

Dhamma Sikhara

Himachal Vipassana Center
MacLeod Ganj, Dharamshala 176 219,
Dist. Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, India
Tel: (01892) 221 309, 221 368;

Email: info@sikhara.dhamma.org; web: www.sikhara.dhamma.org



Dhamma Hall 3 of Dhamma Sikhara

Dhamma Sikhara, meaning 'Peak of Dhamma', comprises three acres of magnificent deodar cedar forest about 2000 meters high in the Dhauladar range in the Himalayas, Northern India. The centre is located adjacent to Dharamkot village, above McLeodganj (Upper Dharamsala) in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. McLeodganj is famous as 'Little Lhasa' since the 'Tibetan government in Exile' as well as H.H. Dalai Lama's palace are here.

The first 10-day course in Dhamma Sikhara was held from 11th April 1994. Presently, two 10-day courses are held monthly from April to November every year. An average of fifteen 10-day courses, two Sattipatthana courses and a 3-day course for old students are held. Children courses are also held mostly in co-ordination with some schools. Notably all students of Sacred Heart school and of the Government primary school opposite the center have attended at least one course.

Having a capacity of 45 males and 43 females students and 8 Dhamma servers (4 each) most of the accommodation is still temporary huts of corrugated sheet sheds and plastic sheets for walls. Permanent structures include three Dhamma halls, teachers' residences, male and female dormitories with toilets for five each, nine male single rooms, Dhamma servers rooms (4 male, 2 female) and dining halls. Every year, construction is undertaken depending on the surplus funds left from the year's donations. Pagoda and cells will be built after constructing the accommodations.

A notable feature of Dhamma Sikhara is the multilingual Dhamma hall. An electronic system enables 24 students of seven languages (in any combination of numbers for each language) to listen to the instruction and discourses in their respective languages simultaneously through headphones. Only one Dhamma server is required to operate the system. Besides these Hindi, English and Hebrew are played in the other two Dhamma halls. The system was created and erected by the voluntary Dhamma servers themselves. This facility is necessary because 70% of students are non-Indians from about 40 countries worldwide.