

Introduction by the President



The Annual Conference of the International Academy of Buddhism is one of the important events on the campus of the University of the West. This year marked the sixth meeting organized by the IAB under the leadership of Dean Ananda W.P. Guruge. The proceedings of the conference appear each year within a short time after the event and this volume is another example of the efficiency of the Dean and his staff. Our presenters often compliment the team at IAB for making certain that the research reports are disseminated within four months.

Each year at the conference, the IAB Honoree of the Year is announced. We are especially pleased that this year's award went to Professor Robert Buswell from UCLA. He is a scholar who has made major contributions to the fields of Buddhist, Korean, and religious studies. As one of the few researchers to focus on Korean Buddhism, Professor Buswell has helped to change the very nature of the way the tradition is studied and understood. This volume contains his speech given at the time of the presentation and a part of this journal has been given over to a description of his accomplishments. It is with deep appreciation for his work and leadership that the university made this award.

The theme for the Sixth Conference was "Humanistic Buddhism and Culture." It proved to be an excellent choice and the lively discussions that resulted from the presentations indicated the high degree of interest among the attendees. Each year, a special topic is chosen for exploration. Last year, the journal was 500 pages in length. These six volumes provide an unparalleled amount of information about Humanistic Buddhism. With so much material available for students and scholars to consider, Humanistic Buddhism is becoming a recognized part of Buddhist Studies. Because the topics chosen each year are very different from one another, we are seeing a range of views that provide new dimensions to the study of this tradition with each new issue of the IAB conference proceedings.

The University of the West is still a small institution, but we hope that our efforts in the area of Buddhist Studies will extend far beyond the confines of the campus. I am grateful to the Dean for organizing events such as this and for making the information available to a large audience of readers.

Plans are already in place for future conferences and it is our wish that all interested people will consider joining us for these scholarly events.

**Lewis R. Lancaster, President
University of the West**