

Dhamma Pajjota
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Dhamma Pajjota, meaning ‘Torch of Dhamma’, is located near Dilsen, a small town close to the borders of the Netherlands and Germany in the Northeast of Belgium, in an environmentally protected area known for its forests, farmland and the meandering Maas river. The Centre is situated on a plateau, at one of the highest points of the region. Major cities in the vicinity include Hasselt, Liège and Brussels (Belgium), Aachen and Cologne (Germany), and Maastricht, Eindhoven and Utrecht (the Netherlands). Belgium is a trilingual country (Dutch, French and German), and Dhamma Pajjota serves as a Centre with an international character.

The property, purchased in June 2000, comprises of 11 acres of recreational land and farmland. The buildings were formerly used as a family hotel and restaurant. The main accommodation building has a capacity of 85 students, including the residence of the assistant teachers. Thirty double rooms with attached bathrooms and some smaller dormitories provide comfortable accommodation for students.

To meet the growing demand for courses and to optimize the development of the centre, *Dhamma Pajjota* has created a master plan that has been approved by the local authorities. The future capacity of the centre will aim at 120 students and 30 servers.

In 2007, the trust completed the first phase of this plan, namely the construction of a new meditation hall. The new building houses a spacious Dhamma hall with lobbies and a cell complex containing 48 individual meditation cells.

The next plans of the trust are to build accommodations for long term servers, a separate residence for assistant teachers, a new accommodation building for male students only, and a new kitchen/dining block. Landscaping will provide a green and low maintenance environment with maximum use of local trees and bushes.

Most students come from the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. All courses are bilingual with English as the first language and either Dutch, French or German as the second language. Courses are usually fully booked.

In 2002, Goenkaji and Mataji stayed at Dhamma Pajjota for eight days during their long tour of North America and Europe. A large one-day course with 800 participants from all over Europe was the highlight of their visit.