2024

VISION PLAN
FOR LUMBINI BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY

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PREFACE

It is with great pleasure and a sense of responsibility that I present to you this vision for the future of Lumbini Buddhist University (LBU). As an institution deeply rooted in the richness of Buddhist heritage and philosophy, LBU holds a unique position in the academic landscape. This plan unfolds a roadmap, a strategic orientation crafted meticulously to guide LBU into the realms of progress and prominence in the years to come.

The connected components of this vision encompass a spectrum of crucial aspects, from **internationalization and academic accreditation to embracing cutting-edge technology for a fully digitized university.** The aim is not just to meet the present-day demands but to position LBU as a trailblazer, setting the standards for Buddhist and interdisciplinary education worldwide.

As we go through these pages, we enter on a journey toward a future where LBU stands as a hub of wisdom, attracting scholars and students from diverse corners of the globe. The vision outlined herein is not a theoretical construct but a practical roadmap, rooted in the ethos of LBU and aligned with the contemporary dynamics of higher education.

I request every concerned to explore the intricacies of this plan, to envision with us a future where Lumbini Buddhist University plays a pivotal role in shaping the intellectual landscape of not just Nepal, but South Asia and the world. This plan, this vision, is a collective endeavor—an invitation for collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to the enduring legacy of Buddhist education. May this journey unfold new horizons for LBU, and may our collective efforts contribute to the enlightenment and progress of generations to come.

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SECTION I

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF LUMBINI BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY

LUMBINI BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY (LBU)

Lumbini Buddhist University (LBU), from the birthplace of Gautam Buddha, Lumbini, is an autonomous and public institution of higher learning committed with the mission to educate the people of Nepal and enrich the global learning community through the application of core Buddhist values and to promote the World Peace.

Established by the Government of Nepal with a Parliament Act on June 17,2004 under the concept presented by the First World Buddhist Summit held in Lumbini. The constituent campuses of the University and the Central Administration Offices are in Rupandehi, Nepal.

INCEPTION OF THE LUMBINI BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY

The first World Buddhist Summit held in Lumbini from 30th November to 2nd December,1998 organized by Lumbini Development Trust, proposed to establish an International Buddhist University in Lumbini, the birthplace of Gautam Buddha, to impart standard education on Buddhist Philosophy, Literature and Culture, etc. Subsequently the Lumbini Declaration, issued on the concluding day of the Summit, requested the Nepal Government to take immediate action in this direction. Accordingly, Lumbini Development Trust constituted a seven-member Preparatory Committee with Prof. Dr. Tulasi Ram Vaidya as convener and Ven. Sudarshan Mahasthavir, Ven. Ngawang Hoser Lama, Rev. Badri Ratna Bajracharya, Prof. Mohan Prasad Lohani, Prof. Tri Ratna Manandhar and Mr. Min Bahadur Shakya as members.

Finally, on 14th Marga 2061 B.S. Lumbini Buddhist University was formally established with the promulgation of an Ordinance which was declared on 16th Marga 2061 B.S. at the 2nd World Buddhist Summit held in Lumbini. Subsequently, the Main Preparatory Committee meeting held on 23rd Marga 2061 B.S. took six important decisions including the renaming of the committee as "Lumbini Buddhist University Main Preparatory Committee 2061" Later in 2062 B.S., the Parliament approved the Ordinance with modifications as Lumbini Bauddha Vishwavidyalaya Ain 2063 (Lumbini Buddhist University Act).

LBU MISSION

Lumbini Buddhist University (LBU) is an autonomous institution whose mission is to expand the advantages of higher education to the people of Nepal and the overall learning community, in its role as a Centre for the advancement, dissemination and use of knowledge.

The Mission of Lumbini Buddhist University can be articulated into four dimensions which define the University as a Centre of Academic Excellence that promotes quality education with the highest academic standards; a source for the advancement, dissemination, and use of knowledge; a powerful engine for collective transformation, economic growth and sustainable development of the nation and the global learning community; a resource for community service and outreach, international initiative and cooperation .

In line with these principles, the University aims to become a Centre of Academic Excellence that promotes the production and dissemination of knowledge and the implementation of research

findings for the benefit of the overall community. Recognizing the international character of modern higher education, the University aims in fact at maintaining programs and standards which are fully comparable with any similar system of higher learning, thereby making it possible for promising Nepali students to obtain quality higher education without going abroad.

The highest aspiration of the University is to provide quality education in a way that promotes the holistic development of the students' abilities and personalities, enhances the knowledge of the youth in a spirit of understanding, universally shared principles, and dedication for best serving the common good. The University strives in fact to educate students to become committed citizens. As education shapes human life and the type of society we live in, improving the quality of life for everyone in the nation represents anessential commitment for Lumbini Buddhist University.

Conscious that a major motivation for students to attend a university is the preparation for a future profession and career, the University aims at bridging the world of thoughts and ideas with the world of practice and action, by preparing skilled and qualified students who are prepared to assume responsible positions in our society and actively contribute to the national development.

To enhance the educational standards, LBU aims at establishing fruitful partnerships and collaboration with universities and higher education institutions of international reputation, for the overall welfare of both the academic faculty members and students and by encouraging their participation in exchange programs, setting up credit transfer schemes and submitting joint research projects.

While Lumbini Buddhist University is a non-political institution in practice and intent, it recognizes and promotes the right of individuals to freedom of thoughts and self-expression. Consistent with this right, the University respects and hold shared responsibility towards all the diverse members of the University community and the learning community at large.

The University strives to achieve these ends by pursuing the advantages of a culturally diverse and newly emerging University Community, open to the exchange of ideas and where discovery, creativity, and personal and professional development can flourish.

These dimensions of the Mission (Centre of Academic Excellence, source of knowledge production, engine of societal transformation, and resource for community service and international initiative) identify and define the Umbrella Goal Areas described later in this section and within which this Strategic Plan develops more specific objectives and strategic actions.

LBU VISION

The mission of Lumbini Buddhist University is to create a community of individuals who will work towards world peace, harmony, and prosperity by integrating Buddhist principles into their daily lives and activities. Through its teachings, the university aims to produce graduates who are not only intellectually competent but also morally sound, wise, talented, non-violent, and secular individuals who think and work not only for their own but for the betterment of society.

Lumbini Buddhist University has a noble vision of promoting world peace, harmony, and prosperity through its teachings and research. It strives to achieve this by offering comprehensive education in various fields of Buddhist philosophy, literature, education, culture, and other subjects that facilitate the cultivation of precepts and human virtues such as peace, empathy, Maitri, and compassion.

Lumbini Buddhist University strives to be a **Centre of Academic Excellence in teaching and scholarship, at the service of the People of Nepal and the global learning community, by promoting a culture based on dedicated teaching, continuous learning, creativity, and cutting-edge research, with the highest academic standards.**

This Vision reflects the Mission of the University to expand the advantages of quality higher education to the people of Lumbini Province, the nation, and the broader global learning community, in its role as a Centre for the advancement, dissemination, and use of knowledge.

Lumbini Buddhist University holds in fact the ambitious vision to **shape the Academic Identity of the whole Lumbini Province and the country in general.** The Institution considers itself as an agent of socio-cultural transformation and a powerful engine for economic growth, innovation, and sustainable development of the Lumbini Province, other provinces of the country, the nation, and the world that the University serves.

GUIDING VALUES

Triratna (Triple-Gem) and Lumbini Buddhist University

Lumbini Buddhist University (LBU) is envisioned to follow the principles of the Triratna in Buddhism as it develops in Lumbini, Butwal, and Devdaha. Triratna, or the Triple Gem, is a fundamental concept in Buddhism representing the Buddha, the Dharma (teachings of the Buddha), and the Sangha (the community of Buddhist practitioners).

Incorporating the Triratna concept into the development of LBU means that the university should aim to embody the values and teachings of Buddhism in its educational framework, administration, and community engagement.

I. **Buddha:** LBU aims to honer the teachings and philosophy of Gautama Buddha. This includes promoting mindfulness, compassion, and wisdom in all aspects of academic and personal development.

Courses and programs offered by LBU must emphasize the study of Buddhist scriptures, teachings, and the life of the Buddha.

II. **Dharma:** LBU curriculum will focus on disseminating the core teachings of Buddhism, including ethics, meditation, philosophy, and psychology.

Research conducted within LBU will contribute to the advancement and understanding of Buddhist philosophy and its application in contemporary society.

III. **Sangha:** LBU will foster a supportive and inclusive community of students, faculty, and staff who are dedicated to Buddhist principles.

The university will serve as a place for spiritual practice, dialogue, and collaboration among members of the Buddhist community.

Engaging with local communities in Lumbini, Butwal, and Devdaha to promote social welfare, environmental sustainability, and peace-building initiatives in line with Buddhist values.

In developing LBU in these regions, it's essential to integrate the Triratna concept not only into academic programs but also into the ethos of the university as a whole. By doing so, LBU can become a center for Buddhist learning, practice, and community engagement, contributing to the preservation and propagation of Buddhist ideals in Nepal and beyond.

Academic Excellence

Lumbini Buddhist University strives to create and sustain a culture that supports scholarship and teaching excellence in all academic units. It tries to link academic excellence to cutting-edge research through scholarly exploration, the foundation of critical and analytic thinking, and promoting a 'can-do' attitude and culture. The University aspires to an academic excellence which is comprehensive of both individual and collective diligent efforts and is committed to pursue excellence by meeting national, regional, and global standards of ethics, as well as personal expectations.

Inclusiveness and Respect

Lumbini Buddhist University welcomes 'difference', thus it regards the diversity of its faculty, staff , and students as a great asset. The University firmly believes that respect for one-self and for others is essential for nurturing free and open discourse, creative exploration and inventive expression that characterize a university. The Institution thus promotes the value of academic freedom, acting ethically, critical independence, creativity, innovation, equity, justice, loyalty, and respect.

Environmental Responsibility

Lumbini Buddhist University holds environmental responsibility and is committed to preserve the rights of future generations to a healthy environment. The University recognizes the importance of environmental education for all members of the academic community and the meaning of environmentally responsible practices in developing the physical characteristics of its community and efficient use of resources.

Global Citizenship

Lumbini Buddhist University embraces its role to prepare engaged and responsible citizenship at regional, national, and global levels. Thus, it strives to inspire through education the ability to build connection and partnership with others, work in a collegial way towards a common goal, stimulates the power of discovery and the foundation of critical and analytic thinking.

Leadership

Lumbini Buddhist University strives to instil in every student the spirit of leadership and to infuse the value, the confidence, and the experience to lead change in their world. Through academic education, it encourages in its faculty, staff, and students the readiness to take responsibility for one's own academic and professional development and learning, open mindedness when dealing with change.

Discovery and Creativity

Lumbini Buddhist University supports all its members in this life-long process that is both challenging and rewarding. The University promotes scholarship and its dissemination through teaching and outreach, creative experimentation of ideas and concepts, and intellectual freedom that supports open inquiry.

LBU OVERARCHING GOALS

To achieve its mission of pursuing Academic Excellence in teaching, scholarship, and research,

Lumbini Buddhist University has identified overarching goals that are timeless and enduring. The goals outlined below express the University's long-term commitment to the people of Nepal and the global learning community.

A. Teaching and Scholarship

I.   Promote a culture of teaching, scholarship, and research among the local and international community by offering programs with the highest academic standards.

II.   Support higher education with a special focus on technical and applied sciences and foster extensive use of information technology.

III.   Attract and retain a diverse faculty who are outstanding scholars and teachers, as well as an excellent and diverse staff who will provide owing support to faculty and students. Promote multi-disciplinary programs and encourage the faculties to work together to run cross-faculty and multi-disciplinary programs.

B. World-Class Education

I.   Expand the opportunity of higher education in the country by promoting programs that are designed to meet the needs of the students, the challenges of the new professions and the requirements of potential employers.

II.   Form skilled and qualified students that are prepared to assume responsible positions in our society and actively contribute to national development.

C. Holistic Development

I.   Offer liberal education by enhancing flexibility and freedom in academic programs, foster learning experiences in an environment supportive of the holistic development of student's personality, and nurture intellectual growth and commitment to responsibility and service.

II.   Enroll, educate, and graduate the most deserving student body possible and make it possible for promising Nepali students to pursue quality higher studies in the country without going overseas.

D. Job Oriented Programs

I.   Understanding that a major motivation for students to attend a university is the preparation for a future profession and progressive career, the University aims at preparing skilled and qualified students that are prepared to assume responsible positions in our society and actively contribute to the national development.

II.   Create and promote philosophical programs under the university to the job oriented dimensions.

E. Research and Community Service

I.   Grounded on the University's recognition of the importance of research and dissemination of its findings, the University strongly supports the expansion of knowledge through research and creative activities in both fundamental and applied fields.

II.   Foster the application of such knowledge and promotes the access of the results of the

applied research by the overall community.

III.   Strength the public engagement of the University in scholarship and research with local, national, and international communities.

F. Internationalization

I.   Provide a pluralistic setting in which Nepalese of diverse backgrounds as well as individuals of other nationalities meet, study and work together, learning to value cooperation, tolerance, and mutual support.

II.   Develop the detailed conceptual framework for " The Board of Trustee", implement it through international community and explore Lumbini Buddhist University as an international educational hub for Buddhist studies and research.

III.   Sustain an intellectual atmosphere, where the diversity of faculty, staff, and students represents the greatest asset of the University;

IV.   Establishing a community of scholars and students where mutual understanding and wisdom can rise and flourish in the spirit of universally shared principles and dedication for best serving the common good.

UNIVERSITY'S PRIMARY STRATEGY

Lumbini Buddhist University has identified major directions for guiding its growth and further expansion in the coming years. Based on a need assessment of the University's major internal and external stakeholders, Lumbini Buddhist University has prepared a way out for being a Multi-faculty University. The Plan points out overarching goals, specific objectives, and strategic actions, to be implemented and achieved based on medium and long-term priorities. The major directions that will guide the development of the University over the next years can be summarized into the following eight Goals:

Academic Excellence

I.   LBU strives to enhance Academic Excellence across the University by sustaining teaching excellence and scholarship in all academic units;

II.   Promoting and strengthening learning and research activities in the field of Science and Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences, Management Studies and Educational Sciences, and in all relevant aspects of the contemporary society;

III.   Enhancing the educational standards of the University by implementing academic programs based on credit-semester system and strict quality control, providing the most suitable teacher-student ratio, introducing and applying the latest technological advancement in all academic activities;

IV.   Expanding the academic offer in terms of graduate and undergraduate programs.

V.   Fostering holistic development of students as conditions for academic and life success; nurturing intellectual growth and commitment to responsibility and service.

Faculty Excellence

Faculty Excellence refers to the pursue of excellence in teaching and scholarship, as both aspects are critical components of faculty excellence. Effective teaching is a central responsibility of faculty, schools, departments, as well as a key component of each faculty member's professional activity. Fostering faculty diversity and supporting the recruitment and retention of outstanding teaching faculty are the highest priorities for LBU.

Excellence in Research, Scholarship, and Creativity

This Goal emphasizes the importance of raising the quality and stature of faculties, campuses and department to a position of academic leadership and providing support for research, scholarship, and creativity in a careful, strategic, and cost-effective way. Meeting cost-effectiveness needs is a highly important aspect because of the high costs of research, the competitive environment for external support to research, and the financial pressures on areas with less potential for external funding.

Award And Recognition Policy

LBU's Degree Awarding Policy is designed to enhance student engagement and reduce dropout rates by implementing a progressive award system. Upon the successful completion of the first year of LBU's bachelor-level academic program, students will be awarded a Certificate of Completion, instilling a sense of accomplishment and motivation to continue their studies. The second year achievement merits a Diploma of Achievement, recognizing advancing academic progress, while the third year completion leads to an Advanced Diploma, acknowledging advanced accomplishments and sustained commitment. Those who successfully complete all four years are awarded a Bachelor's Degree, marking comprehensive academic success. This policy not only aims to celebrate students at various milestones but also strives to attract and retain a higher number of students by offering tangible achievements right from the first year, thereby fostering a positive and supportive academic environment. Regular reviews and adjustments ensure the policy's relevance and effectiveness in achieving its goals.

Certificate Level

- Eligibility: Successful completion of the first year of LBU's bachelor-level academic program,

- Objective: Encourage students to complete the first year, providing a sense of accomplishment

Diploma Level

- Eligibility: Successful completion of the second year of LBU's bachelor-level academic program

- Award: Diploma of Achievement

- Objective: Motivate students to continue to the second year, recognizing their academic progress

Advanced Diploma Level

- Eligibility: Successful completion of the third year of LBU's bachelor-level academic program

- Award: Advanced Diploma

- Objective: Acknowledge students' advanced academic achievements and commitment to the program

Bachelor's Degree

- Eligibility: Successful completion of all four years of LBU's bachelor-level academic program

- Award: Bachelor's Degree

Awarding and Certification

Lumbini Buddhist University (LBU) aims to facilitate the academic journey of students from various universities in Nepal and abroad by offering a credit transfer process. Recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of students studying elsewhere, LBU provides a platform for them to continue their education and earn a degree, adhering to defined criteria and requirements set forth by LBU.

1. Eligibility Criteria:

- Students from any university in Nepal or abroad are eligible to apply for credit transfer to LBU.

- Applicants must provide transcripts and course outlines from their current or previous institution(s).

- The courses taken by the students must align with the curriculum offered by LBU, ensuring compatibility and relevance.

2. Credit Evaluation Process:

- Upon receiving applications, LBU's academic committee will conduct a thorough evaluation of the credits earned by the students.

- Evaluation will be based on the comparability of courses, learning outcomes, and academic standards.

- Credits will be transferred if they meet the equivalency requirements established by LBU.

3. Defined Criteria and Requirements:

- LBU has defined criteria and requirements for each program offered, which students must fulfill to be eligible for degree completion.

- These criteria encompass a certain number of credits to be earned from LBU itself, specific courses to be completed, and any additional academic or practical requirements.

4. Counseling and Guidance:

- LBU provides counseling and guidance to prospective students regarding the credit transfer process.

- Trained advisors assist students in understanding the requirements, selecting appropriate courses, and planning their academic journey at LBU.

5. Degree Awarding Process:

- Upon successful completion of the required credits and fulfillment of all criteria, LBU will award a degree to the transferred students.

- The degree awarded will be equivalent to the program pursued at LBU, ensuring parity and recognition in the academic and professional realms.

6. Transparency and Accountability:

- LBU maintains transparency throughout the credit transfer process, providing clear guidelines and communication to students.

- The academic committee ensures accountability in evaluating credits and enforcing the defined criteria, maintaining the integrity of LBU's academic standards.

Academic Credit Bank

The concept of an Academic Credit Bank typically involves a system where students can accumulate academic credits over time, which can be transferred or applied towards different academic programs or qualifications within the university or even across different institutions. Here's how such a system will function at Lumbini Buddhist University:

Accumulation of Credits: Students earn credits by successfully completing courses or academic activities. These credits could be based on factors such as the number of hours spent on coursework, the complexity of the material, or the level of mastery demonstrated.

Credit Transferability: Credits earned by students are stored in their academic credit bank account. These credits can then be transferred between different programs or departments within the university, allowing students flexibility in designing their academic paths.

Recognition of Prior Learning: The system may also recognize prior learning experiences, such as work experience, military service, or self-directed study, by granting academic credits for relevant knowledge and skills acquired outside the traditional classroom setting.

Credit Conversion: There might be a mechanism for converting credits earned from one academic program or institution to another. This could involve assessing the equivalency of courses or modules and determining the appropriate credit transfer.

Flexible Degree Pathways: An Academic Credit Bank promotes flexibility in degree pathways, allowing students to customize their educational journey according to their interests, career goals, and prior learning experiences.

Quality Assurance: There would likely be quality assurance mechanisms in place to ensure that transferred credits meet the academic standards of the receiving program or institution. This could

involve assessment of learning outcomes, alignment with curriculum standards, and verification of credentials.

Transparent Documentation: The system should maintain transparent documentation of students' credit records, detailing the courses completed, the credits earned, and any transfer or conversion processes undertaken. This documentation facilitates academic advising and ensures transparency and accountability in credit management.

Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation: Regular monitoring and evaluation of the Academic Credit Bank system would be necessary to identify areas for improvement, address challenges, and ensure that the system remains responsive to the evolving needs of students and the academic community.

Implementing an Academic Credit Bank at Lumbini Buddhist University could potentially enhance the educational experience for students, promote lifelong learning, and facilitate greater mobility and flexibility within the university's academic programs. However, specific details and policies would need to be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation and operation of such a system.

Documents Archive/Gallery

The Documents Archive at Lumbini Buddhist University will serve as a centralized repository for storing academic documents and other pertinent records of students, faculty, staff, and the university itself. It aims to preserve and provide access to valuable documents related to academic achievements, research outputs, administrative records, and historical artifacts.

The archive will collect a diverse range of documents, including:

- Academic transcripts, diplomas, and certificates
- Research papers, theses, and dissertations
- Administrative records such as meeting minutes, policies, and reports
- Personal documents of historical or cultural significance
- Artifacts related to the university's history and heritage**.**

Showcasing, Digitalization and Preservation: Lumbini Buddhist University will develop the documents showcasing centre at Central Library of Lumbini Buddhist University. This centre will develop a detailed functional guideline for its operation. Furthermore, documents will be digitized to ensure long-term preservation and accessibility. High-quality scanning equipment and archival-grade storage systems will be employed to digitize and store physical documents securely.

Access and Permissions: The archive will provide controlled access to authorized users, including students, faculty, researchers, and external stakeholders. Access permissions will be determined based on the sensitivity and confidentiality of the documents. Online portals and search functionalities will facilitate easy retrieval of documents while maintaining data security and privacy.

Showcasing and Exhibition: The Documents Archive will feature a dedicated exhibition space within Lumbini Buddhist University to showcase selected documents, artifacts, and historical materials of significance. Rotating exhibits and thematic displays will highlight the university's academic achievements, cultural heritage, and contributions to scholarship and community development.

Educational and Research Opportunities: The archive will serve as a resource for academic research, teaching, and learning. Students and scholars will have access to primary source materials for conducting research projects, exploring historical trends, and deepening their understanding of Buddhist philosophy, culture, and education.

Collaboration and Partnerships: The Documents Archive will collaborate with other institutions, archives, and cultural organizations to enhance its collections, share resources, and promote best practices in archival management. Partnerships with digital libraries, museums, and academic networks will expand access to documents and foster interdisciplinary collaboration.

Community Outreach and Public Engagement

Community outreach and public engagement refers to Lumbini Buddhist University's mission to serve the people of Nepal and the global learning community by providing quality higher education. This Goal refers to the proactive involvement of faculty, staff and students in a way that will positively impact the world outside the university, from the local to global communities. It subsumes a wide array of disparate programs and activities, formal and informal, in which university members make meaningful contributions to local, societal, and global issues (e.g., problems of environmental sustainability, health, and poverty), from participating in public discourse to pursuing applied research activities.

Tripitak Park in Kapilbastu

Establishing a Tripitak Park in Kapilbastu, Nepal, as part of the expansion objectives of Lumbini Buddhist University, involves several management strategies to ensure its success. Potential management strategies are:

1. Project Planning and Execution: The project requires meticulous planning to define objectives, scope, timelines, and resource allocation. Clear project management methodologies will be employed to ensure smooth execution from inception to operations.

2. Stakeholder Engagement: Engaging relevant stakeholders such as local communities, government authorities, scholars, and religious leaders is crucial. Their involvement ensures alignment with local interests, regulatory compliance, and support for the project.

4. Cultural Sensitivity: Given the religious and cultural significance of the Tripitaka Park, sensitivity to local customs, traditions, and beliefs is paramount. Cultural experts and community representatives will be consulted to ensure the project respects and preserves the heritage of the region.

5. Environmental Conservation: Implementing sustainable practices to minimize environmental impact is necessary. This involves considerations such as eco-friendly construction materials, waste management, landscaping with native flora, and energy-efficient infrastructure.

6. Infrastructure Development: Designing and constructing appropriate infrastructure within the park, including libraries, exhibition halls, meditation centers, and recreational spaces, requires careful planning and architectural expertise.

7. Educational Programs: Developing educational programs and initiatives to promote Buddhist teachings, philosophy, and literature is integral. Collaborating with educational institutions, scholars, and practitioners will enrich the learning experience for visitors.

8. Tourism Management: Managing tourism influx effectively to ensure a positive visitor experience while preserving the sanctity of the site is crucial. This involves implementing crowd control measures, visitor facilities, interpretation services, and heritage conservation initiatives.

10. Promotion and Marketing: Developing promotional campaigns and marketing strategies to raise awareness and attract visitors locally and internationally is essential. Utilizing various channels such as digital media, tourism agencies, and cultural events can help promote the Tripitaka Park effectively.

By implementing these management strategies, Lumbini Buddhist University will successfully establish and manage the Tripitak Park at Kapilbastu, Nepal, fulfilling its expansion objectives while preserving and promoting Buddhist heritage and teachings.

International Initiative and Cooperation

The global landscape of education is increasingly emphasizing the importance of international experiences for students. For Lumbini Buddhist University fostering international cooperation and providing opportunities for students and faculty to engage with diverse cultures can significantly enrich their educational journey. Some steps for internationalization:

Establishing International Partnerships

- Identify and establish partnerships with renowned universities and institutions worldwide, focusing on regions with strong academic programs relevant to LBU's fields of study.

- Facilitate agreements for student exchange programs, joint research projects, faculty collaboration, and cultural initiatives.

- Develop a structured framework for partnership management, including regular communication channels, joint planning, and evaluation mechanisms.

Integration of International Curriculum

- Introduce courses or modules within existing programs that incorporate international perspectives, cross-cultural communication, and global business practices.

- Encourage faculty members to integrate case studies, guest lectures, and projects with an international focus into their teaching.

- Offer language courses or proficiency programs to enhance students' ability to engage effectively in a multicultural environment.

Student Exchange Programs

- Develop a range of exchange programs that allow students to study abroad for a semester or academic year at partner institutions.

- Provide support services for outgoing and incoming exchange students, including pre-departure orientation, academic advising, cultural immersion activities, and assistance with visa and accommodation arrangements.

- Establish mechanisms for credit transfer and academic recognition to ensure seamless integration of coursework completed during exchange programs into students' degree requirements.

Internship Opportunities

- Forge partnerships with multinational corporations, international organizations, and NGOs to provide internship opportunities for LBU students.

- Designate a dedicated office or coordinator to facilitate internship placements, mentorship, and evaluation processes.

- Offer workshops and training sessions to prepare students for international internships, focusing on cross-cultural communication, professional etiquette, and intercultural competence.

Faculty Mobility and Collaboration

- Encourage faculty members to participate in international conferences, workshops, and research collaborations to foster professional networks and exchange expertise.

- Establish funding mechanisms or grants to support faculty mobility for teaching or research purposes.

- Facilitate joint research projects and publications with international partners, leveraging complementary strengths and resources.

Promoting Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity

- Organize cultural events, workshops, and seminars on campus to celebrate diversity, promote intercultural dialogue, and raise awareness of global issues.

- Incorporate cultural sensitivity training into orientation programs for incoming international students and faculty.

- Encourage student-led initiatives such as multicultural clubs, language exchange programs, and community service projects to foster cross-cultural understanding and friendship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Implement regular assessments and feedback mechanisms to evaluate the effectiveness of internationalization initiatives and partnerships.

- Collect data on student participation rates, satisfaction levels, academic outcomes, and career trajectories following international experiences.

- Use findings from evaluations to inform continuous improvement and strategic planning efforts, adjusting strategies and priorities as needed to maximize impact.

Through strategic partnerships, innovative programs, and a commitment to cultural diversity, LBU can position itself as a leader in global education and contribute to the overall welfare of its academic faculty and students.

Enhancement of the University Experience for Students

Fostering the holistic development of students is a precondition for academic and life success. Thus, it requires to create and sustain a learning environment that is supportive of the overall development of student's personality and competencies, and nurture intellectual growth and commitment to responsibility and service.

The University will heavily invest in the coming years to promote a student living learning environment and to provide a various range of educational and co-curricular activities taking place outside the formal classroom-education.

University Growth and Infrastructures

This goal area refers to the processes and structures underlying the management, monitoring and allocation of important resources, which are crucial for the fulfilment of the University's Mission. These domains are enabling conditions for achieving academic excellence and goals, and decisive for generating resources directed to the implementation of the University's priorities. This Goal focuses on establishing a sound organizational structure and a rigorous, but flexible, management and administrative system that may promote and support academic excellence.

University Finance and Infrastructure

The area of the University's endowment, financial welfare and infrastructure is very crucial for the future growth and expansion of Lumbini Buddhist University. Given the ambitious aspirations of the University, the capacity to generate and preserve the resources necessary for the implementation of its objectives, as well as the adaptability and efficiency of organizational stewardship, will be fundamental over the next years.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF LBU

Since its inception, in a short time span, Lumbini Buddhist University has been able to meet several targets and accomplish outstanding achievements in a number of areas, thanks to the joint efforts and extraordinary dedication of its community members, various stakeholders, and social actors.

Academic Area

I. Established various academic programs under Buddhist Studies.
II. Designed, developed, and launched innovative academic programs in various disciplines, both at the graduate and undergraduate levels, following a semester system.
III. Established Faculty of Humanities and Social Science
IV. Established faculty of Development Studies and Applied Science

University Organization and Administration

I. Established the overall organizational, administrative and managerial structure of the University;
II. Formed major institutional decision-making bodies, constitution of thematic task forces, committees responsible for the development of policies and programs of the University.
III. Appointed institutional and academic leaders.
IV. Set up and operated various administrative offices, centers, and directorates.
V. Incorporated faculty and staff members into the LBU structure, recruit academic and teaching faculty, hire and train technical and support staff.
VI. Prepared clear and detailed University Rules and Regulations for faculty, students and staff.

Community Outreach and International Cooperation

I. Established outreach activities with community-based organizations, created links with stakeholders of industry and business fields, and started cooperation with small and medium enterprises.

II.   Conducted consultations with renowned universities and higher education institutions at national, regional, and international level aiming to pursue collaborative teaching, research and mobility.

University Growth and Infrastructures

I.   Renovation and rehabilitation work of existent estates and buildings, ongoing equipment of the campus with necessary facilities.
II.   Established the University Central Office in Lumbini
III. Established Boys' and Girls' Hostel in Lumbini
IV.   Established teachers and staff quarter in Lumbini
V.   Established Central Library in Lumbini
VI.   Established its campuses in Butwal and Devdaha.
VII. Established a modern Central office in Lumbini (Premises of Lumbini Development Trust)

Achievements mentioned above are highly significant, Lumbini Buddhist University remains committed to continue enhancing and further developing the campus at all levels and expanding its academic offer of undergraduate and graduate programs.

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AND MILESTONES

20 SHRAWAN 2062 TO 19 SHRAWAN 2066

During this period, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Tulsiram Baiddha and Registrar Kedar Shakya and Khadgaman Shrestha were the leading officials in the university.

Academic Concept

In the first phase of this period, the university aimed to create five departments: Theravada Buddhism Department, Mahayana Buddhism Department, Vajrayana Buddhism Department, History Department, Sanskrit Archaeology Department, Scripts Department, Language and Literature Department, and Department of Buddhism. Tulsiram Baidhy's Concept Paper was presented in the Debadah Rupandehi on 11th of Shrawan 2064.

Similarly, in the second phase, University aimed to conduct activities through the Faculty of Philosophy and Humanities and Social Sciences. The aim was to have a Theravada Buddhism Department, Mahayana Buddhism Department, and Vajrayana Buddhism Department under the Faculty of Religious Philosophy. Similarly, within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Department of History, Culture, Department of Archaeology, Department of Politics, Department of Economics, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Department of Buddhism, Department of Language and Literature, Department of Buddhism, Department of Language and Literature were aimed to establish.

In this period, the main aim was to develop the university as an international-level residential university.

The Major Achievement

At this time, apart from appointing limited staff to open the liaison office of the university and

appointing Mr. Indra Kafle as a teacher in Lumbini, it was supposed to conduct remarkable progress in implementing the programmatically mentioned subjects during this period.

During this period, the university established a liaison office in Bhairahawa.

27TH FALGUN 2066 TO 26TH FALGUN 2070

During this period, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Triratna Manandhar and Registrar Khadgaman Shrestha for the first year and Registrar Pitambar Lal Yadav for the last three years were the prominent officials of the university.

During that period, the university conducted a degree-based educational program, focusing mainly on the undergraduate level. Consequently, the university's academic efforts were primarily geared toward undergraduates. In this timeframe, it was deemed appropriate to initiate the educational program at the undergraduate level and gradually extend it to post-graduate and other levels. The objective was the production of academic professionals through the initial educational program, commencing at the undergraduate tier and progressing to post-graduate and advanced levels.

In this period, alongside three significant fields of Buddhist studies at the postgraduate level, the university opted to introduce five additional degree-based subjects. These included Mahayana Buddhist studies, Theravada Buddhist studies, Himalayan Buddhist studies, and Peace and Buddhist studies. Private and public colleges expressed interest in adopting these programs offered by Lumbini Buddhist University. Religious organizations had to navigate the relationship between religion and language during this phase. While they did not explicitly mention religion, it was natural for religious adherents to hold such aspirations. Moreover, they sought to incorporate the traditional educational system into the university's framework and its mode of instruction. This posed a challenge during this period. Despite this, the university aimed to adhere to the historical standards of modern universities and even accommodate the traditional Buddhist education system, including establishing regulations tailored to it. The intention was to honor the long-standing presence of Buddhism in Nepal by designing separate curricula and examinations for traditional Buddhist education.

The Bhot language, frequently employed in the local educational system, seems eager to be incorporated into the mainstream of university education by the Mahayana sect, a long-standing and active tradition in Nepal's Himalayan region. The university prepared the syllabus following this. Although the course had several advantages, Tibetan was the language of instruction and exams. The requirement that teaching and examination languages in other disciplines must be either English or Nepali, while reasonable for language-related issues, could have hindered growth. The university built academic and administrative buildings on the Lumbini campus todeliver classes at various levels throughout this time.

Major Achievements

The first senate meeting during this tenure was completed in Shrawan 2067. In terms of policymaking, this meeting was fruitful. In the year 2067, Buddhist studies under Mahayana a at Sugat Buddhist College in Lalitpur, Practical Buddhist studies at Lotus Academic College in Lalitpur, Theravada Buddhist studies at Theravada Buddhist Academy in Baneshwar, Himalayan Buddhist studies at Lumbini College of Buddhism and Himalayan Studies in Chawahil, Kathmandu and Buddhist-based studies were initiated. The teaching work of the master 's-level Buddhist studies program on peace and Buddhist studies was commenced at the Bauddha Multiple campus.

The first meeting of the University senate was completed on 14th Ashad 2067, after the rules were passed. In 2070, postgraduate-level classes were conducted at a engineering campus through affiliation.

During this tenure, only two scholars graduated. Undergraduate and postgraduate-level educational programs were conducted, and academic relations with foreign universities, including Japan and India, were established and expanded. Permanent appointments were made for six teachers and 11 employees who were members of the Theravada Buddhist Organization. Cooperation with Buddhist organizations such as *Dharmodaya Sabha* was achieved, and the construction of the academic building was completed. Additionally, the structure of the administrative building in Lumbini, which had two *bighas* of land at the Parsa intersection of Lumbini, was initiated. The achievements of this period were significant during the four years at Lumbini Buddhist University.

FROM 2071 KARTIK 15 TO 2074 KARTIK 16.

During that period, the focal authority at the university was Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nareshman Bajracharya, and Pitambar Lal Yadab served as the registrar for the first year, followed by Dr. Tilak Acharya for the last three years.

Academic Concept

During that time, the university established the Academic Master Plan Drafting Committee, known as the " Master Plan Drafting Committee." The proposals for establishing and revising degrees were approved during the sixth and seventh assemblies of the university, based on the bill formulated by the drafting committee. According to this master plan, 12 academic departments were scheduled to be established at Lumbini Buddhist University:

    I.   Department of Theravada Buddhism

   II.   Department of Mahayana Buddhism

  III.   Department of Vajrayana Buddhism

  IV.   Department of Buddhist History

   V.   Department of Buddhism of Nepal Mandala

VI. Department of Buddhist Art and Architecture

VII. Department of Buddhism and Himalayan Studies

VIII. Department of Buddhism and Tradition in East and West

IX. Department of Traditional Buddhist and Other Health Care System

X. Department of Archaeology and Museology

XI. Department of Applied Buddhism

XII. Department of General Subjects

These educational programs were initially conducted through affiliated campuses, with plans to establish separate campuses and continue teaching and learning activities.

Division of Educational Programs

During that period, the educational programs were categorized into three sections: Core Buddhist Subjects, New Buddhist Subjects, and General Subjects.

Core Buddhist Subjects

Within this framework, teachings encompassed Sanskrit, Pali, Chinese, and Tibetan languages and ancient Buddhist study methods. Instructions on Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana Buddhism were provided to local and foreign Buddhist monks/nuns, followers, and other interested individuals within the community.

New Buddhist Subjects

Subjects related to Buddhist studies, such as history, philosophy, scriptures, literature, art, architecture, culture, and tradition, were taught. The aim was to broaden the influence of Buddhist philosophy in social, educational, and cultural contexts, including the establishment of the modern Buddhist campaign.

General Subjects

This category aimed to teach professional and technical subjects to complement fundamental Buddhist education. The goal was to organize general education programs by affiliating with various colleges and educational institutions and raising necessary financial resources for Lumbini Buddhist University.

Initiative to Amend the Law

During that time, an initiative was undertaken to amend the university's law. The goal was to eliminate the term "community level" from the law. This term had been included and excluded at different points in the law's history. The amendment aimed to promote peace, brotherhood, friendship, and harmony by embracing and following the teachings of Lord Gautama Buddha by incorporating government to the University. It also involved updating the wording to include cultural activities and subjects while removing the reference to the "community-level" act.

Major Achievements

I.   The university had successfully integrated technical, vocational, and general education through engineering and professional management education under Applied Buddhism.

II. Noteworthy educational achievements during this tenure included master's level archaeology and museology programs in Kathmandu, a bachelor's level program in travel and tourism management in Butwal, and the establishment of other regular program offerings.

Physical Infrastructure Accomplishments

I.   One of the significant physical achievements was the acquisition of four *Bighas* of land in Khadaiya from the Lumbini Development Trust, facilitated by the Government of Nepal.

II. Key infrastructure achievements included commencing the construction of dormitories, teachers' residences, and authorities' residences, as well as progress on the establishment of the office.

Human Resources

From a human resources perspective, this tenure saw little progress. Limited advancements were made, primarily promoting a few contract teachers and administrative staffs.

Economic Perspective

The financial situation during this period took some work as the university grew and faced limited resources depending on the government.

Administrative Developments

During this period, the focus was on approving and implementing regulations related to educational administration rather than those concerning financial administration.

The First Convocation Ceremony and Office Transfer

The first convocation ceremony had taken place. Office transfer occurred, with the Liaison Office in Kathmandu relocated and regular operations commencing from the Central Office in Lumbini.

FROM 28TH, BAISAKH 2075, TO 27TH, BAISAKH 2079

During this later period, Prof. Dr. Hridaya Ratna Bajracharya and Dr. Tilak Ram Acharya served as the central authorities in the university.

Educational Concept

The educational programs were categorized into Core Buddhism, Social Obligation, and International Cooperation.

Major Achievements

I.   The School of Development Studies and Applied Science was successfully established.

II.   Operations of the BA LLB program was initiated.

Infrastructure Developments

Lumbini Buddhist University (LBU) made remarkable strides in enhancing its academic infrastructure and reach. Establishing a Central Library Building and Research Centre is an achievement to LBU's commitment to fostering a learning and research excellence culture.

Furthermore, LBU's visionary expansion led to establishment of a new college named "City Campus" in Nayagaun, Butwal. This strategic move increased the university's geographic footprint and extended its academic offerings and accessibility to a broader student base. Lumbini Buddhist University demonstrated its dedication to providing a holistic and enriching educational experience by consistently innovating and investing in its physical and educational infrastructure.

Human Resources

During this tenure, Lumbini Buddhist University's Human Resource Management played a pivotal role in the efficient functioning of the institution by overseeing various essential tasks. The department successfully executed the recruitment and promotion processes for permanent and contracted human resources, teaching, and administrative officials. Through meticulous planning and rigorous evaluation, the Human Resource team identified and brought in skilled individuals who possessed the necessary qualifications and aligned with the university's values and vision.

Economic Aspect

Lumbini Buddhist University (LBU) demonstrated strategic foresight by forging valuable collaborations with stakeholders such as the Grants Commission, Central and Provincial Governments, and international organizations. These partnerships were instrumental in addressing and enhancing the university's financial landscape. By working closely with the Grants Commission, LBU secured vital funding that empowered the institution to expand its academic programs, infrastructure, and research initiatives. Additionally, through synergistic efforts with governmental bodies at both central and provincial levels, LBU could access crucial financial support that enabled the university to pursue its mission of providing quality education and fostering academic excellence. Furthermore, by engaging with international organizations, LBU diversified its funding sources and gained access to global best practices and innovative financial strategies, bolstering its overall financial sustainability. Through these collaborative efforts, Lumbini Buddhist University solidified its position as a premier educational institution with a solid and secure financial foundation.

Structural Developments

Research Centre

Lumbini Buddhist University (LBU) displayed a commitment to intellectual advancement and scholarly exploration by establishing a dedicated research center. This center is a hub for rigorous academic inquiry, particularly in Buddhist Philosophy, and various multidisciplinary research endeavours. By providing a platform for scholars, researchers, and students to enter deep into Buddhist thought and its intersections with diverse fields, LBU's research center fostered a fertile ground for the creation of new knowledge and insights. This initiative enriched the university's academic community and contributed significantly to the broader academic landscape. Through the pursuit of scholarly excellence and the facilitation of interdisciplinary dialogues, Lumbini Buddhist University's research centre plays a pivotal role in advancing the understanding and appreciation of Buddhist philosophy and its relevance in contemporary contexts.

International Relations Centres

Lumbini Buddhist University (LBU) took a significant step toward global engagement and academic collaboration by establishing an International Relations Centre. LBU actively reaches out to national and international academic communities through this initiative to enhance international connectivity and foster scholarly exchanges. By engaging in research activities, facilitating fellowship programs, establishing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), and promoting student and faculty exchanges, LBU's International Relations Centre plays a pivotal role in creating a dynamic and inclusive academic environment. This initiative broadened the university's global footprint and enriched the learning experience for its students and faculty by exposing them to diverse perspectives and fostering cross-cultural understanding.

Administrative Aspects

The second convocation ceremony occurred during this period, and administrative functions were efficiently managed. Initiatives involving information technology and publication were also undertaken. Third cohort of permanent administrative and academic human resources are hired recently by Falgun 2080.

EXPANSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS OF LUMBINI BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY

LUMBINI BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY IN LUMBINI NEPAL

Faculty of Philosophy and Religion

School of Core Buddhism
- Thervada
- Mahayan
- Vajrayan
- Himalayan Studies
- Monastery Studies
- Buddhist Studies
- Thervad Monastic Education
- Chinese Buddhist Philosophy
- Buddhist History

School of Applied Buddhism
- Practical and Applied Buddhism
- Buddhist Sociology and Ethics
- Buddhist Communication and Management
- Buddhism and Everyday Life
- Buddhist Meditation
- Canonical Studies and Proactivism
- Buddhism And Yogic Science
- Buddhism and Sustainable Development Management
- Buddhism And Civilization
- Buddhism and Social Works
- Education and Mindfullness

School of Religion and Philosophy
- Comparative Religion
- Eastern Philosophy
- Western Philosophy
- Comparative Religious and Philosophical Studies
- Buddhist Philosophy and Politics
- Governance and Philosophy
- Society and Religion
- Buddhist Teaching Methodology
- Archeology and Contemporary Planning

School of Language and Literature
- Chinese Language and Literature
- Urdu Language and Literature
- Japanese Language and Literature
- Korean Language and Literature
- Thai Language and Literature
- English Language and Literature

School of Archeology
- Archeology
- Museology
- Archeology and Museology
- Culture and Heritage Cinservation

School of Fine Art and Culture
- Thanka
- Handicraft
- Buddhist Culture
- Music
- Traditional Nepalese Arts
- Museology and Buddhist Collection

School of Canonical Studies
- Sanskrit Language and Literature
- Pali Language and Literarture
- Bhot Language and Literature

Summer School
- 1.Buddhist Philosophy and Meditation
- 1.Buddhist Art and Culture Workshop
- 1.Pali Language Intensive
- 1.Comparative Buddhist Studies
- 1.Buddhist Ethics and Social Engagement
- 1.Mindfulness and Meditation Retreat
- 1.Buddhist History and Heritage
- 1.Interfaith Dialogue and Philosophy
- 1.Buddhist Psychology and Mental Health
- 1.Buddhist Environmental Ethics and Sustainable Development Practices

INTRODUCTION

Lumbini Buddhist University, in Lumbini, aims to develop an in-depth academic plan to enhance the quality and relevance of education in Buddhist studies. This plan focuses on the existing program in Buddhist studies and proposes the development of prospective programs in Buddhism, religion, and philosophy. The objective is to establish the university as a global center of excellence for Buddhist education, religious philosophy, and research.

Lumbini Buddhist University Central Campus Lumbini aspires to become a globally recognized center of excellence for Buddhist education and research, fostering the propagation of Buddhist principles and practices.

PHILOSOPHICAL AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Buddhist Philosophy as Core Wisdom

➢ Embrace the teachings of Buddha as a guiding light for personal transformation, ethical conduct, and spiritual growth.

➢ Integrate Buddhist principles into every facet of campus life, fostering an atmosphere of mindfulness, compassion, and wisdom.

Cultural Preservation and Reverence

➢ Celebrate and preserve the rich cultural heritage of the region and the broader Buddhist tradition.

➢ Organize events, workshops, and activities that showcase and honor the diverse cultural expressions associated with Buddhism.

Art as Expression and Inspiration

➢ Recognize the profound role of art in conveying spiritual insights and emotions.

➢ Encourage artistic endeavors that reflect the depth and beauty of Buddhist teachings, fostering creativity and contemplation.

Holistic Core Buddhism Education

➢ Offer comprehensive courses in core Buddhist philosophy, history, and scriptures to deepen students' understanding of the tradition.

➢ Facilitate philosophical debates, discussions, and contemplative practices that enrich students' connection to the teachings.

Applied Buddhism for Practical Wisdom

➢ Integrate Buddhism into real-life contexts, addressing contemporary challenges with insights from the tradition.

➢ Foster a curriculum that applies Buddhist ethics, mindfulness, and problem-solving to personal, social, and global issues.

Ethical Conduct and Mindful Living

➢ Instill ethical values derived from Buddhist principles, nurturing a community that upholds integrity, kindness, and responsibility.

➢ Promote mindfulness practices that empower individuals to cultivate self-awareness and make conscious choices.

Interdisciplinary Learning and Integration

➢ Foster interdisciplinary collaboration among faculties and students, blending Buddhist thought with diverse academic disciplines.

➢ Encourage cross-pollination of ideas to enrich the understanding of Buddhism and the broader educational experience.

Global Vision, Local Impact

➢ Encourage a global perspective that transcends borders, while grounding education in the local context and culture.

➢ Empower students to engage with global challenges while contributing positively to their local communities.

By embodying these philosophical and guiding values, the Lumbini Buddhist University in Lumbini can create an enriching educational environment that not only imparts knowledge but also nurtures a deeper understanding of Buddhist philosophy, culture, and their practical applications in the modern world.

LONG-TERM VISION OF LUMBINI BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY, IN LUMBINI

The development of Lumbini Buddhist University in Lumbini, Nepal, as a center of academic excellence for the study of religion and philosophy, is a significant initiative that aims to promote the study and understanding of these fields, with a particular focus on Buddhist studies in its first phase.

First Phase: Focus on Buddhist Studies

Establishment of Core Academic Programs: Lumbini Buddhist University would start by establishing core academic programs dedicated to Buddhist studies. This could include undergraduate and postgraduate courses, research centers, and academic departments focused on various aspects of Buddhism, such as history, philosophy, art, and culture.

Attracting Expert Faculty: The university would need to attract renowned scholars and experts in Buddhist studies to serve as faculty members and researchers. This would help ensure the high quality of education and research offered by the institution.

Research and Publication: The university should encourage research activities and publications related to Buddhist studies. This could involve collaborations with other institutions, both national and international, to promote academic exchange and collaboration.

Infrastructure Development: Developing a state-of-the-art campus with libraries, research facilities, and conference centers would be essential to create an environment conducive to academic excellence.

Promotion of Lumbini as a Global Attraction: In parallel, efforts should be made to promote Lumbini itself as a global attraction for Buddhist studies. This can include cultural events, conferences, and international partnerships that draw scholars and students from around the world.

Second Phase: Expansion to Religious and Philosophical Studies

*Curriculum Diversification***:** In the second phase, Lumbini Buddhist University can gradually expand its academic offerings to include religious studies and philosophical studies beyond Buddhism. This could involve the introduction of programs, schools, and departments dedicated to the study of various world religions and philosophical traditions.

Interdisciplinary Approach: Encouraging an interdisciplinary approach to religious and philosophical studies can foster a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of these fields and promote academic excellence.

International Collaboration: Building partnerships with universities and institutions specializing in religious and philosophical studies globally can help expand the scope and influence of Lumbini Buddhist University.

Research Centers: Establishing research centers for religious and philosophical studies can facilitate advanced research and promote academic excellence in these fields.

Outreach and Cultural Exchange: Organizing conferences, seminars, and cultural exchange programs can further enhance the university's reputation and contribute to its goal of becoming a global center for the study of religion and philosophy.

Overall, the development of Lumbini Buddhist University as a center of academic excellence for the study of religion and philosophy is a commendable initiative that can benefit scholars and students and contribute to the promotion of cultural understanding and global peace. It would require careful planning, financial support, and sustained commitment from all stakeholders involved.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND PHASE OF ITS EXPANSION

The academic programs proposed for the first and second phases of expansion at Lumbini Buddhist University encompass a wide range of disciplines related to Buddhism and other academic fields. Here's an explanation of each of the programs and their significance:

FIRST PHASE

School of Core Buddhism

These programs are designed to deepen the understanding of Buddhism's fundamental principles, doctrines, and philosophies. It covers key areas like Buddhist scriptures, history, philosophy, meditation, and ethics. The primary aim is to enable students to develop a profound knowledge and appreciation for Buddhism. Here are the specific areas of focus:

School of Applied Buddhism

These programs focus on the practical applications of Buddhist principles in various fields, allowing students to apply Buddhist teachings in real-world contexts. It covers areas such as Buddhist psychology, mindfulness-based interventions, Buddhist counseling, and more. Here are some areas of specialization.

SECOND PHASE

SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

These programs will offer the broader field of religion and philosophy, allowing students to gain a more comprehensive understanding of these subjects. The programs include:

1. **Comparative Religion:** Studying different world religions and their similarities and differences.
2. **Eastern Philosophy:** Exploring the philosophical traditions of Eastern cultures.
3. **Western Philosophy:** Focusing on Western philosophical thought.
4. **Comparative Religious and Philosophical Studies:** Combining the study of religion and philosophy to foster critical thinking.

SCHOOL OF CANONICAL STUDIES

This program is centered on the study of Buddhist canons and related languages and literature. It includes:

1. **Sanskrit Language and Literature**: Focusing on the ancient Sanskrit language and its literature.

2. **Pali Language and Literature:** The study of the language used in Theravada Buddhist scriptures.

3. **Bhot Language and Literature**: Concentrating on the Bhot language, often used in Himalayan regions.

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

These programs explore various languages and their respective literature.

They include languages such as:

1. **Chinese,**
2. **Urdu,**
3. **Japanese,**

4.   **Korean,**
5.   **Thai,**
6.   **and English**.

SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

This program is dedicated to the study of archaeological methods, cultural preservation, and museum studies.

1. **Archaeology**: Investigating archaeological sites and artifacts.

2. **Museology:** Focusing on the management and curation of museums.

3. **Archaeology and Museology**: Combining both disciplines to preserve and interpret cultural heritage.

SHORT-TERM/SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

These short-term programs are designed to provide focused and intensive learning experiences for students during the summer or other short periods.

1.   **Buddhist Philosophy and Meditation**
2.   **Buddhist Art and Culture Workshop**
3.   **Pali Language Intensive**
4.   **Comparative Buddhist Studies**
5.   **Buddhist Ethics and Social Engagement**
6.   **Mindfulness and Meditation Retreat**
7.   **Buddhist History and Heritage Tour**
8.   **Interfaith Dialogue and Philosophy**
9.   **Buddhist Psychology and Mental Health**
10. **Buddhist Environmental Ethics and Sustainable Practices**

RESEARCH CENTRE

Each faculty, including the Faculty of Buddhist Studies, envisions establishing a research center. These centers will promote research activities in their respective fields, encouraging scholars and students to engage in academic research, and contributing to the growth of knowledge in the domain of Buddhist studies.

EXISTING PROGRAM IN BUDDHIST STUDIES

Program Review

A comprehensive review of the existing program in Buddhist studies is essential. This review should encompass the curriculum, teaching methodologies, and learning outcomes. It will evaluate the program's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT analysis).

Curriculum Enhancement

A revision is necessary to ensure the curriculum aligns with contemporary developments in

Buddhist studies. The revised curriculum should address the needs of students and society while incorporating interdisciplinary approaches, critical thinking skills, and research components.

Faculty Development

Investing in faculty development programs is crucial to enhance teaching and research capabilities. Opportunities for faculty members to attend workshops, conferences, and training programs related to Buddhist studies should be facilitated. Encouraging faculty research and publication will contribute to the advancement of Buddhist studies.

Technology Integration

Integrating technology into the curriculum will enhance teaching and learning experiences. Establishing a dedicated e-learning platform, developing online resources, and encouraging the use of multimedia tools for interactive and engaging instruction are essential steps toward modernizing teaching methodologies.

Research Initiatives

Encouraging and supporting faculty research in Buddhist studies is vital. Establishing research grants, and collaborations with national and international institutions and research centers will facilitate academic and interdisciplinary research. These initiatives will contribute to growing and disseminating knowledge in Buddhist studies.

Student-Centered Learning

Adopting student-centered learning approaches is crucial to promote active engagement and practical application of knowledge. Incorporating experiential learning, group projects, case studies, and fieldwork will enable students to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills. These approaches should be applied in both existing and prospective programs.

International Collaborations

Establishing collaborations with renowned Buddhist institutions and universities worldwide will provide valuable opportunities for students and faculty. Student and faculty exchanges, joint research projects, and cross-cultural learning experiences will enhance the global exposure and reputation of Lumbini Buddhist University Central Campus Lumbini. These collaborations will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and ideas, contributing to the advancement of Buddhist studies.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCES

Library and Resource Center

Strengthening the library and resource center is essential to support the university's academic endeavors. A wide collection of books, journals, and digital resources related to Buddhist studies should be available. Access to online databases and digital libraries will enable faculty and students to conduct thorough research.

Research Facilities

Developing dedicated research facilities, including archives, will support faculty and student research activities in Buddhist studies. These facilities will provide the necessary resources and infrastructure for conducting experiments, preserving artifacts, and furthering academic research.

Technological Infrastructure

Upgrading and maintaining the technological infrastructure is crucial for effective teaching, research, and administrative processes. Ensuring well-equipped computer labs, multimedia facilities, and high-speed internet connectivity will enable seamless integration of technology into the teaching and learning environment.

Student Support Services

Enhancing student support services will contribute to student success and well-being. Academic advising, career counseling, mentorship programs, and scholarships should be established to support students throughout their educational journey. These services will foster a positive and supportive learning environment for students.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Buddhist Community Engagement

Collaborating with local Buddhist communities, monastic institutions, and temples is crucial to foster mutual learning and engagement. Organizing workshops, seminars, and public lectures will provide opportunities to disseminate knowledge and foster dialogue between the university and the Buddhist community.

Social Outreach

Applying Buddhist principles to address societal challenges and contribute to social development is a significant aspect of the university's mission. Engaging in community service initiatives, environmental conservation projects, and activities promoting peace, harmony, and ethical values will positively impact society.

Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning

Offering short-term courses, workshops, and seminars on Buddhist teachings and practices for the public, professionals, and enthusiasts is important for promoting lifelong learning. Developing online programs will provide a wider audience access to Buddhist education, enabling global reach and impact.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Establishing a system for ongoing monitoring and evaluation is essential to ensure the effective implementation of the academic plan. Regular assessment of the programs, teaching methodologies, research activities, and infrastructure development will provide valuable insights for continuous improvement. Incorporating student, faculty, and stakeholders' feedback will further strengthen the university's academic offerings.

LUMBINI BUDDHIST UNIVERSIRY IN BUTWAL

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Faculty of Laukik
Science (Contemporary
Studies)
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School of Humanities and Social Sciences	School of Law	School of Education and Development	School of Management	School of IInternational Affairs

Journalism	Gender Studies	Law	Education	Management	International Relations and Peace Studies
Political Science	Mass Communication	Law and Administration	Teaching Pedagogy	Business Administration	International Cooperation
Social Work	Geography	Internatioal Humanitiraian Law	Community Development and Education	International Business	Peace and Conflict Management
Population Studies	Economics	Constitution and Law	Teacher's Education	Travel and Tourism Management	International Cooperation and Development
Anthropology	History	Law and Practices	School Management	Hospitality	
Sociology	Rural Development	Corporate Law	Education Planning	Health Care Management	
Urban Planning	Public Policy	Criminal Law	Curriculum Development	Hospital Management	
Administrative Studies	Literature				
Welfare Studies					

INTRODUCTION

Lumbini Buddhist University, in Butwal, is committed to offering high-quality Humanities and Social Sciences education. The university currently offers programs in Bachelor's law and Bachelor's in Travel and Tourism Management, and Bachelor's in Rural Development and Master in International Relations and Peace Studies, which have already established a strong foundation.

(All the activities and programs under Lumbini Buddhist University are/will be guided by Buddhist Philosophy and Principles)

OBJECTIVES

Enhance the quality of existing programs in Bachelor's in Law and Bachelors in Travel and Tourism Management,

Focuses on reviewing and improving current programs' existing curriculum, pedagogy, and resources. The aim is to ensure that these programs are aligned with industry standards, incorporate best practices, and equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to excel in their respective fields.

This objective involves developing and implementing new programs that cater to the evolving needs of the job market and society. The university will establish curriculum committees comprising faculty members, industry professionals, and relevant stakeholders to design the curriculum, identify required resources, and establish partnerships with industry partners.

Foster interdisciplinary approaches and research in Humanities and Social Sciences: To encourage interdisciplinary approaches, the university will promote collaboration and exchange of ideas among different departments and faculties. This objective aims to break down silos and encourage students and faculty to explore connections between various disciplines, leading to innovative research and holistic problem-solving.

Promote collaboration with national and international institutions: Collaboration with other institutions at the national and international levels will provide valuable opportunities for faculty and students. The university will actively seek partnerships and exchange programs to enhance academic opportunities, promote research collaboration, and expose students to diverse perspectives and cultures.

Enhance the reputation and visibility of the university: This objective focuses on elevating the university's profile and reputation through research publications, participation in academic conferences, and engagement with the wider community. The university will encourage faculty members to publish their research in reputable journals and organize conferences and symposiums to showcase their expertise. Additionally, the university will actively engage in community outreach initiatives and contribute to local development.

PHILOSOPHICAL AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Integration of Buddhist Philosophy

➢ Embrace the core teachings of Buddhism, emphasizing compassion, mindfulness, ethical behaviour, and wisdom.
➢ Infuse Buddhist principles into the curriculum to nurture holistic development, inner harmony, and a strong sense of purpose among students.

Contemporary Values

➢ Cultivate a culture of respect, inclusivity, and open-mindedness, promoting dialogue and

understanding among diverse perspectives.

➢ Encourage critical thinking, creativity, and adaptability, fostering students' ability to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Alignment with Market Needs

➢ Regularly assess and analyse the local, regional, and global job markets to identify emerging trends and skill requirements.

➢ Develop programs that align with industry demands, ensuring graduates are equipped with relevant knowledge and skills that enhance employability.

Education Demand and Supply

➢ Identify gaps in the educational landscape and design programs that cater to unmet needs within the community and beyond.

➢ Maintain a flexible curriculum that can adapt to changing demands, while also providing foundational knowledge that stands the test of time.

Labor Market Needs and Fulfilment

➢ Establish strong ties with industries and employers to gain insights into their requirements and expectations.

➢ Provide students with practical experiences, internships, and hands-on projects that bridge the gap between academia and real-world employment.

Ethical and Social Responsibility

➢ Instill a sense of ethical responsibility and social awareness in students, encouraging them to contribute positively to society.

➢ Incorporate community engagement initiatives that allow students to apply their learning for the betterment of their surroundings.

Personal Growth and Well-being

➢ Prioritize the holistic development of students, emphasizing their mental, emotional, and physical well-being.

➢ Offer mindfulness and well-being programs that draw from both Buddhist teachings and modern psychological insights.

Research and Innovation

➢ Encourage faculty and students to engage in research and innovation that contributes to both academic knowledge and practical solutions.

➢ Support interdisciplinary collaborations that address complex challenges from multiple perspectives.

Lifelong Learning and Continuous Improvement

➢ Foster a culture of lifelong learning among students, faculty, and staff, enabling them to adapt to new knowledge and technologies.

➢ Continuously evaluate and improve the quality of education based on feedback, data, and evolving educational best practices.

Global Awareness and Local Relevance

➢ Promote an understanding of global issues and interconnectivity while also grounding education in the local context and culture.

➢ Offer opportunities for cultural exchange and international collaborations to broaden students' horizons.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Program Development:

i. Conduct a thorough curriculum review for the existing programs:

The curriculum review will involve assessing the relevance of courses, updating the content to incorporate emerging trends and technologies, and integrating practical components such as internships, fieldwork, and case studies. This process will ensure that students receive a comprehensive education that prepares them for their respective professions.

ii. Establish curriculum committees for new programs:

Curriculum committees consisting of experienced faculty members, industry experts, and relevant stakeholders will be formed for each new program. These committees will work collaboratively to design curricula that align with the latest industry requirements, incorporate practical components, and foster critical thinking and analytical skills.

iii. Integrate practical components into the curriculum:

Practical components such as internships, fieldwork, and case studies will be integrated into the curriculum to bridge the gap between theory and practice. This hands-on approach will allow students to apply their theoretical knowledge in real-world settings, develop essential skills, and gain industry exposure.

iv. Establish strong links with industry partners:

The university will actively collaborate with industry partners to ensure that the curriculum remains up-to-date and relevant. Industry professionals will be invited as guest lecturers, mentors, and advisors, providing students with insights into current industry practices and fostering connections for internships and employment opportunities.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

i. Encourage faculty members to engage in research and professional development:

The university will create a supportive environment that encourages faculty members to engage in research, attend conferences, and publish scholarly articles. The university will allocate funds for faculty research projects, conference travel, and professional development programs, enabling them to enhance their academic credentials and contribute to the body of knowledge in their respective fields.

ii. Support faculty members in pursuing advanced degrees and collaborative research:

To ensure the academic growth of faculty members, the university will provide financial support and study leave for those pursuing advanced degrees. Faculty members will also be encouraged to engage in collaborative research projects with other institutions, both nationally and internationally. These efforts will foster a culture of continuous learning and research excellence among the faculty.

iii. Establish a mentoring program for junior faculty members:

Recognizing the importance of nurturing junior faculty members, the university will implement a mentoring program. Senior faculty members will guide and support junior colleagues, helping them navigate their academic careers, develop their teaching, and research skills, and achieve professional milestones.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

i. Establish research centers or institutes within the university:

The university will establish research centers or institutes to promote interdisciplinary research and facilitate collaboration among faculty members. These centers will focus on specific areas of research excellence and serve as platforms for knowledge exchange, research collaboration, and grant acquisition.

ii. Encourage faculty and students to engage in research projects:

The university will actively encourage faculty members and students to engage in research projects that address societal challenges and contribute to knowledge advancement. Research grants, scholarships, and awards will be made available to support faculty and student research initiatives. Moreover, the university will organize research symposiums, where faculty and students can present their findings and receive feedback from peers and experts.

iii. Facilitate research collaborations with national and international institutions:

The university will foster research collaborations with other national and international universities, research institutions, and organizations. Collaboration opportunities may include joint research projects, exchange programs for faculty and students, and co-publishing research papers. These collaborations will enhance the university's research capacity and promote knowledge sharing on a global scale.

iv. Establish a peer-reviewed/indexed research journal:

A peer-reviewed research journal will be established to showcase the university's research output. This journal will provide a platform for faculty and students to publish their scholarly works and contribute to the academic community. The journal will uphold rigorous quality standards and ensure the dissemination of high-quality research.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS FOR BUTWAL

Some potential future programs that Lumbini Buddhist University in Butwal, under the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, could consider offering:

Furthermore, Lumbini Buddhist University in Butwal focuses on the establishment of specific programs in its first phase as per the market need and analysis:

- o Master of Laws (LLM) in International Law
- o Master of Laws (LLM)
- o Tourism and Hospitality Management
- o Business Administration in Tourism
- o International Relations and Peace Studies

THE PHASED APPROACH OF LUMBINI BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY IN BUTWAL AND ITS EMPHASIS ON ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

Phase 1: Promotion of Humanities and Social Sciences

In this initial phase, Lumbini Buddhist University is focusing on the promotion of studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences. This choice reflects the importance of establishing a strong foundation in liberal arts and social sciences. Here's a more detailed breakdown:

Humanities encompass disciplines like philosophy, literature, history, and languages. By emphasizing these subjects, the university aims to provide students with a deep understanding of human culture, history, and critical thinking skills. Social Sciences: Social sciences include fields such as sociology, anthropology, psychology, economics, and political science. These areas are vital for understanding human behavior, societal structures, and the economic and political dynamics of contemporary society.

During this phase, the university will develop undergraduate and postgraduate programs in these fields, which can serve as a foundation for students interested in these academic disciplines. The university will invest in faculty, research, and resources related to the humanities and social sciences to create a strong academic environment.

Phase 2: Expansion into Laukik Studies (Contemporary Market-Need Studies)

In the second phase of its development, Lumbini Buddhist University is planning to broaden its academic offerings to include *Laukik* Studies, which are designed to cater to contemporary market needs. This expansion is intended to diversify the university's curriculum to meet the demands of the job market and society. Here's a more detailed explanation of the academic programs and fields that will be introduced in this phase:

School of Humanities and Social Sciences:

Continuing from Phase 1, the university may develop more specialized programs within the humanities and social sciences that directly address market needs. These programs will focus on practical applications of academic knowledge and include courses such as:

1. **Journalism:** Preparing students for careers in the media industry, including journalism, reporting, and communication.
2. **Gender Studies:** Exploring issues related to gender, equality, and diversity in contemporary society.
3. **Political Science:** Providing education in political theory, government systems, and public policy analysis.
4. **Mass Communication**: Focusing on various forms of mass media and communication strategies.
5. **Social Work**: Preparing students for roles in social welfare, community development, and social service organizations.
6. **Geography:** Offering knowledge and skills related to the study of the Earth's physical and human geography.
7. **Population Studies:** Addressing demographic trends and population-related issues.

8. **Economics:** Providing an understanding of economic principles and their applications in the real world.

9. **Anthropology**: Exploring human culture, society, and behavior from a contemporary perspective.

10. **History**: Delving into historical events and their impact on the modern world.

11. **Sociology:** Analyzing society, social interactions, and social issues.

12. **Rural Development**: Focusing on strategies to improve rural communities and livelihoods.

13. **Urban Planning**: Addressing the challenges of urbanization and city development.

14. **Public Policy**: Studying the creation and implementation of public policies for societal improvement.

15. **Administrative Studies:** Preparing students for administrative and managerial roles in various organizations.

16. **Literature:** Exploring literary works and their relevance in today's world.

17. **Welfare Studies:** Focusing on social welfare systems and policies.

School of Law:

Legal studies programs will be introduced to prepare students for careers in the legal sector, including law, advocacy, and the judiciary. These programs may include:

1. **Law**: A comprehensive legal education program.

2. **Law and Administration**: Focusing on the intersection of law and administrative processes.

3. **International Humanitarian Law**: Exploring international laws related to armed conflicts and humanitarian issues.

4. **Constitution and Law**: Analyzing constitutional law and its practical implications.

5. **Law and Practices**: Preparing students for legal practice and procedure.

6. **Corporate Law:** Specializing in legal matters related to corporations and businesses.

7. **Criminal Law**: Focusing on the study of criminal justice and law enforcement.

School of Management:

Business and management programs will equip students with the skills required in the corporate world. These programs may include:

1. **Management**: Offering a general management education.

2. **Business Administration**: Covering various aspects of business administration and leadership.

3. **International Business**: Focusing on global business operations and international trade.

4. **Travel and Tourism Management:** Preparing students for careers in the tourism and hospitality industry.

5. **Hospitality:** Specializing in the hospitality and service sector.

6. **Health Care Management:** Addressing the unique challenges of healthcare administration.

7. **Hospital Management:** Focusing on the management of healthcare institutions.

School of Education and Development:

The education field will offer specialized courses catering to the evolving educational landscape. These programs may include:

1. **Education:** Offering a foundation in education theory and practice.
2. **Teaching Pedagogy:** Exploring effective teaching methods and strategies.
3. **Community Development and Education:** Focusing on education's role in community development.
4. **Teacher's Education:** Preparing individuals for teaching careers.
5. **School Management:** Addressing the administration and management of educational institutions.
6. **Education Planning:** Exploring strategies for educational program development and implementation.
7. **Curriculum Development:** Specializing in the creation and improvement of educational curricula.

School of International Affairs:

This school will focus on international relations and global issues. Programs may include:

1. **International Relations and Peace Studies**: Analyzing global diplomacy, international conflicts, and peacebuilding efforts.
2. **International Cooperation**: Exploring international collaborations and partnerships.
3. **Peace and Conflict Management**: Preparing students to address conflicts and promote peace.
4. **International Cooperation and Development:** Focusing on international development projects and strategies for progress in various regions.

This expansion into Laukik Studies will enable Lumbini Buddhist University to offer a more diverse and relevant range of academic programs to meet contemporary market needs and societal demands. Students will have the opportunity to gain practical skills and knowledge that can lead to meaningful careers in a variety of fields.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCES

i. Upgrade library resources:

The university will allocate funds to upgrade the library resources, ensuring access to relevant books, journals, and online databases in the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences/Contemporary Studies. The library will be equipped with the latest technology and resources to support research and provide an enriching learning environment for students and faculty.

ii. Provide necessary infrastructure and equipment:

The university will invest in state-of-the-art research laboratories and computer labs to facilitate research and practical learning. These facilities will be equipped with modern equipment, software, and tools required for conducting experiments, data analysis, and simulations. The university will also ensure that the campus facilities, including classrooms, seminar halls, and recreational spaces, are well-maintained and provide a comfortable and conducive learning environment for students and faculty.

iii. Technology-enabled learning:

Recognizing the importance of technology in education, the university will adopt and integrate innovative educational technologies and e-learning platforms. This will enhance the learning experience, facilitate access to educational resources, and promote digital literacy among students and faculty.

STUDENT SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT

i. Establish a counseling and career guidance center:

The university will establish a counseling and career guidance center to support students in their academic and personal growth. Trained counselors will be available to provide guidance, counseling, and support to students, addressing their academic, emotional, and career-related concerns.

ii. Organize co-curricular and extracurricular activities:

The university will organize a wide range of co-curricular and extracurricular activities such as seminars, workshops, conferences, and student clubs. These activities will provide opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills, engage in intellectual discourse, and explore their interests beyond the classroom. The university will also encourage student participation in national and international competitions, fostering their personal and professional development.

iii. Facilitate internship and placement opportunities:

The university will establish strong connections with industry partners and alumni networks to facilitate internships and placement opportunities for students. The university will actively engage with industry professionals to identify internships that align with the students' academic and career goals. Additionally, the university will organize job fairs and networking events to connect students with potential employers.

COLLABORATION AND OUTREACH

i. Establish partnerships and collaborations:

The university will actively seek partnerships and collaborations with national and international universities, research institutions, and industry organizations. These collaborations will facilitate faculty and student exchange programs, joint research projects, and sharing of academic resources and expertise.

ii. Organize conferences, symposiums, and workshops:

The university will organize conferences, symposiums, and workshops to foster intellectual exchange and promote academic dialogue. These events will provide a platform for scholars, researchers, and practitioners from various disciplines and institutions to share their research findings, exchange ideas, and collaborate on innovative projects.

iii. Engage with local communities through outreach programs:

The university will actively engage with local communities through outreach programs, social initiatives, and awareness campaigns. This will involve partnering with local organizations and community leaders to address pressing social issues, provide educational support, and contribute to the sustainable development of the region.

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The academic vision will be implemented in phases, with specific timelines and responsible individuals assigned for each objective and strategy. The university will establish a dedicated implementation committee to oversee the execution of the plan and ensure coordination among different departments and stakeholders. Regular monitoring and evaluation will be conducted to assess the progress, identify challenges, make necessary adjustments, and ensure the plan's successful implementation.

LUMBINI BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY IN DEVDAHA

Faculty of Professional Studies

School of Development Studies
- Development Studies
- Entrepreneurship
- Development Management
- Urban Planning

School of Health and Well Being
- Yogic Science
- Meditation
- Rehabilitation Studies
- Physiotherapy
- Buddhist Ayurvedic System Of Medicine
- Buddhist Ayurvedic Phychiatry And Counseling
- International Buddhist System Of Medicine
- Counselling Psychology
- Sports Science

School of Environmental Science and Agroforestry
- Agroforestry
- Agribusiness
- Community and Agricultural Sciences
- Foresty
- Environmental Science
- Ecology

School of Medical Sciences
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Dental Studies
- Community and Public Health
- Surgery

School of Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Hydropower Engineering
- Computer Engineeering
- Software Engineering
- Architect Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Automobiles Engineeeering
- Disaster and Risk Management
- Structural Engineering
- Buddhist Architecture Engineering
- Artificial Intelligence

School of Traditional Medicine
- Traditional Chinese Medicine
- Acupunture
- Ayurvedic Medicine
- Ayurvedic Nutrition and Lifestyle
- Herbal Medicine
- Naturopathic Medicine

School of Science and Technology
- Information Technology
- Communication Science
- Social Media Management
- E-Governance

LUMBINI BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY IN, DEVDAHA

(Buddhist Philosophy and Principles guide all the activities and programs under Lumbini Buddhist University)

INTRODUCTION

The School of Development Studies and Applied Sciences at Lumbini Buddhist University provides a comprehensive and transformative education in mindfulness, well-being, social awareness, agroforestry, and development studies. This plan outlines the objectives, goals, and strategies for the growth and development of academic programs in these areas.

GEOGRAPHICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Devdaha, a town situated in the Rupandehi District of Lumbini Province in Nepal, holds a profound geographical and historical significance, largely attributed to its close association with the life of Siddhartha Gautama, who later became renowned as Lord Buddha, the venerable founder of Buddhism.

One of the pivotal geographical aspects of Devdaha is its status as the birthplace of Queen Maya Devi, the mother of Siddhartha Gautama. According to legend, Queen Maya Devi gave birth to Prince Siddhartha while in route to her ancestral home in Devdaha. This unique birth narrative enhances the town's historical and cultural prominence within the broader context of Buddhism.

Devdaha is also intricately linked to Siddhartha Gautama's formative years. Following his birth in Lumbini, the young Siddhartha was brought to Devdaha, where he spent his early childhood and adolescence in the palace of his father, King Suddhodana. This phase of Siddhartha's life holds immense importance in comprehending the genesis of Buddhism and his transformative journey towards enlightenment.

The town boasts a collection of archaeological and religious sites, each bearing relevance to Buddha's life. Among these is the Mayadevi Temple, a venerated site where Queen Maya Devi is believed to have given birth. Similarly, the *Kakanada* Stupa is regarded as the location where Siddhartha Gautama severed his hair, symbolizing his renunciation of princely life.

Devdaha's position as a revered Buddhist pilgrimage destination stems from its historical ties to Buddha's early life. The town draws pilgrims from around the world who seek to pay their respects and garner spiritual insight at the diverse monuments and sites commemorating Buddha's formative experiences.

Moreover, Devdaha serves as a repository of cultural and historical heritage, upholding its role as a vital center for the preservation of Buddhist traditions and teachings. The town's deep-rooted association with Siddhartha Gautama's upbringing continues to resonate, making it an indispensable locale for the study and observance of Buddhism.

PHILOSOPHICAL AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The School of Applied Science and Development Studies at Lumbini Buddhist University operates under a profound amalgamation of Buddhist philosophy, contemporary values, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), embodying a visionary approach to education that transcends conventional boundaries. Rooted in the timeless wisdom of Buddhism, the school is guided by the principle of interconnectedness, recognizing the intrinsic link between personal development and societal well-being. The core tenets of Buddhist philosophy, such as compassion, mindfulness, and the pursuit of wisdom, serve as the bedrock for nurturing not only academic excellence but also

the holistic growth of everyone. This educational sanctuary places great emphasis on experiential learning, encouraging students to bridge theory and practice through meaningful engagement with real-world challenges.

Contemporary values further infuse the school's ethos, fostering an environment where inclusivity, diversity, and critical thinking flourish. Respect for all forms of life and a commitment to environmental stewardship resonate deeply with the Buddhist reverence for the interconnectedness of all existence. The curriculum seamlessly integrates the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to address pressing global challenges, from poverty and inequality to climate change and sustainable development.

The school's guiding principles reflect a holistic approach to education that transcends disciplinary silos. Guided by Buddhist principles, students and faculty are encouraged to cultivate ethical leadership, empathy, and social responsibility. These principles are deeply intertwined with the core values of the SDGs, promoting responsible consumption, environmental awareness, and the advancement of social justice. Instructors at the School of Applied Science and Development Studies not only impart academic knowledge but also serve as mentors, embodying the principles they teach. They guide students to explore the intersections of science, development, and spirituality, empowering them to find innovative solutions that align with the greater good.

The School of Applied Science and Development Studies at Lumbini Buddhist University stands as a testament to the harmonious coexistence of ancient wisdom, contemporary knowledge, and the global commitment encapsulated in the Sustainable Development Goals. It exemplifies an educational paradigm where students are not just recipients of information but active participants in their growth as well as the advancement of the global community. This unique synthesis of Buddhist philosophy, contemporary values, and the SDGs nurtures individuals who are not only intellectually adept but also compassionate, mindful, and committed to creating a more just, sustainable, and harmonious world.

LONG-TERM ACADEMIC FRAMEWORK FOR LUMBINI BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY IN DEVDAHA

Development of Lumbini Buddhist University in Devdaha, with a focus on the School of Development Studies and Applied Sciences in the first phase and the expansion into the Faculty of Professional Studies programs in the second phase, which includes the School of Environmental Science and Agroforestry together.

PHASE 1: SCHOOL OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES

In the first phase, Lumbini Buddhist University in Devdaha emphasizes the School of Development Studies and Applied Sciences. This phase is foundational and aims to provide a solid academic base in fields that are essential for addressing various societal and global challenges.

1. School of Development Studies and applied Sciences: Within this school, the university offers programs focused on understanding and promoting economic, social, and human development. This includes disciplines like economics, sociology, and anthropology, which examine the processes and challenges of development. Students may study issues such as poverty reduction, sustainable development, and international cooperation, preparing them for careers in policy analysis, international relations, social work, and development organizations.

This school is dedicated to practical, hands-on, and interdisciplinary programs that apply scientific

knowledge to real-world problems. It encompasses fields such as physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, computer science, and other applied sciences. Students in this school gain the skills and knowledge to contribute to technological innovation, research and development, and various industries.

PHASE 2: FACULTY OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

In this second phase of the university's expansion, the focus is on broadening its academic offerings through the establishment of the Faculty of Professional Studies. This faculty introduces a diverse range of specialized Schools, each of which offers programs catering to different aspects of professional and academic development.

School of Development Studies:

This school offers advanced studies in various aspects of development, providing students with opportunities to specialize in fields such as international development, sustainable development, urban planning, and social entrepreneurship.

Graduates from this school are equipped with the knowledge and skills required to contribute to policies and projects aimed at improving the well-being of communities and nations.

Programs:
- ➢ **Development Studies**
- ➢ **Entrepreneurship**
- ➢ **Development Management**
- ➢ **Urban Planning**

School of Health and Well-being:

This school focuses on programs related to healthcare, public health, medical sciences, and psychology.

Graduates have the potential to pursue careers in healthcare professions, medical research, or as counselors and therapists, all with the aim of enhancing the overall health and well-being of individuals and communities.

Programs:
- ➢ **Yogic Science**
- ➢ **Meditation**
- ➢ **Rehabilitation Studies**
- ➢ **Physiotherapy**
- ➢ **Buddhist Ayurvedic System of Medicine**
- ➢ **Buddhist Ayurvedic Psychiatry and Counseling**
- ➢ **International Buddhist System of Medicine**
- ➢ **Counseling Psychology**
- ➢ **Sports Science**

School of Environmental Science and Agroforestry:

This combined school provides comprehensive programs related to environmental science, agroforestry, and sustainable land use.

Students delve into topics like ecology, environmental management, and the integration of trees and crops in agriculture, preparing them for careers in conservation, environmental policy, land restoration, and sustainable agriculture.

Programs:

➢ **Agroforestry**

➢ **Agribusiness**

➢ **Community and Agricultural Sciences**

➢ **Forestry**

➢ **Environmental Science**

➢ **Ecology**

In addition to these schools, there are plans to introduce new programs in Engineering and Medical Sciences:

School of Engineering:

In response to the growing demand for engineering professionals, the university may offer engineering programs, which could encompass civil engineering, computer science, electrical engineering, and more.

Programs:

➢ **Civil Engineering**

➢ **Hydropower Engineering**

➢ **Computer Engineering**

➢ **Software Engineering**

➢ **Architect Engineering**

➢ **Mechanical Engineering**

➢ **Automobile Engineering**

➢ **Disaster and Risk Management**

➢ **Structural Engineering**

➢ **Buddhist Architecture Engineering**

Medical Sciences

To address the increasing healthcare demands, the university may introduce medical programs in fields such as nursing, pharmacy, dental studies, community and public health, and surgery.

Program:

➢ **Nursing**

➢ **Pharmacy**

➢ **Dental Studies**

➢ **Community and Public Health**

➢ **Surgery**

School of Traditional Medicine
  - ➢ **Traditional Chinese Medicine**
  - ➢ **Acupuncture**
  - ➢ **Ayurvedic Medicine**
  - ➢ **Ayurvedic Nutrition and Lifestyle**
  - ➢ **Herbal Medicine**
  - ➢ **Naturopathic Medicine**

School of Science and Technology
  - ➢ **Information Technology**
  - ➢ **Communication Science**
  - ➢ **Social Media Management**
  - ➢ **E-Governance**

The second phase of development is characterized by a broader array of Professional Studies programs. These programs effectively address the critical needs of the environment, agriculture, and health, building upon the foundation of development studies and applied sciences established in the first phase. The university's mission is to provide education and research in areas vital for societal progress and sustainability.

ACADEMIC PARK, LUMBINI BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY, DEVDAHA

Academic Park at Lumbini Buddhist University in Devdaha will hold a significant educational and research facility that holds particular importance in the context of Buddhist studies and culture.

1. Location:

Devdaha, Nepal, Devdaha is a historically and culturally rich area associated with Lord Buddha's life. It is situated near Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha.

2. Purpose:

Academic Park serves as a hub for Buddhist studies and research, with a primary focus on spreading the teachings of Buddhism and preserving Buddhist heritage. Completely inclined with Buddhist Philosophy and Environmental Perspectives, Academic Park in Devdaha aims to serve as the Buddhist academic garden, a fusion of environment, academia, and philosophy.

3. Academic Offerings:

It offers a wide range of academic activities and events.

4. Cultural Significance:

Devdaha has historical and spiritual significance as it is believed to be the maternal home of Buddha. This heritage is preserved and celebrated in the Academic Park.

5. Research and Scholarship:

Academic Park promotes and supports research in Buddhist studies, encouraging scholars and students to explore various aspects of Buddhism.

 It hosts conferences, seminars, and workshops to facilitate academic dialogue and exchange of ideas.

6. Library and Resources:

The facility will have a well-equipped library with a vast collection of Buddhist scriptures, texts, and academic literature, and interdisciplinary academic offerings.

It provides a serene environment for contemplative study and research.

7. International Collaboration:

Academic Park may collaborate with international universities, scholars, and Buddhist organizations to foster a global understanding of Buddhism and its cultural significance.

8. Cultural Events:

The park may organize cultural events, celebrations, and festivals related to Buddhist traditions, attracting both local and international visitors.

9. Promotion of Peace and Harmony:

Through the study and dissemination of Buddhist teachings, Academic Park contributes to the promotion of peace, harmony, and spirituality.

10. Tourism and Pilgrimage:

Devdaha and Academic Park also serve as a destination for Buddhist pilgrims and tourists interested in exploring the historical and spiritual sites associated with Buddhism and beyond.

11. Community Involvement:

The park likely engages with the local community, offering educational and cultural programs that benefit the residents of Devdaha.

12. Architectural Significance:

The architecture of the park may reflect traditional Buddhist design and aesthetics, creating a serene and meditative atmosphere for visitors and students.

Academic Park at Lumbini Buddhist University in Devdaha will play a pivotal role in preserving and promoting Buddhist culture and knowledge. It stands as a testament to the rich heritage of Buddhism and its continued relevance in contemporary society.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

A strategy for managing projects based on collaboration in resource management will be implemented. Arrange for studies and research based on heritage, including science and technology, make investments in research and development, and work with other educational and academic sectors to collaborate on such investments in basic and scientific research as well as practical research. This cooperation on research development is in addition to the cooperation on studies and research based on heritage.

Specific Programs

Program Development

    i.   Conduct a thorough needs assessment and market analysis to identify the demand for academic programs in mindfulness, well-being, agroforestry, and development studies. This will involve engaging with stakeholders, conducting surveys, and analyzing existing data.

    ii.   Establish curriculum committees consisting of faculty members, experts, and

stakeholders to design the curriculum for each program. These committees will ensure a balance of theory, practical applications, and experiential learning, incorporating inputs from industry professionals, practitioners, and local communities.

iii. Incorporate fieldwork, internships, and practical experiences into the curriculum to provide students with hands-on learning opportunities and real-world exposure. Collaborate with relevant organizations and communities to establish partnerships that facilitate internship placements and fieldwork opportunities.

iv. Collaborate with national and international institutions and experts to benchmark and ensure the quality of the academic programs. Engage in regular curriculum reviews to incorporate emerging trends, research findings, and feedback from students, faculty, and industry experts.

Research and Innovation

i. Foster a culture of research and innovation by providing incentives and resources for faculty members and students to engage in interdisciplinary research projects. Encourage collaboration between faculty members from different disciplines and establish research clusters or centers to facilitate knowledge exchange and interdisciplinary collaboration.

ii. Develop partnerships with research organizations, NGOs, and government agencies to facilitate research collaboration, access funding opportunities, and promote the translation of research findings into practical applications. Encourage faculty members and students to seek external research grants and funding to support their research projects.

iii. Establish a research ethics committee to ensure ethical conduct in research involving human subjects, animals, or sensitive data. Provide training and support to faculty members and students on research methodologies, data collection, and analysis.

iv. Establish a peer-reviewed journal or research publication platform to showcase research findings, promote academic discourse, and disseminate knowledge to a wider audience. Provide support and incentives for faculty members and students to publish their research in reputable journals and participate in academic conferences and symposiums.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

i. Establish a community engagement and partnership office or committee within the school to facilitate collaboration with local communities, NGOs, and government agencies. Identify community needs, develop collaborative projects, and coordinate initiatives that contribute to community development and well-being.

ii. Organize community outreach programs, workshops, and training sessions to transfer knowledge and skills to local communities. Engage community members as active participants and collaborators in the planning and implementation of projects.

iii. Collaborate with local NGOs and government agencies to identify internship opportunities, fieldwork placements, and guest lectures by practitioners. Facilitate knowledge-sharing and dialogue between students, faculty members, and community stakeholders.

iv. Encourage students to actively participate in community-based projects, volunteer activities, and social initiatives. Support and guide students in developing their community engagement projects and initiatives.

Faculty Development

i. Develop a faculty development program that includes workshops, seminars, and training sessions on pedagogical practices, research methodologies, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Provide support and funding for faculty members to attend conferences, workshops, and training programs related to their field of expertise.

ii. Encourage faculty members to engage in research, publish scholarly works, and participate in national and international academic events. Provide support and mentorship for faculty members in developing research proposals, securing research grants, and disseminating their research findings.

iii. Foster a collaborative and supportive environment among faculty members, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and mentoring. Establish a mentoring program where senior faculty members provide guidance and support to junior colleagues.

iv. Recognize and reward faculty members for their contributions to teaching, research, and community engagement. Establish an evaluation system considering teaching effectiveness, research productivity, and community impact when assessing faculty performance.

Infrastructure and Resources

i. Allocate funds to upgrade existing infrastructure, laboratories, and classrooms to meet the requirements of teaching, research, and practical applications. Ensure that the infrastructure is accessible and inclusive, accommodating the needs of students with disabilities.

ii. Invest in modern laboratory equipment, software, and technology to support research and practical training in disciplines such as agroforestry, sustainable agriculture, and mindfulness practices. Establish partnerships with relevant organizations to access specialized equipment and resources.

iii. Enhance library resources, both physical and digital, to provide students and faculty with access to a wide range of literature, research articles, and academic databases. Collaborate with other libraries and academic institutions to share resources and expand the collection.

iv. Develop a technology infrastructure that supports online learning, virtual collaboration, and digital resources. Invest in e-learning platforms, video conferencing tools, and digital learning resources to facilitate distance learning and blended learning approaches.

Student Support and Development

i. Establish counseling services to support students' mental health, emotional well-being, and personal development. Train counselors to provide guidance, counseling, and support to students, addressing their academic, emotional, and personal concerns.

ii. Organize extracurricular activities, clubs, and workshops that promote leadership, community engagement, and mindfulness practices. Provide opportunities for students to develop their interpersonal skills, cultivate mindfulness, and engage in meaningful social interactions.

iii. Offer scholarships, grants, and financial aid to deserving students to ensure equal access to education and promote diversity and inclusivity within the student body. Establish a transparent and merit-based selection process for scholarships and financial assistance.

iv.   Provide career guidance and placement support to students, assisting them in identifying career paths, internships, and job opportunities. Collaborate with industry partners and alumni networks to facilitate internships, job placements, and mentorship programs.

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The academic plan will be implemented in a phased approach, with specific timelines, responsible individuals, and allocated resources for each objective and strategy. A dedicated implementation committee, comprising representatives from faculty, administration, and students, will be established to oversee the execution of the plan and ensure coordination among different departments and stakeholders. Regular monitoring and evaluation will be conducted to assess the progress, identify challenges, make necessary adjustments, and ensure the plan's successful implementation. Feedback from students, faculty, and community stakeholders will be sought to inform ongoing improvements and refinements to the plan.

E-GOVERNANCE/DIGITALIZATION OF LUMBINI BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY

IMPORTANCE OF E-GOVERNANCE AT LUMBINI BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY

The Lumbini Buddhist University is aware of information technology (IT) 's vital role in contemporary administration and education. The university's comprehensive IT policy approach is described in this executive summary to advance many aspects of technology management and integration.

The strategy strongly emphasizes developing a solid digital infrastructure across all the university's campuses. Through improved communication, data sharing, and online accessibility, this program aims to give students, instructors, and staff a seamless experience.

The institution is investing in platforms that provide remote access to lectures, resources, and collaborative tools as part of its focus on virtual learning environments. The institution wants to give flexibility and inclusion in teaching by embracing these spaces.

The IT policy strategy at Lumbini Buddhist University encompasses a comprehensive strategy for implementing new technology. The institution wants to construct a technologically cutting-edge and safe learning environment by improving connection, digital infrastructure, virtual learning environments, resource development, human resource capabilities, automation, security, and compliance. The institution's dedication to excellence, innovation, and responsible IT usage is highlighted through this plan.

The background for the Development of University Digitalization Strategy stems from the global trends in higher education, where digital technologies have played a pivotal role in improving collaborations, governance, and overall education management. Across the globe, universities have embraced digitalization to create flexible and accessible learning environments, enhance resource sharing, and facilitate virtual communication among stakeholders. The positive impact of digitalization has been witnessed in terms of increased student engagement, personalized learning experiences, and efficient administrative processes.

In Nepal, despite its limited use, digitalization has shown promising results, especially during challenging times like pandemics and natural disasters. Universities experienced the benefits of digitalization, including the flexibility of self-paced learning through recorded lectures, 24-hour access to learning resources, and the ability to collaborate with faculty and students from remote areas. Additionally, digitization proved instrumental in better data management, progress monitoring, and seamless academic and administrative functioning during disruptions.

However, while acknowledging the potential benefits, certain challenges and limitations have been identified in the adoption of digitalization in Nepal's higher education landscape. These include the lack of a clearly defined strategic framework for higher education in the ICT policy, limited outreach of digital connectivity and access to digital devices, and a shortage of skilled human resources to fully leverage technology's potential in education.

MISSION VISON AND GOALS OF E-GOVERNANCE/ DIGITALIZATION

The mission of the University Digitalization Strategy at Lumbini Buddhist University is to harness the transformative power of technology to foster an innovative, inclusive, and future-ready learning ecosystem. Our mission is to create a digitally empowered academic community that thrives in an interconnected and technology-driven world, making a positive impact on society and contributing to the global knowledge landscape.

The vision of the University Digitalization Strategy is to position Lumbini Buddhist University as a leader in digital education, setting exemplary standards in digital transformation within Nepal's higher education sector. Our vision is to create an environment where secure and friendly technology, innovative pedagogy, and inclusive digital resources converge to offer exceptional learning experiences to students and faculty.

The goal of the University Digitalization Strategy at Lumbini Buddhist University is to establish a comprehensive and sustainable digital ecosystem that optimizes technology to enrich teaching, research, and administrative practices. Our overarching goal is to seamlessly integrate digitalization across all aspects of the university's operations, fostering a culture of innovation, adaptability, and lifelong learning. By achieving this goal, we aim to equip our academic community with the necessary digital tools and skills to thrive in a rapidly evolving world, making LBU a centre of excellence in digital education and research.

MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF E-GOVERNANCE / DIGITALIZATION

Objectives of the University Digitalization Strategy are as follows:

- To utilize digital technologies and innovative pedagogies to enhance teaching methods, providing students with interactive, personalized, and learner-centred experiences.
- To digitize administrative workflows and services, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and accountability, while minimizing bureaucratic complexities.
- To ensure equitable access to quality education by offering diverse digital learning resources and removing barriers to digital connectivity for students from all backgrounds.
- To implement data management systems that enable evidence-based decision-making, institutional planning, and continuous improvement.
- To provide comprehensive capacity-building programs for faculty, staff, and students, nurturing their digital literacy and empowering them to effectively leverage digital technologies.
- To implement robust cybersecurity measures, safeguarding digital assets, personal data, and ensuring data privacy and ethical use of digital resources.
- To raise awareness about digital citizenship, responsible digital behavior, and ethical use of technology among all stakeholders.
- To develop a long-term sustainability plan for digital initiatives, ensuring continuous development, scalability, and adaptability to emerging technologies.

Through the pursuit of these objectives, Lumbini Buddhist University aims to establish a transformative and future-oriented digital ecosystem that nurtures academic excellence, embraces innovation, and fosters holistic development in its academic community.

PRIMARY SCOPES OF THE E-GOVERNANCE AND DIGITALIZATION

Connectivity

1. **Enhanced Campus Communication:** The strategy focuses on establishing robust connectivity across Lumbini Buddhist University's campuses. This includes investments in high-speed internet infrastructure to facilitate seamless communication among students, faculty, and staff. Upgrading network infrastructure, installing Wi-Fi access points in all buildings, conducting regular maintenance, and providing technical support are key actions.

2. **Intranet:** The plan involves developing an intranet platform exclusively for the university to facilitate internal communication and collaboration. Collaboration with internet service providers and configuring the intranet to access organizational resources are the key actions.

Digital Infrastructure Development

1. **Modernizing Hardware and Software:** The strategy involves upgrading and replacing outdated hardware and software across campus facilities, including computers, servers, and networking equipment. This includes a cost-effective hardware procurement strategy throughout the university, thorough technology assessment, phased implementation of upgrades, and promotion of N-Computing Technology.

2. **Practice of the Existing Foundation:** This involves continuity and upgrading of the existing digital infrastructure to reduce costs and maximize integrity.

3. **Cloud Adoption for Scalability:** Transitioning to cloud-based solutions for storage, applications, and services to enhance scalability and flexibility. Identifying suitable cloud providers, assessing compatibility, planning migrations, and training staff on cloud management are key actions.

4. **Data Center Modernization**: Upgrading the university's infrastructure to support growing data storage and processing demands. Assessing current data center capabilities, planning for increased capacity, implementing new hardware and cooling solutions, and ensuring redundancy for data protection are key actions.

5. **Robust Network Infrastructure:** Upgrading all network infrastructure, including hardware and software, to ensure reliability and mitigate security threats. Actions include conducting network assessments, upgrading switches and routers, optimizing Wi-Fi coverage, and establishing network monitoring systems.

6. **Cybersecurity Enhancements:** Strengthening cybersecurity measures to protect digital assets, sensitive data, and user privacy. Implementing firewalls, intrusion detection systems, regular security audits, user awareness training, and incident response plans are key actions.

7. **Virtual Labs and Simulations:** Developing virtual lab environments and simulations to facilitate practical learning in various disciplines. Collaboration with faculty to design virtual labs, develop interactive simulations, and integrate them into the curriculum is a crucial action.

Learning Management System (LMS)

1. **LMS Implementation:** Choosing a suitable Learning Management System aligned with the university's goals and requirements. Actions include evaluating LMS options, considering features, scalability, and user-friendliness, and initiating the implementation process.

2. **Course Content Migration:** Transferring existing course contents, materials, and resources onto the LMS platform. Collaborating with faculty to upload materials, videos, assignments, and assessments onto the LMS is a key action.

3. **Faculty Training and Onboarding**: Training faculty members on effectively using the LMS for course delivery, interaction, and assessment. Organizing training workshops, webinars, and tutorials on LMS usage and pedagogical best practices is a crucial action.

4. **Student Onboarding and Support**: Familiarizing students with the LMS interface and functionalities to ensure smooth adoption. Developing user guides, conducting orientation sessions, and offering ongoing technical support are key actions.

5. **Assessment and Feedback Integration:** Enabling digital assessment tools and mechanisms, along with timely feedback provision. Training faculty on creating online quizzes and assignments, implementing auto-grading features, and ensuring prompt feedback are key actions.

6. **Collaborative Learning Spaces**: Establishing virtual spaces within the LMS for group projects, discussions, and collaborative learning. Configuring discussion forums, group chat features, and collaborative document editing tools are key actions.

7. **Multimedia Repository:** Developing a repository within the LMS for storing and sharing multimedia resources. Designing the repository interface, categorizing resources, and ensuring easy accessibility are key actions.

Strengthening Web-Based Education Management Information System (EMIS)

1. **Comprehensive System Assessment:** Evaluating the existing EMIS to identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement.

2. **Technology Upgrade and Integration:** Upgrading the EMIS system to integrate with ERP systems. Identifying necessary technology updates, ensuring compatibility with other systems, and performing seamless integration are key actions.

3. **User-Centric Interface Design:** Redesigning the user interface of the EMIS to be intuitive, user-friendly, and responsive. Focusing on UI/UX to design a visually appealing and easy-to-navigate interface and upgrading report systems in graphical presentation are key actions.

4. **Data Accuracy and Integrity Enhancement:** Implementing data validation mechanisms and workflows to ensure accuracy and integrity. Developing automated validation checks, user-friendly error notifications, and data correction procedures are key actions.

5. **Real-Time Data Reporting:** Enabling real-time generation of reports and analytics for informed decision-making. Developing reporting templates, integrating data visualization tools, and providing training on report generation are key actions.

6. **Student Management**: Streamlining enrollment and student records management. Developing automated online enrollment and improving student record management are key actions.

7. **Continuous Training and Support**: Providing ongoing training and support for faculty and administrators to use the EMIS effectively. Offering regular training sessions, developing training materials, conducting workshops, and providing a dedicated support channel are key actions.

Digital Resource Development and Dissemination

1. **Content Digitization:** Converting physical resources into digital formats, including textbooks, lecture notes, and research materials. Scanning or digitizing print materials, ensuring text recognition accuracy, and storing resources in digital repositories are key actions.

2. **Multimedia Creation:** Developing multimedia resources such as videos, animations, and interactive simulations to enhance learning. Collaborating with faculty and multimedia experts to design engaging learning materials is a key action.

3. **Open Educational Resources (OER**): Exploring and curating online educational resources to supplement existing materials. Identifying relevant OER platforms, selecting resources aligned with courses, and ensuring proper attribution are key actions.

4. **Digital Libraries and Repositories:** Establishing digital libraries and repositories to organize and store educational resources. Developing user-friendly interfaces, categorizing resources, and ensuring accessibility for faculty and students are key actions.

5. **Digital Studio:** Producing high-quality educational content, including audio/video lectures, online courses, simulations, and other interactive learning materials. Ensuring a high-quality studio with well-equipped materials and technology is a key action.

6. **Online Resource Sharing Platforms:** Creating online platforms for sharing and accessing digital resources within and beyond the university. Developing user-friendly platforms, enabling resource uploads, and encouraging user contributions are key actions.

7. **Feedback and Improvement Loop:** Gathering feedback from faculty and students to continuously improve and update digital resources. Conducting regular feedback cycles every semester, collecting user feedback, analyzing resource usage data, and making necessary updates are key actions.

Human Resource Development

1. **Training Needs Assessment:** Identifying the IT skills and knowledge gaps among faculty and staff for effective digitization. Conducting surveys, interviews, and assessments to understand skill levels and training requirements are key actions.

2. **Customized Training Programs:** Developing tailored training programs to address specific IT skill gaps and enhance digital literacy. Designing training materials, workshops, and online courses aligned with identified needs are key actions.

3. **Staff IT Empowerment Workshops:** Conducting workshops for non-academic staff to enhance their IT proficiency for administrative tasks. Focusing on software usage, data management, and office automation tools is a key action.

4. **Reward:** Promoting and rewarding teaching and non-teaching staff for the best performance in the usage of skills. Developing a learning attitude through rewards and recognition is a key action.

5. **Professional Development Tracks**: Establishing IT-focused tracks within the university's professional development framework.

SECTION IV

ACTION PLAN

GOAL AREAS

This section clearly describes the Goal Areas and identifies action plan towards which LBU will be focusing and directing efforts in the coming years.

The specific action plans detailed below suggest that the LBU should move on a significant number of fronts to keep abreast of competition, respond to a rapidly changing environment, and enhance academic strengths. Whereas all the objectives are important as such, a shortage of financial resources and human constraints will make this difficult in some cases and will require setting priorities among the objectives for the next years.

The present section tries to phase the specific objectives and set- out priorities over the near future. These priorities suggest which objectives should be addressed first and thus have implications for the phasing in of efforts directed at each objective.

The highest priority of this plan is Academic and Faculty excellence, which implies special attention and focus on critical components, such as teaching and scholarship, research and creativity, and undergraduate and graduate education over the next years. These components are interrelated and crosscutting to the various activities of the University and have important ties to each of the LBU vision and mission aspects.

Moreover, these components also represent the principal foundations for LBU's stature and reputation, thus, are contingent on the quality of the education and faculty. Scholarship and teaching, for example, are inextricably bound together in an University, and for LBU constitute the principal pathway for sustaining and building the pre-eminences of the University and achieving the longer-term aspiration of this academic roadmap.

Even though ranked at the end of the Goal Areas, the Goal dealing with financial management and resource rationalization represents an essential part of the Academic Plan and a crucial area of concern for the University. Limited funding and budgetary allocations represent indeed a potential threat to delivering quality education and constitute an essential precondition for the University's further growth and expansion.

For each of these goal areas and specific objectives, Strategic Actions are also proposed, which are University-wide initiatives directed at tackling the main priorities of the Vision.

PHASE I 2024-2025

Phase	Objectives	Action Plans
.PHASE-I	Academic Excellence	✓ Launch need-based academic programs and faculties in Lumbini, Devdaha, and Butwal ✓ Figure out clear feasibility for the program and faculties to be launched. ✓ Review the existing system of Lumbini Buddhist University through a system audit and implement them with the recommendations of the audit. ✓ Establish credit transfer facilities to LBU from other universities in Nepal and abroad. ✓ Prepare guidelines for credit transfer initiatives. ✓ Design and print of Institute Catalogue, brochures of the courses, and advertisement material about LBU. ✓ Prioritize proper functionalization of the academic calendar and conduct enrollment and pass out trends timely. ✓ Make the LBU Academic Website up to date. ✓ Draft the Institute policies concerning rules and regulations for faculty, staff, and students. ✓ Digitalize every academic activity.
	Faculty Excellence	✓ Hire new teaching faculty and staff. ✓ Increase the diversity of faculty and staff through recruitment and retention of under-represented minorities and women. ✓ Develop a comprehensive plan for the orientation of existing teachers, newly hired teachers, and Academic Coordinators. ✓ Emphasize personal and professional development. ✓ Organize a Professional Development Program for Academic Faculty and Staff. ✓ Train faculty members in using online methods of instruction, ICT, and other relevant aspects.
	Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creativity	✓ Start pursuing research activities at the national level with schools, community centers, industry, businesses, and enterprises. ✓ Explore the possibility of research activities with regional and overseas institutes. ✓ Expand, organize, and equip the existing libraries at the faculty level. ✓ Start organizing financial resources and spaces for establishing the Institutional Library.
	Community Outreach and Public Engagement	✓ Establish outreach activities with colleges and the local community. ✓ Provide services, studies, and Information Technology for the government, industry, business and other stakeholders. ✓ Cooperate with small and medium enterprises. ✓ Make the appropriate staffing arrangements.

		✓ Other activities as deemed necessary.
	International Initiative and Cooperation	✓ Develop operational guidelines for the "Board of Trustees". ✓ Implement operational guidelines for the "Board of Trustees" ✓ Develop clear guidelines for the operation of the International Relations Centre at Lumbini Buddhist University. ✓ Conduct consultation with renowned universities and higher education institutions at national, regional, and international levels. ✓ Start cooperation for promoting mobility of students and faculty members, joint research projects, and other activities. ✓ Explore the possibility of membership in the Network of Higher Education Institutions at local, regional, and international levels. ✓ Manage international organizations and organizational representatives at Lumbini Buddhist University. ✓ Other activities as deemed necessary.
	Enhancement of Institutional Life Experience for Students	✓ Set up a committee to organize the Welcome Day and Student Orientation Program for every academic year ✓ Organize student welfare clubs to encourage non-academic activities. ✓ Activation of a Committee for Students with Special Needs for arranging policy, funding, space, and logistic issues ✓ Prepare and finalize the Student Handbook and the Institutional Code of Conduct ✓ Promote communication between the Administration and the Student Clubs. ✓ Other activities as deemed necessary
	Institute Leadership and Governance	✓ Promote good governance and transparency at administrative and finance management offices. ✓ Prepare clear and detailed Institutional Rules and Regulations and Administrative Handbook for faculty and administrative staff. ✓ Appoint new faculty, teaching, and technical staff. ✓ Increase diversity among faculty and staff through inclusive recruitment and retention process. ✓ Provide periodical and tailored training for enhancing faculty and staff skills, in particular for utilizing ITC ✓ Create and sustain a collaborative climate across organizational boundaries and supportive of professional growth.
	Institute Finance and Infrastructures	✓ Prepare Institute Policy on infrastructure development for academic buildings and offices.

		✓ Administration of existent financial resources.
		✓ Renovation work for the preexistent estates and offices.
		✓ Acquisition, rehabilitation, and equipment of the libraries, classrooms, seminar halls, and offices for faculty and staff.
		✓ Develop measures for efficiently managing revenues, expenses, capital assets, and human resources, consistent with LBU's long-term financial viability.
		✓ Set-up of the clear fee structure scheme for students
		✓ Crystalize the income and expenditure trends of LBU
		✓ Preparation of comprehensive LBU branding strategies
		✓ Invest in cost-effective information technology systems.
		✓ Set up a strategy for diversifying financial resources, start fund-raising, and look for self-generating income

PHASE II (2025-2026)

Phase	Objectives	Action Plans
PHASE-II	Academic Excellence	✓ Increase the demand for enrollment in Undergraduate and Graduates programs.
		✓ Enrollment of the students in various Undergraduate and Graduate programs.
		✓ Internal review of the academic Curricula of Graduate and Undergraduate programs.
		✓ Review all programs and student-staff ratio.
		✓ Strengthen the coordination of all academic programs.
		✓ Initiate credit transfer facilities to national and international students to attract several students and award them based on the defined criteria.
		✓ Hold regular meetings among the faculty members, HODs, and Program Coordinators.
		✓ Plan for as many advanced studies as possible.
		✓ Encourage faculty to collaborate across disciplines and combine in-depth learning of a discipline with the breadth of cross-discipline collaboration.
	Faculty Excellence	✓ Move towards more full-time faculty.
		✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years.
		✓ Arrange faculty exchange programs for faculty members at domestic and international levels.
		✓ Provide further study and research opportunities for faculty members from partner

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		universities.
	Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creativity	✓ Continue pursuing research activities at national level ✓ Continue exploring the possibility of pursuing research activities with regional and overseas universities ✓ Consider engaging undergraduate and graduate students in the research process ✓ Continue expanding and equipping the existing libraries at faculty level ✓ Development of orientation programs for HODs and academic Coordinators
	Community Outreach and Public Engagement	✓ Strengthen the framework for coordination and pursuit of outreach, networking and partnership opportunities ✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the two previous years
	International Initiative and Cooperation	✓ Assessment and develop further strategies of the "Board of Trustees." ✓ Invite the international community for partnership, investment, and other cooperation modules. ✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the two previous years
	Enhancement of Institutional Life Experience for Students	✓ Enhancement of the Welcoming Day and Student Orientation Program ✓ Enhancement of the students-led organizations ✓ Enhancement of the Committee for Students with Special Needs and its activity ✓ Review and update the Student Handbook and Institute Code of Conduct ✓ Enhance communication between the Administration and the Student Clubs ✓ Provide ongoing Orientation Program for prospective students ✓ Improve students welfare ✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the two previous years
	Institute Leadership and Governance	✓ Sustain and improve good governance and transparency at admin and finance management offices ✓ Implement Institute Rules and Regulations and review the Administrative Handbook for faculty and staff ✓ Develop and implement Institute HR capacity building program for change management ✓ Improvement of working environmental aspects (job analysis, job duties, and responsibilities of teaching and administrative staff) ✓ Adjust the organizational structure ✓ Strengthen leadership and team building ✓ Strengthen the administrative capacities at a lower level

		✓ Continue appointing and hiring of new faculty and staff members as deemed necessary ✓ Recognize and award individuals and teams that make a positive impact on the Institute ✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the two previous years
	Institute Finance and Infrastructures	✓ Search for land in the Kathmandu Valley for establishing the LBU Office. ✓ Review financial and administrative trends of the university through regular meetings and communications with stakeholders. ✓ Implementation of the measures for efficient management of revenue, expense, capital assets and human resources, consistent with our long-term financial viability. ✓ Continue develop internet and intranet system at campus level ✓ Pursue full computerization of examination office and admin office ✓ Improve ICT capacity in teaching and learning

PHASE III (2026-2027)

Phase	Objectives	Action Plan
	Academic Excellence	✓ Focus on expanding the Institute offer at the graduate level by introducing new Graduate Academic Programs. ✓ Increase the demand for enrollment in Undergraduate and Graduate programs. ✓ Continue internal review of the academic curricula of Graduate and Undergraduate programs. ✓ Introduce and continue innovative teaching and learning methodologies
	Faculty Excellence	✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years. ✓ Regular seminars, workshops, and capacity development initiatives.
	Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creativity	✓ Strong focus on the enhancement of research activities in each faculty ✓ Focus on foundational research in crucial and strategic areas of the Institute. ✓ Continue pursuing research activities at the national level and international level. ✓ Continue working to build and equip the LBU Library ✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years.
	Community Outreach and Public Engagement	✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the two previous years
	International Initiative and Cooperation	✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years. ✓ Assess the effectiveness of the "Board of Truste" ✓ Regular assessment of international cooperation activities. ✓ Invite the international academic community the cooperate and collaborate with different units of Lumbini Buddhist University.
PHASE-III	Enhancement of Institutional Life Experience for Students	✓ Organize a job fair by inviting industries, business enterprises, and other organizations to orient students to the job market. ✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years.
	Institute Leadership and Governance	✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years
	Institute Finance and Infrastructures	✓ Continue building physical infrastructures and equip them with the necessary facilities. ✓ Enhancement of the financial management, resources rationalization, and secure

		sustainability of the Institute
		✓ Continue searching for financial resources that may secure the Institute's stability in the long term.
		✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years

PHASE IV (2027-2028)

Phase	Objectives	Action Plan
PHASE-IV	Academic Excellence	✓ Start potential new emerging disciplines and provide the budget for introducing new courses at the graduate level. ✓ Increase the demand for enrollment in graduate and graduate programs. ✓ Implement the results of the previous years and continue reviewing the academic curricula. ✓ Pursue an external assessment study of the Academic Curricula of Undergraduate and Graduate programs and increase the quality of programs. ✓ Implement quality assurance policy and its operational procedures. ✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years
	Faculty Excellence	✓ Conduct an internal assessment study for each faculty. ✓ Conducting study for a Quality Assurance ✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years
	Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creativity	✓ Enhance the volume and quality of research and publications ✓ Promote multidisciplinary and collaborative research approach among faculties, colleges and departments ✓ Increase research funding from UGC and donors support ✓ Upgrade research facilities ✓ Set up policy on research and funding ✓ Improve and enhance the library service ✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the two previous years
	Community Outreach and Public Engagement	✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the two previous years
	International Initiative and Cooperation	✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the two previous years
	Enhancement of Institutional Life Experience for Students	✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the two previous years

	Institute Leadership and Governance	✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years
	Institute Finance and Infrastructures	✓ Continuing expansion of the Institute. ✓ Continuing improvements to the facilities of the Campus. ✓ Start developing a strategy for keeping relations and securing the support of LBU's alumni to Institute activities. ✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years

PHASE V (2028 AND BEYOND)

Phase	Objectives	Action Plan
PHASE-V	Academic Excellence	✓ Increase the demand for enrollment in Undergraduate and graduate programs. ✓ Review the academic Curricula of Graduate and Undergraduate programs to increase of quality of programs and Review textbooks for all programs. ✓ Implement quality assurance policy and its operational procedures. ✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years
	Faculty Excellence	✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years
	Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creativity	✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years
	Community Outreach and Public Engagement	✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years
	International Initiative and Cooperation	✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years
	Enhancement of Institutional Life Experience for Students	✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years
	Institute Leadership and Governance	✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years
	Institute Finance and Infrastructures	✓ Continue expansion of the Institute ✓ Implement and further develop a policy for securing the alumni support for LBU activities. ✓ Continue to implement and improve the activities initiated in the previous years

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