



## Breaking News from India November 17-19, 2015

Remember the popular fiction of the magical demigod the money king who protected a Chinese monk in his “Silk Road Journey to the West”? Venerable Xuanzang 玄奘 (602-664 AD) was a real Buddhist monk scholar who travelled alone from China to India and is a house hold name in India today. China built a memorial hall (opened in 2007) for this famous monk who went to Nalanda University in the



7<sup>th</sup> Century; studied there for 2-5 years under the University Chancellor. Xuanzang returned to China in April 645 AD with 657 Buddhist Sanskrit texts (many of them Mahayanist) and 150 relics carried by 20 horses in 520 cases, and translated 74 of the texts himself. He established the Chinese Yogacara Consciousness-only School (Chinese *Weishi* 唯識). In China, he is best known

as the celebrated Tang Sanzang 唐三藏 meaning Tang Dynasty Tripiṭaka Grand Master or the Tang Monk.

Build in 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Century, Nalanda Monastery was the oldest University in the world, 600 years before the University of Bologna, the first European



University, was founded in 1088 AD. At its peak, Nalanda University had 10,000 students and 300 professors teaching a variety of subjects including philosophy, logic, mathematics, science and medicine. Third Century CE luminaries such as the Mahayana philosopher, “the second Buddha” Nagarjuna (龍樹) and his disciple Aryadeva, taught at Nalanda with the former also heading the institution. Destroyed and rebuilt 7 times over centuries, it was finally devastated in 1,200 CE by Muslim army.

Never before in history has so many nations today (about twenty nations including China, Japan, Korea, Australia, Singapore, Thailand and countries in the East Asia Summit.) come together to build one university. Why? It is because of a global consciousness that Nalanda was the first, the epitome/leader of human



civilization and can be again in the near future. Our AWE principal Professor Ching Lo was invited by the Academic Programme Coordinator Dr. Ambika Peni to visit the archeological ruins, the Xuanzang Memorial

Hall and the future University site. Dr. Lo was honoured to deliver a seminar at this most historic University in the world, which was opened in 2014. His lecture topic was “A Happy Solution to Global Warming” and was overwhelmingly received.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xuanzang>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nalanda>

<http://www.nalandauniv.edu.in/abt-chairman-msg.html>

Dr. Lo was also invited to Banaras Hindu University, the century-old university that ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> on India universities in 2012. He also paid homage to the Bodhi Tree and Sarnath (Deer Garden 鹿野苑) where the Buddha gave his first lecture on the Four Noble Truths.



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Dr. Ching Lo  
Senior Research Scientist (Retired),  
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Dear Dr. Ching Lo,

Greetings from Nalanda University!

On behalf of the University and the School of Ecology and Environment Studies, I am very pleased to have the opportunity of inviting you to visit our institution.

The new campus is situated near the archaeological site of the ancient Nalanda University which flourished between 4th-11th Centuries CE. The new international university was revived in 2010 by an Act of the Indian Parliament and enjoys the support of the East Asia Summit countries, the ASEAN nation and beyond. Classes at the University began in September, 2014 with a small, enthusiastic group of international, post-graduate students and faculty.

The School of Ecology and Environment Studies (SEES) engages in a programme of interdisciplinary research, collaboration and training from diverse fields spanning basic sciences and social sciences. The major objective is to foster research in local, regional and global environmental issues with a focus on finding creative solutions for the immense environmental and ecological challenges of contemporary times. The focus areas of the School are: hydrology, human ecology, disaster management, climate change, energy, agriculture and food, environmental law.

We have already had a set of faculty—from diverse backgrounds—coming in as visiting faculty to the School and sharing their knowledge with the School community.

The School has established a Weekly Seminar Series since August 2015 and we would be delighted if you could deliver a talk in the Weekly Seminar Series on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

Nalanda University will organize your travel arrangements, including funding your domestic travel in India, as well as local lodging and boarding at Rajgir where the campus is situated.

Please let me know, at your convenience, if you will be able to join us.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Kind Regards.

Yours Sincerely

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