



Buddhism for Development

30 years for Cambodia's progress

1990 - 2020

Tuesday, May 01, BE 2533/1990

Is the day when Buddhism for Development (BFD) was founded as a non-governmental organization by Venerable Buddhist monk Indapañño Bhikkhu Heng Monychenda, together with other monks of the Temple of Prasat Serey Monastery led by His Most Venerable Sirisuvanno Pin Sem. The monastery was located at the Rithisen Camp/Site II Displaced People camp on the Khmer-Thai border of Banteay Meanchey province. Although not officially registered with any institution, Buddhism for Development was considered the first civil society and non-governmental organization established within Cambodian sovereignty.

Then, in 1994, Buddhism for Development applied for registration with the Ministry of Religions and Cults of the Royal Government of Cambodia and in 1999, BFD registered with the Ministry of Interior in accordance with the law of the Kingdom of Cambodia until to date. Over the past 30 years, BFD has begun its development works in the vicinity of Wat Anlong Vil Monastery, Anlong Vil Commune, Sangker District, Battambang Province. In 2003, BFD extended its services in seven branches: Battambang, Pailin, Banteay Meanchey, Oddar Meanchey, Siem Reap, Kampong Thom and Preah Vihear.

Buddhism For Development envisions:

- an educated, democratic society, free from poverty and preventable illnesses, law abiding, and respectful of human rights;
- a moral society with respect for Buddhism and Cambodian culture and traditions;
- a society conscious of its environment and aware of the choices presented by development and globalization.

A mission to encourages, advises and provides services, support and training to Cambodians to participate in the sustainable socio-economic development of their own communities.

- BFD aims to assist the Royal Government of Cambodia in achieving the growth and development of its people. BFD approaches development using Buddhist principles as a

guide to development practice. Community participation in guiding and bringing development outcomes to the local level is a fundamental principle. Socially-engaged Buddhism, having Monks and Donchees active in their local communities providing welfare and social service, is also a primary goal.

- Projects are designed to meet the needs of target groups, and using the Dharma as a guide, aim to achieve harmony between the individual, society and environment. The projects focus on economic, social, health, spiritual and intellectual development of target groups and aim to guide target groups, step by step towards self-reliance and empowerment.

Over the past 30 years, Buddhism for Development is proud to be able to contribute, as a civil society, to the Royal Government of Cambodia to positively promote family, government, economic, academic, and religious institutions as a benchmark supporting a nation to maintain peace, development, and stability. Thanks to the Royal Government of Cambodia for all the sub-national and local administrations of the seven provinces and all international and national donors who have been the driving force for this success.

Thanks to all the target people for their kindness and cooperation with BFD from the beginning to the present. Last but not least, all our Khmer and foreign colleagues, monks, nuns and laypeople, who have always been true to their spirituality and their appreciation to Buddhism for development, whether they are in work or leave to a new workplace.

May all of us be blessed by the Lord Buddha with Ayu, Vanna, Sukha, and Bala for days and nights!

With all of my gratitude,

Heng Monychenda