

**Ven. Bhikkhuni Dhammananda**

**Name** (passport): Mrs. Chatsumarn **Kabilsingh**

**Ordained name:** Ven. Bhikkhuni Dhammanandā

**Lay name:** Associate Prof. Dr. Chatsumarn Kabilsingh

**Age :** 79 (born October 6, 1944)

**Marital Status:** divorced with three grown sons, 6 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild

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**Education:**

B.A. (Hons) in Philosophy, Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan, India

M.A. in Religion, McMaster University, Canada

Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies, Magadh University, India

**Experiences:**

Teaching Buddhism and Eastern Philosophy at Thammasat University, Bangkok for 27 years (1973-2000)

Associate Member of Royal Institute 1985-2000

Translated not less than 27 books from English to Thai, amongst the better known:

*Saddhammapundarika Sutra,*

*Freedom in Exile, (H.H. The Dalai Lama's biography)*

*Dalai Lama: My son*

Author and translator of more than 100 books - Some of her books are bilingual, Thai/English.

Attended International conferences on Buddhism and environment, and Buddhism and women, since 1973 to the present. In 1987, she co-founded and organised the first International Conference on Buddhist Nuns (which later included all Buddhist Women).

One of the key speakers at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1993.

Founded ABC Asian Buddhism Connection and organised the international Buddhist Conference held in Thailand in 2015, 2016; Indonesia in 2018 and 2021 in Nepal (online).

### **Media**

Hosted a weekly (Sunday) Dhamma talk show on Thai TV Channel 3 for 7 years (1993-2000)

Editor of *Yasodhara*, International Buddhist women newsletter (Quarterly) for 30 years between 1984-2012

Currently writes in Thai for a column in the magazine *Matichon weekly*.

### **Awards and recognitions**

2004 UN Outstanding Buddhist Woman Award

2005 One of the 1000 Peace Women Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize

2005 Prestige Woman as Educator, Thailand

2009 Honored by Komol Keemthong Foundation, Thailand

2012 One of 999 Tara Awards for social work, Thailand

2012 Sakyamuni International Award, Nagpur, India

2019 One of 100 BBC Notable Women (Thai)

2021 Coordinator of United Theravada Bhikkhuni Sangha International (UTBSI)

2022 Honorary member of Maha Bodhi Society of India (MBSI)

2023 Admired Thai Women Creator Award Thailand

### **Ordination**

Became the first fully ordained Theravada bhikkhuni in Thailand in 2003 and has been engaged in giving education on ordination for women since 1984.

Regularly organizes training for Buddhist women

Offers international courses on “Living Buddhism” 3 times a year.

Offers temporary ordination twice a year and since 2009 and as of 2023, has ordained more than 1000 female novices (samaneri).

In 2014, she was appointed as the first pavattini (trainer) for Theravada bhikkhunis in Thailand.

Organizes full ordination for Theravada bhikkhunis every 2-3 years.

### **Commitment**

To establish an Order of ordained women in Thailand where, at the moment, such status is neither available nor recognized.

To bring about a better understanding of Buddhism to the larger public and to serve the Buddha in the best way she can.

She is deeply committed to catalyst to encourage Thai Buddhists to be more socially involved for the betterment of their own practice and for the betterment of society.

She has been involved with Buddhism and Nature Conservation since 1985 working for WildLife Fund Thailand. She plans to increase her activity in sustainability by building an eco-temple and make available information for other temples and schools to follow suit.

As a professor at Thammasat University, she is well remembered by her students for her memorable style of teaching. She has always been concerned with the standard of Buddhist education in Thailand and has opened her temple as a ground for learning for everyone, Buddhists and non-Buddhists.

Her temple has become an international center for foreigners who seek to have a better understanding of Buddhism, both on a philosophical level and on a practical one. She is one of the very few learned scholars in Thailand and even less among the monastics who is capable of delivering a discourse on the Dhamma to both Thai and international audience at the same time.

Her role as educator is outstanding both in Thailand and abroad.