The transliteration of Sanskrit terms is according to ITRANS scheme, which is close to the pronunciation. The translation and commentary on this text can be found in http://www.geocities.com/RodeoDrive/1415/tripura8-itx

Please direct all your suggestions and corrections to mgiridhar at ucdavis.edu.

Before we begin, let us offer ourselves at the feet of the Divine Mother, mahAtripurasundarI, who as Ishvara rules the world but is none other than the indwelling spirit (Atman) within us and which pervades us all that exists.

This introduction deals with the background on the name of tripurasundarI. It is one of the best epithets to describe the Devi meaning that she is the belle of all the three worlds. The word tripura can be interpreted variously. The kAlikA purANa says that by the will of pradhAna, the body of Lord Shiva became triple: the upper part became Brahma, the middle part became ViShNu and the lower part became Rudra. As these three pura-s (bodies) are in Lord Shiva, he is called Tripura (three bodied) and his wife is known as tripurA. In the kAmakalA vilAsa (13,14), the honored sage, abhiyukta, mentions that Devi created all the
three forms and she is before all (purobhava), because she is in the form of all the three (trayImayi) and exists even after the dissolution of the three worlds and recreates them again. In the brahmanda-purana, it is mentioned that the Goddess tripurasundari rules over the entire universe and She is the supreme empress, and Brahma, ViShNu and Shiva are mere functionaries in her empire. The Lalita Sahasranama portrays Her as being attended by LakShmi and Saraswati on either side. Shankaracharya, in his saundrayalahiri, mentions that Brahma, ViShNu and Shiva started their cosmic processes when the Supreme Shakti knitted Her brow for a split second.

The Devi mantra consists of three syllables, and her fifteen lettered mantra panchadashakshi is composed of three kutas (peaks). She resides in three nadis (nerve channels), namely suShumna, pingalA, and iDA. She is the ruler of the three Shaktis - ichchA (will), kriyA (action), and j nAna (knowledge). She pervades all the three worlds - heaven, earth and the nether world. She is the controller of all the three bodies - sthUla (gross), suKshhma (subtle), and kAraNa (causal). She is the self which is present through the three states of existence - jAgrat (waking), svapna (dream), and suShupti (deep sleep). Though she is above
all guNa-s, She pervades the three modes of energy- sattva (purity), rajas (mobility) and tamas (inertia).

Love and joy are the inherent qualities of beauty. SundarI means belle and beauty. Shankaracharya, while explaining Chandogya upaniShad 7, 31:1, mentions that all longing and desire is a source of pain, and in what is finite there is no bliss. He mentions that the Infinite alone can produce bliss. When bliss takes on a form, it is sundarI: sarvA.nga sundarI (lalitA trishati, verse 130) and Shankara comments on this name of the Devi as the one who possesses all the marks of beauty and has all the qualities of perfection and is thus the source of Bliss.
The translation and commentary on this text can be found in http://www.geocities.com/RodeoDrive/1415/tripura8-itx

May the Divine Mother guide us in our every action and thought, and may She confer upon us the greatest gift of all, mokSha (liberation) by removing the veil of maya which She weaves.

At Her feet, OM tat sat

Please forward corrections to mgridhar at ucdavis.edu.
दयाविभवकारिणी विशादलोचनी चारिणी
त्रिलोचनकुटुंबिनी त्रिपुरसुन्दरीमाथ्रे ॥ २॥
कदम्बवनशाल्या कुचभरोक्तसमाल्या
कुचोपितकार्श्या गुसक्कुपालसंहत्या ।
मदासुरणकयोऽल्या मधुरलीलावाचार्या
कयादि प घाननील्या कवचित्व वयं तील्या ॥ ३॥
कदम्बवनमध्यगां कनकमण्डोपस्थितां
षठमुखवासिनी सदासिद्धोदामाल्मी।
विदंबितजापार्चिच विकचचन्दरचुणामणि
त्रिलोचनकुटुंबिनी त्रिपुरसुन्दरीमाथ्रे ॥ ४॥
कुचाधिविपिपिकां कुटिलकुंततांतङ्कृतां
कुशेश्वरनिनवासिनी कुटिलचित्वविद्विषणी।
मदासुरणविलोचनां मनसजारिसंमोहिनी
मत्त्रमुनिकथ्यां मधुरभारिणीमाथ्रे ॥ ५॥
स्मर्प्रथमपुष्पिणीं रुधरचन्द्रनीलालम्मरां
गृहितमधुपात्रिकां मदविधुणैनेत्रालं ।
घनसन्तभरोस्त्रा गृहितचूर्णिकां स्यामलां
त्रिलोचनकुटुंबिनी त्रिपुरसुन्दरीमाथ्रे ॥ ६॥
सकुकुकुमवितस्पनामलकुंनुविवक्षुरिकां
समन्नहसितक्षणां सदाचारपाशाकुशालम ।
अशेषवनमोहिनीमुणमाल्य भूषामणरां
जयाकुशमभासुरां जयविठो समरान्यमविकाम ॥ ७॥
पुरुंदरपुरुंधिकां चिकुकुकुकुक्तसंग्रंधिकां
पितामहपतिबंत्या पटपटीरचर्चार्ताम ।
मुकुन्दरमणीमणीलसदस्तंत्रकारिणी
मजामि भुवनांबिकां सुरवधुरकाचेतिकाम ॥ ८॥
॥ इति श्रीमदो शंकराचार्यविचित्रेः
त्रिपुरसुन्दरीचन्द्रेः समासं ॥

Encoded and proofread Madras Giridhar giridhar at chemeng.Isc.ernet.in