

“Lumbini, Nepal: The Birthplace of Lord Buddha and the Fountain of Buddhism and World Peace”

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Lumbini
लुम्बिनी



Lord Buddha highlighted the significance of Lumbini and he said to Ananda:

"Ananda! This (Lumbini) place is where the Tathagata was born, this is a place which should be (visited and) seen by a person of devotion, and which would cause awareness and apprehension of the nature of impermanence.

- *Mahaparinibbana Sutta*

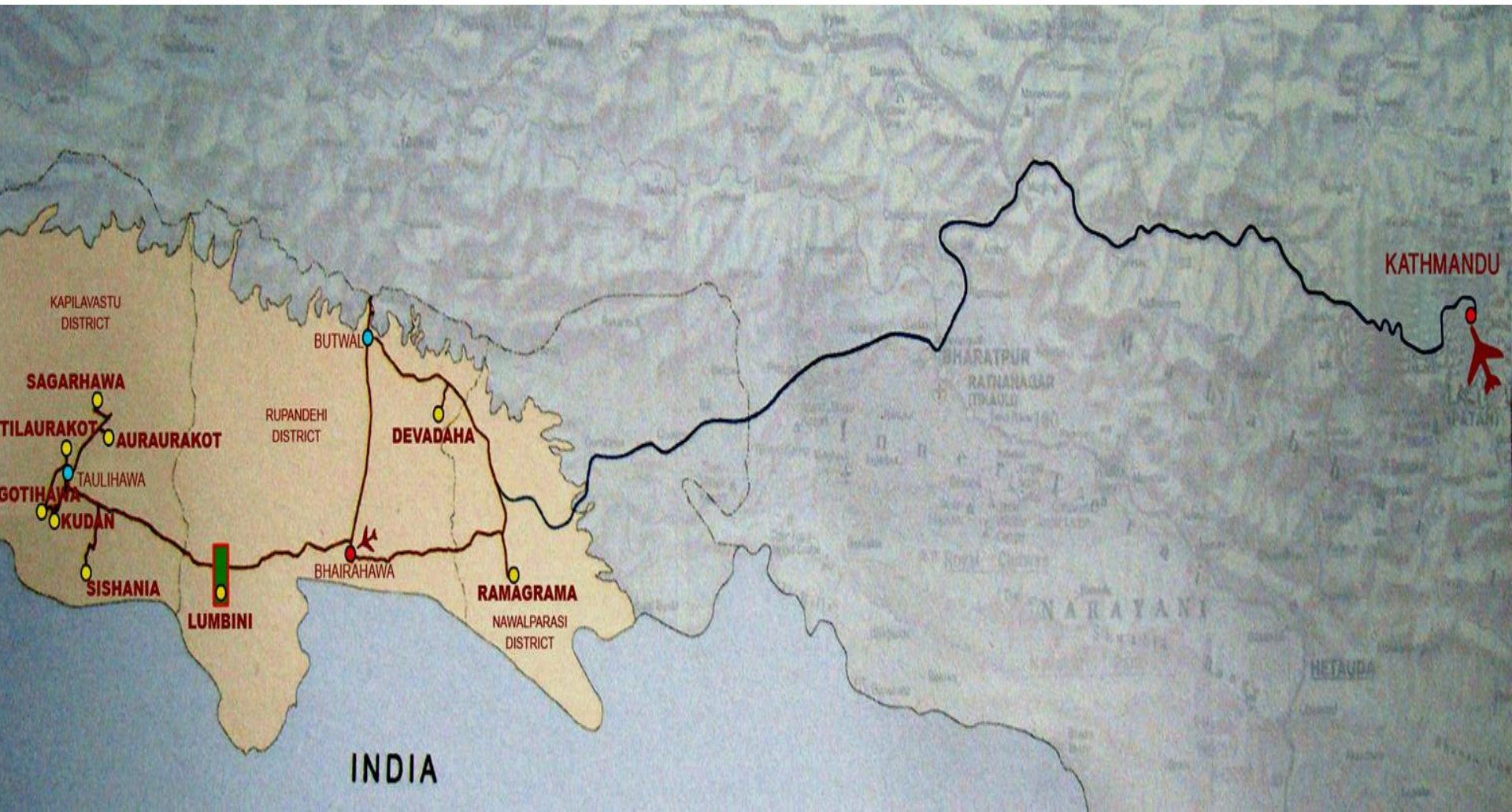
Facts on Lumbini

- The birthplace of Lord Buddha-a UNESCO World Heritage property
- Lumbini symbolizes peace and harmony to people far and wide
- Five UN-Secretary Generals and UNESCO-DG visited Lumbini
- Gautam Buddha International Airport
- A place where religious and secular leaders could work together
- Lumbini is becoming one of the most rapidly growing pilgrimage destination
- Numerous research and excavation have been carried out by different scholars
- Safeguarding heritages are challenging because site is under great pressure to eventually become more and more urbanized
- Lack of proper planning, long-term sustainable management plan and political commitment for the Greater Lumbini Area
- Tilaurakot and Ramagram on tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage property

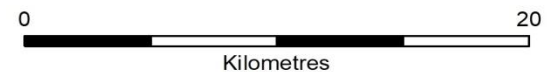
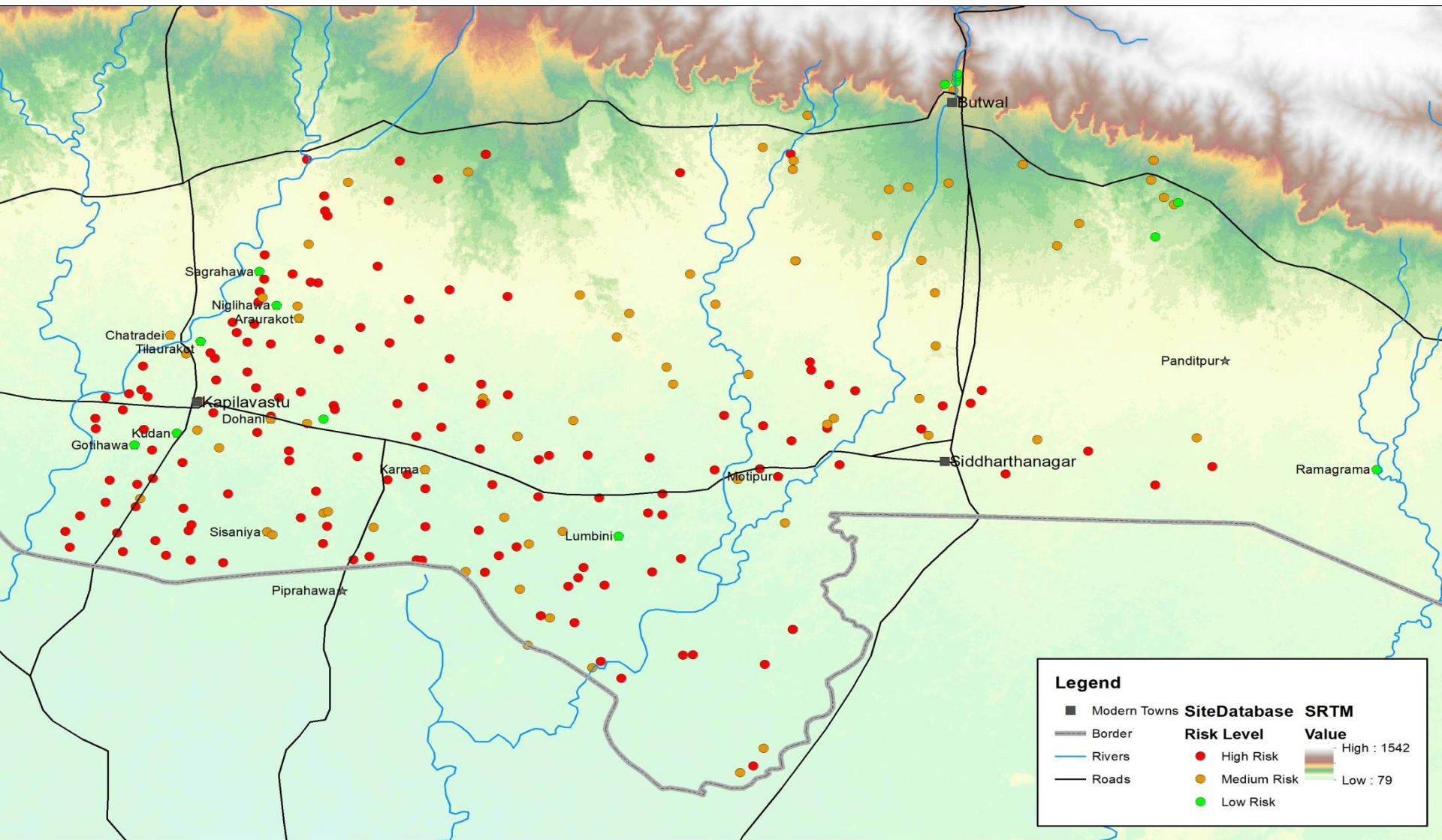


Greater Lumbini Area

The Greater Lumbini Area encompasses Lumbini and Devdaha in Rupandehi, Tilaurakot- *ancient Kapilavastu*, Gotihawa, Niglihawa, Sagarhawa, Sisihaniya, Araurakot and Kudan in Kapilavastu, Ramagrama in Nawalparashi (Bardhaghat Susta West).



Heritage Sites in the Greater Lumbini Area



LUMBINI

Newly born Prince Siddhartha took seven steps and uttered some precious words as epoch making message to the suffering humanity *“I am the foremost of all creatures to cross the riddle of the ocean of existence. I have come to the world to show the path of emancipation. This is my last birth and hereafter I will not be born again”*.

The Lord Buddha was born in 623 BC, testified by the inscription on the pillar erected by the Mauryan Emperor Asoka in 249 BC. It became a peerless landmark of the Buddhist world, listed in the World Heritage Site by the UNESCO in 1997.



Researches may be divided into five stages: the re-discovery of Lumbini in 1896 and 1899; the reconstruction of Mayadevi Temple, remodeling of the Sacred Garden 1933 and 1962, the conservation of its monuments and ruins between 1962 and 1985; the re-excavation of Temple 1992-1995 and the science based archaeological investigation between 2010-2013.

UNESCO initiated archaeological investigation in between 2011-2013 led by Prof. R. Coningham revealed the early occupation of the site (Village Mound) back to the late Chalcolithic period c. 1300 BC and also the first evidence of structural activity at the Mayadevi temple from 6th century BC.



Reconstructing the Pre-Asokan Timber Structure



Reconstructing Temple Structures

尼泊爾藍毗尼摩耶夫人寺
Maya Devi Temple, Lumbini, Nepal

此模型係根據考古學家所發現之遺跡，以木質材料所製成之模型。其比例尺為1:100。此模型係由日本學者所製成。其比例尺為1:100。此模型係由日本學者所製成。其比例尺為1:100。

Photograph of the earliest shrine of the Maya Devi Temple. The structure appeared in the form of a simple wooden shrine with a thatched roof.



模型一
藍毗尼園最早的
木造寺院3D模型
Model 1
Earliest shrine



模型二
藍毗尼園最早的
磚造寺院3D模型
Model 2
Earliest brick shrine



模型三
藍毗尼園最早的
石造寺院3D模型
Model 3
Earliest stone shrine

Management and Development

- Visit of UN-SG U Thant, in April 23, 1967, became a milestone for the development and preservation of Lumbini.
- In 1970, U Thant initiated and purposed by India and Thailand to form the **International Committee for the Development of Lumbini**. The ICDL (Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Republic of Korea).
- In 1978, the master plan was finalized with the financial support from UNDP and Japan Expo Foundation.
- The Lumbini Development Committee successfully carried out most challenging land acquisition process of 777 hectores of land.





Management and Development

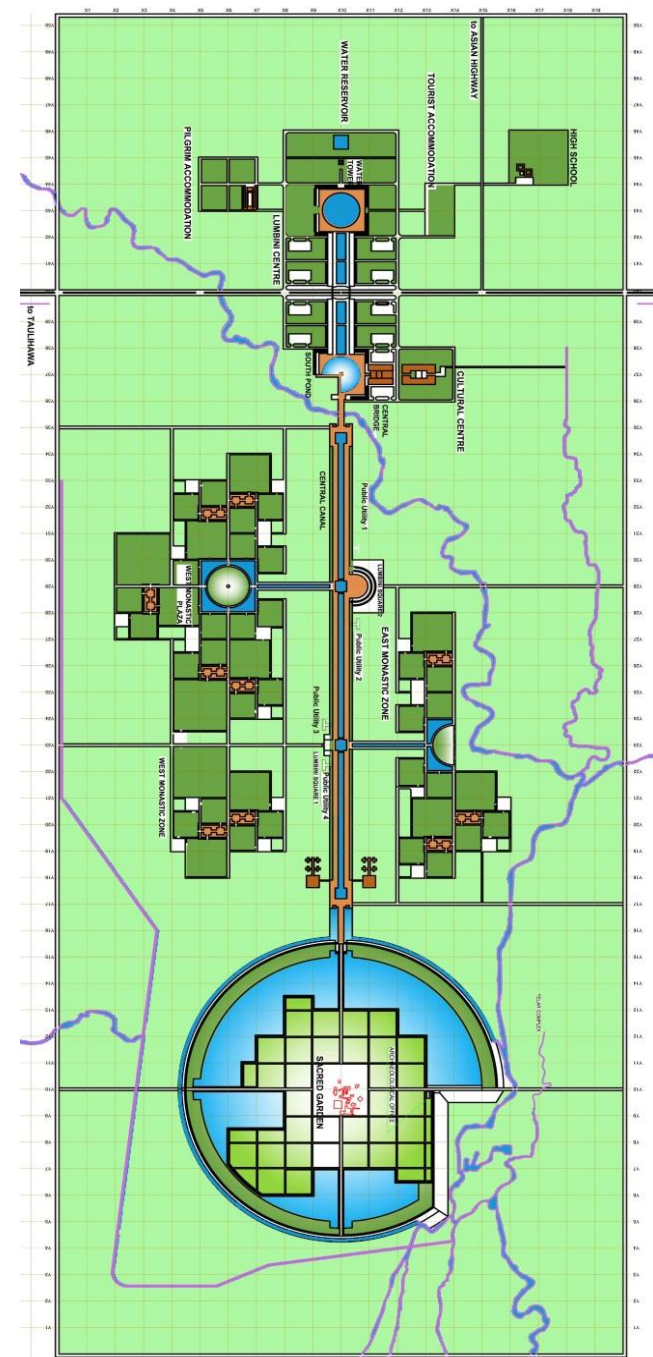
- The Government of Nepal (*Legislative Parliament*) set up the **Lumbini Development Trust (LDT)** under the Chairmanship of the then HRH Prince in 1985.
- The LDT is responsible for the implementation of the Lumbini master plan and the management, development, conservation, excavation and promotion of “**Greater Lumbini Development Area**” (Lumbini, Tilaurakot-*ancient Kapilavastu*, Gotihawa, Niglihawa, Sagarhawa, Sisihaniya, Araurakot, Kudan, Devadaha and Ramagrama).
- At present **Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal** is the **Patron** and the **Hon'ble Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation** is the **Chairman** of the LDT.



MASTER PLAN OF LUMBINI

United Nations Commissioned Prof.
Kenzo Tange to Prepare Lumbini
Master Plan in 1972

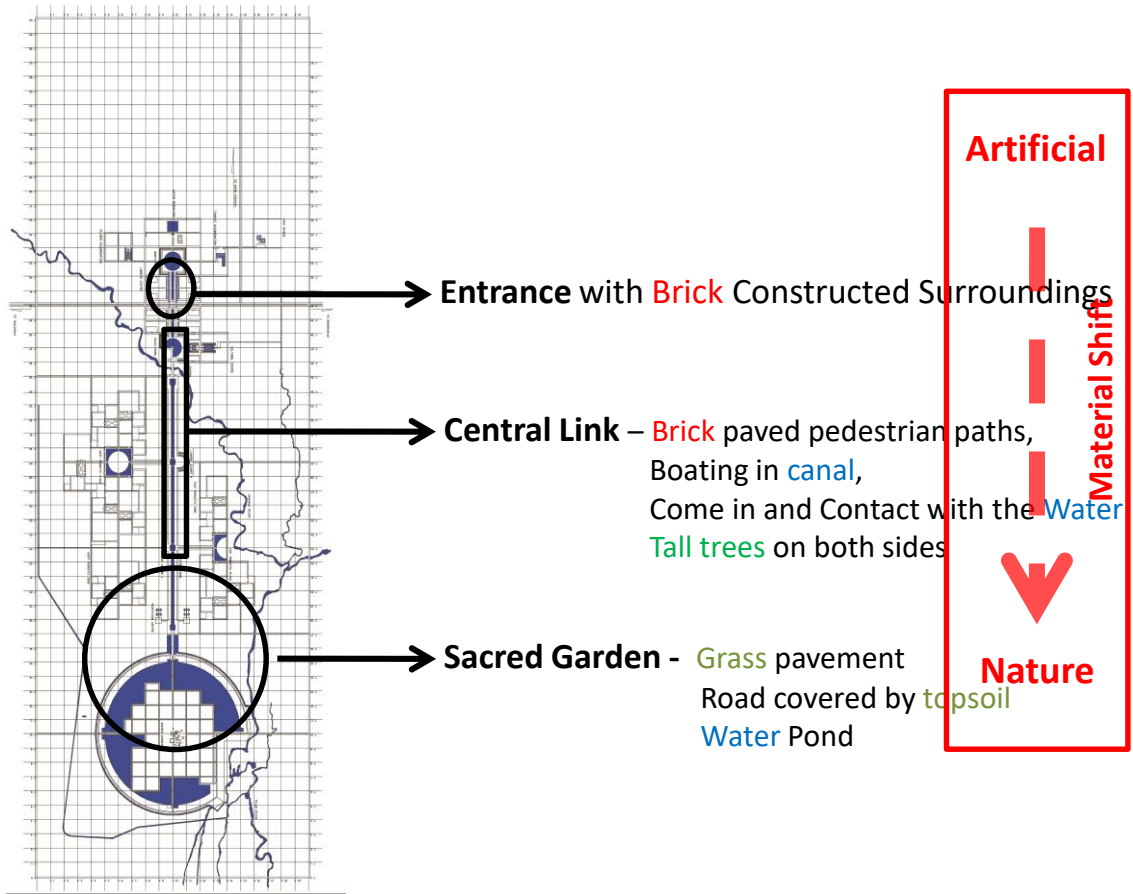
- Master plan of Lumbini was prepared in 1978, with the auspicious of the UN
- Total Area 777 hectors
- North~ South 3 miles, East~West 1 mile
- An area covers 1 X 3 sq. miles, comprising three zones of a square mile each:
 1. Sacred Garden
 2. Monastic Zone
 3. New Lumbini Village



LUMBINI MASTER PLAN

- Regional Development
- Basic Structure
- Landscape
- Transportation
- Construction Control
- Sequence

■ Visitor Experience Sequence by Material Shift - Axis



Kenzo Tange's Lumbini Master plan

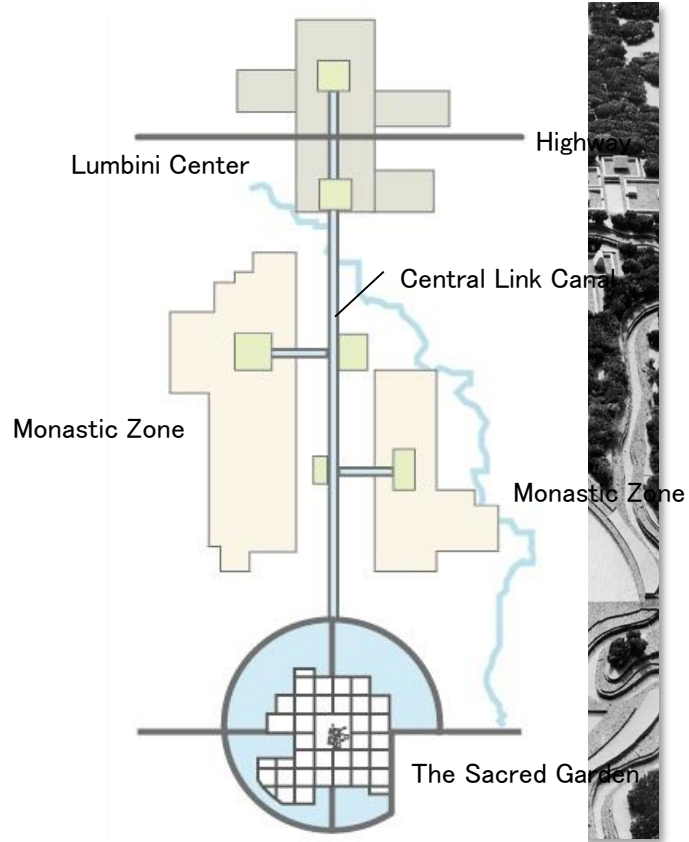
Symbol

Harmony

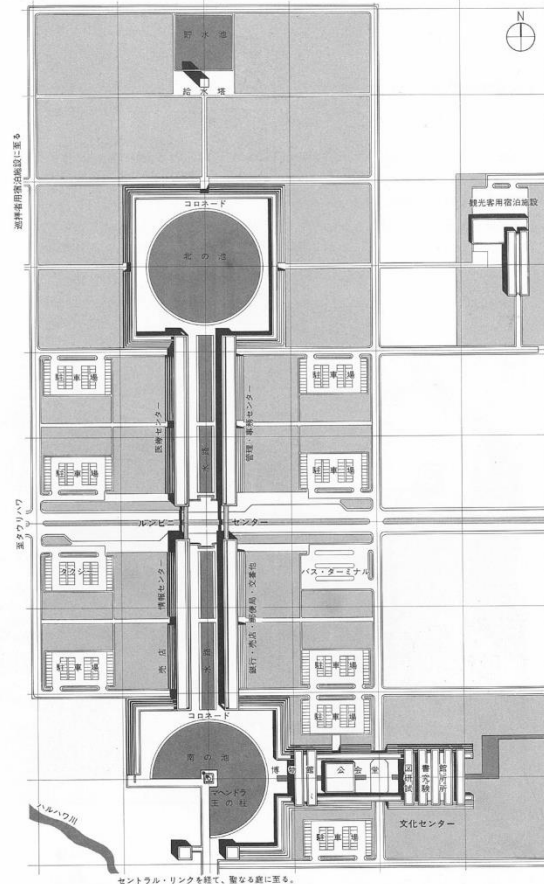
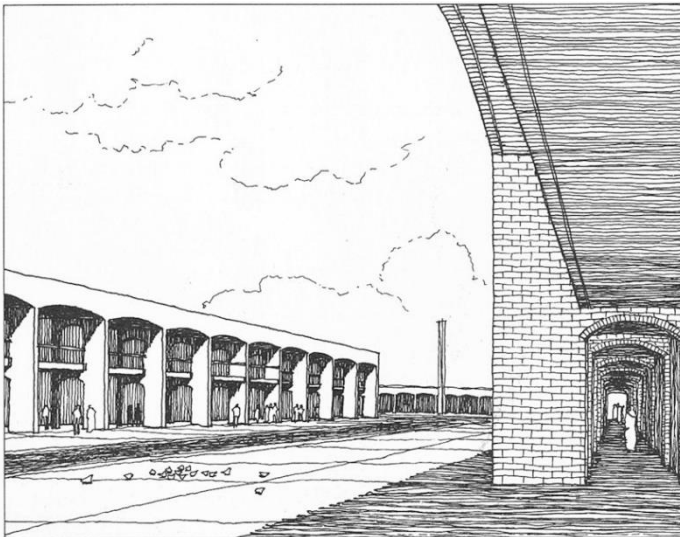
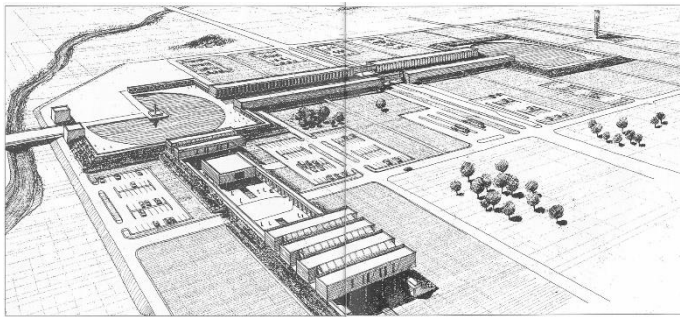
Communication Place

Human Movement & Transportation

Growth & Change

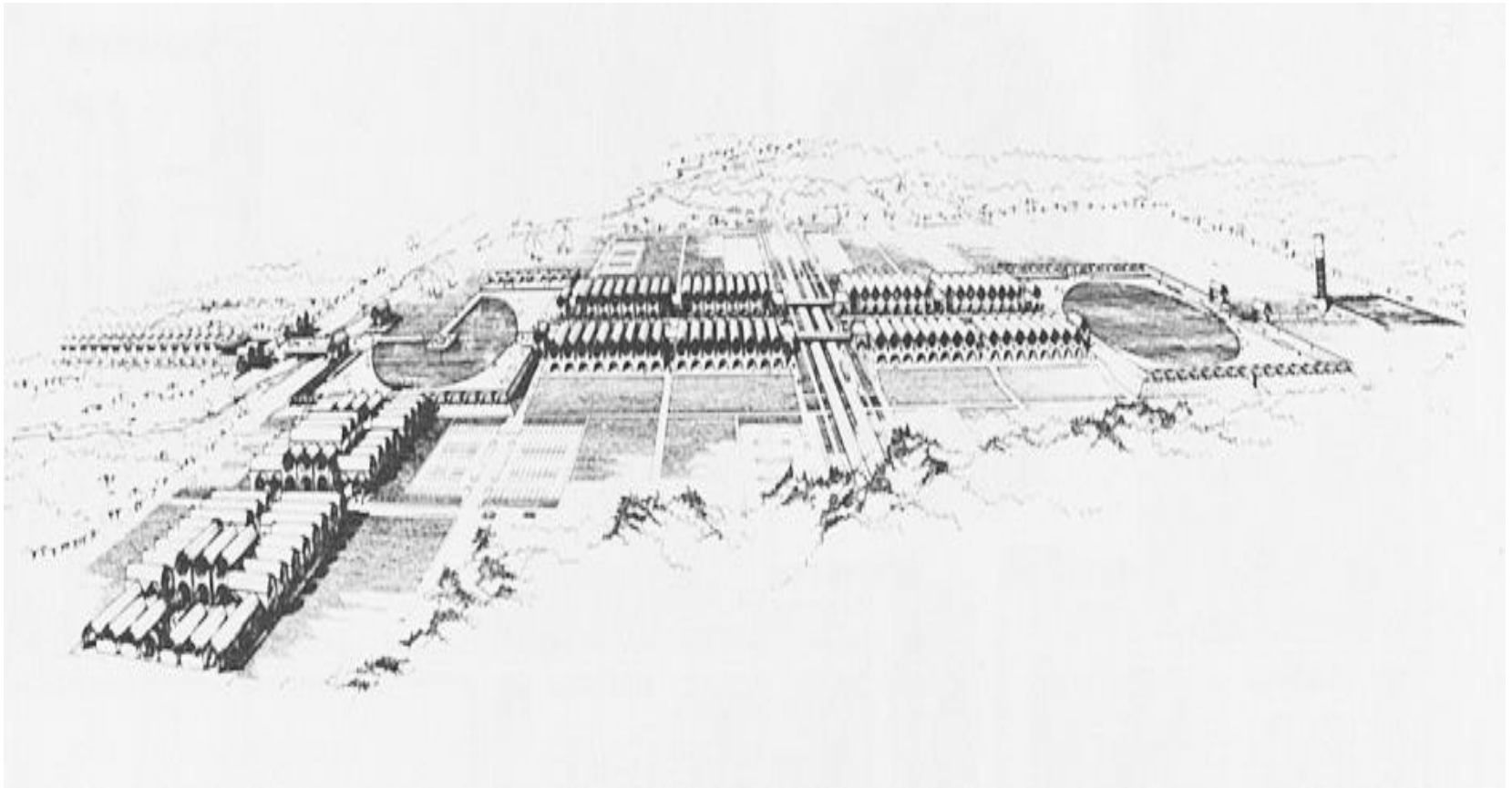


Perspectives of the Lumbini Centre (based on 1978 plan)



United Nations, Committee for the Development of Lumbini:「ルンビニ 釈尊生誕の地」, New York, 1979

The Lumbini Centre revised perspective based on 1981 plan)



United Nations, Committee for the Development of Lumbini:
Lumbini---The Birthplace of Buddha, New York, 1983







Monastic Zone

This zone is for worship and study Buddha's teaching of universal peace, humanity and compassion can be applied to life in today's world. Here, 42 plots of land are set aside (13 to the east and 29 to west), sheltered within a green forest north of the Sacred Garden.

Modern Buddhist Monasteries in LMP

A variety of modern Buddhist Monasteries representing architecture and culture of different Buddhist countries have created fascinating ambience in Lumbini. While Government or Buddhist organizations from countries likes *Austria, Cambodia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam* have completed and the monasteries to represent *Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Russian, and USA* are under construction.





Cultural Section

The auditorium, research institution, library and museum of Lumbini's cultural centre raised in arches along the shaded canal walkway, a place of meeting, study and work dedicated to the pursuit of world peace.



Light and Sound Show Project Lumbini

- MoU signed between Lumbini Development Trust and the South Asia Foundation Nepal and South Asia Foundation on June 29, 2022.
- Project would cover the entire journey of Gautam Buddha from his birth at Lumbini, Nepal including all important aspects of his life.
- Sh. Shyam Benegal would be Principal Designer.
- Script, the final structure (aesthetic) and design (ambience) including technical, engineering, physical construction will be made by Foundation.
- However, the final script will be approved by LDT in mutual consultation with the Foundation.

Light and Sound Show Project Lumbini

- The Foundation will consult important Buddhist Scholars from Nepal, India and other places in mutual consultation with LDT.
- To oversee the Project, Committee of the 11 members will be constitute (representative from the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Nepal, Department of Archaeology, Nepal, two representatives each from LDT ~ SAF Nepal-SAF, two expert representatives and one from funding agency).





Link Pond_South of the Peace Flame



South Pond



Tilaurakot~Kapilavastu: Capital City of Ancient Shakya Kingdom

- A large fortified site Tilaurakot is identified to be **Capital City of Ancient Shakya Kingdom**, where Siddhartha spent 29 years as a Prince.
- In 1899, the site were re-discovered by P.C. Mukherji and clearly mentioned "no other ancient site has so much claim on the identification of Kapilavastu as Tilaura (sic), as being situated in the right position and fulfilling all other conditions" (P.C. Mukherji 1901: 50).
- D. Mitra in 1962, BK Rijal, TN Mishra, B. Bidari, Risso University of Japan and Since 2014 a UNESCO initiated archaeological investigation, conservation and preservation is going on.



Tilaurakot~Kapilavastu: Capital City of Ancient Shakya Kingdom

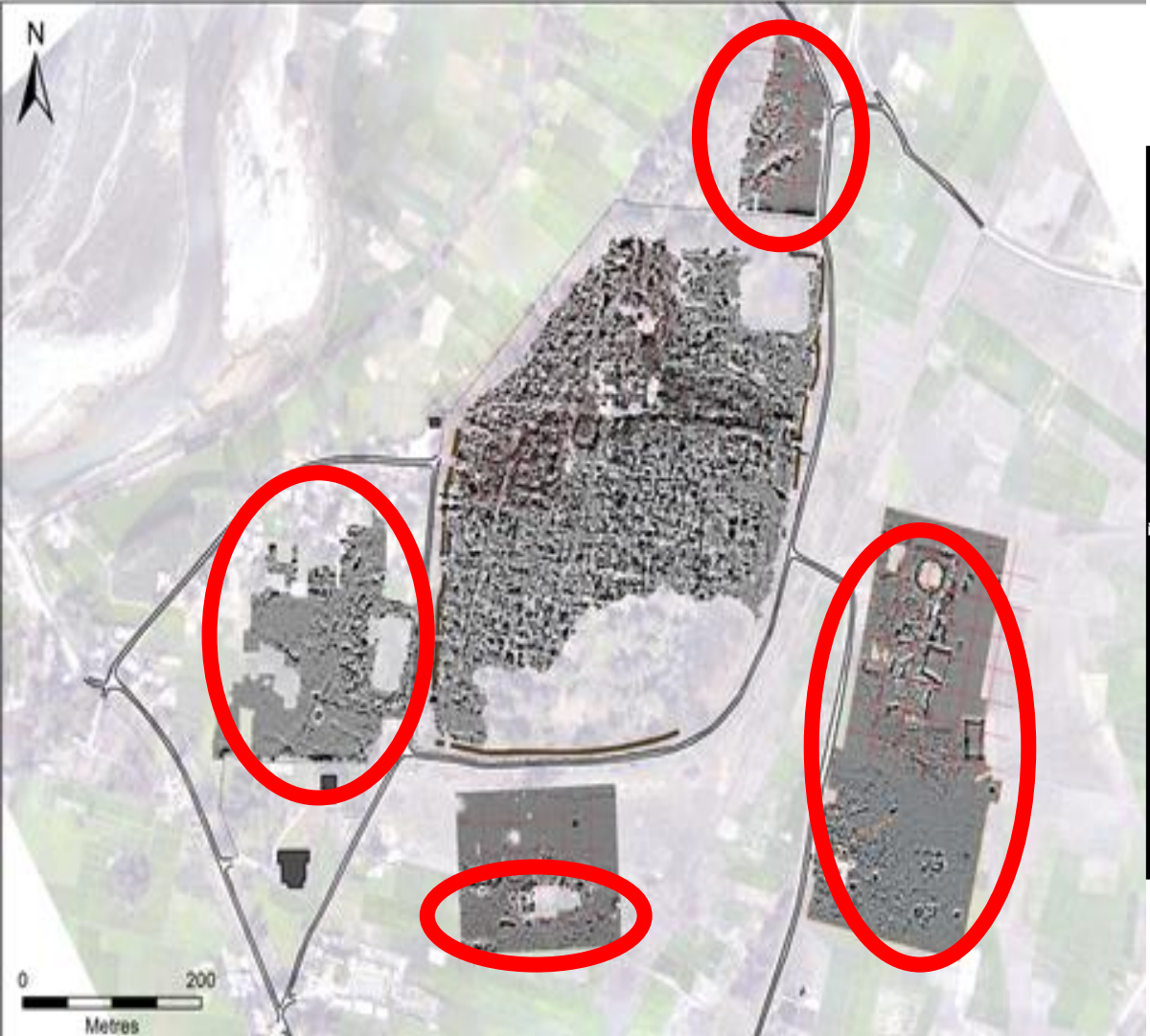
- The site has been recognised as one of the best preserved ancient cities in South Asia. Radiocarbon dating of excavated charcoal samples and Optically Luminescence dating of soil samples confirm that the site's origins date back to 800 BC.
- The vestiges of the *fortification walls, moats, palaces, stupas, temples, viharas and ponds* have been revealed and large amounts of *antiquities* have been collected from those excavations. A variety of antiquities were found during excavations such as *potteries (PG, NBP, Black, Red and Grey Ware), coins (punch marked, copper), Sealing and Inscribed Potsherds, Terracotta Figurines, Stone Objects, Metal Objects, Bone and Ivory, Glass Objects , Roof Tiles etc.*

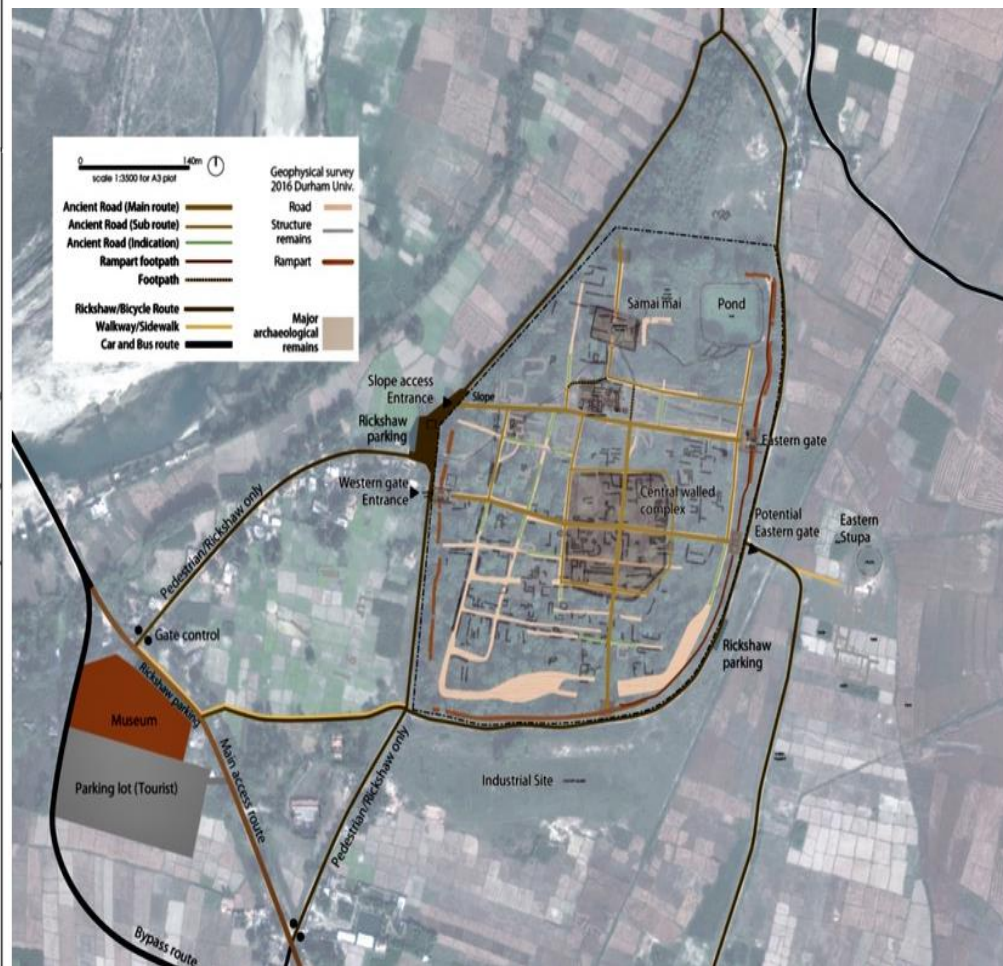
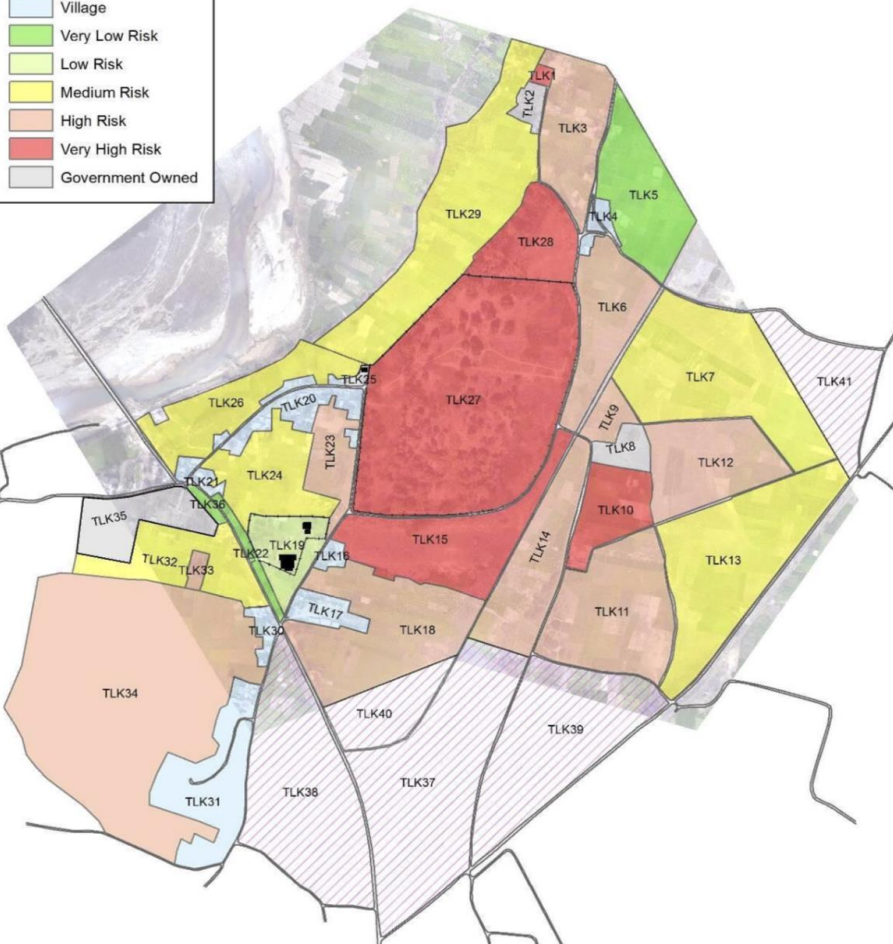




Prayer in Tilaurakot-Kapilvastu with more than 400 pilgrims at the same time







The boundary and buffer for the archaeological site of Tilaurakot-Kapilavastu

Legend

- Main road
- River and Canal
- Settlement
- Boundary
- Buffer
- Extended Buffer

PROPOSED BOUNDARY, BUFFER AND EXTENDED BUFFER

Boundary Area= 1640228 sq. m. (242 Bigha 3 kattha 14.7 dhur)

Buffer Area= 8039895 sq. m. (944 Bigha 18 kattha 15.4 dhur)

Extended Buffer Area= 1519427 sq. m. (224 Bigha 6 kattha 20 dhur)

Proposal 1

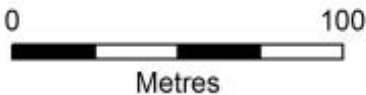


Base Map: Google earth | Annotation: Weisse Consulting Architects and Engineers Pvt. Ltd. | August 2021











SISANIYA:

The site is believed to have had an ancient stupa and a Sangharama built by the Sakyas. Prof. Giovanni Verardi, the Director of 1993-94 Nepalese and Italian joint investigation team mentions existence of an important craft center of Kusana period in Sisaniya. His conclusions are based on the evidences found during the excavation, for instance, iron slogs and glass wastes during the investigation. Other artifacts found during the excavation include wares and terra-cotta figurines of Kusana Period.



RAMAGRAMA:

- The king of Ramagrama enshrined the relic of share and built *Mahathupa* (great stupa) on the bank of Jharahi River.
- A well preserved stupa was first discovered by Dr. W. Hoey in 1899.
- Prof. S.B. Deo recorded the site's name as *Deurawa*, and stated that the huge stupa was "a site worth immediate excavation" (Deo 1968).
- The monument was later identified as the Ramagrama stupa of the Buddhist texts by BK Rijal in 1976 (Rijal 1976:1996). The lowest phase of the brick structure measures more than *36.5 meter in diameter with 7×26×41 cms largest bricks* (Shrestha, 2005).
- Different excavations have been carried out and *mud structure, octagonal structure, monastic complex and stupas* were found.
- Prof. R. Coningham and team have been carried out geophysical survey in different phases in 1997, 1999, 2017 and 2019.







INITIATIVES

- **UNESCO/JFIT Project** ~Archaeological investigation, planning, management and conservation in Lumbini, Tilaurakot and Ramagrama
- **South Asia Foundation-Light and Sound Show Project**
- **Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance, Paris/Shanghai**
Providing assistance for Study, Research, Publication, Capacity Building etc.
- **Dr. Tokushin Kasai, Chairman of Lumbini Hotel Kasai** ~Financial assistance for Archaeological investigation in Tilaurakot and promotion of Lumbini
- **ADB**~ South Asia Tourism Infrastructure Development Project for Destination Improvements Component & the Fostering Community Participation
- **KOICA Project**~ Lumbini World Peace City Plan
- **WWF Nepal**~ Green Lumbini Initiatives project
- **ICIMOD**- Environment and Tourism Promotion
- **World Bank/UNDP**
 - **Lumbini Peace Marathon**
 - **Tripitaka Chanting, Shakya Monlam and various activities by Buddhist Organization, Monasteries,**
 - **Tour de Lumbini Peddle for Peace**
 - **Various International conferences and other events**



SWOT Analysis

Strengths

- Birthplace of Lord Buddha
- Lumbini Master Plan
- World Heritage Property
- Lumbini Development Trust
- Lumbini Cultural Municipality
- Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas
- Master Plan for the Lumbini World Peace City
- Gautam Buddha Int'l Peace Award
- Master Plan for Ramagrama
- Gautam Buddha International Airport
- Lumbini Buddhist University/LIRI

Opportunities

- Rapidly increasing pilgrim and tourism
- National and international cooperation
- Buddhist Masters, organizations and communities
- Can become like Mecca or Bethlehem even larger major world pilgrimage site
- Employment and Business opportunities for local communities
- International Conference and Meditation Hall
- Master plan of Buddhist Circuits of Nepal
- International Monasteries and Meditation Centers
- Well Developed Road Networks, Electrifications and Modern Facilities

Weaknesses

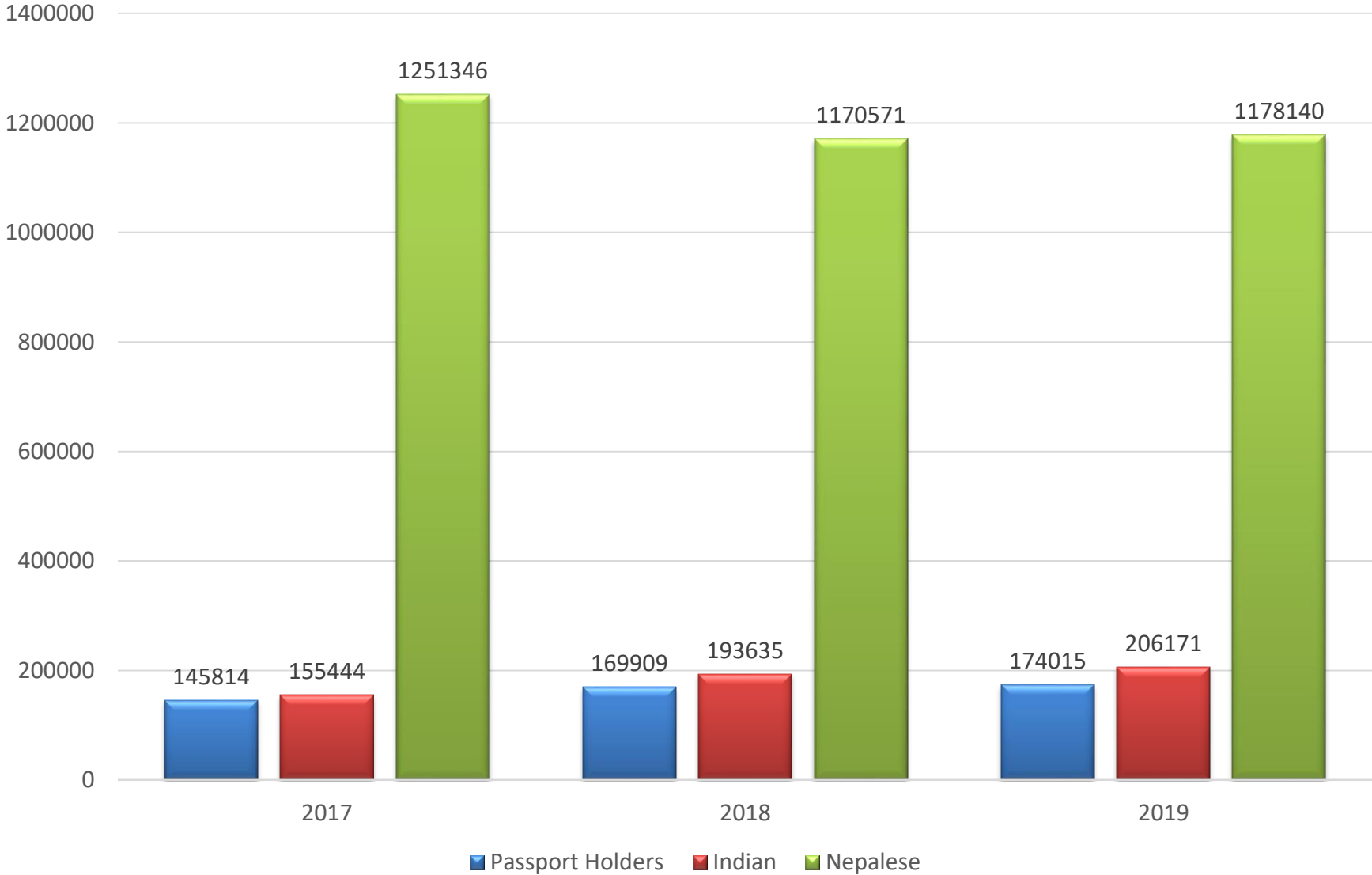
- Inadequate budget for research, heritage protection and international promotion
- Poverty among local community
- Limited awareness on management and the protection of cultural heritages
- International publicity, promotion, media campaign and standardization
- Proper planning and long-term sustainable management plan

Threats

- Lack of political commitment
- Industrial expansion in the peripheral and approach roads
- Modern urbanization
- Encroachment and pollution
- Environmental threats

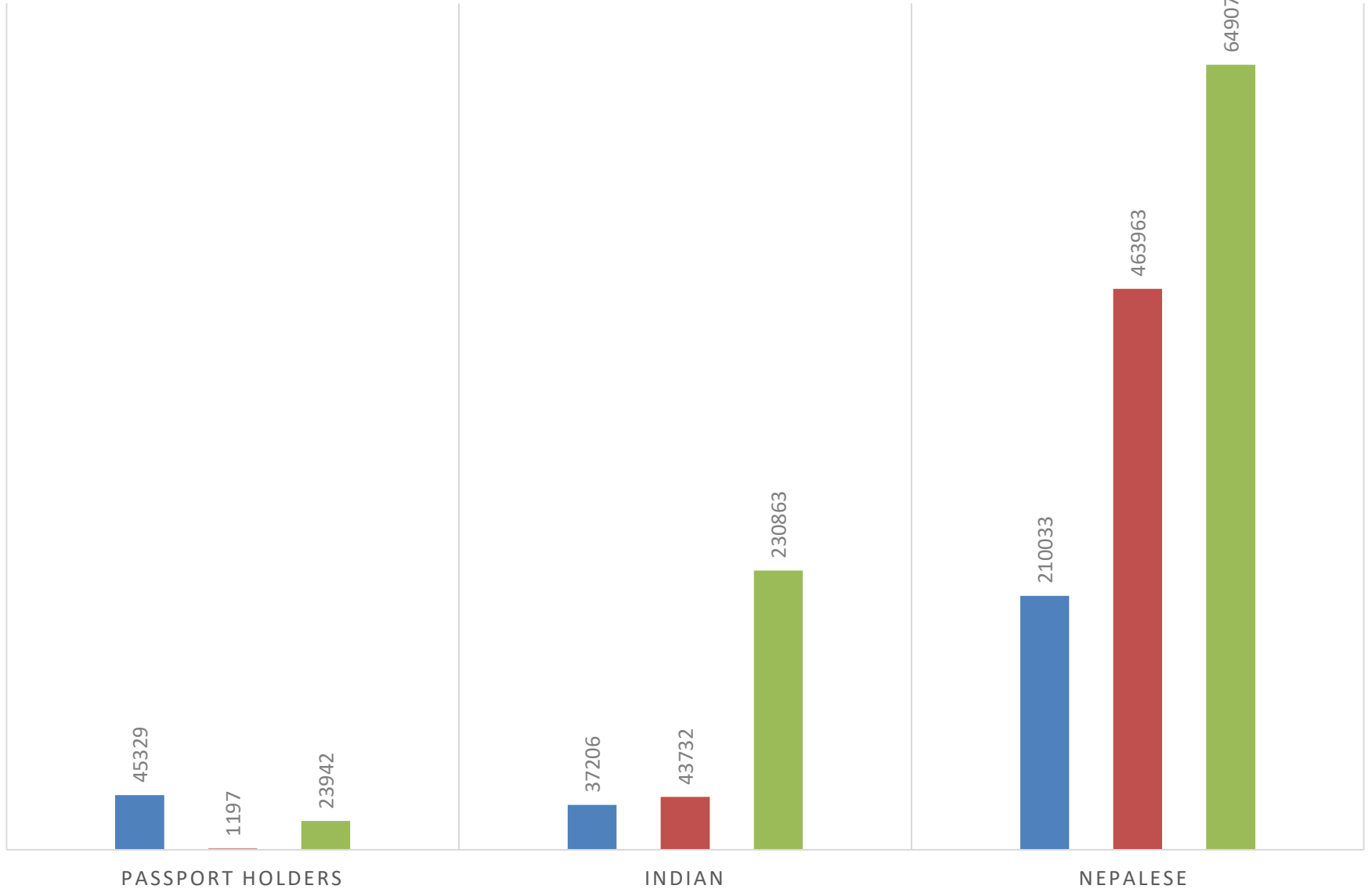


Tourist Arrivals in Lumbini 2017-2019



TOURIST ARRIVALS LUMBINI 2020-2022

■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022





Thank You!

