

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF BUDDHISM

IAB is designed as an international Buddhist research and publications center. It also serves as a forum of consultation and exchange of information and experience for scholars and students specializing in various aspects of Buddhist Studies. It is an integral part of the University and complements academic programs of Buddhist Studies and Comparative Religious Studies.

The primary mission of IAB is to support and underpin the efforts of Fo Guang Shan to promote and propagate the spiritual and social ideals, objectives, and contents of Humanistic Buddhism which is conceived by Venerable Grand Master Hsing Yun as Buddhism engaged in service to others and grounded in monastic communities and lay organizations dedicated to Buddhist teaching and practice. It is his conviction that Humanistic Buddhism, in its practical implications, symbolizes the goals of all schools and sects of Buddhism in the world, and therefore, serves as a unifying concept for the redefinition and interpretation of the teachings of Buddhism for the benefit of humanity today. From this standpoint it is envisaged that IAB would serve:

1. as a clearinghouse for information on Buddhist Research and Studies through its research and publications programs; and
2. as an active forum for the sharing of experiences, fostering cooperation and forging new developments through its conferences, seminars, internships, fellowships and other exchange programs.

The functions of IAB include:

1. The translation of hitherto untranslated Buddhist texts into English.
 2. The publication of the works of contemporary interpreters and scholars of Buddhism.
 3. The publication of the annual academic journal: *Hsi Lai Journal of Humanistic Buddhism* (HLJHB).
 4. The implementation of a program of annual national, regional and international conferences and seminars.
 5. The award of fellowships or internships to visiting scholars and students.
 6. The award of grants to research scholars and the facilitation of the publication of the results of such research.
 7. The recognition of exceptional contributions to Buddhist Studies through honors and awards, and
 8. The use and development of state of the art resources in computers and information technologies for electronic publishing, data processing, diffusion of information, and research.
- IAB is an Approved Associated Center of the World Buddhist University, Bangkok, Thailand.