

2535 (1992)
The Eighteenth General Conference
Kaohsiung, Taiwan

With a theme of “ Development through Harmony and Cooperation”, the Eighteenth General Conference of the World Fellowship of Buddhists was held in Taiwan under joint sponsorship of Buddhist Association, Lay Buddhist Association and Han-tzang Cultural Association Taiwan. The Chairman of the Organizing Committee was the world renowned Master Hsing Yun. The date of the Conference extended from October 27th to November 3rd, 1992 with more than five hundred delegates, observers and distinguished guests participating from 53 Regional Centres world-wide.

The impressive opening ceremony participated by many distinguished guests including H.E. Hau Pei-tsun, Prime Minister of Taiwan was staged in the Chung Shan Building at Yang Ming Shan, Taipei. The host sponsors transported the entire foreign delegation on super buses from Taipei to Taichung, then to Kaohsiung completely across the island.

The Conference venue was the beautiful Fo Kuang Shan Temple Complex in Kaohsiung. The deliberations covered many religious and world issues and we were able to record noteworthy accomplishments including adopting a revised Constitution and electing Venerable Master Hsing Yun as Honorary President of The W.F.B.. We all are truly grateful for the great hospitality accorded the conference and for the kindness of members of the sponsors, co-sponsors Modern Buddhist Society, and Chinese Young Buddhist Association. We are particularly appreciative of the great assistance provided us by members of Buddha's Light International Association and Fo Kuang Shan Monastery.

The Eighteenth General Conference was concluded with the following “ Fo Kuang Shan Declaration:

We the members of the World Fellowship of Buddhists representing Buddhists on our planet, assembled in Taipei and Fo Kuang Shan, Kaohsiung from October 27th to November 3rd, 1992, in conformity

with the theme of the Eighteenth General Conference of “ Development through Harmony and Cooperation” do hereby declare:

1. That the alarming increase of unrest besetting the world today, as manifest in the proliferation of violence, social unrest, widespread use of illicit drugs, scourge of AIDS, child abuse and willful degradation of the environment, are caused primarily by untrammelled and selfish craving and desire. We believe that the sublime doctrine of the Buddha offers a practical way for all of us to lead wholesome lives and redeem humanity from the ills of the world. We therefore reiterate our explicit faith and desire to resolutely uphold and put into practice the declared principles and objectives enunciated by our forebears in Sri Lanka in 1950. We promise to make known the noble doctrines of the Buddha so that its benign spirit may pervade the entire world and inspire and influence everyone to follow the compassionate and forgiving way of life.
2. That the Buddhist way of life being fully consonant with genuine development and progress through harmony and cooperation calls upon all Buddhists to exemplify a deep sense of tolerance and understanding so essential for peace and harmony among all beings. We confidently pledge to continually cooperate with other religious, social and cultural organizations and movements which are committed to the fostering of greater understanding, peace and harmony of all humankind.
3. That the recent changes toward a new way of life of freedom and enlightenment have filled the hearts of people with much expectation, joy and hope. But still, in some part of the world, namely Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Tibet, peoples continue to suffer from social injustice, political persecution and oppression, religious discrimination, and unwholesome environmental conditions which continue to remain a deep cause of profound concern for Buddhists worldwide. In the same spirit, Buddhists express their full solidarity with their co-religious practitioners in

Eastern Europe, Russia and Mongolia who are now earnestly devoted to restore their traditional religion and culture in the wake of the welcome new found freedom that is sweeping these regions.

4. That the recent act of encroachment of Buddha Gaya which is amongst the holiest of holy places of Buddhist veneration, has caused tremendous concern among, not only Buddhists, but all knowledgeable people, we appeal to the authorities in India to take urgent and necessary action in ways that would respect the traditional sentiments of Buddhists internationally.
5. That Buddhist thinking, attitude and culture is in absolute harmony with nature contributing thereby to the realization of a symbiotic relationship between humankind and environment. We therefore pledge to work earnestly to contribute to international efforts to engender a greater environmental awareness on our planet and encourage appropriate steps to solve the problems.
6. That in order for people to survive in peace and dignity, we believe that we need to be fully conscious of the inter-relationship as well as the dependent co-origination of different ethnic-groups and states in the world and to work in harmonious cooperation in the spirit of justice, equality, mutual understanding, and respect essential for the realization of the ideal of building a world governed by compassion and forgiveness for the benefit of endless generations to come.