



# 2025 Annual Report







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# Executive Summary



The year 2025 was marked by profound challenges. Armed conflicts continued to devastate communities, environmental crises intensified, and growing polarization, discrimination, and shrinking financial support placed additional strain on civil society organizations around the world. Yet amid these hardships, we also witnessed extraordinary resilience, compassion, and solidarity. Communities continued to care for one another, demonstrating that generosity transcends borders.

INEB remains deeply grateful to stand alongside our kalyāṇamittas during these difficult times. Together, we have continued to alleviate suffering, strengthen communities, and nurture hope through collective action rooted in compassion, interdependence, and mutual trust.

One of the defining moments of the year was the 7.7-magnitude earthquake that struck central Myanmar in March 2025. Drawing on long-standing relationships with partners inside and outside Myanmar, INEB

responded immediately by supporting locally led relief efforts. This response was made possible through the generosity of organizations including Jungto Society and JTS in South Korea, Secours Populaire Français, Religions for Peace Japan, and thousands of individual donors whose trust enabled assistance to reach affected communities with transparency, integrity, and solidarity.

Despite increasingly limited funding, INEB's programs continued to make meaningful contributions. The Child Protection and Well-being Program marked a significant milestone with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding among INEB, UNICEF Thailand, Mahidol University, and Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University to strengthen child safeguarding in religious institutions. Our Eco-Temple Network expanded regional collaboration on climate action, while the School of English for Engaged Social Service (SENS) continued to nurture emerging leaders and support teacher training along the Thai-Myanmar border.

The Young Bodhisattva Program continued to inspire youth from around the world to connect Buddhist values with social transformation, while the Sombath Somphone Memorial Fund expanded support for community-led initiatives across the Mekong sub-region. The Buddhist Counseling and Chaplaincy Program also grew steadily, offering training and workshops throughout South and Southeast Asia.

Throughout the year, the INEB Secretariat strengthened collaboration with international networks and expanded its engagement with global platforms, including the Faith to Action Network, the Global Network of Religions for Children, and the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD). Meanwhile, our work in peacebuilding, reconciliation, women's empowerment, support for female religious leaders, and interfaith dialogue continued through the dedication of our partners and volunteers despite significant funding constraints.

Looking back, 2025 was a year of immense challenges, but also one of remarkable courage, partnership, and perseverance. It reaffirmed that lasting social transformation is sustained not by abundant resources alone, but by trust, compassion, and the unwavering commitment of people working together for the welfare and happiness of all.





# Reducing Violence Against Children and Child Protection



## Child Protection and Well-being Project

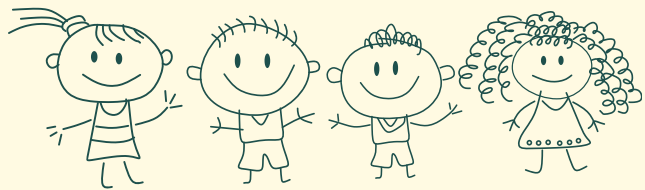
In 2025, INEB's Child Protection and Wellbeing Program continued to evolve from a values-based initiative into a more structured and collaborative movement for systemic change. Rooted in Buddhist principles of compassion and non-harm, the program responds to the growing reality of children on the move from Myanmar who are increasingly finding refuge, education, and care within temple spaces across Northern Thailand.

Temples have long served as informal systems of care, yet they often operate without formal child protection mechanisms. Recognizing this gap, INEB has worked closely with partners such as Bodhiyalai Foundation and other faith actors to better understand these environments and support their transformation into safer, child-friendly spaces.

A key direction of the program has been to bridge compassion with systems—linking lived realities in temples with policy development, institutional strengthening, and cross-sector collaboration. This includes integrating Buddhist ethical values with international child rights frameworks, particularly the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), while maintaining a grounded, community-led approach.



At the same time, important challenges remain. The number of displaced and unaccompanied children continues to grow, while comprehensive and reliable data is still limited. Many temples have yet to establish formal safeguarding policies, and caregivers are facing increasing pressures in supporting children affected by trauma, displacement, and rapid social change. Financial constraints also continue to shape the scale and sustainability of responses.



In addition, the wider social environment presents growing concerns. Nationalist narratives and online hate speech are increasingly influencing public opinion, often deepening divisions and affecting how children on the move and marginalized communities are perceived and treated.

These realities highlight the need for sustained collaboration, ongoing capacity building, and long-term commitment across sectors. At the same time, working in partnership has allowed communities and organizations to support one another—sharing resources, reducing costs, and contributing in-kind support—reflecting a collective spirit of care and responsibility in advancing child protection efforts.



# Child Protection & Wellbeing: Key highlights from 2025

## Kalyānamitta pathfinding: Strengthening Policy, Partnerships, and Capacity

In 2025, International Network of Engaged Buddhists continued to bridge research, policy, and practice, contributing to a growing foundation for child protection within Buddhist contexts.

In January, research conducted with One Sky Foundation and UNICEF Thailand provided important insights into the situation of unaccompanied and separated children from Myanmar in border provinces. The study highlighted key drivers of migration—including access to education, poverty, and safety—and deepened understanding of how and why children enter temple-based care.

Building on this evidence, in August INEB joined UNICEF Thailand, Mahidol University, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, the Department of Children and Youth, and the Bodhiyalai Foundation in signing a Memorandum of Understanding to develop a comprehensive child protection policy for Buddhist institutions—marking an important step toward more coordinated and institutionalized safeguarding systems.

This momentum continued in November, when INEB, together with UNICEF Thailand and the Stateless Network, conducted a capacity-building training for over 100 monks and caregivers at the Bodhiyalai Learning Center (24–26 November 2025). The training focused on child protection awareness, safeguarding practices, and practical tools to support children within temple settings.

Together, these efforts reflect a gradual yet meaningful shift—from understanding children’s lived realities toward strengthening systems of care—through collaborative policy development, caregiver training, and the nurturing of sustained capacity within the Sangha.



## From Local Practice to Regional and Interfaith Action

In 2025, INEB continued to bring locally grounded experiences into regional and global spaces, reflecting a growing recognition of community-led, faith-based approaches to child protection.

In November, INEB contributed to the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children in Manila, presenting the Buddhist Sangha initiative as a case study. The programme highlighted a participatory approach where monks and novice children are engaged as stakeholders—reflecting a humble model of shared ownership aligned with broader global efforts to end violence against children.

Building on this momentum, in December INEB, together with Arigatou International and partners, advanced the development of the SDG Academy: Building Hope and Resilience for Children through Interfaith Collaboration. In response to the ongoing crisis in Myanmar, where millions remain displaced and children face heightened risks of exploitation and lack of access to education, the initiative seeks to create safe and inclusive learning spaces for children on the move. (cont.)



# Child Protection & Wellbeing:

## Key highlights from 2025

Cont.

The Academy is anchored in two interconnected learning spaces: the Wisdom Center, based within Buddhist educational institutions supporting novice monks, and the Empowerment Center, rooted in Muslim refugee youth communities. Together, these spaces foster interfaith collaboration, bringing Buddhist and Muslim youth into shared learning, dialogue, and exchange—nurturing compassion, resilience, and solidarity across differences.

Through collaboration with Smile Lay Club, the Bodhiyalai Foundation, and INEB networks, consultations held in December 2025 in Mae Sot brought children, youth, and community members together to co-create activities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly education and gender equality.

In a context of growing polarization, this initiative reflects how faith communities can play a vital role in strengthening social cohesion. By centering child participation and safeguarding, the SDG Academy offers a gentle yet hopeful model—where local action, interfaith collaboration, and global commitments come together to support the dignity and well-being of every child.



### Voices of Hope – Elevating Children’s Voices through Interfaith Dialogue

In November 2025, International Network of Engaged Buddhists and partners convened the Voices of Hope: Children’s Empowerment Workshop and Interreligious Dialogue for International Children’s Day in Chiang Mai and Mae Sot.

The initiative brought together 30 young people (aged 14–18) from Myanmar and Thailand—including children on the move and novice monks—alongside faith leaders and practitioners, creating a safe space for dialogue, reflection, and learning. In Mae Sot, collaboration with Smile Lay Club helped strengthen engagement with Muslim communities and migrant children.

Through storytelling and peer exchange, children shared their experiences and hopes for safety and well-being. Marking Universal Children’s Day on 20 November, a novice representative also spoke at the “Children on the Move Festival” led by Rights Beyond Borders, calling for stronger collaboration among duty bearers to support all children on the move.

This reflects a gentle but important shift—where children, including novice monks, are increasingly recognised as active contributors to their own protection, and where their voices begin to inform community and child protection efforts.



# Future Direction and Hopes

Building on its 2022 commitment, INEB continues to respond to the reality that children may face abuse and violence across family, educational, and community settings, including within monastic environments. INEB remains committed to working closely with Bhikkhus, Bhikkhunis, and faith communities to strengthen awareness of child protection, promote understanding of different forms of abuse, and support access to appropriate safeguarding mechanisms and legal frameworks.

Looking ahead, the programme seeks to gently deepen this movement—from compassion to protection systems. In Thailand, this includes the development and implementation of a comprehensive child safeguarding framework for Buddhist institutions, integrating practical tools into daily monastic life, strengthening referral pathways, and nurturing temple spaces where children’s dignity, rights, and participation are upheld in practice.

Recognizing the interconnected nature of children’s lives, INEB also hopes to expand collaboration across faith traditions, fostering an interfaith approach to child protection. Through shared learning and dialogue among Buddhist, Muslim, Christian, and other communities, the programme aspires to build collective responsibility and care for children across contexts.

At the regional level, INEB envisions the continued growth of an emerging Asia network of Buddhist communities for child protection, creating opportunities for exchange, mutual learning, and adaptation of safeguarding practices across countries.

Grounded in humility, this journey continues to be shaped by listening to children, walking alongside communities, and learning with partners. From temples to wider policy spaces, INEB holds a shared hope: that compassion may be lived not only as a value, but as a sustained and collective system of protection for every child.



## Quotes from program participants that reflect the program’s impact

Monk (18 years old): *“Before, I only thought about my own path. Now, as a monk, I feel a deeper responsibility. I want to help children and support others, just as you have supported us. This experience has given me a sense of purpose.”*

Muslim participant (18 years old): *“I never imagined I would sit, talk, and laugh with Buddhist novices. Now, they are my friends. This experience opened my heart—it showed me that beyond religion, we can truly understand and care for one another.”*

Novice (14 years old): *“My parents wanted me to return home to Myanmar and stop my education. It made me feel uncertain. But here, I learned how important education is—not only for me, but for my future. I believe my parents will understand. I want to keep learning.”*

Novice (15 years old): *“I hope to work and contribute as part of INEB in the future. I deeply appreciate all the activities and opportunities your team has created for us. Not many people choose to work with novices or monks—thank you for seeing us and supporting us.”*

# Climate and Ecology

## Eco-Temple Project

### Overview

INEB's ecological engagement takes shape through the Eco-Temple Network, an interreligious initiative spanning Southeast Asia and beyond. Rooted in Buddhist teachings, the Eco-Temple community addresses environmental challenges at local, national, and international levels by supporting community-led ecological approaches adapted to different cultural and environmental contexts. INEB has a long history of bringing together monastics, activists, and social change makers. Through the Eco-Temple Network, INEB works closely together with community leaders from various countries who integrate sustainability within their local contexts and who have been pioneering innovative responses to social and environmental challenges. This network facilitates the exchange of knowledge and lived experience to demonstrate how Buddhist principles can meaningfully inform sustainability and ecology. The engagements of our Eco-Temple members range from permaculture and regenerative agriculture, over education programs, to renewable energy schemes and building community resilience.



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Japan – Sri Lanka Collaboration

Sri Lanka – Japan Collaboration: The Eco-Temple Network of Sri Lanka invited Japan's Rev. Hidehito Okochi, together with Prof. Jonathan Watts, to Sri Lanka to conduct a joint Eco-Temple workshop on holistic Buddhist development in urban spaces. Rev. Okochi, the abbot of Juko-in and Kenju-in temples in Tokyo, brings extensive experience in sustainability initiatives within urban communities. The models he has implemented at his temples, have proven effective in fostering socially engaged and ecologically grounded temple communities. The workshop was organized in response to the recognition that, while Sri Lanka's urban temples have long served as vibrant centers of faith, their potential as catalysts for community transformation has not yet been fully realized. The program mobilized resources to address challenges such as urban isolation and economic vulnerability. It aimed to equip members of the Sangha, especially young monks, with practical and actionable skills for meaningful societal engagement. Furthermore, it sought to strengthen temples as centers of ecological and social renewal within their communities and to initiate collaborative links between the Eco-Temple Network and INEB's global initiatives, including Sangha for Peace and the Institute of Buddhist Counseling & Chaplaincy.



Eco-Temple Network Coordination: The INEB Secretariat team has been responsible for coordinating communication and engagement within the Eco-Temple network by organizing monthly online meetings to ensure members remain connected and informed. In addition, we have re-engaged former members and partners, including Chisa Yamashita, founder of Amrita Zen Life, as well as representatives from IUCN Korea, thereby strengthening collaboration across the network. Furthermore, the Secretariat has developed an Eco-Temple calendar for 2025 and 2026, enabling members to better track upcoming activities, coordinate their schedules, and actively participate in one another's initiatives.

IUCN World Congress: INEB as part of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, participated in the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, held in Abu Dhabi from 3 – 11 September 2025. As an international NGO Member, INEB took part in the Members' Assembly and voted on key motions and resolutions shaping global conservation policy. The Congress gathered around 10,000 participants worldwide. During the event, INEB also showcased its Eco-Temple initiative, with brochures displayed at the Thailand National Committee booth, highlighting faith-based ecological action and the role of Buddhist temples in advancing environmental stewardship and community resilience. Link to Abu Dhabi Call to Action: <https://iucncongress2025.org/about/abu-dhabi-action-plan>



## The Vision for 2026

The strategy for the coming year envisions a more active role for the INEB Secretariat's Eco-Temple team through the implementation of its own programs with local communities. In this context, the team has developed the Eco-Dharma Camp, which will take place in May. The camp is designed for Thai monastics who are interested in social and ecological engagement. The training seeks to connect Buddhist teachings and practices with sustainability and ecology, drawing on the experience and insights of the Eco-Temple network. This initiative is a pilot project. After a successful implementation, the Eco-Dharma concept could be adapted and replicated in different contexts within Thailand and potentially at the international level, helping Eco-Temple to deepen existing bonds as well as extend the network.

In addition to launching the Eco-Dharma Camp, the Eco-Temple Network plans to strengthen coordination among its members by fostering closer collaboration and engaging in joint fundraising efforts. This approach will enable the network to make more effective use of its extensive resources, which have not been fully utilized as of yet.

**Expanding the Project:** At the end of 2025, the Eco-Temple team at the secretariat was expanded with the addition of a new staff member. At the same time, a new strategy was developed to further strengthen and elevate the Eco-Temple project by introducing new programs aimed at sharing the network's knowledge and supporting community development in diverse local contexts. The new strategy also aims to increase the impact of the INEB Secretariat's ecological engagement by transforming its role from primarily serving as a coordinating body to actively generating tangible impacts on the ground. In addition, the strategy seeks to enhance coordination across the network's activities and to deepen existing partnerships.





# Holistic Healthcare

In January 2025, the Institute for Buddhist Counseling & Chaplaincy (IBCC) was founded to train monastics and lay people to provide psycho-spiritual therapy to those in need in South and Southeast Asia. The Institute aims to provide funds for training programs and support training individual partners and locals to their specific needs by providing trainers in a variety of issues.

In March, Rev. Jotetsu Nemoto from Japan came to Thailand to provide a public talk of his work; 2 death workshops (tabidachi): one for INEB, SEM and affiliated groups' staffs and another for the general public; and suicide prevention training as well as death workshop for Thai and Myanmar monks and nuns. The public talk included Rev. Nemoto recounting his experiences and providing insights into handling suicidal persons as well as people affected by the suicides of their loved ones. The death workshop uses simulated experiences: having the participant role play as patients with terminal cancer while Rev. Nemoto acts as a narrator slowly going through the final periods of their life leading to their death. In the beginning, each person must write down 3 things on post-it notes from each of the following categories: most important people in one's life, most important possessions in one's life, most important activities in one's life, and most desired things to do before one dies. As the act unfolds, each person has to choose 1-3 of these important items to be rid of, as if losing the capability to do or meet them, at each phase of their declining health. Until eventually, none is left. The workshops and training provided valuable insights as well as deep reflections for the participants to go on with their life for their future worldly and spiritual endeavors.



Rev. Jotetsu Nemoto leading a Death Workshop at Wongsanit Ashrom

The Bodhisattva Path of Care is a newly established 16-week online training program, which ran from March 17th to June 30th. The course provides Buddhist based counselors and caregivers with assessment tools, counseling skills, and mindfulness practices to aid in their work. 2.5 hours is allocated each week to learning different skills and participating in different activities such as roleplay, while 1 hour is for group discussion, and 3.5 hours for personal reviews and assignments.



## Psycho-Spiritual Care for Myanmar Earthquake Survivors

When the earthquake hit Myanmar at the end of March, donations of \$45,000 were raised by INEB to support victims from the disaster with basic survival supplies that included but were not limited to food, clean water, and blankets. Psycho-spiritual care was also provided to the survivors by local health workers. IBCC, helped to train monks and lay people in the methods of handling the situation with the survivors and aiding other workers. Two online seminars were coordinated by Ven. Panna Theri and Anchalee Kurutach, and held in April and June led by Rev. Yozo Taniyama and Rev. Hitoshi Jin respectively. Rev. Taniyama shared his experiences and methods in dealing with Japan's 2011 tsunami disaster. He emphasized respecting the survivors' worldview and values, not imposing their religious value onto them (as it is more appropriate for a secular country like Japan), while giving them space to talk without forcing them to. Group support for the survivor to gather and grieve or talk about anything were also held at pop-up cafes to foster healing. He noted that post-disaster care may take up to decades, since each person may open up and face themselves at a different pace. As such, follow ups are necessary while new health care providers should be trained to up keep the care.



Rev. Jin provided insights into what traumatic responses consist of as well as phrases to avoid when conversing with survivors. Much like Rev. Taniyama, he emphasized deep listening and providing space for the survivors to open up without being evaluated. His other methods included having the survivors express their trauma not just through dialogue, but also through acting, such as using lego blocks or toys for children. Both of the speakers emphasized caregivers taking time to take care of their health and wellbeing to not become burnt out by the nature of their work, whether it be through meditation or talking within their communities.



## Buddhist Chaplaincy and Counseling in Sri Lanka

On September 25-26th, a workshop in Buddhist chaplaincy and counseling for the monks and nuns of the Sarvodaya movement was held in Sri Lanka. This workshop introduced the concepts and practices of contemporary chaplaincy, in which monastics and priests learn how to listen and connect deeply with the suffering of others in order to support them to find their own sustainable solutions to life's problems; that is, to discover their own awakening. This concept fits very well with the original theme of the Sarvodaya movement when it started over 60 years ago was "everyone wakes up". There was also an introduction to Buddhist psychology and counseling in which the monastics learned how to apply the ancient teaching of the Four Foundations of Mindfulness (satipatthana) to modern health issues, especially suicide. Another module was how to use the 4 Noble Truths to analyze societal problems and structures in order to create actions that go beyond helping individuals in distress to healing society in a more holistic manner. There are plans for a follow up training in 2026, and it is hoped this is the beginning of a fruitful partnership.



# INEB Institute for Transformative Learning



## SENS School of English for Engaged Social Service



SENS 2025 Participants Practicing Co-Counseling



Conversation Circle in the SENS Morning Class

*“The ability to listen, to understand, and to offer support is something I will carry with me forever. Co-Counseling practice is a way to find who you are and who you want to be in the future. After the counselling sessions, I became more aware of myself and my feelings. Through this, I have realized that healing is not just about individuals. It is about communities coming together, lifting each other, and finding strength in unity.”*

SENS 2025 participant from Myanmar

The SENS program continues to cultivate a growing network of educators and activists in Asia who strive to become thoughtful and compassionate leaders. With a continually evolving curriculum and program design, SENS nurtures self-knowledge and awareness; the formation of deep and long-lasting relationships across national, ethnic, and religious lines that can evolve into ongoing networks of mutual support; and the study of current global crises as causes of social suffering and requiring group efforts for its alleviation. The program fosters a culture of active listening, appreciation, and affirmation of everyone’s potential. Through the “learning by doing” approach, students significantly improve their English and relationship skills while also developing critical thinking and a deep awareness of social and environmental issues affecting their communities and the wider world.

Sixteen students joined and graduated from the 2025 SENS program. The SENS 2025 cohort reinvigorated the ties with Myanmar educators and activists, both inside Myanmar and along the Thai border. The program thus strengthened alumni networks for Burmese, Mon, Karen, and Tavoyan ethnic groups in Myanmar while also accomplishing this for Vietnamese as well. In 2025 participants from new ethnic groups, such as a Christian Lisu participant from Myanmar and a Nepali speaking resident of Darjeeling in northern India also joined the program. Finally, the bonds with important INEB partners continue to be nourished with students from Gakurin Seminary in Japan, Jungto Society in South Korea, and Nagaloka in central India. In addition, SENS alumni in Vietnam were the most active group with their regular meeting and continuing SENS work in creative ways.

## Post SENS 2025 Online Social Issues and Social Theory Class

In response to requests from a SENS 2025 student, a six-session online class was created to look at how we come to believe that the way our societies function is normal or natural, even when those functions can include severe oppression. The class investigated some of the historical roots of our contemporary global economy, as well as theories about the nature of the current global order. All SENS alumni were invited to join.



Co-Counseling Workshop for a Youth Group



SENS 2025 Cohort at a Mangrove Forest in Southern Thailand

*"I enjoyed meeting all of you who are from many countries. We shared stories about our identities, countries, and interests. I could see the world through your eyes. The Co-Counseling experience was special because we could share deeply and support each other. I feel lucky to have seen the beauty in each person in this group."*

a SENS 2025 participant from South Korea



One-Day Gathering for Myanmar Teachers in Mae Sot

## SENS Advisory Board

In 2025 the program took the big step of forming the SENS Advisory Board. The aim of creating the board was to a) provide a new channel for our many national and ethnic constituencies to be represented in a consultative body of alumni where they could review our programs and take part in decision-making; b) to also involve individuals with a long-term commitment to SENS programs who also have expertise in areas such as law, peace-making, and collective action to share their views and experiences as part of SENS decision-making.

## GlobalGiving Campaigns

Throughout 2025, all our SENS programs relied heavily on campaigns we organized on the crowdfunding platform, GlobalGiving. SENS received matching funds on several occasions and is placed in the top tier of worthy campaigns. Despite our successes, we are determined to diversify our funding base in 2026.

The quality and reach of SENS programs continue to grow, with utmost commitment from the team. The network of SENS alumni has become more visible and active, and SENS programs have gained a reputation for the depth of instruction as well as of connections among participants.



# ALPS 3OM Mae Sot Program



## Apprentice Leaders Program in Sustainability (ALPS)



ALPS was established in 2024 so that our alumni with high English skills and strong commitments to the SENS vision would have a way to develop their leadership, English, and counseling skills to a higher level. They do this primarily by helping organize and run SENS programs but also by joining specialized online study sessions. In this way ALPS has become a hub for leadership within SENS. ALPS members are often the most likely to bring together alumni from their ethnic or national group for mutual support, study, and for initiating SENS-inspired programs. In 2025 two additional Vietnamese and one Indian from Darjeeling joined ALPS (our first ALPS member from India). As in 2024, ALPS members who were tutors in SENS 2025 led their tutoring groups for many months following the program. ALPS members now play a key role in decision-making and program operations for SENS.

## 3OM



In 2020 we began offering a program called One On One Mentoring (3OM) so that we could provide classes safely and without reprisals to students in Asia who might be put at risk due to their minority ethnic status or to their political views. In 2025 we revived this program so as to assist SENS alumni who needed mentoring and English practice to carry out their work.

## Mae Sot Border Programs for Educators and Young Adults Forcibly Displaced from Myanmar



Despite the loss of large sums of aid due to the new administration in Washington, we successfully provided support for both young adults and for teachers who had been forcibly displaced to the Thai border town of Mae Sot. A Burmese alumna of SENS 2024, who was working in Mae Sot in 2025, had taken the initiative to lead a youth group, and invited SENS Director Ted Mayer to lead a weekend workshop on Co-Counseling for the group at the beginning of October. Two weeks later, Ted was joined by five members of the ALPS team to lead a full one-day gathering for 20 teachers who had attended our six-day workshops in the previous two years, and a half-day follow-up workshop for 8 members of the youth group.

# International Young Bodhisattva Program



The International Young Bodhisattva Program (IYBP) 2025 continued to strengthen INEB's long-term vision of nurturing a new generation of socially engaged Buddhist leaders. Hosted at Buddhist Hongshi College in Taiwan, the program successfully convened 29 young leaders from 17 countries for an intensive two-week journey combining spiritual practice, social analysis, site visits, and community building.

Key accomplishments include the growing global reach of the program, reflected in a record 116 applications, the deep integration of Buddhist teachings with contemporary social issues, and the successful introduction of participants into the INEB network. The program created a rare, inclusive space where monastics and laypeople from diverse religious, cultural, and social backgrounds could learn and build lasting relationships.

The primary challenge remains financial accessibility. Despite strong demand and high-quality applicants, limited funding restricts participation to those who can self-finance airfare and visa costs, leading to withdrawals and exclusion of candidates from vulnerable communities.



## 01 Opening Ceremony with Senior Buddhist Leaders

The presence of Venerable Shih Chao-Hwei and Ajarn Sulak Sivaraksa at the opening ceremony powerfully grounded the program in lived Bodhisattva ethics for the 21st century.



## 02 Experiential Learning through Site Visits

Participants engaged directly with Taiwanese civil society and Buddhist institutions, including Tzu Chi Foundation, Taiwan Pride, Dharma Drum Mountain, and end-of-life care institutions, connecting theory with real-world practice.



## 03 Strong Community Formation

The intensive residential format fostered deep trust, cross-cultural friendships, and long-term networks among participants that extend beyond the program itself.



## Special Event: 80th Anniversary Secours Populaire Français



The Children's Consultation for the 80th Anniversary of Secours Populaire Français was designed to amplify the voices of children affected by conflict and displacement, while preparing them for meaningful participation in an international solidarity space. Through a structured preparation program in Mae Sot and participation in the Copain du Monde activities in France, the program strengthened children's understanding of rights, intercultural respect, communication, and teamwork. Key accomplishments included building confidence among participants, fostering strong bonds of friendship across cultures, and enabling children to represent their communities with pride. Challenges included language barriers, emotional vulnerability, and adapting to new environments, which were addressed through continuous mentoring, peer support, and a strong emphasis on spiritual friendship and care. In addition, we could host Voices of Hope: Children's Empowerment Workshop and Interreligious Dialogue for International Children's Day in Chiang Mai.

### Highlights



One major highlight was the child-centered preparation workshop in Mae Sot, where participants learned about child rights, storytelling, and intercultural exchange while actively taking part in a democratic selection process. Another highlight was the children's participation in the Copain du Monde activities in France, where they interacted with thousands of children and youth leaders from different countries, sharing cultures, stories, and lived experiences. To honor their courage, the "Voices of Hope: Children's Empowerment Workshop and Interreligious Dialogue for International Children's Day" aims to amplify children's voices and nurture their leadership, solidarity, and sense of belonging. The program aligns with SPF's "Green Santa 2025" initiative, embodying its spirit of sharing joy, compassion, and solidarity with children and families in vulnerable situations.



### Quotes from children

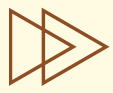
*"This program taught me the power of friendship. Without teamwork, this whole camp would not be possible, and now we feel like one family."*

*"I joined because I wanted to represent my community freely and connect with people from other countries."*

*"I learned how to be responsible for myself by watching our ambassadors, who worked so hard while always smiling."*

*"If there are more camps like this, I want other children to experience it too, because everyone deserves this chance."*

*These reflections show how the program nurtured confidence, responsibility, solidarity, and a deep sense of belonging among participants.*



# Bhikkhuni Sangha

Despite the cancellation of funding that would have supported programs for female religious leaders, INEB remains firmly committed to working with and supporting the Bhikkhuni Sangha. We will continue to accompany bhikkhunis in their spiritual journeys, leadership development, and contributions to society.

The Bhikkhuni Sangha represents an essential part of the Buddha's vision of the Fourfold Assembly of monks, nuns, laymen, and laywomen. Their presence helps complete and strengthen the Buddhist community, enriching both the practice and transmission of the Dharma. Through their unique experiences and perspectives, bhikkhunis offer forms of guidance, care, and leadership that complement and expand the contributions of the male Sangha.

Across Asia and beyond, many bhikkhunis continue to dedicate themselves to study, practice, teaching, and social engagement, often under challenging circumstances and with limited institutional support. Yet they persevere with patience, humility, determination, and deep faith in the Dharma.

Their commitment is not only a source of inspiration but also a vital contribution to the future of Buddhism. For these reasons, they deserve our continued encouragement, solidarity, and support as they cultivate compassionate leadership and help build more inclusive and flourishing Buddhist communities.

## **Intergeneration and sustainability: Thai bhikkhuni sangha**

On 27 September 2025, approximately 100 Thai bhikkhunis came together to celebrate their contributions, reflect on the challenges they continue to encounter, and strengthen their commitment to supporting one another.



As the most senior teacher and a pioneering force in the revival of the Bhikkhuni Sangha in Thailand, Ven. Dhammananda Mahatheri stood as a beacon of wisdom, courage, and inspiration for the gathered community.



## **Samaneri Ordination**

Thippayasatan Dhamma Aram in southern Thailand, led by Ven. Dhammakamala, an INEB Executive Committee member, regularly offers samaneri ordinations, opening pathways for women to pursue monastic life and deepen their spiritual practice. By nurturing new generations of female monastics, the monastery contributes significantly to the development and sustainability of the Bhikkhuni Sangha.





# International Collaboration



## INEB – Jungto Alumni Study Trip

10th Anniversary Alumni Study Trip



The June 26 - July 4, 2025 study trip was organized to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the INEB–Jungto Study Trip Program. This special alumni gathering brought together seven senior monastic participants from five countries: Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Laos.

The returning participants who are respected leaders within their communities engaged in deeper reflection and dialogue on the Dharma and the practical application of socially engaged Buddhism in contemporary society. The program also aimed to foster regional cooperation, solidarity, and collective responses to both domestic and international social challenges.

The program followed the established study trip format, beginning at the Seoul Center before continuing to the Jungto Retreat Center in Mungyeong. Participants then visited Jungto Society's farming community in Dubuk, where they learned about sustainable community living and environmentally conscious practices rooted in Buddhist values.

The group then visited Silsangsa Temple and community, where they studied the vision of a four-fold sangha led by Venerable Dobup Sunim. Through dialogue and observation, participants explored themes of interconnectedness, communal living, ecological responsibility, and the role of Buddhism in responding to modern social challenges. The itinerary additionally included a visit to the temple of Venerable Pomnyun Sunim's teacher, offering participants a deeper understanding of Sunim's spiritual roots.



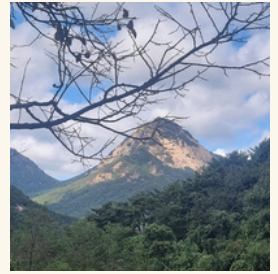
The study trip concluded in Seoul, where participants met with members of the Jogye Order Headquarters' international team and learned about the organization's global engagement and humanitarian initiatives. On the final day, participants shared personal reflections and presented future work plans inspired by the study trip experience.

Throughout the visit, participants also had opportunities to present their own work and learn about Jungto Society's activities across six key areas: practice, training, education, Dharma propagation, organization and management, and social engagement activities. The program strengthened relationships between senior monastic leaders and both the Jogye Order and Jungto Society, fostering greater mutual understanding, solidarity, and regional cooperation among engaged Buddhist communities.



## INEB-Jungto Women's Study Trip

The October 22–29, 2025 study trip, focused on female monastics and women peace activists. Nine participants from Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, and Ladakh joined the program.



The itinerary largely followed the format of the anniversary study trip, including visits to Jungto communities and practice centers. However, instead of an official visit to the Jogye Order headquarters, the women's group visited the Korean Bhikkhuni Association in Seoul. This marked the first time an INEB-Jungto study group formally engaged with the association.

Through exchanges with Korean bhikkhunis and visits to their facilities, participants gained insight into the development of women's monastic leadership and education in Korea—an experience that was especially significant for participants coming from countries where bhikkhuni communities continue to face limitations and challenges.



An especially meaningful aspect of the study trip was its timing. The program took place only two months after the outbreak of violent conflict between Thailand and Cambodia over border tensions. Despite the political divisions and nationalist sentiments surrounding the conflict, participants from both countries formed close bonds of friendship, mutual respect, and solidarity throughout the journey. Their willingness to connect beyond national divisions became a powerful example of peacebuilding, compassion, and regional friendship rooted in Buddhist values.

The women's study trip demonstrated the important role that spiritual dialogue, shared practice, and regional exchange can play in fostering reconciliation, healing, and hope in times of social and political conflict.



Women's Study Trip for Female Monastics and Peace Activists

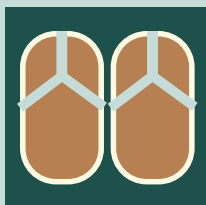


# Sombath Somphone Memorial Fund 2025



In 2025, the program supported 19 community-led projects across the Mekong sub-region, guided by a commitment to youth leadership, social justice, environmental sustainability, and inclusive development. A total of USD 58,041 was allocated to initiatives in Cambodia (2 projects), Lao PDR (4), Myanmar (7), Thailand (3), and Vietnam (3). Despite ongoing challenges—including conflict, climate disruption, and rising operational costs—projects demonstrated strong adaptability by relying on trusted local leadership and flexible implementation strategies.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



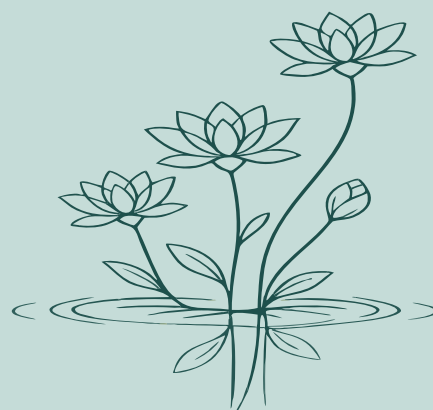
Key highlights from the year included the continuation of education and teacher-learning initiatives in conflict-affected areas, innovative livelihood and environmental projects such as eco-friendly production and community gardens, and youth-led programs in arts, STEAM, and climate action. In addition to project implementation, the program successfully organized an SSMF Alumni Gathering in December 2025, bringing together around 42 participants, including alumni supported by SSMF, TOA, TCF, and SEM-PCPSM, strengthening cross-program learning and solidarity.



Participants frequently described the projects as transformative. One community member reflected that the initiative gave them “not only income, but dignity and confidence,” while a young participant shared that the program helped them “believe that small actions can still create change.”



Looking forward, the program aims to deepen alumni engagement, strengthen regional networks, and cautiously scale proven models. The long-term vision remains focused on nurturing resilient, compassionate communities rooted in local wisdom and mutual care.



# Sample SSMF Projects



Your Sunflower Film Alliance (SFA) – Youth Filmmaking Training & Production 2025 (Cambodia)

Makerbox Lao Youth STEAM and Innovation Project (Lao PDR)



Compost making and sharing experience



Farmer group initiative activity

Community Initiative on Quality Seed Production and Agroecological Farming Practices (Myanmar)

Feminist Healing Justice (FHJ) – Community Well-being Support System (Thailand)



“Choi Xanh (Green Sprouts)” – English & Environmental Education in A Luoi (Vietnam)



# Myanmar Earthquake Emergency Relief Funds



**Emergency reliefs went to:**

**28,571 direct beneficiaries**

**54,802+ indirect beneficiaries**

**Total funding support:  
THB 5,454,837.00 (USD 172,131.00)**

The Myanmar Earthquake Emergency Relief Fund was launched by the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB) in response to the devastating 7.7-magnitude earthquake that struck central Myanmar on March 28, 2025.

Over an eight-month period, the program delivered fast, community-centred, and dignified assistance across five severely affected regions—Sagaing, Mandalay, Amarapura, Kyaukse, and Inle Lake.

Through trusted monastic, alumni, youth, and grassroots networks, INEB supported 28,571 direct beneficiaries and 54,802+ indirect beneficiaries through a fund of 5,454,837 THB (USD 172,131), reaching communities that were often underserved by mainstream humanitarian responses. The work was implemented in a complex political and logistical environment, marked by access constraints, security risks, and rising costs.

One of the major highlights of 2025 was the scale and flexibility of the response. INEB combined emergency relief with early recovery support, including food assistance, medical and sanitation supplies, shelter and water systems, solar lighting, and livelihood-related support. Funds were released phase by phase, allowing the response to adapt to changing needs on the ground while maintaining transparency and low overhead.

Community members consistently emphasized the importance of receiving support through trusted local actors. One beneficiary shared, “Aid arrived when we had lost everything, and it came through people we trust.” A local nun reflected, “This support restored dignity, not just survival.”

Looking ahead, while the emergency fund has formally closed, INEB hopes to build on this foundation through longer-term recovery initiatives, including trauma healing, livelihood restoration, and community resilience, guided by the relationships and trust established during the emergency response.



## Sagaing





## Mandalay





## Kyaukse



Kyaukse





## Inle, Southern Shan State





# Emergency Relief Funds: Flood in Northern Thailand and Laos PDR



July 2025, northern provinces of Thailand and the Lao People's Democratic Republic experienced the most severe flooding in over four decades, caused by persistent heavy rainfall and the impact of Tropical Storm Wipha.

Upon learning of the devastating floods, Ven. Pomnyun Sunim of Jungto Society promptly requested that INEB coordinate emergency relief efforts through Join Together Society (JTS), a humanitarian organization affiliated with Jungto. In response, JTS quickly mobilized funding to support relief operations in both Laos and Thailand, working through the leadership of two venerable monks who are alumni of the INEB-Jungto Study Trip Program.

The funds were used to provide essential relief supplies to communities affected by the floods, including food, drinking water, medicine, and other basic necessities. In Thailand, additional funding was allocated to establish a Disaster Relief Center, enabling more effective coordination of emergency assistance and support for affected communities.





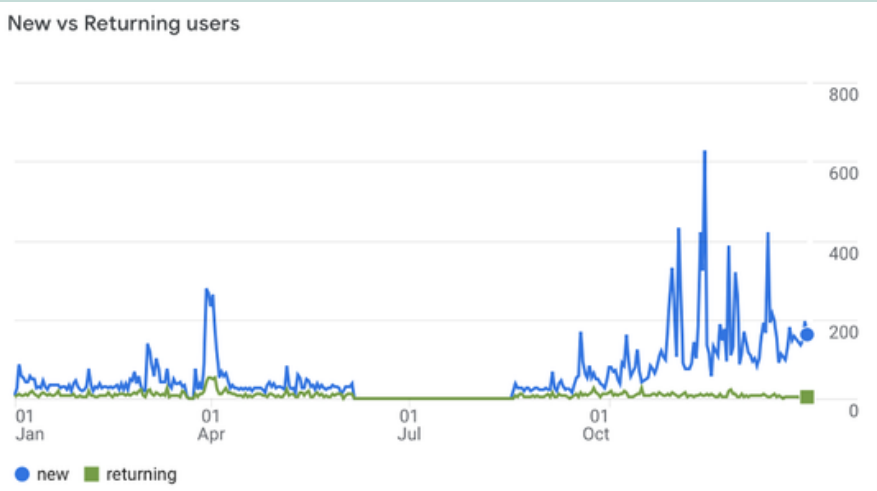
# INEB Website Data Report 2025

[www.inebnetwork.org](http://www.inebnetwork.org)



Active Users 22K

New Users 21K

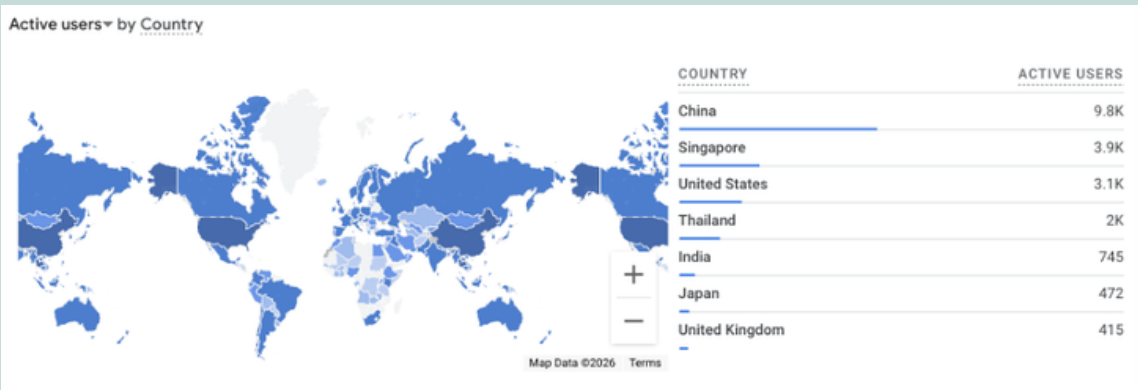


Overall Performance: A Year of Impressive Growth

In 2025, INEB’s website demonstrated a significant and steady growth trajectory, marked by a consistent increase in user engagement and a broadening international audience.

The website’s audience nearly doubled in 2025, with active users growing to 22,067 from 11,872 in 2024. This represents an impressive 86% increase in our user base. Sessions also saw a significant rise, increasing by 49% from 18,214 in 2024 to 27,224 in 2025. This substantial growth in both users and sessions indicates a significant expansion of our website’s reach and a greater level of engagement from our audience.

### A Global Reach



INEBs website's audience in 2025 was truly global, with a strong concentration in Asia. The country that brought the most users was China, with 9,754 active users. Singapore and the United States followed, with 3,935 and 3,052 users respectively, indicating a strong presence in both Eastern and Western hemispheres. Other notable countries in our top ten included Thailand, India, Japan, and the United Kingdom, showcasing a diverse and widespread audience.

On a more granular level, the city of Lanzhou in China was the single largest source of users, with 6,265 individuals. A significant number of users, 4,479, had their city location as (not set), which can happen for various privacy or technical reasons. Singapore also featured prominently at the city level, with 3,733 users.

# INEB Website Data Report 2025

## www.inebnetwork.org

Our homepage, titled INEB – International Network of Engaged Buddhists and INEB - INEB, were the most popular pages, with a combined total of 5,094 users. This suggests that most users land on our homepage first to navigate to other parts of our site. Content related to specific campaigns and programs also performed well, such as the Myanmar Earthquake Appeal – INEB and the Sombath Somphone Memorial Fund 2025 – INEB, with 1,083 and 814 users respectively.

| PAGE TITLE AND SCREEN CLASS                    | VIEWS |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|
| INEB – International Network of Engaged Bud... | 4.2K  |
| INEB - INEB                                    | 3K    |
| Myanmar Earthquake Appeal – INEB               | 1.7K  |
| International Young Bodhisattva Program 202... | 1.2K  |
| Sombath Somphone Memorial Fund 2025 – I...     | 1.2K  |
| Page not found - INEB                          | 1.1K  |
| About INEB – INEB                              | 922   |

| Sessions by Session source / medium |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| SESSION SOURCE / MEDIUM             | SESSIONS |
| (direct) / (none)                   | 17K      |
| google / organic                    | 5.2K     |
| m.facebook.com / referral           | 991      |
| l.facebook.com / referral           | 756      |
| lm.facebook.com / referral          | 489      |
| bing / organic                      | 286      |
| buddhistdoor.net / referral         | 184      |

### Traffic Acquisition: How Users Find Us

In 2025, the primary traffic source was (direct), with an impressive 15,165 users. This indicates a strong brand recognition and a loyal audience that navigates to our site directly. The second most significant traffic source was google, which brought in 3,254 users, highlighting the importance of our search engine optimization (SEO) efforts. Social media also played a vital role, with various Facebook and flodesk sources contributing a substantial number of users. This diverse range of traffic sources, from direct and organic search to social media referrals, is a sign of a healthy and well-rounded online presence.

### Traffic Source Trends: The Rise of Direct Traffic

The way users discovered our website also evolved significantly. The most dramatic change was the surge in (direct) traffic, which grew from 5,194 users in 2024 to 15,165 in 2025. This indicates a very strong growth in brand awareness and a loyal user base that navigates to our site directly. While google remained a major traffic source, it saw a slight decrease from 4,144 users in 2024 to 3,254 in 2025. Social media, particularly Facebook, continued to be a consistent source of traffic in both years.

**Facebook engagement:**  
**24,799 (+454%)**

**YouTube:**  
**1,790 and +45 subscribers**

**Active newsletter audience:**  
**1,982**

**Newsletters sent: 12**  
**Articles published: 31**  
**Books distributed: 58**

INEBs media team manages the main INEB website, bookshop, eco temple, INEB institute, INEB counselling, Pilgrimage Asia and other partner websites including FCS, RBB, Childline and Rakdek. High performance server from Google Cloud and Cloudflare Firewall. Data protection and archiving, frequently updated software and latest security features including recaptcha and bot mitigation.

No known errors or security breaches were reported in 2025

Website archive: <https://www.inebnetwork.org/2025/>

Seeds of Peace archive: <https://www.inebnetwork.org/seeds-of-peace-archive>

Newsletter archive: <https://www.inebnetwork.org/newsletter/>





# Secretariat

2025 INEB Secretariat Networking Activities and Outcomes



TRANSFOR  
MATIVE  
LEARNING

CULTURE  
OF  
INCLUSIVITY  
AND  
DIVERSITY

SOCIAL  
JUSTICE  
AND PEACE

ECOLOGY  
AND  
ECONOMY

## Program Development

### World Meditation Day

Participate in the “Future World Chan Forum” Program, hosted by the Europe Asia Center, Shaolin Temple, and World Meditation Foundation, with the co-organizer, the Global SDGs and Leadership Development Center (UNITAR SDGs Singapore Center). The event took place at the Shaolin Temple, Henan, from January 19th to 22nd, 2025. INEB Advisory has been initiated this project to promote interreligious understanding through meditation and modern science

### Buddhist-Muslim Forum

INEB secretariat continuing to represent at the Annual BMF Core Group Meeting. Also Attend the Second International Summit of Religious Leaders: The Role of Religious Leaders in Resolving Conflict in Kuala Lumpur.

### Cambodian Thai Relationship

A new online platform of people to people between the two countries after the conflict and war since August 2025. Every two weeks meeting online to updates on situation and what we can do. From this regular meeting, we expecting to have in person meeting to develop action plan for a long-term.

### G20 Interfaith Forum

The G20 Interfaith Forum “Ubuntu in Action: Focus on Vulnerable Communities”, Cape Town, South Africa.  
August 10-14, 2025

### International Conference on Cohesive Societies (ICCS)

The Social Cohesion Research Programme at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, with the support of Singapore’s Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, will organise the third International Conference on Cohesive Societies (ICCS) in Singapore from 24 to 26 June 2025.

### Joint Learning Initiative (JLI)

Attended the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities, to attend the JLI Board Meeting in Washington DC, on September 17-18, 2025

# Secretariat

## 2025 INEB Secretariat Networking Activities and Outcomes



### Network Development

#### Niwano Peace Foundation

The Executive Secretary of INEB serve as International Screening Committee of Niwano Peace Prize and also serve at the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award is hereby this year presented to Muslim Attorney Center in Southern Thailand in April.

#### Faith to Action Network

A global interfaith network of Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Confucian, Hindu, and Muslim faith organizations, it includes 140 members and 30 key partners, reaching over a thousand faith institutions across 134 countries. Members collaborate to advance the Network's core strategic pillars: family health and well-being; women's rights and gender justice; freedom of religion and belief; and peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. Attended Convention 21-26 September 2025 & Became a member of the Supervisory Committee

#### The 9th World Peace Forum

Attend the 9th World Peace Forum (WPF) on November 9-11, 2025, in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Centre for Dialogue and Cooperation among Civilizations (CDCC), in cooperation with Muhammadiyah Central Board Indonesia, and Malaysia-based Cheng Ho Multi Culture Education Trust, will organize this biennial forum.

#### Secours Populaire Français (SPF)

Secours Populaire Français (SPF) is organizing its 40th National Congress, to be held in Lille, France from November 27 to November 30, 2025. The Congress is part of the SPF's 80th anniversary year and its history.

”

SPIRIT OF  
KALYANAMITTA

ENGAGEMENT  
BASED

ROOTED IN  
NONVIOLENCE  
AND  
COMPASSION

STRUCTURAL  
ANALYSIS





***"Buddhism is not concerned just with private destiny, but with the lives and consciousness of all beings...Any attempt to understand Buddhism apart from its social dimension is fundamentally a mistake."***

**Sulak Sivaraksa  
Co-Founder and  
Root Teacher of INEB**



## **International Network of Engaged Buddhists**

**666 Charoen Nakhon Road  
Banglamphu Lang, Khlong San,  
Bangkok 10600  
SIAM (THAILAND)**

**[www.inebnetwork.org](http://www.inebnetwork.org)**