

Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative. Participants expressed their gratitude to the Founder and the President of the Board of Trustees, Venerable Grand Master Hsing Yun for selecting a scholar of such eminence as Professor Lancaster to head the university.

Under his leadership the university has already turned a new page. On his recommendation, the Board of Trustees unanimously adopted the new name UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST. Already an experimental project in place to “stream” via Internet courses to classes in San Diego and Fremont.

Personally, I take this opportunity to record my own appreciation of the enormous support that Professor Naichen Chen has given to me in my additional capacities as Director of the International Academy and the Editor of this Journal and also accord a very warm welcome to the new President whom I met for the first time in Hacienda Heights in 1988 in the opening celebrations of the Hsi Lai Temple when Venerable Grand Master Hsing Yun, Professor Lancaster and I were on the stage together as keynote speakers. It augured well for our continuing involvement in working together in our respective roles for the progress of this university, in particular, and the promotion of Buddhist Studies and Buddhism, in general.

Ananda W. P. Guruge,  
Editor, Hsi Lai Journal of Humanistic Buddhism

### IAB HONOREE OF THE YEAR 2003



**Dr. Ananda W.P. Guruge**

*In recognition of five decades of outstanding visionary and diversified contributions to Buddhist scholarship through instruction, research, and publication; to International Buddhist activities through World Fellowship of Buddhists and European Buddhist Union; to educational and cultural development through United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; and to the progressive realization of world peace; and in appreciation of the most devoted services rendered to University of the West as its Director of Religious Studies, Dean of Academic Affairs, Director of the International Academy of Buddhism and Editor of Hsi Lai Journal of Humanistic Buddhism, the International Academy of Buddhism of University of the West, Los Angeles County, USA, honors Dr. Ananda W. P. Guruge as IAB HONOREE OF THE YEAR 2003 at the Fifth International Conference on Humanistic Buddhism on January 13, 2004.*

**Dr. ANANDA W. P. GURUGE**, born in Galle, Sri Lanka, had been a national and international civil servant and high-ranking diplomat with a distinguished career in Sri Lankan Government and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

An alumnus of the University of Ceylon which he entered with the national Scholarship in Oriental Studies, he obtained his B. A. (First Class Honours) in Sanskrit and History in 1950 and Ph. D. in Indological Studies in 1953. His doctoral dissertation was on the social conditions of India as reflected in the Sanskrit epic poem, the Ramayana. Among the academic achievements of Dr. Guruge are such coveted awards as the University Prize for Sinhala Literature, the Postgraduate Studentship and the Sri Lanka Government Scholarship tenable in UK.

Serving in the prestigious Ceylon Civil Service for fifteen years from 1952, he had functioned in Provincial Administration and the Treasury; and as Assistant Secretary to the Prime Minister; Assistant Permanent Secretary in the Ministries of Home Affairs, and Education; and Senior Assistant Permanent Secretary and Acting Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs. At the young age of twenty-five, he was entrusted with the program of celebrations and literary and social activities connected with the Buddha Jayanti – the 2500th anniversary of the death of the Buddha. He played a lead role in the establishment of the second University of the country in which he held the Chair of Sanskrit and Linguistics in addition to being the Administrative Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor (1959 –1964).

After a year as Visiting Professor of Asian Studies at the State University of New York at Buffalo with teaching assignments at Illinois College at Jacksonville, Illinois and Fairleigh Dickinson University at Teaneck, New Jersey, Dr. Guruge became a staff member of UNESCO and served for seventeen years (1968-1985) in Paris, New Delhi, Bangkok and once again in Paris. During his last seven years in UNESCO Headquarters, he directed its Inter-Agency Cooperative Programs with UNICEF and the World Food Programme.

In August 1985, the Government of Sri Lanka appointed him Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Sri Lanka to UNESCO. From July 1989, he had also been the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in France with non-resident accreditation to Spain and Algeria and the Permanent Representative to the World Tourism Organization in Spain. During this period he held such elected positions as the Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Group of Permanent Delegations, the Chairman of the Paris Chapter of the GROUP OF 77, Member of the UNESCO Executive Board, the Chairman of its Finance and Administrative Commission, Chairman of the Administrative Commission of the General Conference (1991), and Vice-President of the World Heritage Council.

From 1992 to 1994, he was the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Sri Lanka in the USA with non-resident accreditation to Mexico. During the Winter and Spring quarters of 1994 – 95 and Fall quarter of 1996, Dr. Guruge was a Visiting Professor in the Department of Religion at the Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

Since 1996, while continuing as the Senior Special Adviser to the Director General of UNESCO in the Culture of Peace Programme (1996 – 2001), Dr. Guruge resumed an active academic career in the USA with assignments as a Visiting Professor of Buddhism, Hinduism, and Peace Studies at California State University, Fullerton and at the College of Buddhist Studies in Los Angeles, California. Since

1996, he is at University of the West, Los Angeles County, first as the Director of Religious Studies and now as the Dean of Academic Affairs, the Director of the International Academy of Buddhism and the Editor of the Hsi Lai Journal of Humanistic Buddhism.

He also undertakes regular speaking engagements in the USA and abroad on Buddhism, Asian History and Culture of Peace. A reputed leader in the international Buddhist movement, Dr. Guruge has been the Patron of the European Buddhist Union and a Vice-President of the World Fellowship of Buddhists from 1988 and its representative to the UN and UNESCO. He is also the President of the World Buddhist University Council (Bangkok, Thailand) and a member of the UNESCO Inter-religious Advisory Committee.

For his national and international services, he has been awarded the Sri Lankan national honors of Kalakirti (1987 – for eminence in literary and research activities), Desamanya (1992 – for exceptionally distinguished national service), Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa – 1986, Sri Jayewardenepura University), the Silver Medal of UNESCO (1991), the UNESCO Human Rights Medal (1992), U Thant Peace Award (1997), International Peace-keeper 1998 (California State Senate), Grand Medal of Merit of the World Fellowship of Buddhists (2000), CESMEO Prize for Indological Studies (2001) (Turin, Italy) Spirit of Peace Award (2002) (Los Angeles) and in 2003 D. Litt. (Ruhuna University of Sri Lanka).

While he had been engaged in a variety of administrative and technical functions both nationally and internationally, his devotion to teaching and research has been unabated. Buddhist Studies has been his primary area of interest and his contributions have been widely recognized.

A prolific writer in Sinhala and English, he is the author of 48 books including Asoka – A Definitive Biography, Return to Righteousness, Mahavamsa – A New Translation, The Society of the Ramayana, Voices from Ancient Sri Lanka, What in Brief is Buddhism? Free At Last in Paradise (A historical novel on Sri Lanka) (1998/2000), The Unforgettable Dharmapala (2002), Humanistic Buddhism for Social Well-being (2003) and Serendipity of Andrew George - Sequel to Free at Last in Paradise (2003) and over 150 internationally published articles and research papers on Oriental literature, history, and culture; Buddhism and Buddhist Philosophy, Art and Architecture, Sri Lankan and Indian History; and Educational Planning and Management. He has also been since 1985 the Honorary Consultative Editor of the Encyclopaedia of Buddhism. His publications in education include A Functional Analysis of Educational Administration in Relation to Educational Planning, Paris (1968), Towards Better Educational Management, Delhi (1971), Basic Course in Educational Planning and Management, Delhi (1969-70), Bangkok (1974), Location of Schools: Sri Lanka A Case Study, Paris (1975), Educationally Speaking, Colombo, (1994), and Under the Roof of UNESCO, Colombo (1994). Several are translated into other languages. He is proficient in several languages including English, French and Hindi besides Sanskrit and Pali, Sinhala and Tamil.

He is actively engaged in community services in Southern California and is currently the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Stop the Violence and Increase the Peace Foundation of Los Angeles, and an Executive Board Member of the National Conference for Community and Justice of Orange County, He is also a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and several international organizations relating to Buddhism and education.