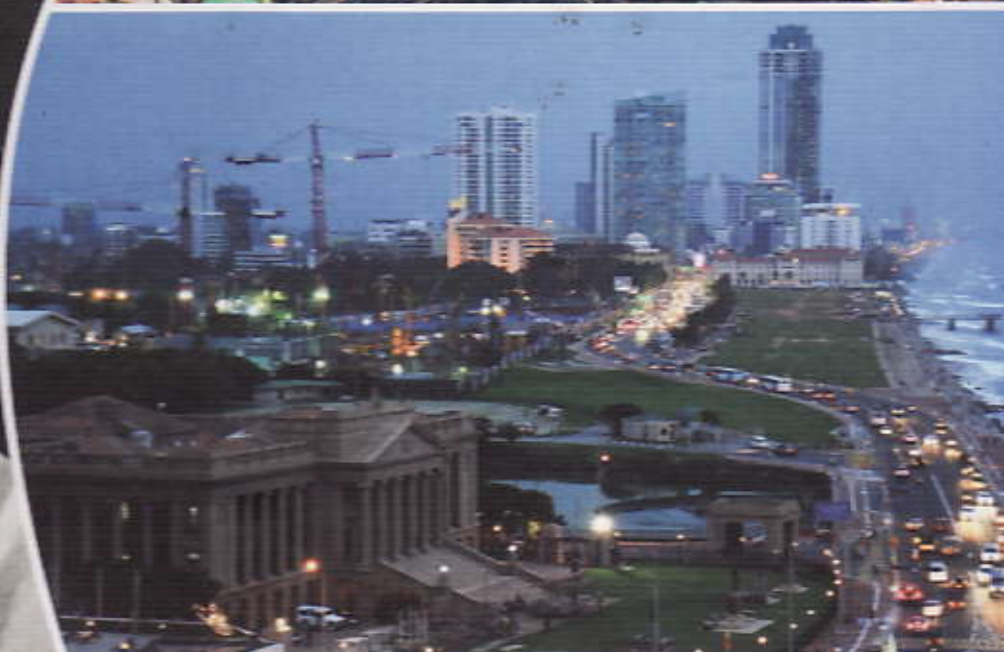
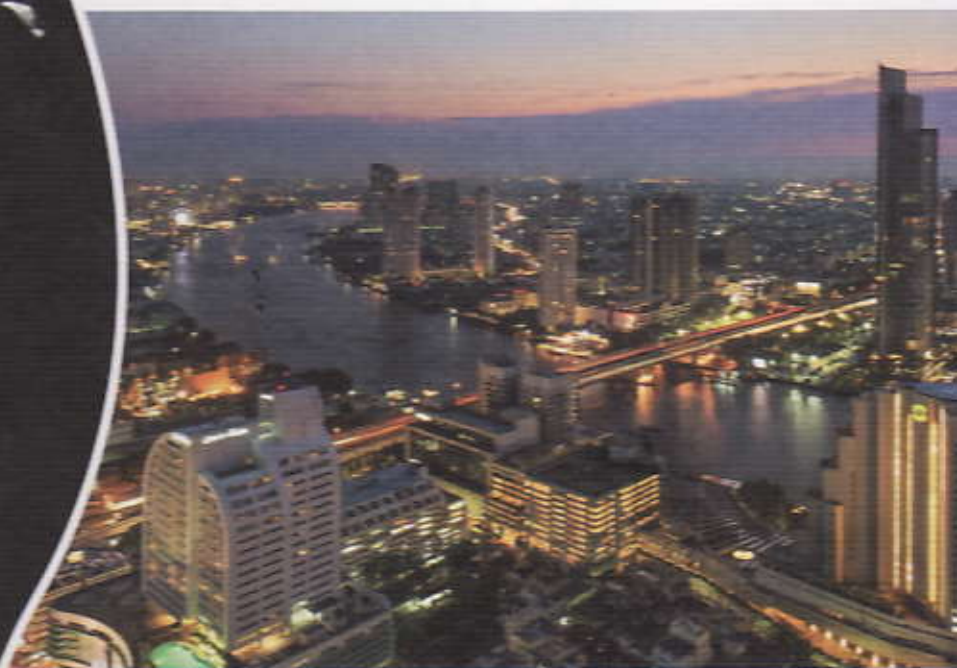
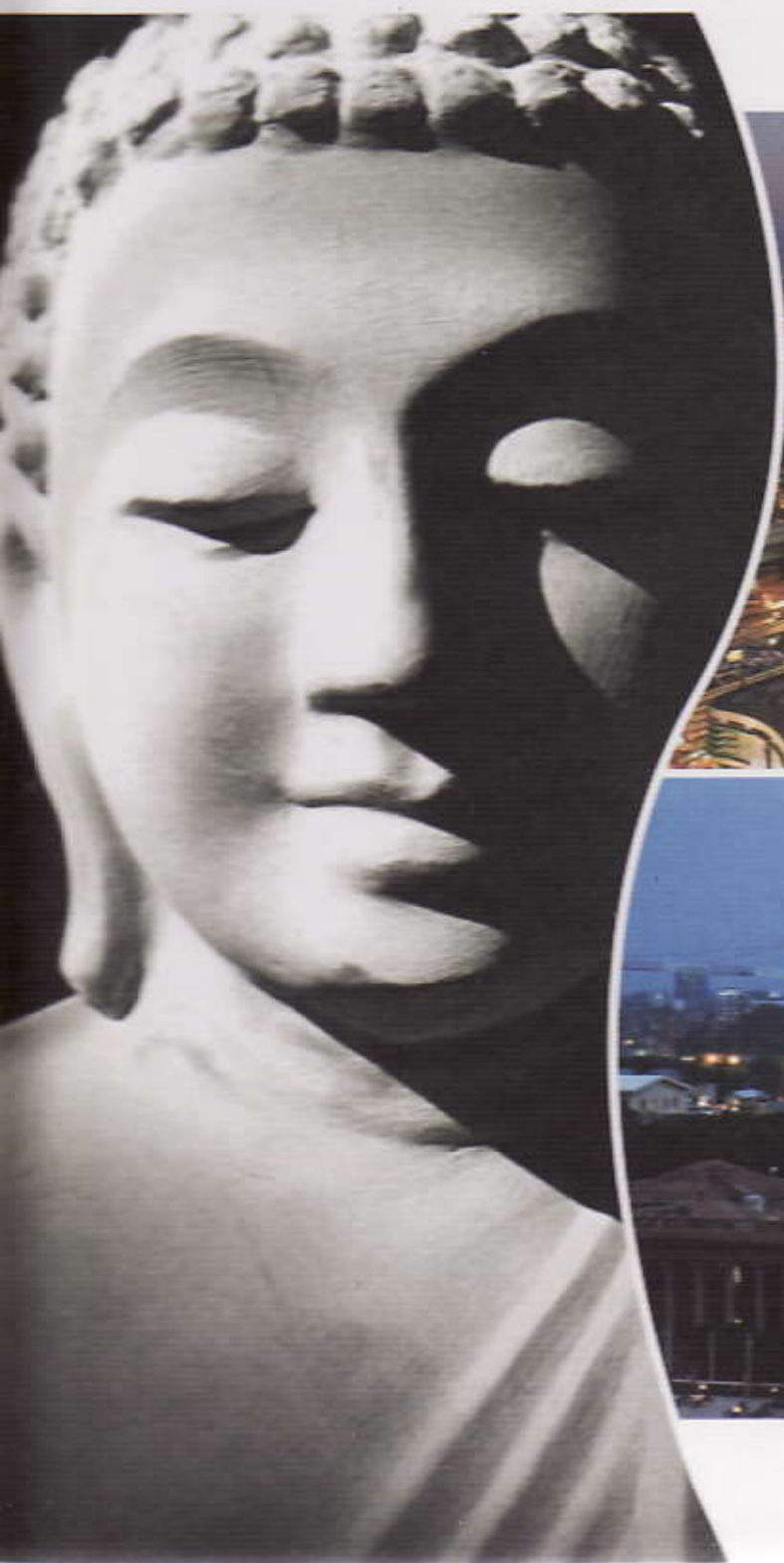


60th ANNIVERSARY

Diplomatic Relations between
Thailand & Sri Lanka





หนังสือหรือวัสดุอ้างอิง สำหรับ
ใช้ในสำนัก หอสมุดกลาง เท่านั้น
ห้ามนำออกข้างนอกเด็ดขาด

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60th ANNIVERSARY
Diplomatic Relations between
Thailand & Sri Lanka

Commemorative Logo



60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Thailand & Sri Lanka

On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Thailand and Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and the Ministry of External Affairs of Sri Lanka jointly conducted the Logo Design Competition under the theme "Connectivity for Shared Prosperity".

Among a vast array of submissions, the logo designed by Mr. Paniwit Nilkaew, a student from King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, Ladkrabang, Thailand, was adjudged the winner. The winning logo will appear at all commemorative events and on all material issued in connection with the 60th anniversary celebrations.



Kingdom of Thailand



Democratic Socialist
Republic of Sri Lanka

513,115 sq.km.	Area	65,610 sq.km.
67.9 million	Population	22 million
Bangkok	Capital	Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (administrative) Colombo (commercial)
5 December	National Day	4 February
Thai	Language	Singhala, Tamil
Constitutional Monarchy	Government	Republic
His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej	Head of State:	H.E. President Maithripala Sirisena
H.E. General Prayut Chan-ocha	Prime Minister	H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe
Buddhism (93%), Islam (5%), Christianity (1.2%), other (0.8%)	Religions	Buddhism (70%), Hinduism (12%), Islam (10%), Christianity (7%), other (1%)
Thai Baht (THB)	Currency	Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR)
397.5 billion (2015 estimate), with growth forecast 3.0-4.0%	GDP (USD)	80.5 billion (2015 estimate), with growth forecast 6 %
electronics, vehicles, food products, rubber, machinery & equipment, rice and sugar	Main Exports	Textiles and garments, tea, spices, gems, coconut products and rubber
24.7 million	Foreign Tourists (2014)	1.53 million

MAP of Thailand and Sri Lanka



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Buddhism: The Foundation of Extraordinary Relationships

Suvarnabhumi

Two to three thousand years ago, mainland Southeast Asia was designated in certain Indian and Persian records as Suvarnabhumi (Land of Gold). As the name suggested, the region prospered with rich natural products and attracted traders from afar. Some ancient artifacts dating back 4,000 years provide evidence of early contact with the outside world. Along with trade came cultural exchange and social facilitation, among which was the arrival of Buddhism in the 3rd century BCE. It was the Indian Emperor Ashoka who sent two missionary monks, Sona and Uttara, to spread Buddha's teachings in Suvarnabhumi. At about the same time, the Hindu epic Ramayana mentioned Suvarnadwipa (Golden Peninsula) and Ptolemy Geography described a Dhryasa Chersonesos (Golden Archipelago), while the Chinese records have Chin Lin or the Golden Land.

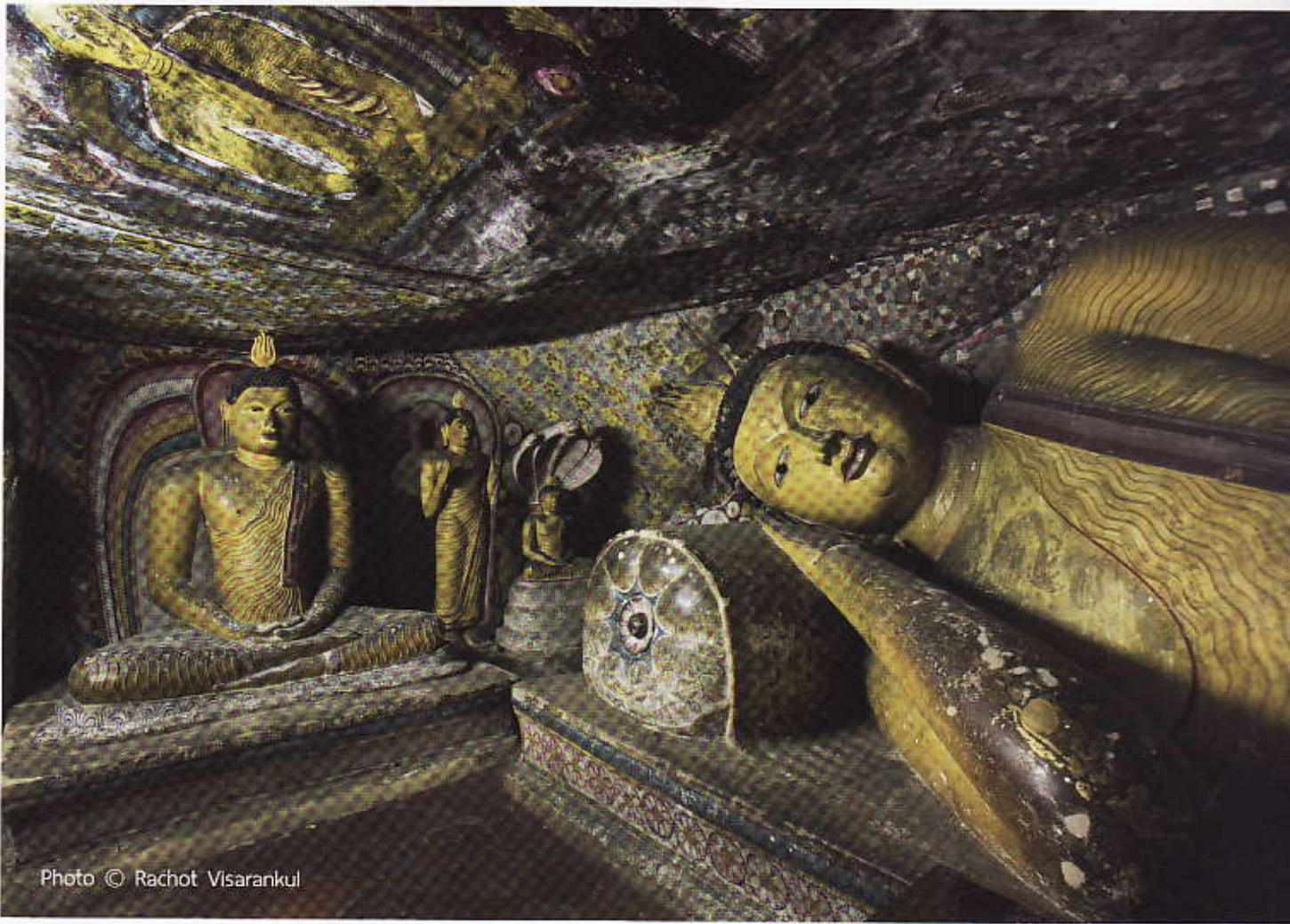


Photo © Rachot Visarankul

Statues and paintings in Dumbulla cave temple date back to the 1st century BC. But the paintings and statues were repaired and repainted many times. This World Heritage site is situated 148 km. east of Colombo.

Arrival of Buddhism

The early states of Suvarnabhumi certainly owed their rises to Buddhist ideology, together with more advanced art and science from the Indian civilization. However, after the reign of Ashoka, the center of Buddhist world gradually shifted from India to Lanka where Ashoka's son Mahinda and daughter Sanghamitta successfully established the religion in 236 B.E. (307 B.C.). Subsequently, The King of Anuradhapura worked for the progress of the new faith with great zeal: apart from establishing numerous Buddhist monasteries and monuments which are important centers of worship to this day, he sent several missions to distant regions on and beyond the big island. As a result, Theravada Buddhism first appeared in today's Myanmar and central Thailand.

¹ From this point onward Christian Calendar will be used for the convenience of readers in English language.



Phra Pathom Chedi, the largest ancient stupa in central Thailand went under renovation for many times in history. In the mid 19th century, its ruins was found and rebuilt in the "original" half-circular shape, with height measuring 395 ft (120.5 m).



Photo © Napat Srinamcham

Ruwanvel Seya Maha Stupa, the foremost of the glorious living monuments of Sinhalese Buddhist heritage at the ancient city of Anuradhapura was built in 161-137 B.C. In 1836 King Mongkut of Siam sent his officials and craftsmen to study the ancient Buddhist architecture in British Ceylon for his ambitious renovation of Phra Pathom Chedi and other ancient Theravada Lankavong stupas found in his Kingdom.



Photo © Eakarin Ekartchariyawong

สำนักหอสมุดกลางมหาวิทยาลัยสยาม



Early Buddhist Kingdoms

Between the 6th and 13th centuries, several competing kingdoms emerged in central Thailand. For a time, the Mon rulers in Nakhon Pathom maintained power and Theravada Buddhism became the major religion with a mixture of Hinduism. The largest stupa in Thailand, Phra Pathom Chedi, believed to have been built after Ashoka's Sanchi, has become one of the principal stupas of Mon-Dvaravati culture.

Down in the south, the expansion of Srivijaya Empire from the late 7th to early 11th century brought the religious, cultural and trade links with the Buddhist Pala Empire of Bengal, as well as the Islamic states in the Middle East and China. Through the vast maritime network Mahayana Buddhism flourished, spread and overlapped with Theravada Buddhism in Mainland Southeast Asia. In today's southern Thailand emerged Tambralinga, a prosperous port town, which later became Nakorn Sri Thammarat.

The Great Stupa of Nakhon Sri Thammarat is the center of great events in social history of southern Thailand. Strong local belief in the Lankan origin of the Buddha Relics and Sacred Bhodi Tree preserved in this temple helps maintain the architectural authenticity in Anuradhapura style.