



International Conference on the Greater Lumbini Area

The Greater Lumbini Area encompasses Lumbini (the birthplace of Lord Buddha), Tilaurakot (associated with ancient Kapilavastu), Devdaha (the maternal home of Queen Maya Devi), Ramgrama (the site of the relic stupa), and other important archaeological and sacred sites, including Panditpur. Together, these sites constitute a living sacred landscape of global importance to Buddhist communities, pilgrims, scholars, and visitors. Lumbini was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1997, as the birthplace of Lord Buddha, testified by the inscription on the Ashoka Pillar and for its archaeological remains of monasteries and stupas that contain important evidence about the nature of early Buddhist pilgrimage centres.

Conference detail- In person

Date: 18-20 September 2026

Location: Lumbini Buddhist University, Lumbini, Nepal

Virtual: Facebook LIVE and webinar

About the conference

The International Conference will focus on translating high-level dialogue into practical, action-oriented recommendations for safeguarding and sustainably managing the Greater Lumbini Area as a living sacred landscape and cultural-heritage destination. It will provide a platform for broader consultation and knowledge exchange, consensus-building, partnership development, and informed decision-making across ongoing and planned initiatives.

The conference will complement the work of the International Scientific Committee for Lumbini (ISC-Lumbini), which provides technical and procedural support to the Government of Nepal in safeguarding the Outstanding Universal Value of the Lumbini World Heritage property, addressing potential impacts from development activities, and responding to the aspirations of Buddhist communities, pilgrims, and local communities.

In parallel, structured dialogue platforms engaging youth groups, women's associations, and community-based organizations will ensure that international recommendations are grounded in local aspirations and community ownership, reinforcing Lumbini's identity as both a living sacred site and a World Heritage property.

The conference outcomes will also inform relevant Government initiatives, including the Government of Nepal's Greater Lumbini Area Development (GLAD) Project, supported by the World Bank. The GLAD Project seeks to improve tourism-related infrastructure and services and promote local jobs while supporting heritage-sensitive development across the Greater Lumbini Area.

Structured engagement with youth groups, women's associations, Buddhist and monastic organizations, local communities, private-sector representatives, and community-based



organizations will help ensure that international recommendations are grounded in local aspirations and community ownership.

The conference will be organized as a three-day, action-oriented process combining high-level discussions, technical sessions, facilitated dialogue, and experiential learning.

The first day will establish a common understanding of the Greater Lumbini Area, focusing on four interrelated themes: heritage conservation, visitor-management systems, tourism infrastructure and services, and inclusive local economic development. These discussions will consider how the Greater Lumbini Area can be managed in a coordinated and integrated manner while safeguarding heritage values and strengthening local economic linkages.

The second day will focus on structured problem-solving through facilitated roundtables and participant-led sessions addressing challenges affecting site management, pilgrimage, visitor experience, heritage conservation, and local development. Participants from Government, religious communities, academia, the private sector, local communities, and international organizations will exchange perspectives and consider relevant experience from other World Heritage and sacred sites globally, to identify tested approaches that can be adapted to the Greater Lumbini Area.

The final day will synthesize and validate the conference findings. A Conference Communiqué will consolidate shared priorities, action-oriented recommendations, potential partnerships, and proposed next steps for consideration by the relevant authorities and stakeholders.

The program will also include guided meditation, dialogue with Buddhist religious leaders, and site-based learning in Lumbini and Tilaurakot-Kapilavastu. These activities will help ensure that the technical discussions remain grounded in the realities of managing a living sacred landscape.

The conference is one element of a broader, results-oriented process. Its outcomes will contribute to continued technical dialogue, stakeholder engagement, and the development of practical implementation pathways. Where relevant, the recommendations may inform Government programs and work planning under initiatives such as the GLAD Project.

About organizer

The conference is being organized by the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA) in collaboration with Lumbini Development Trust, UNESCO and the World Bank.

To join the conference virtually:

Register here: [Virtual Registration: International Conference on the Greater Lumbini Area – Fill in form](#)