

Introduction by the President

The International Academy of Buddhism has passed another milestone. It held the Second International Conference on Humanistic Buddhism from 17 to 21 December 2000. The Hsi Lai Journal of Humanistic Buddhism: Volume II – 2001 is now published with as many as nine research articles of the University's faculty and students and six from other scholars. Venerable Madawala Punnaji Thera has joined the Academy as a Visiting Research Scholar. The Director contributed to the expanding literature on Humanistic Buddhism with an analytical work on "*Humanistic Buddhism for Social Well-being: An Overview of Grand Master Hsing Yun's Interpretation in Theory and Practice*". It has been a productive and fruitful year.

We are greatly encouraged by the scholars who returned to the 2000 Conference with new contributions to the advancement of knowledge. We are equally pleased with the increase in new participants. Particularly gratifying is that a number of our graduate students made satisfactory presentations. We have already begun organizing the Third International Conference in Humanistic Buddhism to be held from 16 to 20 December 2001. The theme proposed is "**Humanistic Buddhism and Universal Ethics**". As on previous occasions, eight internationally renowned scholars are invited to be keynote speakers in eight plenary sessions. Participants will also have the opportunity to present research papers on any aspect of Buddhist Studies.

We are also very pleased that Dr. Lewis R. Lancaster was chosen as the IAB Honoree of the year 2000. As a luminary in the field of East Asian Buddhist Studies at University of California, Berkeley, he has made an extraordinary contribution to our understanding of Buddhism. In recognizing Dr. Lancaster for this honor, special attention was directed to his most innovative activities in the Electronic Buddhist Text Initiative, the Digital Library Project, and the Cultural Atlas. A significant achievement of Dr. Lancaster is the digital publication of the Korean Tripitaka – an event rated so important by Korean authorities and scholars as to hold the celebration of its conclusion at the Olympic Stadium in Seoul with a million enthusiastic participants. He has been an adjunct professor from the very inception of our University. He has participated actively in its academic planning. He is a Member of the Board of Trustees and the Chairman of the Doctoral Program Advisory Committee. We congratulate him on his numerous achievements and wish him continuing success.

On the eve of the Conference, the Doctoral Program Advisory Committee comprising Dr. George Bond, Dr. John McRae, Dr. Richard Payne, and Dr. Bill Powell held its first meeting under the chairmanship of Dr. Lancaster. A thorough review of the Program resulted in a number of improvements recommended by the Committee.

Once again, I thank my colleagues in the administration and faculty and the student body for a year of fruitful cooperation. Our most grateful thanks go to Venerable Grand Master Dr. Hsing Yun Da Shih for his wise leadership and guidance and to Members of the Board of Trustees for the unfailing support.

– *Naichen Chen*
President, HLU