

Development in Buddhist Education and Archive Building in Luang Prabang

The UNESCO world heritage site of Luang Prabang has been the centre of Lao Buddhism and culture since the mid-fourteenth century. Theravada Buddhism has flourished in this ancient city since then. In the 2000s, two important Buddhist institutions were established in Luang Prabang, namely the Buddhist Academy and the Buddhist Archives.

The Buddhist Academy at the monastery of Vat Pa Pha O, situated some 10 km to the north of Luang Prabang town, represents one of the landmarks of Buddhist educational development not only in Luang Prabang but in the whole of northern Laos. The Academy provides a chance for boys from poor families in remote villages to get a proper education. At present, more than 500 novices live and study in the monastery under the supervision of the Most Venerable Pha One Keo Sittivong. Being both a burden and challenge, the Venerable will talk about the reasons which inspired him to set up this institute of Buddhist education.



Since its foundation in 2007 by a charismatic monk, the Most Venerable Sathu Nyai Khamchan Virachitta Maha Thela (1920–2007), and the German writer and photographer Hans Georg Berger, the Buddhist Archives houses one of the largest collections of historical photographs, printed books and handwritten documents related to Theravada Buddhism in Southeast Asia. Therefore, this institution provides useful tools for the study of Lao Buddhism, culture and history.



The Most Venerable Pha One Keo Sittivong

Chairman of the Lao Buddhist Fellowship Organization of Luang Prabang, is one of the most eminent monks in contemporary Laos. He has promoted the development of Buddhist education at different levels and has played a key role in reviving the practice of Vipassana meditation in Luang Prabang

Dr. Khamvone Boulyaphonh

Director of the Buddhist Archives of Luang Prabang who has been working for the Archives since its foundation. He finished his PhD from the Asia-Africa Institute, University of Hamburg in 2016

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