

2533 (1990)
The Seventeenth General Conference
Seoul, Korea

The Seventeenth General Conference of the World Fellowship of Buddhists was held in Seoul in the Republic of Korea from October 21 through October 29, 1990 sponsored by WFB Korea Regional Centre, Korea Fellowship of Buddhists, and Buddhist Academy Society. This meeting also commemorated the Fortieth Anniversary of this organization by the publication of the Fortieth Anniversary Souvenir Volume and convening of two impressive Pancasila Ceremonies at stadiums in Pusan and Seoul, Korea. This General Conference was unique for yet another reason. It was the first time in the history WFB that the host in Korea invited over five hundred Participants from twenty-six different countries to get together in the spirit of friendship to share their joy in the Buddha-Dharma.

In accordance to the theme of the Conference, “ Buddhist Challenges Into the Next Decade”, we had several key-note speakers: Venerable Sumetho Mahathero of Amaravati Buddhist Center, England speaking on “Challenges of the Next Decade”, Dr. Charles Mercieca of United Nations and Alabama A & M. University speaking on “A Permanent World Peace for the 21st Century” and The Role of Buddhist Education in the Decade of Nineties”; Dr. Rhi, Ki-Young of Dongguk University, Korea speaking on “What Should We Do In This Last Decade Of The Twentieth Century?”; and Congratulatory Remarks by Dr. Lewis Lancaster of University California, Berkeley, U.S.A.

The Conference concluded with the following “ Declaration”.

Declaration of the Seventeenth
General Conference, Seoul

We, the members of the World Fellowship of Buddhists assembled in Seoul, Korea at our 17th General Conference, 21st through to 29th October,

1990 and representing millions of Buddhists throughout the world do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that in conformity with the avowed theme of our conference “ The Buddhist Challenges into the Next Decade” we shall:

a) Endeavor, with all our might and main, continue to uphold the lofty ideas and noble aspirations enunciated by our founder members who established on the World Fellowship of Buddhists in Sri Lanka in 1960 to promote fellowship friendship and good well amongst Buddhist irrespective of race’ creed or beliefs for the well being of world Buddhism in particular and that of the world at large;

b) Reiterate our stand that we are prepared to cooperate, support and work with all other friendly world organizations striving for the establishment of peace and harmony of the word through the application of the sublime doctrine of the Buddha-Dhamma and relevant activities in the field of social, cultural and humanitarian avenues.

c) Observe with horror and dismay the current critical world situation, particular in the Middle East and earnestly plead with all the world powers to restrain and desist all war-like acts that would inevitably lea to the holocaust and decimation of mankind by the unleashing of nuclear armaments;

d) Uphold the PANCASILA of our Great Teacher, Lord Buddha, for the upliftment and progress of Buddhism contributing our theme to the peace and harmony of the world.