

2549 (2006)
The Twenty-Third General Conference
Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei

The 23rd General Conference of the WFB was held at Fo Guang Shan Monastery in Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei from 19-23 April B.E. 2549 (2006) on the theme "Buddhism and Tolerance for World Peace" which is in accordance with the teaching of Lord Buddha that the merit of tolerance can pacify all raging situations and can be fulfilled through the perfection of morality. The meeting was attended from 15 countries worldwide (excluded Chinese Taipei, the host country)

The speech at this conference of H.E. Phan Wannamethee, President of the WFB, worth mentioning is we are not living in a close world and we are strong enough to give our helping hands to the rest of humanity. Our mission is to faithfully follow the teaching of the Lord Buddha who reveals us the merits of loving kindness, compassion, non-violence, tolerance and peace. In order to achieve peace and combat the world evils, responsibility is set upon all who profess Buddhism. And since we do not have supreme power, we must work together and rely on each other's efforts. Whereas, the WFB will have a role of a catalyst to exchange views, submit ideas, give suggestions and act as a bridge whenever possible, for international understanding and cooperation.

The conference was concluded by the following declaration:

- ❖ Examine our thoughts, speeches and actions daily in order to abandon all defilements;
- ❖ Create an effective means of communication for the Buddhists to learn and understand and also to protect them from spiritual afflictions and physical oppression;
- ❖ Maintain unity and solidarity among the Buddhists at large and the world community;
- ❖ To encourage the world community to practice tolerance, patience and understanding;
- ❖ Uphold Buddhist ethics and values through the practice of Buddha Dharma;
- ❖ Actively participate in conflict resolution and prevention of war as a mission inherent in the Buddhist principles of loving-kindness, compassion, appreciative joy, equality and equanimity;
- ❖ To encourage a skilful way of life that is ecologically and environmentally responsible to ensure the sustainability of our society;
- ❖ To promote mutual respect and peace among all religions by opposing unethical conversion of the followers of the Buddhist faith; and
- ❖ To participate in improving the quality of life by providing education and health assistance to those adversely affected.