

2555 (2012)
The Twenty-Sixth General Conference
Yeosu, South Korea

The General Conference of the WFB was last held in South Korea since the 17th General Conference in B.E. 2533 (1990). The 26th General Conference of the WFB was again held in the beautiful city of Yeosu, South Jeolla Province which is famous for its temperate climate and fertile land. Theme of this conference was “Buddhist Ecological - Environmental Thought and Practice for the 21st Century.” Although technologies and advancement in the 21st Century have developed incredibly, people disregard and damage nature and environment. The conference was hoped to bring together our abilities to protect and restore our mother earth from the brink of destruction so that all sentient beings and nature will be in peace and harmony. Apart from discussion and conference, the host country had presented colorful and worth watching performances both in modern and traditional Korean tradition. In addition, the conference was held at the same time of Yeosu Expo 2014 and all participants were brought to appreciate the advancement of South Korea both spiritual and material prosperities.

The conference was concluded by Yeosu Declaration with detail as followed:

- ❖ To work for ecological and environmental preservation through Regional Centres of the World Fellowship of Buddhists, in order to reduce natural and man-made disasters and to protect planet earth;
- ❖ To encourage Buddhist communities to continue their efforts of inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue to establish religious harmony and sustainable world peace;
- ❖ To encourage the practice of Pancasila and meditation in daily life to promote moral and ethical standards in the global community;
- ❖ To focus our efforts to support and promote Buddhist faith and practice in regions where people are abandoning Buddhist beliefs and identity and being converted to other religions through unethical practices;
- ❖ To promote Humanitarian services to be extended to all living beings as a practice of Buddhist teachings of compassion and generosity;
- ❖ To encourage the best practice of Buddhist principles in the business community in order to create social and economic stability;
- ❖ To promote and support Buddhist culture through multi-media and to strengthen Buddhist values in global society;
- ❖ To encourage Buddhist communities to provide better educational facilities to under-privileged communities, especially under-privileged children and women, by promoting general knowledge and Buddhist ethical and moral values, in order for them to have a better future.
- ❖ To introduce a Buddhist Charter that explores the historical, cultural and spiritual values of Buddhist tangible and intangible heritage worldwide and to get support from UNESCO and other international organizations to preserve our Buddhist cultural identity; and
- ❖ To improve Buddhist youths’ development and leadership programs to strengthen their capabilities to become promising future leaders in different parts of the world.