



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

SANSKRIT IN ASIA: UNITY IN DIVERSITY

An International Conference on Sanskrit
In honour of

**Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn
on Her auspicious Golden Jubilee Birth Anniversary**

**at Bangkok, Thailand
June 23 - 26, 2005**

organized by
**Sanskrit Studies Centre
Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand**

Background

The eternal value and significance of Sanskrit needs no introduction. Sanskrit is one of the most important languages in the Indo-European family and has been a powerful instrument for shaping Asian civilizations beyond the Indian subcontinent. Without the knowledge of Sanskrit, we would have known far less not only of ancient India but also of most of Asia.

Silpakorn University in Bangkok was one of the first universities in Southeast Asia to offer Sanskrit as a major course in the curriculum and this programme has been running for more than half a century. Recently, with the establishment of the Sanskrit Studies Centre (SSC) under the Department of Oriental Languages, Faculty of Archaeology at Silpakorn, the study of Sanskrit has grown tremendously and Sanskrit-related research in the region has been stimulated and enriched.

The SSC aims at providing academic facilities to international researchers. A new library with database highlighting Southeast Asian heritage was recently opened for the public. A good number of Sanskrit books and relevant academic materials at the SSC have been provided by the Government of India through good offices of the Embassy of India in Bangkok. Organisations and individuals in the private sector in Thailand and abroad also play important supporting roles.

The SSC is deeply honoured and inspired by the scholarship and strong personal interest in Sanskrit of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, an alumna of the Department of Oriental Languages, Faculty of Archaeology, Silpakorn University.

To honour such a great lover and *vidushi* of Sanskrit, the SSC is holding a multidisciplinary international conference on **SANSKRIT IN ASIA: UNITY IN DIVERSITY** to mark the auspicious occasion of the 50th birthday of Her Royal Highness falling in 2005.

Objectives

1. To honour Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn on the auspicious occasion of her 50th birth anniversary
2. To bring to limelight the important role of Sanskrit as non-sectarian vehicle that has invariably nurtured the cultures of Asia in different fields of human life
3. To look into the contribution and impact of Sanskrit on various disciplines such as history, philosophy, religion, art, architecture and literature
4. To evaluate the relevance of Sanskrit through out the ages in fostering the higher goal of the gospel of love, peace and unity between the peoples and nations for the welfare of humanity
5. To disseminate the role of Sanskrit as promoting cultural pluralism and social cohesion in Asia especially among Asian nations
6. To bring the scholars, researchers and Sanskrit lovers together to discuss, interact to reach at a meaningful conclusion

Date and Venue

The conference will be held during 23-26 June 2005 at a prominent Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand.

Conference Themes

- Sanskrit and East Asia (with special reference to China, Japan and Korea)
- Sanskrit and Central Asia (with special reference to Silk Route)
- Sanskrit and South Asia
- Sanskrit and Southeast Asia
- Sanskrit-based Languages in Asia
- Sanskrit and the World Civilizations
- Sanskrit and Asian Religions
- Classical Sanskrit Literature and Folklore
- Archaeology and Sanskrit
- History and Epigraphy
- Science and Medicine
- Music and Performing Arts
- Geography of Asia: Dvipa, Dvipantara and Bhumi
- Nagarjuna and Asian Philosophy
- Agama, Tantra and Yoga
- Vedic Studies in Asia
- Impact of Sanskrit on Modern Writings in Asia
- Myths and Legends in Asia: Epic, Puranic and Buddhist Sanskrit Sources

Call for Papers

Participants are requested to submit research papers in English on any of the above themes. An abstract of 250 words, preferably by E-mail mentioning the title of the paper, full name of the scholar, name of the institution and country should reach us by **January 15, 2005**.

Papers on other Sanskrit related topics are also invited. However, kindly note that our focus will be on Asian culture and civilizations, and there will not be any poster sessions.

Conference Schedule

Submission of Abstract	January 15, 2005
Submission of Full Paper	March 31, 2005
Early Registration Deadline	February 28, 2005
Inauguration of the Conference	June 23, 2005
Parallel Sessions	June 24-25, 2005
Closing Ceremony and Dinner Cruise	June 25, 2005

Registration

The preliminary registration can be made online by going to the website: <http://www.ssc.su.ac.th/>

The registration fee of US\$ 200 is payable by February 28, 2005 (late registrations will be charged US\$ 250). This fee covers refreshments, conference meals, inaugural reception, conference kit and local cultural tour. A reduced registration fee for participants from developing countries is being proposed. At the same time, we request Sanskrit lovers to assist us in helping our fellow colleagues by donating liberally. **Such donations would be provided official receipts for the benefits of tax exemption.** Such money can be transferred electronically to the Conference account by sending the amount in favour of **Silpakorn University**, Name of the Bank: **Krung Thai Bank**. Account Number: **058-1-16276-5** (Swift code: **KRTHBK**). Please fax the copy of the payment slip with your name to Sanskrit Studies Centre.

Participants will also be offered a range of highly discounted conference hotel packages. These special hotel rates will be announced shortly on the website.

Dinner Cruise and Cultural Tours

To enjoy the panoramic view of Bangkok along the river, a dinner cruise with sumptuous oriental meal is being organised for the evening of June 25. The charge for this three hour trip is highly subsidised to US\$ 20.

On June 26(8am to 1:30pm) there will be a free guided tour to the Grand Palace, the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, the Temple of the Reclining Buddha (Wat Po) and the Temple of Dawn (Wat Arun).

An optional tour to Ayutthya (Ayudhya) and Lopburi (Lavapuri) on payment basis would be organised, subject to the number of interested participants.

Contact

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Key Conference Organising Staff

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