

International symposium

Trans-Himalayan Buddhism: Re-connecting spaces, sharing concerns

13 March, 2012 (Afternoon)

Venue: Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies

Salt Lake Campus

Kolkata

In the recent past, there has been growing interest among scholars about Buddhism as a regional potential. The Trans-Himalayan connections of Buddhism and the northern reach of Buddhism have regained centrality in the discourse about revival of Buddhism. On the whole, there seems to be significant interest in the Buddhist dispensation and the Buddhist setting, i.e. the monastic landscape represented by the Buddhist monasteries in India and her North-Eastern region, the Himalayan belt comprising of Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim and the *datsans* and *dugans* in Asiatic Russia and Mongolia. Apart from a basic interest in Buddhist pilgrimage as tradition, scholarship seems to revolve round various aspects of Buddhist culture, e.g. art and architecture, manuscripts and texts, role of individuals and institutions which has resulted in new assessments about 'a Buddhist space'. The intellectual concerns among scholars in Asiatic Russia, Mongolia and India about the relevance of Buddhism in a globalized world have resulted in a sharing of such concerns in the realm of politics, economics, society and environment.

The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata will be organising an international symposium on *Trans-Himalayan Buddhism: re-connecting spaces, sharing concerns* on 13 March 2012 to discuss some these issues that are not only pertinent for the Buddhist community per se but also for the Trans-Himalayan region and India's neighbourhood. It is expected that the discussions in the symposium would generate new ideas about research on Buddhism as a field of enquiry.

The Institute requests participants to make their own travel arrangements in the international and domestic sectors. The Institute will be happy to sponsor local hospitality for the duration of the seminar.

Please respond within December 31, 2011, with a title, 250 word abstract and a brief one page CV to

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