

**Symposium**  
**On**  
**“Buddhist cosmopolitanism and exchange along the Silk Road:  
Interplay between Buddhism and trade in ancient Asia”**

**In commemoration of the International Day of Vesak 2025**  
**Monday, 12 May 2025, Room IV**  
**10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**Programme**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>10:00 am</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Opening Remarks by H.E. Manisha Gunasekera, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to France and Permanent Delegate of Sri Lanka to UNESCO</li></ul>
<b>10:05 am</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Remarks by Ven. Parawahera Chandaratana Thero, Chief Incumbent of International Buddhist Centre in Paris</li></ul>
<b>10:10 am</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Address by Chief Guest Mr. Xing Qu, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO</li></ul>
<b>10:20 am</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Keynote address by Professor Osmund Bopearachchi, corresponding member of the Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres and Emeritus Director of Research at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS-ENS)</li></ul>
<b>Panel Discussion</b>	
<b>10:50 am</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Panelist 1 : <b>Prof. Jean-Noël Robert</b>, Member of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, Paris</li></ul>
<b>11:00 am</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Panelist 2 : <b>Prof. Vincent Lefèvre</b>, Professor of South and Southeast Asian archaeology and art history at Sorbonne University, Paris</li></ul>
<b>11:10am</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Panelist 3 : <b>Dr. Ms. Ariane de Saxcé</b>, Research Associate - South Asia, German Archaeological Institute, Bonn</li></ul>
<b>11:20 am</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Panelist 4 : <b>Mr. Shabanhng Mehrdad</b>, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Silk Roads Programme</li></ul>
<b>11:30–12:00</b>	<b>Q&amp;A Session</b>
<b>12:00 pm</b>	<b>Refreshments at Pas-Perdus Space</b>