

Invitation to

The 2103 Shan New Year Celebrations

It is believed that Tai people, to which the Shan belong, began using their own calendar some twenty-one centuries ago. Historical evidence and studies about Nan Chao Tai Kingdom, dated back to early Common Era, clearly indicate the existence of a Tai civilization with its own administrative, agricultural, literary and belief system as well as the use of its own calendar. However, the accurate date and the origin of Shan calendar invention still await a more scholarly inquiry.

Thanks to some concerted efforts to revive Shan culture in the last century, Shan New Year celebrations have been the biggest festival among the Shan all over the world for sometimes. Since its inception in 2005, the Shan Cultural Association-UK, a cultural association solely dedicated to promoting Shan literature and culture in the multicultural United Kingdom, has been organising Shan New Year Celebrations. This year, the SCA-UK organises the Shan New Year celebrations with the kind support of the Centre for Buddhist Studies of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

The keynote speaker at the event is Mr Ralph Isaacs (OBE) a former Director of the British Council in Burma from 1989 to 1994. Shan traditional elements at the event include unique Shan traditional dances, music, arts and crafts, beautiful Shan clothing and many more.

We, the SCA-UK, would like to cordially invite you and your family and friends to join us in welcoming the 2103 Shan New Year.

Date: 30 November 2008 (Sunday)
Time: 3:00pm - 8:00pm
Venue: Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre
SOAS, University of London
Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square
London, WC1H 0XG

Admission: Free

Nearest Station: Russell Square Tube Station

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