

**DELEGATION OF SENIOR BUDDHIST MONKS VISIT TO TASMANIA  
WELCOME REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE BALL ROOM, MONDAY 18 MARCH 2024**

Sawat dee don dhao (good afternoon). A warm welcome to Government House to all senior delegates visiting Tasmania for the opening of the Temple Pavilion at Wat Sanggharanngsee.

I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather, who flourished on Country as part of the South-East Nation of Aboriginal people. We honour them, and today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community, as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and waters.

It is a great pleasure to welcome you not only to Government House but also to Tasmania. I especially welcome our overseas delegates from Thailand and New Zealand to celebrate the opening of the new Pavilion and to spend time with other monks and the wider Buddhist community.

I understand that your Buddhist temple in Otago commenced religious observances in December 2014. You have come a long way to build and open such a magnificent Temple Pavilion for worship. You have also done this in a short period of time.

The site is also open to the wider community and I note that many religious and cultural events are held there. I am sure that many people will also make use of the meditation hall.

Shortly, we will have some afternoon tea together. Following our tea, we shall move to the garden to view a tree planted by His Highness the late King of Thailand in 1962. We shall also view a tree planted by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Thailand in 1988.

In conclusion, may I say thank you once again for taking the time to visit our beautiful island State. I wish you all the very best for the rest of your visit. I hope that you have the opportunity to enjoy our warmer weather.

And now, please join me for some refreshments.

Thank you.