

BIO-DATA

HIS HOLINESS MAHA SANGHARAJAH BOUR KRY



SAMDECH PREAH ABHISIRI SUGANDHA MAHA SANGHARAJAH THIPATI BOUR KRY

Great Supreme Patriarch of Dhammayutta Order of Cambodia

Birthday : 11 January 1945
Monkhood : since 1963 (45 years)

HISTORY

After a few time spending in the monastic life, Venerable Bour Kry is appointed as Secretary of Mekon authority (Provincial Spiritual Authority) in his native town. Appreciated by his superior monk and his faithfuls, the Buddhist clergy entrusts him with the management of a monastery near Thai-Cambodian border.

In 1975, after the takeover of the Khmer Rouge, the situation of the monks became dramatic. He managed to flee and reached to France in 1976. During an interview which got at Vatican city with His Holiness the Pope Jean Paul II, he requested the Catholic Church to condemn officially the murderous policy leaded in Cambodia. The long standing friendship links between Cambodia and France since more than one century are going to make the French territories the privileged asylum land chosen by the flow of the Cambodian refugees. Quickly, the first arrivals summon up all their strength and set up the association in order to welcome those who arrive in France by successive waves larger and larger, repatriated by international organisations or by their own resources. The aims of these associations consisted in making easier the integration of these new arrivals and avoid the more possible the social and cultural uprooting created by the exile. Among all created associations, a little group of the monks and the secular persons exiled in France founded in 1977 in Paris the first religious association: "Association Bouddhique Khmère" (**Khmer Buddhist Association**).

In 1980, the religious community extended and purchased a building land in Creteil (Paris suburbs) owing to the whole donations received. Master Bour Kry, in the fact of the oldest member of the exiled religious community takes the management of this association and decides to build a pagoda which is the first type in Europe: **Vatt Khemararam** was born and received the Consecration ceremonial according to the Buddhist tradition. In the next coming years, the community will quickly well spoken of opened all centre without races or citizenship discrimination showing the ecumenical spirit of its founder. Master Bour Kry established non-stop fellowship and friendship relations with several schools of the others traditions.

In 1982, Master Bour Kry created the " Secours Bouddhique International " (**International Buddhist Assistance**), an humanitarian organisation with an distinct legal status from the monastery. Since his arrival in France, he was never stop going to pay a visit to the refugees camps in South-East Asia in order to provide material and moral aids.

ROYAL NOMINATION

Noting his constant devotion towards his fellow man, His Royal Highness Prince **Norodom Sihanouk**, then President of Supreme National Council, nominated him to the rank of "**Samdech Preah Ang Krou**" (Spiritual Eminence Master) in 1987. His new title allows him to lead others important actions in favour of the poor people and does not stop him in his natural feeling drawn of kindness and pity to fellow human being.

In 1991, His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia appointed him with the Head of Dhammayutta Order as "**Samdech Preah Sukontheathipadei**" Samdech Preah Sanghareach (Supreme Patriarch) of Dhammayuttikanikaya of Cambodia.

October 26, 2007, His Majesty King NORODOM SIHAMONI conferred him the supreme title of "Samdech Preah Abhisiri Sugandha Maha Sangharajah Thipati" BOUR KRY, Great Supreme Patriarch of Dhammayutta Order of Cambodia.

SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS WORKS

Since the Paris Agreement signed in 1991 between all Khmer factions, the Supreme Patriarch often comes back to Cambodia where he contributes tirelessly on the revival of the monastic life and on the rebuilding of the monasteries or the schools deserted during the decades of war and deprivations. In the framework of national reconstruction, His Holiness Sangharajah Bour Kry wished to give a Buddhist contribution in the Royal Government policy concerning the rural development. The Supreme Patriarch considers Buddhism had to get back to his millennial function of education among the Khmers society and into the heart of the young generations. Anxious to give an outburst to the future generation, His Holiness Sangharajah sent many young monks to the foreign countries (France, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, India etc.) so that they received the new knowledges to take up the challenge of the rebirth of Khmer Dhammayutta Buddhism.

The Buddhist Institute **Preah Sihanouk Dhammadhiraj** was created in 1995 on his initiative. This institution is located at 45 kms, from Phnom-Penh in the village of Chambâk, Province of Kampong Speu. Its mains aims are (i) to educate and provide professional training to the poorest young, (ii) to revitalize the Buddha's Teachings, (iii) to introduce the Cambodian youth to the Cambodian tradition and culture. This Institute is focused before all others on the education of the poorest young Cambodians by reviving the traditional function of the Buddhist schools and to rehabilitate the values of the Cambodian families. Nowadays, the Institute takes in permanently about a hundred of young people whom the parents are too poor to take care of them. The funding of the centre is ensured by the generosity of the disciples of the Supreme Patriarch living inside and outside of the country.

With the passing time, others social and religious works appeared such :

- The Buddhist High school **Samdech Preah Sanghareach BOUR KRY** at Phnom-Penh, the Pali Secondary and high school granted financial aid mostly by the personal fund of His Holiness and by the aid of his disciples. This school is created in order to train the monks and novices to the religious and scholar study at the secondary levels. It situated inside of Svay Pope Monastery at Phnom-Penh and included three classes. At the end of 3 years of studies, an examination will be held and the students will receive a diploma recognized by the State.

- The University **Preah Sihamoni Raja**, placed under auspices of His Majesty the King of Cambodia, is situated in the same area of Vatt Svay Popè. This university has been created in order to answer the needs of the young resourceless high school students (monks and laic) that want to pursue their academic studies.

A constant evolution took place under the authority of the Supreme Patriarch. Since 1997 until nowadays, we could note an increasing number of monasteries of Dhammayutta Order newly built which are disseminated throughout the country, especially in Pailin, independent province in the West of Cambodia (Officially by July 2004, there are 151 Dhammayutta monasteries). Besides, elderly people, orphans and destitute have had the charitable and humanitarian aids from the actual Supreme Patriarch.

HIGH DISTINCTIONS

For his many actions in favour of Buddhism, His Holiness Sangharajah Bour Kry received the acknowledgement from several Buddhist countries (Sri Lanka – Thailand ...) who conferred him the high-ranked diplomas such as : **Doctor Honoris Causa**, Section Buddhism, from Maha Mongkut Raja University (25 October 2003, Thailand) and as well as the high religious title of "**Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja**" of Sangha of Myanmar.

In September 2007, Prime minister Hun Sen handed him the "**Great Medal National Merit**" (Jatupakara) in sign of recognition for his numerous actions in favor of the Khmer People as well as for his noble mission to the profit of Khmer Theravada Buddhism.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

His Holiness the Sangharajah Bour Kry has erected several monasteries and Buddhist centres throughout many European countries: France (Creteil, Toul-Nancy, Lille) – Belgium (Brussels) – Germany (Stuttgart) and also in the United States (Ohio – Los Angeles/California – Washington State).

His Holiness the Sanghararah Bour Kry has undertaken a Peace's March in India, birthplace of Buddhism (December 1990). The Supreme Patriarch has also attended to several international conferences in France, Japan, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Vietnam, Tāiwan, Indonesia and Thailand where his message of Tolerance, Peace and Compassion thrills the sentient being's heart aspire to good fortune and harmony in the new millennium. The 3rd World Buddhist Summit hold on in Phnom-Penh confirmed his message because all religious Leaders are unanimously decided to address a message of Peace, Tolerance at the dawn of 21st century.

The Supreme Patriarch has never forgotten for all that the great challenge that known our actual society : the AIDS. For this purpose, he accepted the invitation of the White House, in the United States, for debating on this matter. In March 2001, he paid a visit to Chiang Mai, in Thailand, to discuss this problem. He also attended to the collages on the themes of cigarettes and drug's dependence.

The Sangharajah of Dhammayutta Order of Cambodia has also managed to strengthen the relationship with the Dhammayutta Thai Sangha. The latest offered him a Ti Pitaka's volume for the library of Buddhist High School Preah Sanghareach Bour Kry. Besides, His Holiness Bour Kry has received the invitation from the Organizing Committee for the 90th Birthday of Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara on October 3rd 2003 at Wat Bovoranives, Bangkok.

The Supreme Patriarch has published many religious books in Khmer and texts on the social question such as Peace, Social development, etc. to grant the harmony and peace in our actual society.

