2010/7/11.
- "White-clothed Lay Arahants in Early Buddhism," the 3rd International Buddhist Studies Conference of the Sri Lanka Association for Buddhist Studies, the Buddhasravaka Bhiksu University, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka, 2008/12/8-10.
- "Pluralism in the Buddha's Teachings: from Exclusive Nibbana to Inclusive Vimutti", the second Vesak Oration, the Russian Cultural Centre, Kathmandu, the Embassy of Sri Lanka and Nepal-Sri Lanka Friendship Association, 2008/5/25.
- "Theravada Buddhism in Sri Lanka: An Enquiry", a guest lecture, Satoaki Bhavan, Kuponjol, Nepal, organized by Central Department of Buddhist Studies, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, and Lotus Academic College, Lalitpur, 2008/5/29.
- "Freedom of Mind," a guest lecture, the Kathmandu Guest House, Thamel, 2008/5/24.
- A presentation at the Dhamma Society Workshop on *Tipitaka Recitation and Chanting* in March 2008 at Dhurakij Pundit University, Bangkok, Thailand
- "Know Macrocosm to Know Microcosm: An Early Buddhist Perspective", the 4th National Conference of Buddhist Studies, 2008, organized by the Centre for Buddhist Studies Sri Lanka, Colombo.
- Participated in the World Tipitaka Council (Osaka), Tipitaka Presentation to 14 institutions (Osaka) and Tipitaka Lecture (University of Tokyo) in September 2008
- Attended the Dhamma Society Tipitaka Presentation and Pilgrimage to Japan in April 2007
- Participated at the Dhamma Society Tipitaka Presentation and Pilgrimage to Japan in April 2007
- A series of Lectures on Early Buddhism, given Dhamma Talks on Suttas, and conducted a Pali Language class in Singapore, organized and sponsored by the Buddha Dhamma Mandala Society, in the months of September and October 2007.
- A presentation on "Pali Textual Studies: The Application of Textual Criticism to the Editing of Pali Texts" at the 30th Anniversary Celebration Conference on Buddhist Studies of the Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya, held on December 11, 2005, at BMICH.

- "Is Saddhāvīmutta an Arahant?" the 2nd National Conference on Buddhist Studies, University of Colombo, organized by the Centre for Buddhist Studies Sri Lanka; also chaired the Session V, 2005/1/6-7.
- "Inside the Buddhist Mansion of Sri Lanka: Buddhism's Interaction with other Religions", a guest lecture, University of Oslo, Norway, organized by the Buddhism Localized Project of the Department of Cultural Studies, University of Oslo, 2005/11/28.
- "Consciousness and No-self in Early Buddhism" on October 30, 2005 at Faculty Seminar Room, University of Peradeniya, as part of the Seminar on Buddhist Thought with Philosophical Forum, Germany, October 30, 31, November 2,3, 2005
- Participated in the Dhamma Society workshop on the Tipitaka Presentation in Sri Lanka held on April 5th, 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- One day workshop on "Aims and Objectives of Teaching Buddhist Studies for the First Degree Students in Sri Lankan Universities," on July 30, 2004 at the Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Colombo, organized by the Sri Lanka Association for Buddhist Studies.
- A special lecture on "Early Buddhist Teachings for Positive Thinking," in the Lecture Series in Simple English, organized by the Peradeniya Forum of Buddhist Studies, University of Peradeniya, on January 22, 2004
- A presentation on "Dependent Co-arising and Eco-system," at the Seminar on Buddhism and Ecology, organized by the University of Peradeniya and the Dongguk University, on January 26 & 27, 2004
- A presentation on "Form and Formless Attainments as Levels of Freedom of Mind," at Annual Conference of the Centre for Buddhist Studies held on May 9—10, 2003, Colombo
- "Methodology for Pali Textual Studies: Editing a Pali Text," a guest lecture, the Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya, 2003/3/21.
- "Methodology for Pali Textual Studies: Translating a Pali Text", a guest lecture, Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies, 2003/3/21.
- A series of 15 Dhamma Talks on Early Buddhism, in Singapore, organized and sponsored by *the Buddha Dhamma Mandala Society*, Singapore, 2003/10/1 to 2003/10/31. (Topics: As is our intention so is our environment, dependent arising and "this I", Change makes us new, Suffering: the first noble truth, Who am I? Why I say: my and mine, The world out there and my size in it, Is Kamma deterministic? Cycling the cycle: birth, death and rebirth, Can merit be transferred?, Why perform Buddhist rituals?, Life: facing ups and downs, Be moral without being made of morals, Freedom in daily life, What we perceive, Buddhas understand, Who is arahant? What is Nibbana).
- Participated in the Dhamma Society workshop of the World Tipitaka Project in International scripts, Bangkok, Thailand, 2003/7/10-15.
- "Buddhist Logic as reflected in some of the Pali Canonical Suttas," the Seminar on Buddhist Logic organized by the Department of Philosophy, University of Peradeniya, 2002/12/22.
- "Theravada Buddhist Rituals: A Ladder to Heaven," a presentation, the Exchange of Buddhist Thought and Culture between Sri Lanka and Korea,

A Joint Seminar organized by the University of Peradeniya and the Dongguk University, 2002/8/6.

- "Learning from the misread: A study of the Pali anomalous forms in the Sagathavagga of the Saṃyuttanikāya," the Annual Research Sessions of University of Peradeniya, November 2001
- "The Attainment of Cessation and the Attainment of Arahantship/ Nibbana as Viewed in the Pali Suttapitaka," the XIIth International Association of Buddhist Studies Conference, Lausanne, Switzerland, 1999/8/27.
- "Before or After? -- The Experience of the Cessation and the Attainment of Arahantship in the Pali Buddhist Tradition," the 43rd International Conference of Eastern Studies, Toho Gakkai, Tokyo, Japan, 1999/5/22.
- "Sri Lankan Culture," a public lecture, the Special Seminar held at Gokase High School, Japan, 1998/3/16.
- "Transform the Mind to Transform the World: Buddhist views on Educating the 20th Century People for the 21st Century," the Campus Lecture Series of Miyazaki International College, Japan, 1997/9/22.
- "Sri Lanka, a small Island," a public lecture, the Nobeoka Rotary Club, Japan, 1996/5/15
- "The Buddhist Concept of Non-returners as presented in the Pali Nikayas," the Faculty Colloquium, Miyazaki International College, Miyazaki, Japan (1996)
- "We feel about it but the Buddhas understand it: An examination of enlightened and non-enlightened ways of perceiving the world," a public talk, the Saddhatissa Buddhist Institute, London. U.K. (October 1995)
- "In Search of Meaning and Metre," my farewell lecture, the Oriental Institute, University of Oxford, UK, November 1995
- "The Buddhist Concept of Non-returners as presented in the Pali Nikayas," the Seminar on Buddhism, the Wolfson College, University of Oxford, UK, 1994
- "Buddhist Liberation," a special lecture, the *World Parliament of Religion*, Chicago, USA, 1993

Education History:

- 1968—1972 Grades 1—5 Yapahuwa Mahavidyalaya, Maho
- 1972—1974 Preliminary monastic training as a Buddhist novice
- 1974—1981 Parama Dhamma Cetiya Pirivena (monastic school), Colombo Monastic training, secondary and oriental studies
- 1979 **GCE O/L**
- 1979 **Oriental Preliminary**, Sinhala, Pali & Sanskrit
- 1980 **President**, Srī Siddhārtha Residential Student Council
- 1980 & 1981 **President**, Srī Sambhārati Student Council (twice)
- 1981 **Nichiren-shu Prize** for the best student of the year
- 1981 **GCE A/L**, Sinhala, Pali, Sanskrit, & Buddhist Civilization
- 1981 **Oriental Intermediate**, Sinhala, Pali, & Sanskrit
- 1981 The First **Mahapola Scholarship** (financial assistance to pursue undergraduate studies) from His Excellency J.R. Jayawardena, the President of Sri Lanka

- 1981—1985 **B.A.** special degree course at University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, graduated with First Class Honours, Buddhist Philosophy (Major), Japanese Language (subsidiary).
- 1984 **Certificate in Modern languages** for English, University of Kelaniya; one year part-time English course
- 1981—1984 **Diploma in English**, Aquinas College of Higher Education, Colombo; three-year weekend English Diploma Course
- 1984—1985 **General Secretary** (Humanities) of the United National Students' Congress, United National Party, University of Kelaniya
- 1986—1988 **Teacher** in Buddhism at Parama Dhamma Cetiya Pirivena
- 1987 **The British English Intermediate Level** at the British Council, Colombo, under the direction of Ministry of Higher Education
- 1987 Nomination by the Ministry of Higher Education for the **Cambridge Commonwealth Scholarship**
- 1988 Nomination by the Ministry of Higher Education for the Cambridge Commonwealth Scholarship for the second time & Received **admission to the University of Cambridge**
- 1987—1988 **Visiting Lecturer**, Vidyodaya College of Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka; course: Buddhist Society and Social Institutions
- 1988 **Admission to Northwestern University** (NU), Chicago, USA
- 1988 A **graduate fellowship** by NU, covering tuition and a monthly stipend
- 1988 Commencement of the graduate studies at Northwestern University
- 1988—1992 **Ambassador Foundation Scholarship** from Ambassador College, Pasedana, California, USA; a monthly financial assistance
- 1989—1992 **Teaching Assistant** (three years); led discussions/tutorials in the NU courses: Man and Religion, Religion in Human Experience, Intro to Buddhism, Intro to Hinduism, New Testament Origin
- 1989—1990 **Lecturer** in Sanskrit at NU; taught Sanskrit I & II for two terms (December to June)
- 1991 **M.A.** in Religious Studies from the Department of History and Literature of Religions (later Dept of Religion). One year course work (1988-1989) and a thesis on *Buddhist Right Livelihood*, under the supervision of Prof. Edmund F. Perry
- 1991—1992 **Graduate Fellow** (1991 - 1992) of the Residential College of Humanities, NU
- 1992/93 **Graduate Fellowship** by NU, covering tuition and a monthly stipend
- 1993 **Ph.D.** in Buddhism from the Department of Religion (NU); dissertation under the supervision of Prof. George D. Bond, titled: *Freedom of Mind: A Study of the Buddhist Concept of Vimutti (Liberation) in the Pali Nikāyas*
- Received **post-doctoral training** under Prof. Richard F. Gombrich in editing and translating Pali Buddhist texts for a period of two years (October 1993—December 1995); though not by official registration, followed courses, and attended lectures and seminars at the Oriental Institute as well as the Balliol College, University of Oxford. The outcome

of the research: The Saṃyuttanikāya Volume I published by the Pali Text Society, Oxford, in 1998

- **Senior Research Associate** (1994, 1995), Balliol College (two years)
- **Research Fellowship** (1994, 1995), Pali Text Society, England (two years), a grant to re-edit the Saṃyuttanikāya, Vol. I (PTS)
- One Term (January—March 1995) **Tutor** of Pali, Oriental Institute, University of Oxford; the course: Pali Reading—The Suttanipāta

Employment History

Miyazaki International College (MIC), Miyazaki, Japan

Courses taught:

- Introduction to Religion (Spring 1996, Fall 1997, Fall 1998, Fall 2000);
- Religions of South and Southeast Asia (Spring 1996);
- Language and Culture of South Asia (Fall 1996, Spring 1997 two classes);
- Religions of East Asia (Fall 1996);
- Societies and Cultures of South Asia (Spring 1997 two classes);
- Religious Experience (Fall 1997);
- Japanese Religious Thought (Spring 1998, Spring 1999 two classes, Spring 2000 two classes);
- Religion and Environmental Issues (Fall 1997);
- Religions of Asia (Spring 1998, Fall 1998, Spring 1999, Fall 1999 two classes, Spring 2000);
- Comparative Religion (Fall 1998);
- Varieties of Buddhism (Spring 1999, Fall 2000)

Curriculum Development:

- As a founding faculty member, actively participated in the development of the overall teaching programme of the faculty of Comparative Culture with especial contribution to the curriculum development of the courses: Introduction to Religion, Varieties of Buddhism, Comparative Religion, & Religions of Asia

Committee Work:

- **Member** of the Committee on Students (1996, 1997)
- **Content Area Coordinator** (1998); lead the faculty members belonging to several disciplines to strengthen the teaching programme of the college
- **Chair** of the Committee on Students (1998) (the committee worked with regard to the students' requests, disciplinary matters, and scholarships)
- **Ex-officio Member** (as Chair of the Committee on Students and as the Content Area Coordinator) of the College Advisory Committee (1998)
- **Member** of Personal Orientation Committee (1998, 2000)
- **Member** of the Professional Orientation Committee (1999); worked designing a comprehensive programme and participated in implementing it for the new faculty members to learn and adjust to the college's teaching programme
- **Member** of the Faculty Review Committee (2000); Reviewed the teaching materials, publications, and service records of the faculty members for reappointment and promotion

University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Courses taught:

- BSS 4.3: Buddhism and World Religions (2001-S, 2002-S);
- BST 414: Buddhism and World Religions (2003-S, 2004-S/E)
- PLS 4.1: Prescribed Texts (Suttanipāta) (2001-S);
- PST 101: Pali Prescribed Texts (Dhammapada) (2001-S);
- PST 102: Prescribed Texts (Alagaddūpamasutta) (2001-S);
- BST/PST 202: Background to Early Buddhism (2001-S, 2002-S/E, 2003-S/E, 2004-S/E, 2005-S/E, 2006-S/E, 2007-S/E, 2008-S/E);
- BST/PST 212: Early Buddhism (2001-S, 2002-S/E, 2003-S/E, 2004-S/E, 2005-S/E, 2006-S/E, 2007-S/E, 2008-S/E);
- PST 201: Pali Prescribed Texts (Saṃyuttanikāya) (2001-S/E, 2004-S);
- PST 204: Methodology for Pali Studies (2001-S, 2002-S/E);
- FND 104: Module 2: World Religions (2001-S/E, 2002-S/E, 2003-S/E, 2004-S/E, 2005-S/E, 2006-S/E, 2007-S/E, 2008-S/E);
- MPhil BS 1: Origin and Philosophy of Early Buddhism (2001-E, 2002-E, 2003-E, 2004-E);
- MPhil PL 1: Pali Prescribed Texts (Patisambhidāmagga) (2001-E, 2002-E)
- BST 303: Rites and Ceremonies in Buddhism (2002-S, 2003-S/E, 2008-S/E);
- BST 410: Buddhist Logic and Epistemology (2003-S, 2005-S);
- BST 102: Introduction to the Teachings of Buddhism (2003-S/E);
- CCBS 1: Theravada Buddhism – Basic Buddhist Doctrines (2004-S/E, 2005-S/E);
- BST 204: Buddhist Literature (2005-S/E);
- BST 317: Buddhist Mythology (2005-S);
- MPhil/BST: Buddhist Soteriology (2005-E, 2006-E, 2007-E);
- MPhil/PST: Editing and Translating Pali Texts (2005-E, 2006-E, 2007-E)

Training:

- Undertook a **Training Programme on Teaching Methodology** (January-June 2003-full six weeks) conducted by the Staff Development Centre, University of Peradeniya.

Curriculum Development:

- Designed the courses: BST 202/ PST 202: Background to Early Buddhism; BST 212/ PST 212: Early Buddhism; BST 303 Rites and Ceremonies in Buddhism; BST 414 Buddhism and World Religions; BST 415 Buddhism and Society; PST 201: Prescribed Texts and Grammar; PST 204: Methodology for Pali Studies; PST 303 Historical Pali Grammar; PST 313 Introduction to Pali; PST 312 Introduction to Sanskrit; PST 402 Prakrit and Buddhist Sanskrit Texts; DBS 1 – Background to Early Buddhist Thought; DBS 4 – Buddhism in Modern Sri Lanka; DBS – Research Seminar on Methodology for Pali and Buddhist Studies; DBS - Asian Religious Thought and Culture; MA-MPhil/BST – Theravāda Buddhist Soteriology; MA-MPhil/PST – Editing and Translating Pali Texts
- Revised the external degree curricula of the Department for: Buddhist philosophy, Buddhist culture, & Pali

Administrative Positions & Committee Work

Chairperson, Faculty Higher Degrees Committee of the Faculty of Arts
1/10/2005—1/10/2008

- The committee members were the heads or representatives of the 17 departments of the faculty; lead the Post-graduate unit under the direction of the Dean/ Faculty of Arts; during my tenure, in addition to appointment of supervisors, examiners, approving or rejecting synopses/ proposals, conducting the teaching programmes, solving day to day issues related to postgraduate teaching and supervising, revised the postgraduate curricula of all of the 17 departments (around 25 subjects) and introduced the course unit system; conducted annual research sessions, and also initiated and half completed the establishment of the Postgraduate Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences, and the construction of the new building complex for the proposed postgraduate Institute.

Head, Department of Pali & Buddhist Studies
1/8/2004—30/6/2007

- My term of headship could be considered as an attempt to revive the Buddhist studies department for which various programmes and activities were carried out.

Teaching and Curriculum Development

- Teaching all Pali and Buddhist studies courses (BA, Diploma, MA, MPhil) in English medium; Recruiting foreign students in larger numbers; Introducing New Postgraduate Syllabi for both Pali and Buddhist Studies; Diploma in Buddhist Studies and Diploma in Pali Studies; A coursework component for both MA/MPhil for Buddhist Studies and MA/MPhil for Pali Studies; A Certificate Course in Buddhist Studies for non-university students; A Certificate Course in Pali Language catering to foreign students and also to local students who wish to follow the course in English medium; A Special English Teaching Programme for the department students; A Lecture Series in Simple English (2005) for the undergraduate students; The Sutta Studies Circle – Monthly academic discussion with the participation of both senior academics and graduate students of the department; proposals were prepared and submitted to establish Peradeniya Center for Buddhist Studies.

Societies

- Initiated Peradeniya Forum of Buddhist Studies and conducted a Lecturer Series.
- Established The Society for the Integration of Science and Human Values (SISHVa), the academically most active society in the university; with a grant from the Metanexus Institute of USA.

Scholarship Programmes

- Nillambe Scholarship Programme – for two needy students of the Department;
- Dhamma Society Sri Lanka Scholarships – 10 scholarships were awarded to local students who follow the Certificate Course in Pali Language;
- D.J. Kalupahana Scholarship with funding from Prof. D.J. Kalupahana to be awarded annually;

- W. Pachow Scholarship with the funding from Prof. W. Pachow who used to be a Professor attached to the Department during the good old days, to be awarded annually;
- Mahakumbukadawala Thera's Scholarship funded by a Japanese monk, to be awarded annually; Udana scholarship programme for tsunami affected children;
- Several Udana outings for the children with the Nillambe Meditation Center.

Library Development

- Prof. D.J. Kalupahana Collection at the University of Peradeniya Main Library; Prof. Kalupahana donated all of his personal book collection in Buddhism, Pali, Comparative Religion/philosophy, Philosophy, Buddhist Philosophy, the Tipitaka, etc to the library;
- The Department Library was organized with a small book collection for the Department's daily use: three Tipitaka sets (English, Sinhala and Devanagari); Sanskrit-English, Pali-English and English-English Dictionaries; a computer, scanner, and a printer.

Publications

- Two issues of the SĀRAGAVESĪ academic journal of the Department;
- The VĪMAMSĀ Newsletter, a bi-monthly newsletter of the department, giving publicity to the activities and functions of the department;
- A Tribute to Prof. P.D. Premasiri (launching of his two CDs) in 2005;
- The website of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies;
- The website of the Postgraduate Programme of the Faculty of Arts;
- Joy of Knowledge – With the money acquired by selling the CDs of Prof. P.D. Premasiri, a fund was established for similar publications of the Department.

Seminars and Conferences

- Two seminars with the members of the Dongguk University in 2003 and 2004; A Seminar on Buddhist Thought with members of the Philosophiches Forum, Germany in 2005; The Second International Conference of SLABS in Kandy in 2006 organized by the department under my headship; the first ever International Conference in Buddhist Studies in Sri Lanka was also held in Kandy in 2003, as the first annual conference of the Sri Lanka Association for Buddhist Studies, and was organized by the Department, in which I served as the conference secretary.

International Relations

- MoU with Dongguk University;
- MoU with University of Oslo;
- A visit of the Royal Delegation to the University of Peradeniya; Vice Chancellor generously offered them lunch at the VC's lodge;
- The International Council Tipitaka Presentation to Sri Lanka, two international events, at the BMICH (2005) and at the Parliament of Sri Lanka (2006), to present the inaugural International Tipitaka Editions in Roman Script to Sri Lanka

Other Committee and Administrative Work at Peradeniya

- **Acting Dean** on several occasions during 2004-2007, Faculty of Arts.
- **Member**, Committee on Course Evaluations (2003)

- **Member**, Faculty Sub-committee on the Establishment of a Postgraduate Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities (2003-2005)
- **Member**, Sub-Committee on Compulsory Introductory 1st Year Co-Module in All Universities—2003/4
- **Member**, Sub-committee on Preparation of Corporate Plans for the Faculty of Arts
- **Acting Head**, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, 10 days from 2002/6/27 to 2002/7/7, for two months from 2003/3/10 to 2003/5/15, and again for one week in July in 2003.
- **Member**, Faculty Research Symposium, 2004-2008.
- **Senior Student Counselor** (part-time), Faculty of Arts, 2004.
- **Voluntary Student Counselor**, Faculty of Arts, 2001-2003.
- **Member**, Faculty Higher Degrees Committee, Faculty of Arts, 2001-2008.
- **Member**, Sub-committee on Postgraduate Symposium, Faculty of Arts, 2003.
- **Member**, Faculty Welfare Committee, Faculty of Arts, 2002-2005.
- **Member**, Library Sub-committee, Faculty of Arts, 2002-2005.
- **Member**, (Faculty nominee) Faculty Higher Degrees Committee, 2001—2005.
- **Member**, Departmental Higher Degrees Committee, 2001-2008.
- **Minutes taker**, Departmental Meetings, Dept of Pali and Buddhist Studies, 2002.
- **Member**, Building Committee, Faculty of Arts, 2005-2008.
- **Member**, Committee on the Establishment of the Postgraduate Institute of the Faculty of Arts, 2003-2008.

Visiting Lecturer:

- American College of Higher Education, Kandy & Kurunegala; the course: World Religions, 2003-2008.
- Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya; two MA courses: Theravada Abhidhamma: Origins and Development; Comparative Study of World Religions, 2004.
- ISLE Program, University of Peradeniya, the course: Theravada Buddhist Teachings, 2004, 2008.

Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy (SIBA), 2009—2012

- 2008 Designed Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy, a higher educational project of the Sacred Tooth Relic Temple; Prepared and submitted a grant proposal to the Royal Norwegian Embassy for a new building complex at SIBA, 2008, <http://www.sibacampus.com/>
- Commenced the teaching programme as **Professor** of SIBA, 2009.
- Planned SIJBS – Sri Lanka International Journal of Buddhist Studies, 2009.
- **Board Member**, Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy, 2009/10.
- **Director** – Research and Publications, Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy, 2009/6—2010/2.
- **Lecturer** in Buddhism, Pali and World Religions, SIBA, 2009/6-2010/2.
- **Rector** – Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy (SIBA), 2010/7/17—2012/12/9.

- Prepared the required documents seeking degree awarding status for SIBA, 2011.
- Introduced changes to the SIBA management, 2011.
- Signed a MOU with Dhammachai Institute, Thailand, 2010.
- Established the SIBA-DCI Research Centre, 2010.
- Donated all of my personal book collection to the SIBA-DCI Research Centre Library, 2010.
- Signed a MOU with Virginia Polytechnic and State University, 2011.
- Director – SIBA-DCI Research Centre – (lead the Tipitaka translation project of translating the Pali Tipitaka into Sinhala and English, and also in charge of the publication of the SIBA annual peer reviewed academic journal known as Sri Lanka International Journal of Buddhist Studies (SIJBS). The first volume was published in March 2011), 2010-2012.
- Prepared the promotion scheme for SIBA academics, the peer review system, and student evaluation form for SIBA, 2011.
- Signed a MOU with Hamburg University, Germany, 2011.
- Launched MA in Buddhist Studies at SIBA, with MCU, 2012.
- Signed a MOU with International Buddhist College, Thailand, and launched IBC PhD programme at SIBA, 2012.
- Signed a MOU with Dhurakij Pundit University, Thailand, 2012.
- Designed SIBA website, 2009.
- Delivered lectures on topics in Early Buddhism to visiting students from Philosophical Forum, Germany and Virginia Tech students, USA, 2011.
- Taught Pali to the first year (2009/10) and Diploma Students, 2009/2010.
- Taught the course on Buddhist Rituals and Festivals to the first year students, 2009/2010.
- Prepared the curriculum for the BA degree in Buddhist leadership and got it approved by MCU, Thailand, 2008-2009.
- Prepared the curriculum for many diploma and certificate courses offered at SIBA, 2008-2009.
- Prepared the Benchmark statement for the BA degree in Buddhist Leadership, 2010.
- Prepared the MA in Buddhist Studies curriculum for SIBA and presented it to MCU for approval, 2011.
- Establish the IBC PhD programme in Buddhist Studies at SIBA, 2012.

Dhammachai Institute, Thailand 1/4/2010—20/10/2014

Co-Director – Dhammachai Tipitaka Project

- Lead the Research Project on producing a critical edition of the Pali Tipitaka; the project work includes digitizing Sinhalese, Burmese, Tham, Khom and Mon Pali manuscripts, collating them and editing the texts following modern textual criticism.
- Received the **Buddhagunopakāra Award** by the Parliamentary Committee on Religious Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, awarded by considering my contribution to the promotion of Buddhist studies and the Buddhasāsana, 2011

Services beyond University

- **Member**, UGC review panel, Quality Assurance & Accreditation, Government of Sri Lanka.

Reviewed:

- Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies of University of Kelaniya
- Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies of University of Ruhuna
- Department of Sinhala and Buddhist Studies Unit of University of Colombo.

Benchmark Statement

- Prepared the UGC benchmark statement for BA special degree programmes in Buddhist Studies, Buddhist Philosophy, Buddhist Culture, & Pali, in Sri Lankan university system. This statement was prepared by me and was then circulated for feedback among other members who unanimously approved it.

http://www.qaacouncil.lk/qa_fw/SB_Reports/SBS%20-%20PALI%20&%20BUSSGIST%20STD.pdf

Other

- **Board Member**, Buddhist Publication Society, Kandy, 2008.
- **General Secretary**, World Tipitaka Council, 2006-2010.
- **Treasurer**, Society for the Integration of Science and Human Values, 2005-2008.
- **Life Member**, Society for the Integration of Science and Human Values, 2005.
- **Member**, Udana Society, 2005-2008.
- **Conference Secretary**, the First Annual Conference of the Sri Lanka Association of Buddhist Studies, University of Peradeniya, 2003/11/15-16.
- **Rapporteur**, International Buddhist Conference, organized by the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Galadhari Hotel, Colombo, 2004/1/16-19.
- **Joint-Secretary**, Sri Lanka Association of Buddhist Studies, 2002-present.
- **Secretary**, Peradeniya Forum of Buddhist Studies, Dept of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Peradeniya, 2002-2010.
- **Life Member**, Center for Buddhism, Kandy, 2002-present.
- **Life Member**, Buddhist Publication Society, Kandy, 2002-present.
- **Member**, the Advisory Board, Mahapola Bhikkhu Educational Institute, Getambe, 2002.
- **Chief Examiner** (in Kandy), GCE A/L Examinations, Buddhist Civilization, Department of Examinations, 2001-2003.
- **Member**, American Academy of Religion, U.S.A., 1992-1999.
- **Sponsoring member**, Pali Text Society, England, 1994-1999.
- **Board of Director**, Sri Chandananda Buddhist College, Asgiriya, 2005-2010.
- **Board of Director**, Nalanda Buddhist College, Teldeniya, 2007-2010.
- **Trustee**, Damrivi Foundation, Sri Lanka, 2003-2005.
- Wrote two e-learning courses: Theravada Buddhism & Theravada Abhidhamma, for International Buddhist College, Thailand.