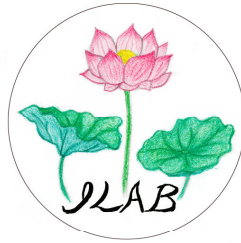


International Ladies Association of Buddhism



Articles & Bylaws

2009

Foreword

Based on the values of equality, wisdom and compassion, the Buddha's teachings transcended the caste system and reached the hearts of people from different walks of life in his time. As followers of Buddhism, we should also go beyond various differences of our time, such as gender segregation, racial discrimination, or any form of prejudice, which may result in conflict, crime, war and other terrible inflictions on humankind that are ongoing even in the modern 'civilized' age. To overcome these differences, one of the most important stances as a Buddhist is to realize the quintessential spirit of Buddhism that any person, whether male or female, young or old, has the right to learn and practice Buddhism, and that we all equally have a chance to achieve enlightenment.

In April 2009, International Ladies of Buddhism (ILAB) was set up under the guidance of Ms Rinko Okano, Chairperson of ILAB and International Buddhist Exchange Centre (IBEC). ILAB offers nuns, priestesses and lay women who have faith in Buddhism, both domestic and overseas, the opportunity to participate in intellectual activities and cultural exchange. At ILAB, we strive to learn and understand the profound

teachings of Buddhism and Buddhist culture by transcending different denominations and nationalities. Aiming to serve the society on an international basis, our meetings are mainly conducted in English. In order to convey the Buddha's teachings and to present our views with appropriate, clear and logical expressions, we also hold activities such as speech contests, debates, essay competitions and workshops to improve our communication skills. At the same time, we welcome women of non-Buddhist faiths who have an interest in Buddhism to provide diversity in the dimensions of our activities.

Although ILAB has still a rather short history, our membership is gradually expanding with members from different nationalities of Asia, Europe and America. This may be a manifestation of the needs of contemporary women and men that Buddhism offers us the key to achieve genuine inner peace and wisdom in our minds that are ultimately beneficial to the society as a whole. However, our efforts and activities reach out beyond our own achievements. With the support of our members, we also plan to encourage and provide aid to female Buddhist students and academics with scholarship programmes, as we believe that education connects to hopes for a brighter future.

ILAB Board Members 2009-2011

Chairperson : Ms Rinko Okano

Board Directors (in alphabetical order):

- Reverend Ikuko Hibino
- Ms Ann Sado Honjo
- Ms Hiroko Maruyama
- Reverend Myosei Midorikawa
- Ms Jayanti Minato
- Ms Karen Okano
- Ms Alberte Rabiller

International Ladies Association of Buddhism

Articles & Bylaws

Article 1

Name

This Association shall be called International Ladies Association of Buddhism, abbreviation: ILAB.

Article 2

Objectives

- I. To express the Buddha's teachings through the views of Buddhist women transcending denominations and nationalities.
- II. To learn about the Buddhist culture of different denominations and countries to promote understanding and international goodwill.
- III. To acquire the essential spirit of Buddhism through the introduction of Buddhist culture and practices.
- IV. To practice and apply the Buddha's teachings in daily lives, such as the values of Equality, Compassion, Wisdom, Detachment and Respect for all beings.
- V. To convey the Buddha's message and to improve our communication skills.
- VI. To educate and support young female Buddhist students/academics with scholarship programme.

Article 3

Principle

The Association shall not represent any particular political, social, racial or religious party.

Article 4

Membership

I. Women of any nationality residing in Japan or overseas are eligible for membership.

II. Application for membership:

Applicant is required to fill in an application form with the signature of 2 sponsors (recommenders) who are Regular members of the Association, and submit the form to the Secretary. The application shall be reviewed and processed at a Board meeting. When the application is accepted, the Secretary shall send a confirmation letter to her and she shall be entitled to pay her dues and to receive mail correspondence from the Association.

III. Types of membership:

1. Regular membership

- A) Nuns, priestesses or lay women who have faith in Buddhism of any denomination are eligible.
- B) Regular members are required to pay an annual fee and the fee for each meeting/activity she attends.
- C) Regular members have the right to vote at the election of Board Directors.
- D) Regular members have a priority to participate in an activity which has a quota.
- E) Maximum number of this membership is 50.

2. Student membership

- A) Women who have faith in Buddhism and are full time registered students of an academic institution are eligible.
- B) Student members are required to pay an annual fee and the fee for each meeting/activity she attends.

- C) Student members have the right to vote at the election of Board Directors.
- D) Student members have a priority to participate in an activity which has a quota.
- E) Maximum number of this membership is 30.

3. Associate membership

- A) Women who have faith in non-Buddhist religions and have an interest in Buddhism are eligible.
- B) Associate members are required to pay the fee for each meeting/activity she attends.
- C) Maximum number of this membership is 20.

IV. Termination of membership:

The following may be liable to the termination of membership:

- A) Violation of the Association's bylaws and regulations.
- B) Delay in payment of annual fees for over 2 years.

Article 5

Membership fees

- I. The fiscal year for the Association is from April 1st until March 31st.
- II. The membership fee shall be determined by the Board and is payable through bank transfer as notified by the Association.
- III. Members joining between April 1st and October 31st shall pay one-year annual fee. Members joining between November 1st and March 31st shall pay only one-half of the annual fee.

IV. Fees for different types of membership:

1. Regular membership

Annual fee: 5000 yen

General meeting fee: 2000 yen

Outings or other activities: to be announced at each activity

2. Student membership

Annual fee: 3000 yen

General meeting fee: 2000 yen

Outings or other activities: to be announced at each activity

3. Associate membership

Annual fee: none

General meeting fee: 3000 yen

Outings or other activities: to be announced at each activity

Article 6

Meetings

- I. General meetings shall be conducted twice a year. The date and venue of each General meeting shall be decided and announced by the Board.
- II. Special meetings, outings or other activities such as speech contests, debates and workshops may be arranged by the Board in between the General meetings.

Article 7

Guests

- I. Members may invite guests, whether female or male, to a General/ Special meeting or outing with the approval of the Chairperson.
- II. One same guest may be invited to only one of the General meetings, Special meetings, outings or other activities of the Club annually.
- III. A fee will be charged for each guest present at any meeting of the Association.
- IV. A guest's fee shall be spontaneous to the amount charged for an Associate member at the meeting.

Article 8

Operation

This Association is a part of the activities organized by International Buddhist Exchange Centre (IBEC)*. The Association shall operate under an independent directing committee, or the Board, and shall work interactively with International Buddhist Exchange Centre.

Article 9

The Board

I. Board Members

1. The directing committee or the Board shall compose of 1 Chairperson and 7 Board Directors.
2. Regular members of the Association are eligible as Board Directors.
3. The term for all Board Members is 2 years.
4. A Board Member shall be present at all Board meetings. In case of absence, she shall send a proxy to the Chairperson in advance.

II. Nomination committee

1. The nomination Committee is responsible for the nomination of candidates as Board Directors.
2. The nomination committee shall consist of 2 Board Directors.

Article 10

Ethics

- I. Members shall not in any form discredit the reputation of the Association and its members and guests, or act in any way that disrupts the Association's operation.

* International Buddhist Exchange Centre (Yokohama, Japan) was set up as an incorporated foundation in 1968, with the objectives to contribute to world peace through the promotion of understanding between Buddhists from different denominations, and to introduce Buddhism to overseas people. Its board members compose of scholars from different Buddhist denominations and executive directors of enterprises. Major activities are to organize lectures, symposiums, and publications.

- II. Members shall not propagate any political or commercial activities at the Association at all times.
- III. Membership lists and personal information of members shall not be used or disposed at any time for political, commercial or illegal purposes.

Article 11

Certification of the Association

- I. The Association's Logo



- II. Newsletter
The Association's official Newsletter 'Padmasri' will be published and distributed to members semi-annually.

Article 12

Amendments

- I. The Articles and Bylaws shall be revised annually at a Board meeting.
- II. Amendments may be made at any meetings by a majority vote of the Board Directors.

✽Drafted and approved by the Board of International Ladies Association of Buddhism
September 2009 ✽