

Joint Communiqué

International Conference on Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism

“Working As One: Buddhist Unity and Cooperation”

**At Buddhamonthon, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand
And United Nations Conference Center, Bangkok, Thailand
July 16- 20, 2004 (B.E. 2547)**

International Conference on Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism (2004/B.E. 2547)

We, the participants of Buddhist Organizations from countries and a region at the International Conference on Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism, having met from July 16 to July 20, 2004 (B.E. 2547), at Buddhamonthon Main Hall, Nakhon Pathom and at the United Nations Conference Center, Bangkok, Thailand,

Acknowledging that the Day of Vesak be celebrated each year in the month of May at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and at regional offices around the world, in accordance with the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1999 (B.E. 2542),

Recognizing that the need for continued open dialog between all Buddhist traditions, relationship and cooperation created by the collaboration of Buddhist leaders and scholars,

Considering that the outcome of the conference, “Working As One: Buddhist Unity and Cooperation” convening on 5 issues:

1. Buddhist Organization:

The relationship between local Buddhist organizations and the protection, if any, the state affords Buddhism, granting the roles of monks, nuns and laypersons in various organizations to cooperatively work better to achieve their goals,

2. Buddhist Education:

Local and national education systems including plans for the education of future generations leading to the sharing of knowledge, knowhow, and expertise focusing on Buddhist teaching in all traditions therefore bridging the gap of differences within the world communities,

3. Propagation of Buddhism:

The status of Buddhism among other religions and plans for its growth using new technology, new approach on its application, and success stories of others as well as equal role of individual to propagate and to protect Buddhism,

4. Buddhism and Social Welfare:

Buddhism and its role to alleviate social problems using compassion and generosity, and the fact that social welfare be focused not only on material welfare but also on moral welfare,

5. The International Recognition of the Day of Vesak:

Though different from country to country, tradition to tradition, these varieties only adding more beauty to the world of diversity, showing different cultural celebrations instead of shunning them, only broadening our horizon of acceptance and bringing harmony and peace into our world.

Resolve that the second international conference be held in 2005 (B.E. 2548), at the same venue in conjunction with the Vesak celebrations, but maintaining a separate entity to create the mutual understanding and cooperation for the pursuit of unity in diversity through shared concepts of action and speech, and shared views and unity in outlook,

Therefore, we hereby agree to the followings:

1. We will endeavor to establish the link between local and international organizations, making communicating more effective,
2. We will endeavor to share human resources, Buddhist literatures between groups, and to find a way to make Buddhist education more appealing to the younger generations thus expanding the eligibility to those outside the realm of interest,
3. We will endeavor to emphasize applied Buddhism in daily life practices such as healing and meditation and to create an awareness to strengthen the heritage of Buddhism, the preservation of objects of worship and holy places worldwide, through modern communication technology,
4. We will endeavor to demonstrate that Buddhist social welfare is the union of healthy body and mind and to show that social problems can be overcome by the practice of compassion and selflessness,
5. We will endeavor to collaborate and celebrate the International Recognition of the Day of Vesak at the United Nations Conference Center in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2005 (B.E. 2548), in conjunction with the second International Conference on Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism,
6. We will endeavor to establish a Working Committee to determine the actual date of both events and the nature of the activities to be pursued at those conferences.

M. Candavarabhivamsa

.....
Most Ven. Dr. Candavarabhivamsa
Dean, Faculty of Patipati,
International Theravada Buddhist
Missionary University
Myanmar

Dharma Murti

.....
Ven. Dharma Murti
Secretary, Ananda Kuti Vihar Trust
Kathmandu
Nepal

Shi Ming Yi

.....
Most Ven. Shi Ming Yi
Abbot, Foo Hai Ch'an Monastery
Singapore

Udugama Buddharakkhita

.....
Most Ven. Udugama Buddharakkhita
Mahathera
The Mahanayaka of Siam
Maha Nikaya, Asgiriya Chapter
Sri Lanka

Boyagama Wimalasiri

.....
Most Ven. Boyagama Wimalasiri
Mahathera
The Mahanayaka of Amarapura
Maha Sangha Sabha
Sri Lanka

Balangoda Pagnnawansa

.....
Most Ven. Balangoda Pagnnawansa
Mahathera
The Anunayaka
Ramanna Mahanikaya
Sri Lanka

P.T. Saphon

.....
Most Ven. Professor
Dr. Phra Thepsophon
Rector
Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya
University
Thailand

Phra Rajamethaphorn

.....
Ven. Phra Rajamethaphorn
Deputy Rector for Administration,
Acting Rector,
Mahamakut Buddhist University
Thailand

.....
Jinabodhi Bhikkhu

Ven. Dr. Jinabodhi Bhikkhu
Chairman & Assistant Professor
University of Chittagong
Bangladesh

.....
Most Ven. Mynak Tulku

Director, National Library,
Department of Culture,
Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
Bhutan

.....
Somdech Preah Sangharaja Tep Vong

The Supreme Patriarch
Maha Nikaya Order
Cambodia

.....
Preah Reachakanak Hiek Sopheap

Royal Order and Deputy Director-
Sangharajah Bour Kry Buddhist
University
Cambodia

.....
Most Ven. Master Jinghui

Vice President
The Buddhist Association of China
P.R.C.

.....
Ms. Setsuko Nakanishi

Spiritual Leader and Founder
Inner Trip Reiyukai International
Japan

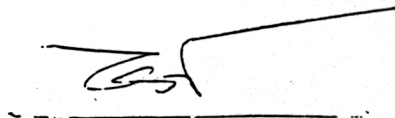
FOR MATSUMOTO HIROSHI
I-T-R-I. PRESIDENT

.....
Ven. Dr. Jinwol Young H. Lee

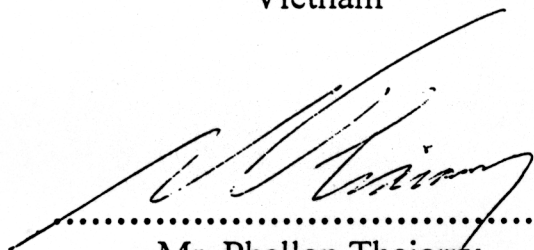
Vice-Chair, Committee to
International Relations
of Jogye Order of Korea Buddhism
Korea

.....
Ven. Bouakham Sariouth

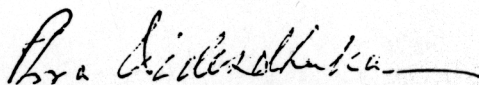
Vice president
Lao Buddhist Fellowship Organization
Lao P.D.R.



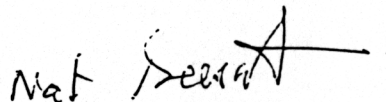
.....
Most Ven. Thich Hien Phap
Vice President & Secretary General &
Head of the Dept. of International
Buddhist Affairs
Vietnam



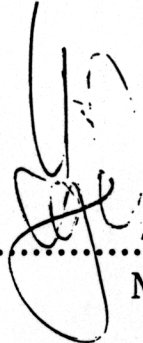
.....
Mr. Phallop Thaiarry
Honorary Secretary-General
The World Fellowship of Buddhists



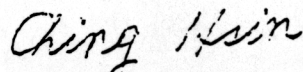
.....
Ven. Phra Videsdhammakavi
Vice President of the Thai Bhikkhus
Council in U.S.A.



.....
Mr. Nantasarn Seesalab
Deputy Rector for
Rector
The World Buddhist University



.....
Mr. Egil Lothe
President
Buddhist Federation of Norway



.....
Most Ven. Ching Hsin
Rector of Ching Chueh
Buddhist Sangha University