

# In Memory of Ajarn Chalerm Sri Dhammabutra

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On Behalf of Asian Resource Foundation (ARF)  
and Asian Muslim Action Network Foundation

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It was in 1983, for the first time, I had the opportunity to meet Ajarn Chalerm Sri in Thammasat University. My wife, Khun Lekha Paireepinath who had chance to work very closely with Ajarn on different occasions like as the graduate volunteer of the Graduate Volunteer Center where Ajarn was deeply involved as the Director. Ajarn Chalerm Sri was soft spoken, kind and compassionate. She briefed us about history of the Graduate Volunteer Center which was started by Thammasat University with the inspiration of renowned Dr. Puey Upangkorn. Ajarn Chalerm Sri highlighted the relevance of the program in Thai rural society and why university graduates need to be oriented to learn and serve the rural communities. She shared experiences and achievement of the program. I came to know that Ajarn kindly helped many charity organizations both government and NGOs.

After that first inspiring encounter, I stayed in touch with Ajarn and met her time to time during my visit in Thailand. In 1996, I discussed with Ajarn about forming a foundation to work for children education and youth empowerment program in Asia. We discussed the need for young generation to know culture and traditions of each other so that they can contribute to conceive and promote an Asian community which is peaceful and prosperous and relate to other continents of the world. She kindly agreed to be the President of Asian Resource Foundation and guided us in many ways. She never missed a meeting of the committee and always supportive to initiative of young generation.

Asian Resource Foundation established a fund to provide scholarship to poor children in Asia and launched trainings and exchange program for Asian Youth which culminated

to Youth coordination Center International (YCCI). The Children Education fund is now supporting children in 12 countries. After a few years, another dimension was added to the program that is to engage youth in peace work. So that Asian youth from diverse religious and cultural background can come together and work towards promoting better understanding, cooperation and peace. Ajarn Chalermssi in her opening remarks always inspired youth to be dedicated for common cause and nurture values of common humanity. She always greeted young generation with a smile and said goodbye with a smile.

Her modesty, simplicity, deep reflections and commitment for voluntary work particularly for the rural disadvantaged people will continue to inspire young social workers beyond her time. Members and alumni of Asian Resource Foundation from Asia and beyond will always remember her dedication and immense contribution. She will remain s a living inspiring model to be followed for years to come. We pray that her departed soul be in eternal peace.