

In 1992, Venerable Huili embarked on a journey to Africa. He established the first "Amitofo Care Center" (ACC) in Malawi during 2004, dedicated to caring for African vulnerable children and where more than 85% of world's HIV-positive children live. Today, many years later, the founder continues with his compassionate practice of Buddhism in Africa traveling to all corners of Africa, and helping countless precious young lives. Nowadays, he is known as the "African monk" or "Monk dad" in the eyes of thousands of children.

Mozambique ACC celebrates International Children's Day on June 1.

Every year at the Mozambique ACC campus, the school helps the children to celebrate Children's Day. This year there will be a football match, choir performances, and traditional dance performances. The cook at the vulnerable children's shelter will also surprise the children with different foods such as pasta, soft drinks and cakes on the occasion.

June 1st is International Children's Day but in some cases, countries around the world have their own Children's Day. For example, the United States regards the day to be on the second Sunday of June, Germany on September the 2nd, Japan and South Korea on May 5th, and so on.

The United Kingdom, France, Canada, Spain, Sweden and other countries all celebrate "Universal Children's Day" on November 20th. It was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1954 to encourage all countries to establish a children's festival to promote children's rights and protect children's healthy growth. On November 20, 1959, the United Nations passed the "Declaration of the Rights of the Child." And on November 20, 1989, the United Nations passed the "Convention of the Rights of the Child."

June 1st was designated as International Children's Day, which was decided by the Women International Democratic Federation (WIDF) in Moscow in 1949.

At present, Children's Day is recognized as a holiday in Russia, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Poland and other countries. However, it is still not a national holiday throughout the rest of the world just yet.



Two important things in life

Contributor: Mozambique

Foreword: The Monk Dad travels all around Africa to visit the ACC campuses. Whenever he goes to a campus, he spends time with the children and pays attention to the life and learning habits of the children. He talks with them to teach them the concept of gratitude.

Good night, children:

I came back for a few days and saw that everyone has been making progress. You are all still young, so the two most important things are to study hard and be grateful. "To study hard" is not necessarily referring to school work, but also to the attitude and way of dealing with others, your diligence in your daily routine, simple menial tasks you perform yourself and the development of good habits. You should learn the nature of being polite to your elders, and to respect and support each other as the younger generation.

And when you place your palms together, you should be going over your thanks.

The first would be to thank Buddha, the purpose of the Buddha and Bodhisattva statues and teachings is to let everyone learn the spirit and thoughts of the Buddha. The second would be to thank your country, you should stay grateful that there is a place where you can call home, and along with that, you should be thankful of the care the country and society presents to you.

Thirdly, you should thank your parents, teachers/elders. The kindness of a parent for nurturing you and the kindness of teaching from elders, school teachers, the mothers in the campus, uncles and aunts should not be left without gratitude.

And finally, we cannot forget to thank the donors and sentient beings. We thank them for sponsoring us so everyone can experience living in built houses, growing vegetables, clean clothes and other tasks.

Gratitude is very important and we must learn to be grateful from an early age, for our country, parents, teachers, donors, all beings and thank all the people and things that help us and assist our achievements.