

Navigating Change:
Buddhist Women
In Transition

Programme Booklet

19th Sakyadhita International Conference on Buddhist Women 2025

16th - 20th June 2025 at The Waterfront Hotel, Kuching



19th SAKYADHITA 2025



THE 19TH SAKYADHITA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

第 19 届 国际 佛教 善 女 人 大 会

16th - 20th June 2025 at The Waterfront Hotel, Kuching

Navigating Change: Buddhist Women In Transition DAY 1: 16 JUNE 2025 (MONDAY)

7:30 am Breakfast / Morning Tea Break (Provided)

8:00 am Check in (until 11:30am)

MEDITATIONS OF THE WORLD

at The Ranyai Ballroom

8:00 am The Four Foundations of Mindfulness
Ayya Sumangala

9:30 am Rest Time

10:00 am Living Mindfully in Modern Times
Bhiksuni Tien Lien

11:30 am Lunch Break (Provided)

12:30 am Korean Ganhwa Seon Meditation
Bhikkhuni Hyoseok Sunim

2:00 pm End of Meditations of the World

OPENING CEREMONY

at The Ranyai Ballroom

2:00 pm Arrival of Guest of Honour

National Anthem, State Anthem, and Song of the Triple Gem

Chanting from the Buddhist Traditions

Welcoming Dance Performance

Dance Performance by KBS Culture Troupe

Welcoming Remarks

by Mr. Kho Kak Hee
President, Kuching Buddhist Society

Words of Welcome

by Dr. Sharon A. Suh
President, Sakyadhita International
Association of Buddhist Women

Words of Welcome

by Venerable Gwang Yong Sunim
President, Korean Bhiksuni Association

Official Opening Speech

by YB Datuk Amar Professor Dr. Sim Kui Hian
Deputy Premier of Sarawak
Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government

Official Opening of Sakyadhita International
Conference 2025

Light Offering Ceremony

Presentation of Souvenirs

Blessings of Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara

Dance Performance by KBS Culture Troupe

Keynote Address:

Adapting to the Reality of Our Power
by Dr. Pamela Ayo Yetunde
Sakyadhita International

5:00 pm Afternoon Refreshment
for Guest of Honours and Participants

5:30 pm Chanting

6:00 pm End of Day 1

7:00 pm City Tour at Waterfront (free and easy)

ORGANISED BY:

HOSTED BY:

SUPPORTED BY:

SUPPORTED BY:





19th SAKYADHITA 2025

THE 19TH SAKYADHITA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

第 19 届 国际 佛教 善 女 人 大 会

16th - 20th June 2025 at The Waterfront Hotel, Kuching

DAY 2: 17 JUNE 2025 (TUESDAY)

6:30 am Morning Meditations

7:30 am Breakfast / Morning Tea Break (Provided)

PAPER 1 *at The Ranyai Ballroom*

Sustaining the Buddha Dharma

Moderator: Ruth Gamble

9:00 am Changing and Challenging Roles of Bhikkhunis in Sri Lanka

Kundasale Subhagya

The Changing Roles of Buddhist Women: Empowerment, Feminism, and Leadership
Loh Pai Ling

The Queerness of Buddha and Buddha Dharma

Tashi Choedup

The Development of Theravāda Bhikkhunis in Indonesia: Progress Toward Gender Equality in Sangha Agung Indonesia
Julia Surya (Bhikkhuni Ṭhītācarinī Therī)

So That the Sun May Never Set: The Role of Monasticism in Sustaining the Buddhadharmā

Thubten Lamsel

11:30 am Lunch Break (Provided)

PAPER 2A *at The Ranyai Ballroom*

Buddhist Nuns Navigating & Fostering Change

Moderator: Hannah Gould

12:30 pm Bridging Tradition and Modernity: Myanmar Buddhist Nuns Engaging with the Contemporary World

Sayalay Santacari

On the Transformative Journey of Female Monastic in the Kingdom of Bhutan

Namgyel Lhamo

The Changing Roles of Leadership of Korean Bhikkhuni Sangha

Ilmoon Cho

Gratitude and Taking Initiative: Navigating Change as a Buddhist Woman in Transition

Sāmanerī Ariyā Dhammajīvi

1:40 pm Rest Time

PAPER 2B *at The Ranyai Ballroom*

Monastics & Laity Breaking New Ground

Moderator: Eunsu Cho

1:50 pm Do Early Buddhist Notions of Women Endanger Male Celibacy?

Tran Thi Cam Van

Leadership and Governance: The Role of the Thai Nuns' Organization in Education and Social Work

Punyaporn Saengkhum

Amid Changes in 'Hip Buddhism' in Korea, New Roles and Leadership of Female Lay Buddhists

Jin-sook Nam

Empowering Voices: The Evolution of Tibetan Buddhist Women in Leadership

Karma Tashi Choedron and Tenzin Dadon

3:00 pm Rest Time

WORKSHOP 1

3:30 pm The Importance of National Sakyadhita Organisations *(at The Ranyai Ballroom)*

Helen Richardson & Karma Lekshe Tsomo

A Knowledge Quiz/Game Show on Sakyadhita

Bhiksuni TN Gioi Huong *(at Rajang)*

Holding Buddhist Organizations to Account

by Venerable Mettaji, Venerable Thubten Chokyi, Carol Merchasin, Tenku Ruff Osho *(at Kerangas)*

Bhikkhuni Dhammananda's Life and Legacy: Buddhism through a Feminist Lens *(at Tubau 1)*

Cindy Rasicot

Moon Jar Workshop Proposal (Korean)

Cheong-Sil Lee *(at Tubau 2)*

What If AI were Sentient Being? The Womb of Female Still Stand there? *(at Tubau 3)*

Shu-Hui Tsai (Juyam)

Sitting meditation: Finding Stability and Comfort

Jane Shamrock *(at Kabu)*

5:00 pm Refreshment Break (Provided)

5:30 pm Chanting

6:00 pm Reserved Time for Dinner

Dharma Talk 1 *at The Ranyai Ballroom*

7:00 pm Navigating Life Challenges by Living Skillfully by the Dhamma

Ayya Sumangala

9:00 pm End of Day 2



19th SAKYADHITA 2025



THE 19TH SAKYADHITA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

第 19 届 国际 佛教 善 女 人 大 会

16th - 20th June 2025 at The Waterfront Hotel, Kuching

DAY 3: 18 JUNE 2025 (WEDNESDAY)

6:30 am Morning Meditations

7:30 am Breakfast / Morning Tea Break (Provided)

PAPER 3 *at The Ranyai Ballroom*

Creating Models for Effective Change and Healing

Moderator: Jeannine Viau

9:00 am **Healing Trauma through Sangha from East and West**

Mia Livingston

Healing at the Crossroads: Integrating Buddhist Teachings, Mental Health Counseling, and Societal Oppression in Working with Domestic Violence Survivors
Thich Nu Lien Anh (Le Thi My Hieu) and Shannon Chang

Reflections on pilgrimage, research and coping with changes
Sandra Ng Siow San

Women and the Ritual of Sacralization and Commodification of Buddhist Amulets in Thailand
Amnuaypond Kidpromma

Bhikkhuni Dhammananda's Life and Legacy on Women's Empowerment and Modern Buddhism
Cindy Rasicot

11:30 am Lunch Break (Provided)

PAPER 4A *at The Ranyai Ballroom*

Dharma Teachers Authority & Transmission

Moderator: Tomomi Ito

12:30 pm **In Her Footsteps: Celebrating the Multifaceted Legacy of Bhiksuni Dr. Shi Heng-Ching**

Christie Chang

The Dharma Teacher Venerable Dhammawati
Shradda Gautami

The Master Of The Nuns Huỳnh Liên – The Beacon Of Vietnamese Khất Sĩ Buddhism In The Central Highlands

Thích Nữ Thường Huệ and Thích Thiên Phú

Bhikshuni Dieu Khong: A Pillar of the Vietnamese Buddhist Nun Community in the 20th Century

Thích Thiên Phú and Phan Thi An Phu

1:40 pm Rest Time

ORGANISED BY:

HOSTED BY:

SUPPORTED BY:



PAPER 4B *at The Ranyai Ballroom*

Roundtable on Sexual Violence

Moderator: Sharon Suh

1:50 pm **Buddhism and Sexual Abuse Across Cultures and Contexts**

Karma Chodron, Tenzin Dadon, Ann Gleig, Sarah Jacoby, Amy Langenberg

3:00 pm Rest Time

WORKSHOP 2

3:30 pm **Blossoming the Flower of Loving Kindness in the Mind and Heart** *(at The Ranyai Ballroom)*

Bhikkhuni Kundsale Subhagya

Bodhicitta: Developing the Mind of Awakening *(at Rajang)*

Karma Lekshe Tsomo

Recovering the Human Spirit : Which Realm of the six Samsara Are You in Right Now? *(at Kerangas)*

San Snim

Sacred Ink: A Writing Workshop *(Tubau 1)*

Brigid Lowry

Analytic Meditation: Steps to Generate Bodhicitta *(at Tubau 2)*

Bhikshuni Thubten Lamsel and Bhikshuni Thubten Rinchen

Mutual Respect (Aññamaññagāra) within the Myanmar Nuns' Community *(at Tubau 3)*

Ven. Sudhammacari

Reading Poetry by Buddhist Women Across Traditions and Times *(at Kabu)*

Xiaojuan Shu

5:00 pm Refreshment Break (Provided)

5:30 pm Chanting

6:00 pm Reserved Time for Dinner

Dharma Talk 2 *at The Ranyai Ballroom*

7.00 pm **Learning the Truth of Life Through the Avatamsaka Sutra**

Ven. Bongak Sunim

(Translated from Korean by Ven. Minu Sunim)

9:00 pm End of Day 3



19th SAKYADHITA 2025

THE 19TH SAKYADHITA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

第 19 届 国际 佛教 善 女 人 大 会

16th - 20th June 2025 at The Waterfront Hotel, Kuching

DAY 4: 19 JUNE 2025 (THURSDAY)

6:30 am Morning Meditations

7:30 am Breakfast / Morning Tea Break (Provided)

PAPER 5 at The Ranyai Ballroom

Buddhist Networks - Care, Education, & Transformation

Moderator: Ngar-tze Lau

9:00 am **Planting Seeds: Teaching Buddhist Values for Social Harmony to a Secular Generation in Interfaith Contexts**

Malia D. Wong

Women Using Global Buddhist Networks to Leverage Better Outcomes for Animals

Catherine Schuetze

Female Veterinarians, Community Networks and Animal Welfare in a Traditional Buddhist Society

Diki Palmu Sherpa

From Making a "Vow" to Raising Children in a Buddhist Way: The Path and Progression in a Myanmar Buddhist Mother's Religiosity

Rachelle Saruya

Building Education Through Temple Education Program: A Story in Countering Mobile Game Addiction and Moslem TPQ

Kustiani

From Monasticism to Modernity: Exploring the Lives of Former Himalayan Buddhist Nuns in Transition

Gendun Lhamu

11:30 am Lunch Break (Provided)

PAPER 6A at The Ranyai Ballroom

Redefining Tradition, Making Transitions, & Expanding Education

Moderator: Linda Sun Crowder

12:30 pm **The Dharma-Propagating Effort of Post-War Taiwanese Bhikkhunis: Venerable Tian Yi, Tzu Hui, and Tzu Jung**

Zhi Quan Shi

Nun of the Slum: Bodhichitta Foundation and its Barefoot Buddhism

Ayya Yeshe

Navigating Change – Himalayan and Tibetan Buddhist Women in Transition

Teena Amrit Gill

Vietnamese Buddhist Nuns: Constantly Innovative Methods of Dharma Preaching to the Youth

Thích Nữ Liên Hiền

Changing Roles of Buddhist Women Empowerment, Feminism and Leadership

Madhuri Krishna Kudwalkar

Coming together in Dialogue with the Broader World: Logics, Metaphysics, Cultures, and Practices of Gender

Alice Hank Winham

PAPER 6B at The Ranyai Ballroom

Handbook on Buddhist Women

Moderator: Emma Tomalin

2:00 pm **Women and Buddhism: Decolonizing the Field and Amplifying Voices**

Main Organiser: Emma Tomalin

Members: Sharon Suh, Eunsu Cho, Sarah Jacoby, Amy Langenberg, Darcie Price-Wallace

3:00 pm **Rest Time**

WORKSHOP 3

2:00 pm **Breathing Workshop (at Kerangas)**

Debbie Azama-Park

Korea Traditional Fork Art (at Kabu)

Lee Hyun-ja

Mindful Writing Workshop (at Rajang)

Sharon Thrupp

The Healing Power of Origami (at Tubau 1)

Jun Hamamoto

Spreading the Dharma in a Digital World

Bhikshuni Thubten Lamsel and Bhikshuni Thubten Rinchen (at Tubau 2)

Sakyadhita's Legacy: Buddhist Women as Navigating Peace, Progress, and Social Transformation (at Tubau 3)

Dangar Rupaben Bachubhai

3:00 pm **Rest Time**

WORKSHOP 4

3:30 pm **Compassionate Listening (at The Ranyai Ballroom)**

Karma Lekshe Tsomo

Buddhist Pastoral Spiritual Care: An Introduction to the Basics (at Kerangas)

Pamela Ayo Yetunde

How Can We Sleep When Our Beds Are Burning: Eco Buddhism (at Rajang)

Venerable Thubten Chokyi, Venerable Yeshe, Sandra Henville, Sky Dawson

Exploring the Health Benefits of a Vegetarian Diet (at Kabu)

Venerable Tien Lien

3D Jelly Flower Art Workshop (at Tubau 1)

Dr. Maechee Punyaporn Saengkhum

Chant Circle: Cultivating Emotional Well-Being Through Sound and Connection (at Tubau 2)

Shreeti Pradhan

Navigating Change through Mindful Steps (at Tubau 3)

Ven KL Dhammapiya Bhikkhuni

5:00 pm **Refreshment Break (Provided)**

5:30 pm **Chanting**

6:00 pm **Reserved Time for Dinner**

7:00 pm **Cultural Performance (See next page for full programme details)**

9:00 pm **End of Day 4**



19th SAKYADHITA
2025



THE 19TH SAKYADHITA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

第 19 届 国际 佛 教 善 女 人 大 会

16th - 20th June 2025 at The Waterfront Hotel, Kuching

DAY 4: 19 JUNE 2025 (THURSDAY) CULTURAL PERFORMANCE

at The Ranyai Ballroom

7:00 pm Arrival of Guest of Honour

Lion Dance Performance

National Anthem, State Anthem and Song of the Triple Gem

Blessings from Venerable Karma Lekshe Tsomo

Buddhist Song (Guitar and Vocal Duet)

Musical Offering by KBS Youth Section

Speech of Guest of Honour

Presentation of Souvenirs

Traditional Sape Musical Performance

Sarawak: A Dance of Harmony

Dance Performance by KBS Culture Troupe

Cultural Performance by Participating Nations:

Hawai'i

USA: Ayya Yeshe

Bhutan & Nepal Nuns: Songs of Milarepa and Songs from Nepal

Korea: Seowon Sunim & Others

Movements Across Continents

Dance Performance by KBS Culture Troupe

Blessings of Harmony and Peace

Singing Performance by KBS Youth & KBS Teenager Sections

Group Photo

9:30 pm End of Cultural Performance

ORGANISED BY:



HOSTED BY:



SUPPORTED BY:



SUPPORTED BY:





19th SAKYADHITA 2025

THE 19TH SAKYADHITA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

第 19 届 国际 佛教 善 女 人 大 会

16th - 20th June 2025 at The Waterfront Hotel, Kuching

DAY 5: 20 JUNE 2025 (FRIDAY)

6:30 am Morning Meditations

7:30 am Breakfast / Morning Tea Break (Provided)

PAPER 7 *at The Ranyai Ballroom*

Locating Buddhist Women in Inscriptions & Literature

Moderator: Aurapin Pochanapring

- 9:00 am **Women Translating the Dharma**
Sarah Harding read by Karma Lekshe Tsomo
Tracing Yaśodharā: Unfolding Her Identity in Buddhist Literature
Arun Kumar Yadav
The Role of Female Deities in Shaping Nepal Mandala Buddhist Traditions
Ursula Manandhar
Buddhist Japanese Women: Facing Centuries of Challenges
Kathy Uno

11:30 am Lunch Break (Provided)

SAKYADHITA GENERAL MEETINGS

12:30 pm Sakyadhita General Meeting *at The Ranyai Ballroom*

NATIONAL BRANCH MEETINGS

- 1:00 pm **National Branch Meetings**
Vietnam & Korea *at The Ranyai Ballroom*
USA, Australia, UK, New Zealand, Bolivia, Mexico *at Kerangas*
Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, India, Canada, Sweden *at Kabu*
Nepal, Indonesia, Germany, Hong Kong, Singapore *at Tabau 2*
Bhutan, China, Japan, Taiwan, Cambodia *at Tubau 3*

FOCUS GROUPS

- 2:00 pm **Focus Groups Meetings**
Meditations, Sexual Trauma, Healing, Buddhism and the Gender Bias *at The Ranyai Ballroom*
Ordination, Social Justice, Buddhism and Children, Buddhism and Family Life *at Kerangas*
Elder Care, Death and Dying, Health and Foods, Yoga and Breathing *at Kabu*
Animal and Buddhism, Buddhist Education, Mental Health *at Tubau 2*
Buddhism and Money, Buddhism and Creativity, Buddhism and Music *at Tubau 3*

CLOSING CEREMONY

at The Ranyai Ballroom

- 5:00 pm **Arrival of Guest of Honour**
National Anthem, State Anthem, and Song of the Triple Gem
Speech of Guest of Honour
Presentation of Souvenirs
Presentation of Video Highlights
Closing Address
by Ms. Sharon A. Suh
President
Sakyadhita International
Symbolic Transfer of Hosting Mandate
Words of Gratitude and Welcome
by the Representative of the Next Host Country
Performance by Next Host Country
Final Dedication of Merits

6:30 pm **Refreshment Break (Provided)**

7:00 pm **End of the 19th Sakyadhita International Conference**

ORGANISED BY:

HOSTED BY:

SUPPORTED BY:

SUPPORTED BY:





19th SAKYADHITA 2025

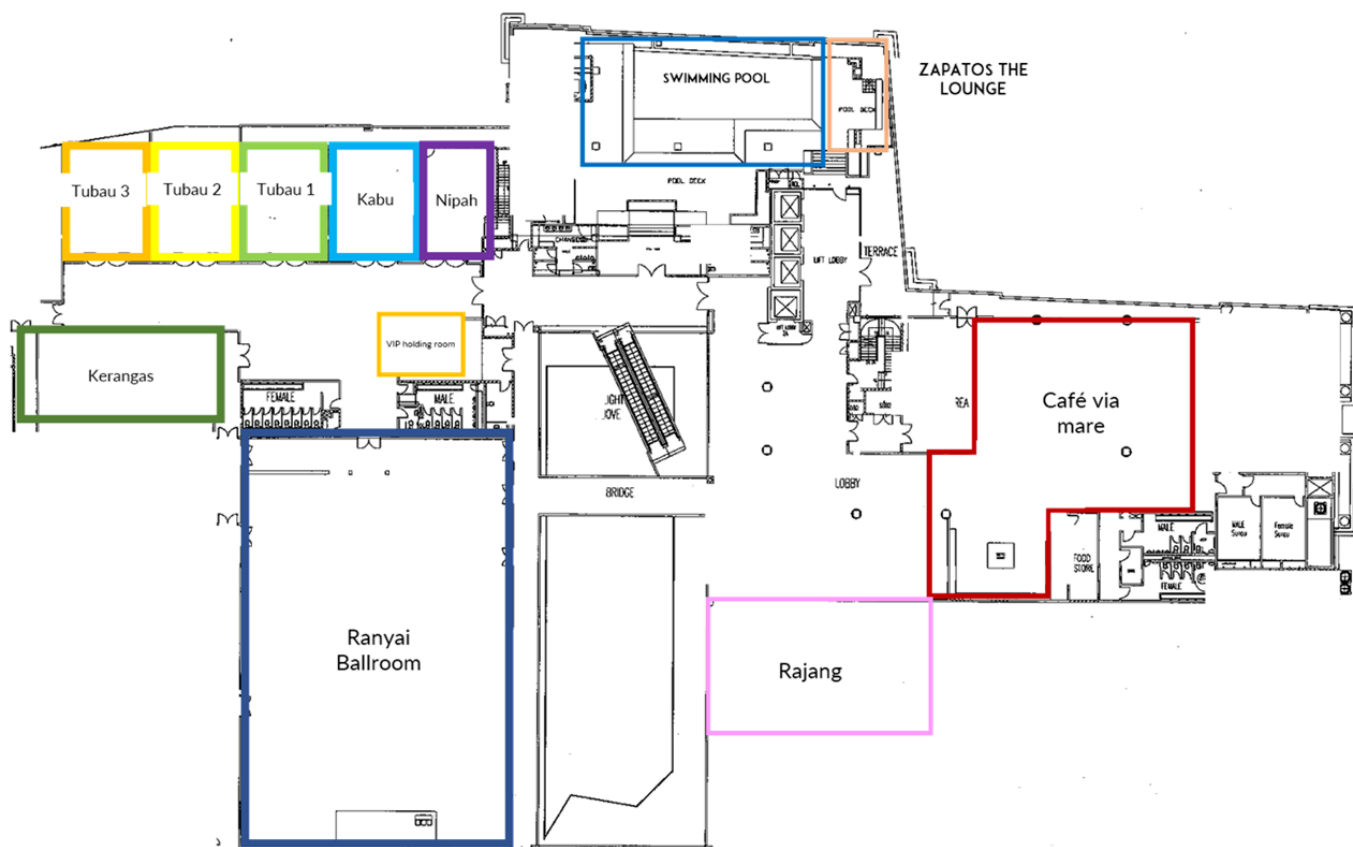
THE 19TH SAKYADHITA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

第 19 届 国际 佛教 善 女 人 大 会

16th - 20th June 2025 at The Waterfront Hotel, Kuching

TIME / DATE	MON, 16 JUNE 2025		TUE, 17 JUNE 2025	WED 18 JUNE 2025	THU, 19 JUNE 2025	FRI, 20 JUNE 2025
6:30 AM - 7:30 AM			Morning Meditations (6.30am - 7.30am)			
7:30 AM - 8:00 AM	Breakfast / Morning Tea Break (Refreshment Provided) (7.30am - 9.00am)					
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Check In (8.00am - 11.30am)	Meditations of the World (8.00am - 11.30am)				
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM			PAPER 1 (9.00am - 11.30am) Sustaining the Buddha Dharma	PAPER 3 (9.00am - 11.30am) Creating Models for Effective Change and Healing	PAPER 5 (9.00am - 11.30am) Buddhist Networks - Care, Education, & Transformation	PAPER 7 (9.00am - 11.30am) Locating Buddhist Women in Inscriptions & Literature
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Lunch Break (Lunch Provided) (11.30am - 12.30 noon)					
12:30 PM - 14:00 PM	Meditations of the World (12.30pm - 2.00pm)	PAPER 2A (12.30pm - 1.40pm) Buddhist Nuns Navigating & Fostering Change	PAPER 4A (12.30pm - 1.40pm) Dharma Teachers Authority & Transmission	PAPER 6A (12.30pm - 2.00pm) Redefining Tradition, Making Transitions, & Expanding Education		Sakyadhita General Meeting, National Branch Meetings, and Focus Groups (12.30pm - 5.00pm)
		Rest Time (1.40pm - 1.50pm)				
14:00 PM - 15:00 PM	Opening Ceremony (2.00pm - 5.00pm)	PAPER 2B (1.50pm - 3.00pm) Monastics & Laity Breaking New Ground	PAPER 4B (1.50pm - 3.00pm) Roundtable on Sexual Violence	PAPER 6B (2.00pm - 3.00pm) Handbook on Buddhist Women	WORKSHOP 3	
15:00 PM - 15:30 PM		Rest Time (3.00pm - 3.30pm)				
15:30 PM - 17:00 PM		WORKSHOP 1	WORKSHOP 2	WORKSHOP 4		
17:00 PM - 17:30 PM	Refreshment Break (Refreshment Provided) (5.00pm - 5.30pm)					Closing Ceremony (5.00pm - 6.00pm)
17:30 PM - 18:00 PM	Chanting (530pm - 6.00pm)					
18:00 PM - 19:00 PM	Reserved Time for Dinner (Self Arrangement) (6.00pm - 7.00pm)					
19:00 PM - 21:00 PM	City Tour at Waterfront (7.00pm - 9.00pm)	DHARMA TALK 1 (7.00pm - 9.00pm)	DHARMA TALK 2 (7.00pm - 9.00pm)	CULTURAL PERFORMANCE (7.00pm - 9.00pm)		

TIME SCHEDULE



THE WATERFRONT HOTEL - LEVEL 4 FLOOR MAP