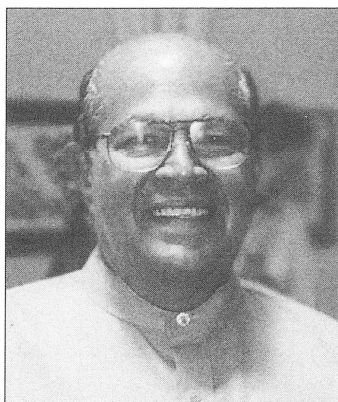


activities whether at home or at work. For those scholars who gave papers at the conference that are printed in this journal, a clear statement has been made about the role of Buddhism and the economy. I want to express my appreciation to all who made the conference a success and have now brought the publication of the papers to completion in such a short period of time. This is a topic that will continue to be on the agenda for all of us here at the University of the West.

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

Editor's Note



The Seventh Volume of Hsi Lai Journal of Humanistic Buddhism comes with the good news that the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) has granted accreditation to the University of the West of which International Academy of Buddhism is an integral research and publication center. The Journal has once again maintained the tradition of being published within five months of the International Conference, in spite of my having to go through double cardiac bypass surgery in March. The credit goes to my devoted assistants Darui Long, Hee Jong

You, Jamie Johnston, and Upeksha Premaratne.

The International Conference proved to be particularly stimulating. The subject "Humanistic Buddhism and Sustainable Economic Development" attracted the attention of students of both Buddhism and economics. The papers, all of which with the exception of Kenneth Locke's study of Karl Marx's approach to religion are published in the Journal, generated lively discussion. My own attempt to survey what is in circulation under the rubric of Buddhist Economics resulted in a critical analysis of what is purely idealistic and visionary and what is feasible and pragmatic. It was very encouraging that several scholars had contributed papers from China, India, Singapore and Thailand. It was a pity that some of the writers of these papers could not be present at the Conference primarily due to delay in getting US visas. Steps are being taken to solve this problem in future Conferences.

The Seventh International Conference had the pleasure of honoring three scholars: two were given awards as IAB Honorees of the Year 2005 – namely, the 84-year-old doyen of Buddhist Studies of Italy, Dr. Oscar Botto and the 42-year-old promising Chinese scholar from Nanjing, Dr. Cheng Gui Li. The third to be honored by being invited as an IAB Research Fellow is Dr. Xian Zhan Long whose monumental work on Stele Records of Buddhist Monasteries of Ba-Shu was the subject of a special presentation.

The subject for the next Conference, scheduled for January 15-19, 2007, is "Humanistic Buddhism and Science." As usual, several keynote speakers have been invited to present papers. All scholars interested in presenting papers or participating in the Conference are requested to contact us as early as possible.

– Ananda W.P. Guruge, Editor

A Prayer for Buddha's Birthday

By Venerable Master Hsing Yun

Oh Great, compassionate Buddha,
We are here to worship with sincerity and respect
Your birth into this world.

When all the flowers bloomed
During the warmth of spring,
Exotic flowers were contending in beauty
And fascination in Lumbini garden;
Everyone in Kapilavatthu was rejoicing,
Gentle breezes spread the fragrance,
All birds sang in unison;
From that moment on,
There were Buddha teachings in the human world.
You, with one hand pointed to the sky
And the other pointed to the earth,
Issued the declaration of being
The uniquely honored one in the world.
You took seven steps –
Clusters of lotus flowers appeared –
And used the pure and clean Buddha-truth,
Like water, to wash away the stains of earthly illusion.
Immediately –
Muddy mountain streams became crystal clear,
Burned-out torches flourished,
The heavens played wonderful music,
The earth displayed rare, auspicious signs;
All these signs were welcoming
Your arrival to this world.

Oh Great, compassionate Buddha,
Because of your birth in this mundane world
Your forty-nine years of teaching the Dharma
Will have influence for far more than countless kalpas!
The three-hundred-plus meetings
To discuss the sutras
Will benefit far more than countless sentient beings!

Oh Great, compassionate Buddha,
It was you who broke the caste system,
Who preached the doctrine
Of conditional causation
And the equality of all beings,
And the equality of all beings,
Who opened all beings' minds
To the Buddha wisdom and views,
Who awakened all sentient beings
Out of ignorance.

Oh Great, compassionate Buddha,
In order to receive the joyous occasion
Of your birth to the mundane world
With respect,

With respect,
In some places, full of joyful atmosphere,
People decorate with lanterns and colored hangings;
In some places, people parade,
And the sound of gongs
And drums shake the sky;
Monasteries hold the ceremony of bathing
The image of the Buddha,
Devotees and their families
Celebrate the Buddha's birthday.
This is how your followers commemorate
Your gracious kindness!
This is how your followers remember
Your blessings and protection with gratitude!
Oh Great, compassionate Buddha,
Please pity my hopelessness and lack of virtue
With compassion;
I can only chant your great, sacred name
Mindfully, as though remembering
My own kind mother.
Oh Great, compassionate Buddha,
I am kneeling in front of you,
I am passing my hands over your golden body,
I am offering my sincere devotion,
I pray and hope that your Buddha-virtue
Brightens the world
And that you always preach the Buddha-truth.
Please allow me to act in response to
Your Buddha eye
And clearly see and understand
The suffering of all beings.
Please allow me to act in response to
Your Buddha mouth
And delight in saying
Wonderful and kind words;
Please allow me to act in response to
Your Buddha body and
Willing to help;
often be a friend
Please allow me to act in response to
Your Buddha mind
And do more deeds to benefit all beings.
Oh Great, compassionate Buddha,
We are willing to use our entire life
To expound and propagate the truth;
To expound and propagate the truth;
We are willing to devote our life
To liberate all sentient beings.
Oh Great, compassionate Buddha,
Please accept my sincere prayers;
Please accept my sincere prayers!