

2545 (2002)
The Twenty-Second General Conference
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The 22nd General Conference of the WFB was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 9-13 December B.E. 2545 (2002) on the theme “Wisdom and Compassion: The Way Forward” represented Buddhists of all denominations that expand compassion into the entire world with the hope to solve conflict and sufferings through unity and compassion under the guidance of wisdom. If religious values are being practiced, those worldly defilements – greed, hatred, anger – could be reduced.

Worth pondering upon for all of us was the message from His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, Supreme Patriarch of Thailand and the Patron of the WFB, that only through the virtues of forbearance and loving-kindness will the affliction and killing be terminated; only through the virtues of generosity will the starvation and hunger be eliminated; only through the virtues of delivering kind, wholesome and meritorious instructions will the stupidity and faith without wisdom be vanquished from the world.

The conference concluded with the following declaration:

- ❖ Strengthen the will to live and work in harmony with humanity as a whole regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, social status, geographical location, political affiliations or economic circumstances;
- ❖ Uphold the importance of religion for the promotion of peace and security for self development and social progress through the inculcation of moral values of mindfulness, non-violence, tolerance, charity, unity, and selfless service to others;
- ❖ Testify, with our own lives and acts, to the supreme role of the Buddha Dharma and Buddhist practice as a system of values and virtues capable of serving humanity at this crucial stage of instability and crisis;
- ❖ Observe the Pancasila as our unwavering commitment to global ethics;
- ❖ Actively participate in the resolution of conflicts and prevention of war as a mission inherent in the Buddhist principles of loving kindness, compassion, appreciative joy, equality and equanimity;
- ❖ Modernize and revamp Buddhist institutions and organizations to enhance their services through capacity building through introduction of state-of-the-art technology of communication and information; and
- ❖ Pool and increase our resources, with special attention to voluntary services, for the efficient and effective accomplishment of Buddhist programs of educational, intellectual, social and spiritual service.