

Editor's Note

Once again, it is a pleasure for me to bring out another volume of the Hsi Lai Journal of Humanistic Buddhism on schedule. Hsi Lai University is now **UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST**. But the Journal will retain its name and the Venerable Grand Master Hsing Yun's calligraphy on the cover, which reads "**Fo Fa Hsi Lai**," meaning "Buddhism Coming to the West."

The Fifth International Conference on Humanistic Buddhism on the themes "Buddhism and Social Well-being" was successfully held from 12 to 17 January 2004 and this Volume includes the keynote as well as Panel papers which were presented by as many as 29 participants. Among the keynote presenters were Dr. T. Dhammaratana and Ms. Patricia Gaden of France, Mr. Padmal de Silva of UK, Professor Benjamin Hubbard of California State University, Fullerton, Reverend Father Dr. James Fredericks of Loyola MaryMount University, Los Angeles, Presenters of panel papers included. The faculty and students of the University of the West presented as many as keynote papers and Panel papers.

Also included in this Journal are the concluding chapters of Professor Naichen Chen's translation of Sandhinirmocanasutra.

The Fifth International Conference coincided with the change in the Presidency of the University. Accordingly the participants found an opportunity to pay tributes to the outgoing President, Professor Naichen Chen, whose six-year term has seen the University advancing to the status of Candidature for Accreditation of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), establishing the three research and service centers, namely the International Academy of Buddhism (IAB), the Buddhist Psychology and Counseling Research Center (BPCRC) and the Center for the Study of Minority and Small Business (CSMSB), and widening the undergraduate program with the creation of new departments of Languages and Humanities and Social Sciences. His leadership in every aspect of the university's activities was gratefully commended and his continuing interest in Buddhist Studies, as demonstrated by his translation of the Chinese version of Sandhinirmocanasutra of Xuanzang and his scholarly inaugural addresses to the International Conferences on Humanistic Buddhism, was particularly appreciated.

The Conference likewise welcomed the new President, the internationally recognized and esteemed Buddhist scholar, Professor Lewis R. Lancaster, who until his recent retirement had been a leading light in the field of Buddhist and East Asian Language Studies of the University, Berkeley and continues to be a highly respected father figure to several generations of Buddhist scholars in prestigious institutions in the USA and abroad. His distinguished services to our University dated from its very inception at the Hsi Lai Temple in 1991. He has been a most devoted faculty member in the field of Buddhist Studies with special concentration on East Asia, a Trustee and Chairman of the Education Subcommittee of the Board of Trustees, and the Chairman of the Doctoral Program Advisory Committee. The Conference congratulated him on his appointment as President of the University and looked forward to not only the continuing progress of the university under his direction but also the introduction of innovations especially in educational technology in which he had gained a significant reputation with such projects as the Electronic Buddhist Text Initiative and the

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.