

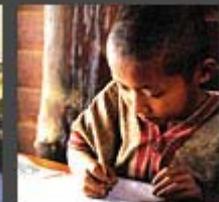
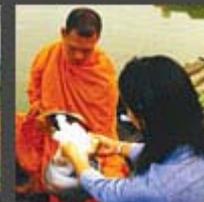
THE 10th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THAI STUDIES

■ Home ■ Call for papers ■ Update ■ Committee ■ FAQ ■ Program ■ Registration ■ Accommodations ■ Ex



JANUARY 9 - 11, 2008

THE THAI KHADI RESEARCH INSTITUTE
THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY
BANGKOK, THAILAND



Faculty of Humanities and
Social Sciences
Mahasarakham University

THAI
OFFICIAL AIRLINE


The Asia Foundation


ตลาดหลักทรัพย์แห่งประเทศไทย
The Stock Exchange of Thailand


BETAGRO
LET'S MAKE LIFE BETTER

GM


CHEVROLET

Thammasat University, the second oldest university in Thailand known for its academic excellence in human social sciences, and the Thai Khadi Research Institute, the first institution in Thailand to devote itself to Thai studies, invite scholars from all disciplines and intellectual perspectives to participate in the 10th International Conference on *Thai Societies in a Transnationalized World*. The conference is a continuation of a well-established academic tradition which aims to promote research and in-depth study of Thai culture and society as well as to provide a platform for academics to present their viewpoints and research findings. Besides the academic focus, the conference will be held to celebrate the auspicious occasion of the 80th birth anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej in recognition of His Majesty's great benevolence and life-long work for the well-being of the Thai people.

For more information please contact: 

The 10th International Conference on Thai Studies, Thai Khadi Research Institute
Thammasat University, Prachan Road, Bangkok 10200, THAILAND Fax: 662-2262112 E-mail: thaiconference@gr

BUDDHISM IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION (5 papers)

Chair: Suwanna Satha-Anand, Chulalongkorn University

Looking at America through Buddhist Wisdom: The Way Out for Thai Society in the Perspective of Phra Brahmagunabhorn (P.A. Payutto)

Dhanapon Somwang, Sripatum University

Venerable Phra Brahmagunabhorn (Prayudh Payutto) is widely acknowledged and respected in Thailand, especially among Buddhist scholars and intellectuals of almost all spheres, as the author of *Buddhadhamma* and for his profound insight on how to apply Buddhist teachings to the world civilization and concrete modern problems. He has also written essays and published numerous booklets presenting Buddhist perspectives in many academic fields; education, economics and the science, etc.

Phra Brahmagunabhorn views that Thai society takes America as a model for almost all things. And he sees that an American society is a model of progress and can be referred to as representative of Western societies. Many countries in the world admire the American society as their model for creation of a peaceful and prosperous society. The progress of American society as the most developed country in the world related to and abundance of material goods, convenience and various comforts. But at the same time, American society now is experiencing a cultural crisis which may result in radical changes in the near future. The case of American society is cited and criticized by him in many places, especially in “Looking to America to solve Thailand’s problems” (1987), “Looking at the World Peace through the background of globalization civilization” (1999) “Getting to Know America, Turning Back to View Thai Potentiality”(2003) and others.

Phra Brahmagunabhorn believes that to solve the social problems of Thai society one must get at the foundation of being Thai, which composed by Buddhism and must understand the true conditions of American society. So, he investigates the background of American society in several aspects, i.e. human rights, democracy, education, family, equality, freedom and so on. He founded that American society as the symbol of the modern civilization now is turning to decline and is still far from desirable society. This means that, in his opinion, modern civilization is the legacy or bad *Kamma* have created by human beings in the twentieth century, which is going to exert an influence on humanity of the twenty-first century. The citizens of the twenty-first century are going to have to deal with problems which are the legacy of the twentieth century. For him, the basic of all other human problems now is the problem of wrong basis of wrong thoughts, resulting in various disasters and crisis of human society.

In his perspective, Buddhist wisdom is the foundation of Thai society and very valuable as it can solve Thailand’s problems and create modern Thai and world civilization.