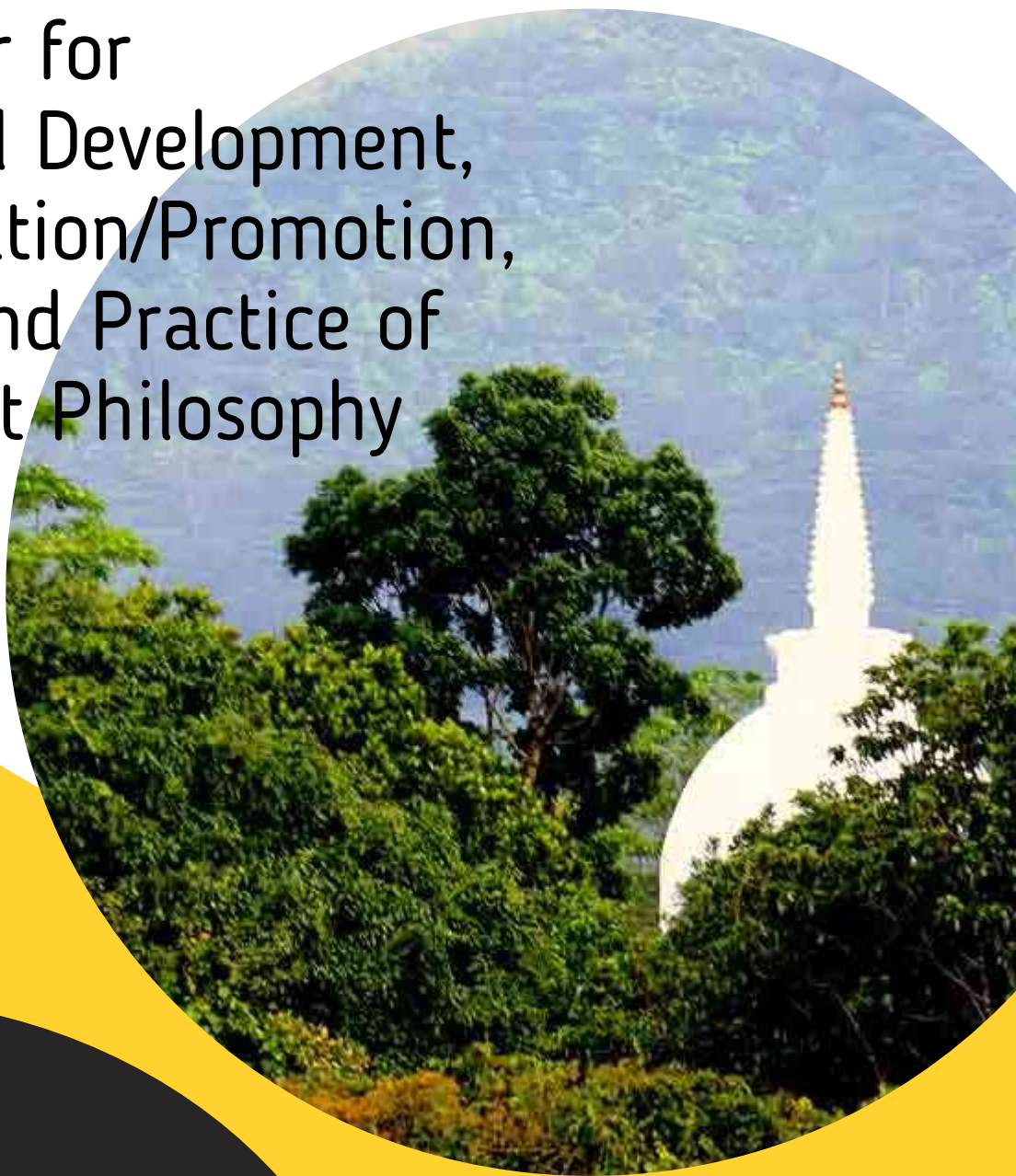


Development Strategy and Plan of the Buddhist Temple University of Peradeniya

A Center for
Spiritual Development,
Propagation/Promotion,
Study and Practice of
Buddhist Philosophy



Prepared By

UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA
TEMPLE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

January 2023



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*Andhañca ekacakkuñca, ārakā parivajjaye
Dvicakkum pana sevetha, settham purisa puggalan.*

(Anguttara Nikaya, III, puggala vagga)

**"One should avoid from afar
the blind one and the one-eyed
person, but should befriend
the one with two eyes, the best
kind of person"**

In this metaphorical teaching of the Buddha, the blind denotes a person who fails both in economic and spiritual development, the one-eyed as one who fails in spirituality and the two-eyed one as a person who is successful in developing both his economy and spirituality. Avoid the blind and the one-eyed person; associate with the two-eyed, the best of all.

Economic aspect is mostly addressed by the education system of schools, universities and other educational institutions. However, the spiritual development is the responsibility of the religious institutions. Being attached to the University of Peradeniya, the University Temple has a great potential to provide opportunities to develop spiritual aspects of the students who are trained for economic aspect by the University education. Thus, the main goal of our Development Plan is spiritual development of the university students and staff, and other devotees of national and international community. In order to achieve this objective we need to develop infrastructure facilities of the temple. Thus the objectives of this plan are two-fold, namely,

- **Spirituality Development Through the Practice of Dhamma**
- **Improving the Relevant Infra-Structure Facilities**

Vision

A contented society including (but not limited to) university students and staff which honors mutual respect, peace and law and order.



Mission

To provide opportunities and facilities for interested individuals and parties to develop their spirituality based on the Buddhist philosophy and to study and practice Theravada Buddhism.

Peradeniya University Temple

The University of Peradeniya is located in a panoramic environment in the lower slopes of the Hantana hills in the Kandy city, the historic capital of the last Kingdom of Sri Lanka. The university campus spans over nearly 700 hectares by the side of Mahaweli River. Established in 1942 the University of Peradeniya is the largest university in Sri Lanka with a student population of over 16,000. From the beginning space has been allocated for religious establishments within the campus.

The earliest Buddhist religious emblem erected in the Peradeniya university campus was perhaps the statue of a serene Buddha in meditation posture erected in mid 1950s near the small stream flowing down from the Hantana hills, and this was fondly called the "*Gangalanga Buduruwa*". A stupa has been constructed in 1962 in the campus, but a temple with resident *Bhikkus* was established only in the early 1980s. The proposal to establish a temple in the campus was made by a committee comprising of some leading Buddhist devotees in 1980. As a result, the temple was established by converting the then abandoned old University Telephone Exchange to a residential *viharaya* for the Buddhist monks in 1983. The founder monk of the temple was most venerable Ampitiye Rahula Maha Thero. The present chief incumbent of the temple is Venerable Rajakeeya Panditha Dr. Bamunugama Shanthawimala Thero who was the Head of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies in the Faculty of Arts, University Peradeniya.

Peradeniya University Temple is the center of Buddhist religious activities within the university campus. This is the only Buddhist temple in the university system in Sri Lanka with residential monks within the campus. The university community and the devotees of the surrounding townships and villages obtain services of the temple.

Since inception great religious services are rendered by this temple to the University community and out siders amidst limited facilities. The most prominent services provided at present include:

The Sarasavi Sunday Dhamma School

This was commenced in 1990 with 25 students. It has completed 30 years of service by now. The student population at present is about 700 and teaching is carried out in both Sinhala and English mediums. Programs are conducted from grade 1 up to *Dhammacharya* exam. This dhamma school holds a prominent place among the *dhamma* schools in the district since it performs well at the local and national events.



Regular Meditation Programs

Regular Meditation programs are held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at the temple. A group of *Upasaka Upasika* visit the temple on these days and participate in meditation programs under the instruction of the chief priest or visiting monks. On Wednesday evenings University students visit the temple and participate in meditation programs.



Suthra Discussions/Abhidharma and Pali classes

Ven Dr. Bamunugama Shanthawimala thero, the chief incumbent of the university temple, regularly conducts a Pali language class for the interested individuals on Thursdays 4.00 -5.00 pm. This is followed by a discussion of sutras from Sutra Pitaka from 5.00 -6.00 pm.



Daily Buddha vandana and Pirith Sajjavana

In this temple it is a daily practice of the monks residing in the temple collectively to take part in the program of Buddha *vandana* and *Pirith Desana* which is scheduled from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm. The *dayaka* & *daikavo* also take part in this event.



Seela- Bhavana programmes on Full Moon Poya days

Every full moon *poya* day nearly 150 individuals including university staff and *upasaka upasika* from the neighboring villages join the *seela-bhavana* program conducted in the university temple. The program commences at 6.30 am and runs through till 5.00 pm. The *upasaka upasika* observe eight precepts (*ata-sil*) or 10 precepts (*dasa-sil*) as they prefer. The whole day program includes Buddha *vandana*, Buddha *pooja*, Meditation, Dhamma *desana* and Dhamma *Sakachcha*.

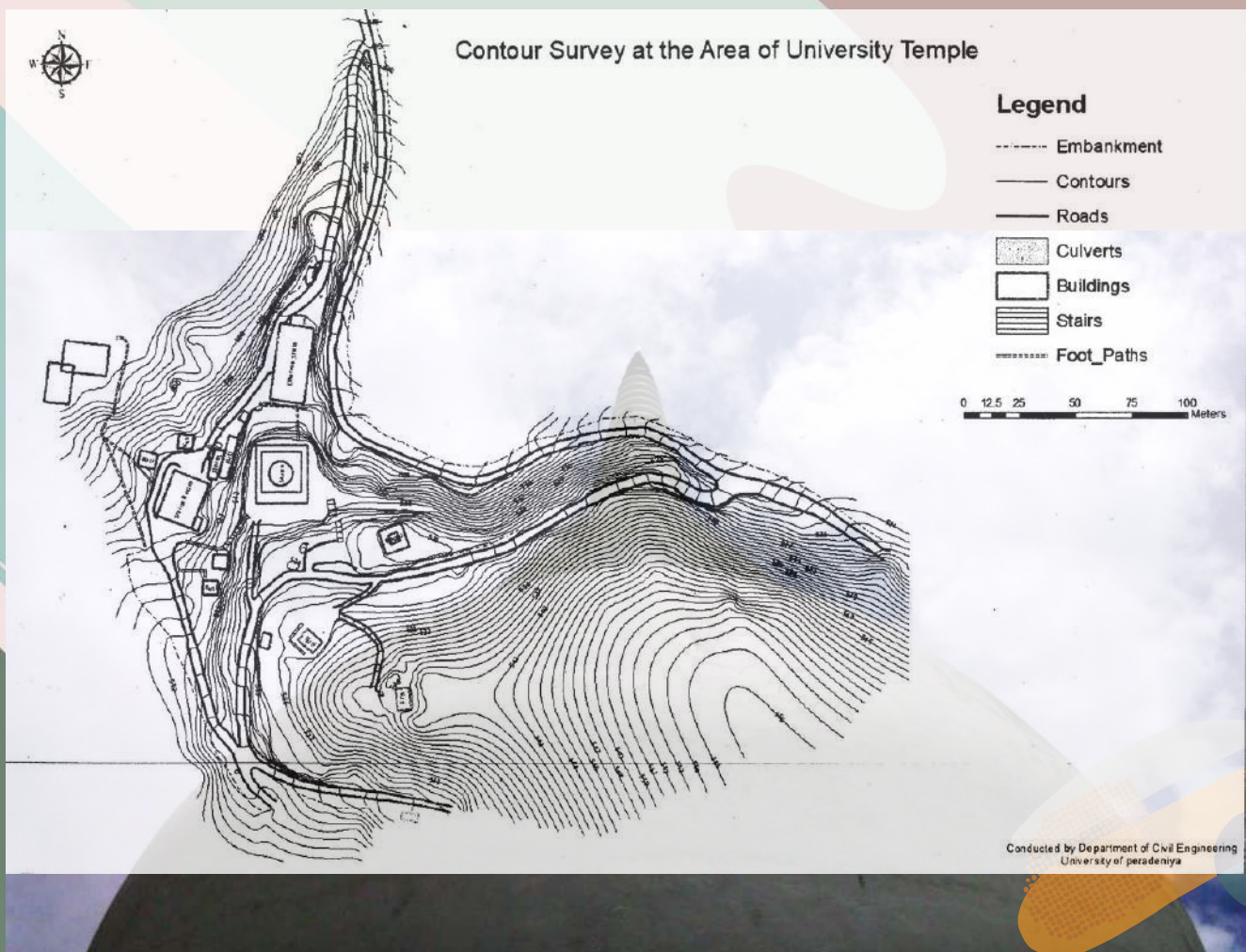


Present Facilities of the Temple

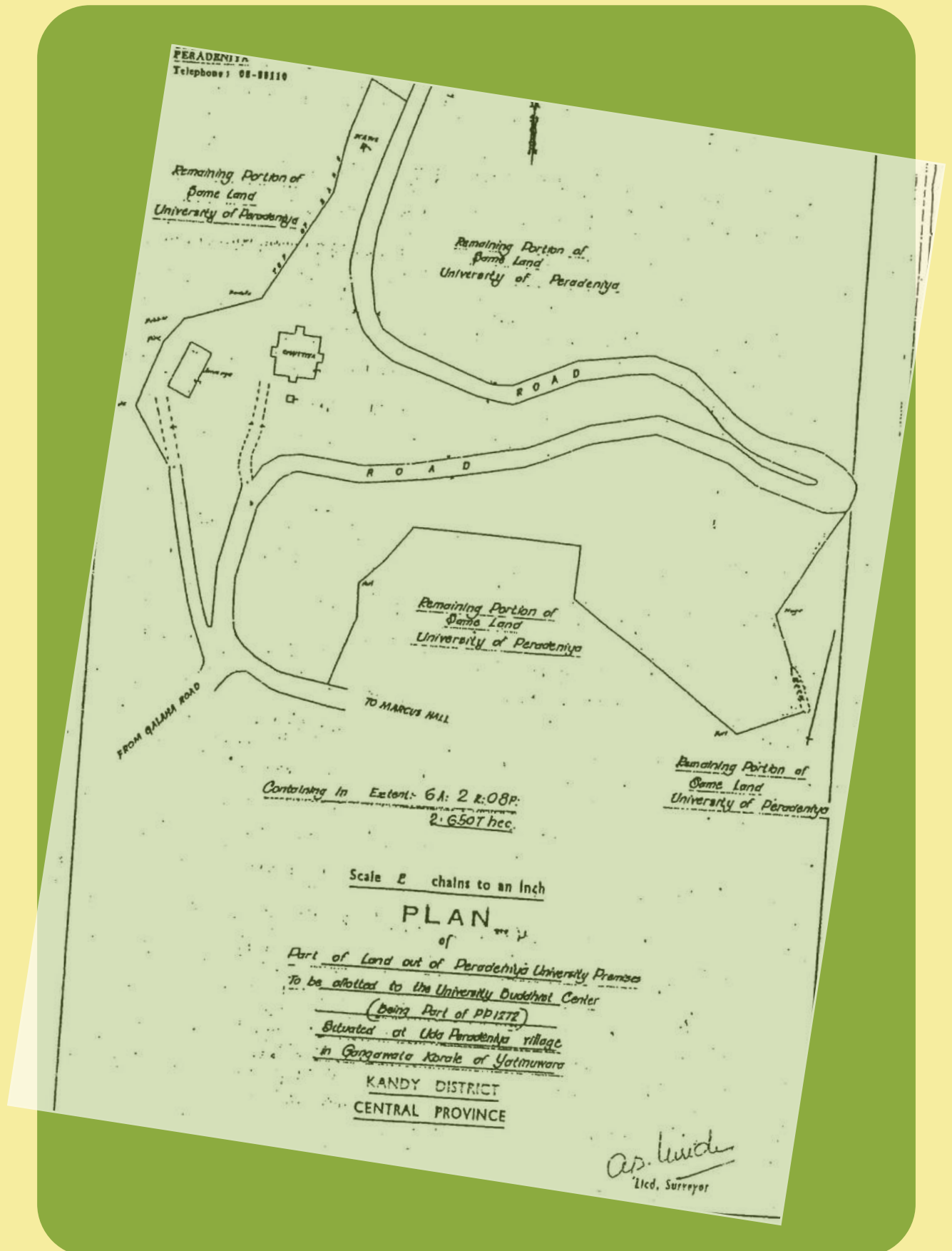
At present, the Shrine room, *aawasa* (rooms) for priests, *dana sala*(dining hall) and kitchen are still located in the same old building with very limited space where the temple was established over 40 years ago. Over 150 *upasaka upasikas* participate in the *Seela-Bhavana* programs on Full Moon *Poya* days. On special *poya* days like *Wesak* and *Poson* attendance is nearly 300. They also have to occupy the shrine room and a small hall attached to it and sometimes stay outside the building.

The classes of dhamma school with a student population over 700 also are conducted with great difficulties owing to limited building facilities.

Further, *Bhikkus* and *Bhikkunis* from Asian countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Vietnam and China, and other countries such as Australia, USA, Uganda and Rwanda periodically reside in the temple participating in its activities and learning the insights of Theravada Buddhism while following Buddhist degree programs in the University. They have to reside in a few rooms with very limited facilities available in the temple.



Land Allocated to the Buddhist Center



Buddhist Societies of the Peradeniya University

University Buddhist Society and Student Buddhist Brotherhood Societies in each faculty operate within the university. The membership of the University Buddhist Society consists of academic and non-academic staff. It looks after day-to-day maintenance of the temple including paying of utility bills (water and electricity) and also helps in various religious functions such as annual *katina pinkama* etc., Faculty-wise Buddhist activities such as *dharma desana*, *pirith sajjayana*, *dhamma* discussions, blood donation programmes etc., are organized by the Buddhist Brotherhood Societies.



Present Management System of the Temple

The Buddhist society of the University of Peradeniya is the leading organization which is responsible for the activities of the University temple. This comprises of Buddhist academic and non-academic staff of the University. Present membership of the society is over 600. The society is responsible for the maintenance of the temple and organizing of main religious activities.

The parent and teacher association is responsible for the maintenance and conducting the Dhamma school.

Recently “The Peradeniya University Temple Development Society” was established to carry out the development of infrastructure facilities of the temple. This comprises of the devotees of university community and the other devotees attending the temple from surrounding villages.



Need for a Development Plan

The objectives of the development plan are broad and intended to address a wider community. Therefore, essentially there must be well-planned programs for spiritual development as well as infrastructure development. Considering the objectives, it is clear that the program implementation has to be long-term, dynamic and continuous. Infrastructure development is an essential pre-requisite to conduct spiritual programs. The investment cost for the infrastructure development is huge. Further, it is also important to provide modern facilities such as Computer and Information Technology. This calls for a well-planned strategy for this important project.

Implementation

Spirituality Development Through the Practice of Dhamma

Promotion of the practice of Dhamma shall be carried out through the following activities. Our society will be taking a leading role in organizing these activities.

- Providing opportunities for the study of Theravada Buddhism
- Conducting meditation programs for the interested individuals/ parties (National and International)
- Organizing programs to attract university students and staff to dhamma programs (*dana, seela, bhavana*) of the temple. In particular, to get more and more university students and staff involved in the on-going full moon *poya* day *seela* programme
- Developing attitudes based on the Buddhist teachings among youth through community and social service
- Upholding Buddhist traditions and values
- Initiating a Buddhist Parapsychic Research Forum

Improving the Infra-Structure Facilities

- Alterations and improvements to existing Buddha Mandiraya
- Completion of the construction work of dhamma school building (Upper floor)
- Construction of *kuti* (rooms) for *maha sangha*
- Construction of *sakman malu* (tracks for walking meditation)
- Construction of residential facilities for visiting devotees
- Establishment of a library with IT facilities
- Car parks and toilet facilities
- Landscaping



























INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



Development work to be carried out are summarized in the following table.

Details of Architectural Plans, Structural drawings, Bills of quantities(BOQ) and Estimated costs and other relevant information for each activity can be accessed by clicking on the relevant icon.

	Activity	Architectural Drawings	Structural Drawings	BOQs	Estimated Cost (LKR)
A	Alterations and improvements to existing Buddha <i>Mandiraya</i>				15,000,000
B	Construction of Dhamma Hall				25,000,000
C	Construction of <i>kuti</i> for maha sangha				20,000,000
D	Construction of <i>sakman malu</i>				2,000,000
E	Construction of residential facilities for visiting devotees				15,000,000
F	Establishment of a library with IT facilities				10,000,000
G	Car parks and washroom facilities				6,000,000
H	Landscaping				2,000,000
	Grand Total				95,000,000

Architect: Mrs. Champika Hettiarachchi, *Chartered Architect*

Engineering Designs and Structures: Dr. Udaya Dissanayake, Dr. Spun Jayasinghe
Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Perad.

Engineering Drawings: Mr. Channa Jayawardhana

Landscaping: Mr. DMSKWB Palipana, *Former curator, University of Peradeniya*
in collaboration with the landscaping division



A. Alterations and Improvements to Existing Buddha Mandiraya

The existing shrine room is located in the small hall in the old telephone exchange building which was converted to the temple. This has very limited space and there is insufficient ventilation when there is a large gathering. The kitchen, store rooms and the living rooms of the monks are also located in the same building. The proposal is to alter the existing building to give a new face-lift and improve the facilities.

B. Construction of Dhamma Hall

The limited residential facilities even at present are used by local and international visiting monks. Monks visit and reside for various durations and engage in their spiritual development activities. As the future programs are aimed at residential programs for the monks, there must be sufficient residential facilities for the monks. To enable the monks to engage in meditation and spiritual development individual residential facilities are proposed.

C. Construction of *Kuti* for Maha Sangha (Monks)

The limited residential facilities even at present are used by local and international visiting monks. Monks visit and reside for various durations and engage in their spiritual development activities. As the future programs are aimed at residential programs for the monks, there must be sufficient residential facilities for the monks. To enable the monks to engage in meditation and spiritual development individual residential facilities are proposed.

D. Construction of *Sakman Malu* (Walking Meditation Tracks)

Walking meditation is an effective activity and an important aspect of Buddhist meditation. For mass scale engagement in this activity, there must be sufficient meditation tracks.



E. Construction of Residential Facilities For Visiting Lay Devotees

The proposed activities are aimed at conducting residential programs for the lay devotees. No residential facilities are currently available. Some residential facilities must be made available for successful implementation of these activities.

F. Establishment of a Library with IT Facilities

As a center for study of Dhamma, a library with electronic media, internet access and other IT facilities is essential. These facilities will be developed to be used by persons who will engage in study and research activities related to Dhamma.

G. Car Parks and Washrooms

In the events of large gathering, vehicle parking and common washroom facilities are essential. At present, there are no such properly developed facilities. The proposal will address this issue.

H. Landscaping

The temple premises will be landscaped in order to create a religious surrounding and serene atmosphere. This will include locating proposed structures in suitable places and conservation of existing flora while improving the natural beauty of the area and preserving the present beauty of the campus.

BUDDHIST PARAPSYCHIC RESEARCH FORUM

Introduction

The Buddha's path of liberation has been for the survival of all beings on the earth. From the origin of Buddhism up to date, it has assisted mankind for the development of morals, life philosophy, culture and the cognitive aspects. The goal of the path of liberation is to resolve all sufferings which arise in causality. It is based on self-realization and the individual responsibility. The nature of perception and actions of a person bring happiness or suffering.

Now a days whatever the sufferings faced by man, they are inclined to resolve them through scientific treatments. In Buddhist view the suffering cannot be resolved permanently by materialistic approach. In this sense spiritual development based on the metaphysical investigation has to be carried out.

Kandy is a world heritage city where prayers visit very often to worship the Buddha's tooth relic

country with an elevation of 500 metres (1600 ft) above sea level. The average annual temperature in Kandy is 23.5 °C/ 74.3 °F. Precipitation is about 1773 mm/ 69.8 inch per year. Kandy is a world heritage city where prayers visit very often to worship the Buddha's tooth relic.



Gravitation Place of Metaphysical Research of Buddhism

Sri Lanka is the historical island where Theravada Buddhism is preserved in same manner as the Buddha delivered and preserved under the councils held by Great Theras. The panoramic passion of sacred culture in the island and traditions were continued from the 3rd century B.C up to date. The last kingdom of Kandy is located in the up

continued on next page ...



The University Buddhist Temple is situated in premises of the Peradeniya University founded by Sir Ivor Jennings in the year 1942. The Buddhist Temple is an independent sanctuary and one-storeyed the scholars frequenting.

Goal of the Forum

Understanding the ultimate truth enlightened by the Buddha. The Paramatta Satya desana is timeless (akalika) and is a cosmic truth. For disperse the truth “Ariya paraiyeshana Sutta” and the first sermon are followed as the main instrument in the research area. The Culla hattipadopama Sutta declared by Mahinda thero as his first deliverance to the Sri Lankan led to the dawn of knowledge without prejudice. Applying theory of testing and verification on data incidents are collected and analyzed. Developing advance of mind its intend to resolve the sufferings.

Activities of the Forum

Listeners and seers declare and accept the incidents as he/she perceived. It may be right or wrong. Dussutampii hoti sussutampi hoti. Tatapi hoti annetapai hoti. Pre conclusion needs to be verified.

Meditation Program: infusion with psychological aspects- a program scheme to evaluate behavioral and cognitive changes of participants to ensure the authenticity and quality of the program. *The trainers of qualified psychologist are initiated through a deep discussion with new-comers.*

Awareness Program: *To improve the awareness of other religious core practices in comparison with Buddhism to properly grasp the value and practicality of Buddhist theories. It is important to highlight that majority follows religion out of faith but one of the main aim of this program is to create individual who knows about all core teachings of Buddhism and other religious systems to identify the value of Buddhism.*

Research Programs: *Since University Vihara of Peradeniya is one of the most well renowned hub for producing highly skilled professionals in Asia, and University temple being a major hub for centralizing this educated citizens, a highly successful research programs are opened for scholars who interest the spiritual observation and relations between incidents of spiritual world and the physical world. Research such as self-healing, personality changes, and other forms of spiritual research.*

Finding the Way of Re-establishing: *supernormal knowledges mentioned in the Buddha’s discourses.*

Research on Rebirth and Kamma.





Administration and Management of the Development Programs

Dhamma Programs

Dhamma programs will be conducted under the patronage and direction of the Chief incumbent of the temple

**Venerable
Bamunugama
Shanthawimala
Thero**

Constructions

Construction of buildings shall be supervised by a sub-committee appointed by the Executive Committee of the Temple Development Society in collaboration with the University Buddhist Society where appropriate.

Financial

Financial management of the building projects shall be carried out by a sub-committee appointed by the Executive Committee of the Temple Development Society. When the assets exceed Rs. 10 million, auditing shall be carried out by an approved auditing firm.



Bank Accounts

Bank of Ceylon Peradeniya Branch 0078725998 (*current account*)

Bank of Ceylon Peradeniya Branch 78439584 (*savings account*)

Bank of Ceylon Peradeniya Uni. Branch 79594976 (*savings account*)



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UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA TEMPLE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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Bamunugama Shanthawimala Thero

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Auditor: Mr. G.B. Jayasinghe

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