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Crystal Upasika Ordination to Safeguard Buddhism and Celebrate Visakha Puja Day

On 16 May 2016, Wat Phra Dhammakaya in Pathum Thani organized its 7th Crystal Upasika Ordination Program. The ceremony included the presentation of white ordination sash and vow to protect Thai society from vices and dangers to Buddhism. Over 50,000 female lay devotees throughout Thailand and abroad gathered to participate in the special training and meditation program during the week of Visakha Puja.

The ceremony was presided by Most Venerable Phramahabodhiwongsajarn, Abbot of Wat Ratcha Orasaram Ratchaworawiharn, and attended by Ecclesiastical Governors throughout Thailand and more than 200 monks representing the Sangha from the three southern provinces of Thailand. Ecclesiastical Regional Governors included:

1. Most Ven. Phradhampariyatmoli -- Ecclesiastical Regional Governor 3
2. Most Ven. Phradhampidok -- Ecclesiastical Provincial Governor of Saraburi
3. Most Ven. Phrathepsuwanmoli --Advisor to the Ecclesiastical Provincial Governor of Suphan Buri
4. Most Ven. Phrarajwachiramoli -- Vice Ecclesiastical Regional Governor 10
5. Most Ven. Phrarajsuthapon -- Vice Ecclesiastical Regional Governor 4
6. Most Ven. Phrarajpanyasuti -- Vice Ecclesiastical Regional Governor 11
7. Most Ven. Phrarajmaythi -- Vice Ecclesiastical Regional Governor 8
8. Most Ven. Phrarajpanyamuni -- Ecclesiastical Provincial Governor of Yala

Male and female lay devotees are individuals who possess the following five qualities: 1) faith; 2) pure moral discipline; 3) avoidance of rumors; 4) abstention from seeking merit outside of Buddhism; and 5) are loyal supporters of Buddhism. Crystal Upasikas possess these traits as well. In the program, they received teachings to instill moral values and Buddhist ideologies, becoming virtuous individuals who venerate the Triple Gem. This will help restore moral standards and the Buddhist culture to its days of glory. It is also an occasion to uplift social values and bring progress to the nation by elevating the moral standards of its people, which will in turn improve the nation.

This One Million Crystal Upasika Ordination, the seventh program organized, is scheduled from 14-20 May 2016 and commemorates Visakha Puja. Over 50,000 ladies are expected to participate in the ordination and white sash presentation ceremony. They will also take a vow to protect society from vices and dangers to Buddhism, practice meditation, and observe moral discipline. The knowledge gained from this program will allow them to organize more Crystal Upasika Ordination programs throughout Thailand.

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