

❖ 2565 (2022)
The Thirtieth General Conference
Bangkok and Nakhon Pathom, Thailand

After the last assembling of The WFB family at the 29th General Conference in Japan, the pandemic of COVID-19 happened and widely contagiously to every country that ensued city lockdown and social distancing in order to lessening widespread of disease. Consequently, General Conference of The WFB was delayed for almost 4 years until we are certain of safety of participants. The 30th General Conference was hold in Bangkok and Nakhon Pathom from 18-21 October B.E. 2565 (2022) which The WFB Headquarters was the host. However, the contagion is still undulated in some countries and world situation was on the brink, therefore, the Conference was organized in a hybrid platform (on-site and via webinar) according to the convenience of total 670 attendees (370 on-site and 300 via webinar) from 20 countries. Theme of the General Conference was “Buddhism in the Time of Crisis”.

His Holiness Somdet Phra Ariyavongsagatanana, the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand, graciously presided over the Opening Ceremony and chanted the speech of good deeds that we should act according to the Buddhist principles of ‘*mettakayakamma*’ i.e. willingly help others and behave gently in open and in private; ‘*mettavacikamma*’ i.e. compassionately inform others about things which are beneficial and teach, introduce, and warn them with a kind speech, speak politely with good intention both in open and in private; and, ‘*mettamanokamma*’ i.e. having a good intention, always think about doing useful things, looking at things with a positive mind and be honest to each other. His Holiness urged all of us to cultivate these qualities as our innate foundation and to spread out loving-kindness through body, speech and mind. Then, peace would appear in our minds, minds of near and dear, and to all level of society in no time.

At this conference, Mr. Phallop Thaiarry, who has served The WFB for 53 years since B.E. 2512 (1969), was unanimously elected as the sixth President of The WFB including the new Office Bearers (Vice-Presidents, Executive Council Members, and Chairperson of 11 Standing Committees). Furthermore, there was a resolution for designation of two additional Vice-Presidents other than eighteen in number stipulated by Constitution of The WFB, namely Ven. Wu Shin as Vice-President @UNESCO, and Rev. Young In-sa as Vice-President @UN.

The conference was concluded by Bangkok Declaration 2022 with detail as follows.

1. To practice metta, compassion and wisdom in our human interaction, international relations, and care for the environment.
2. To respect diversity and multi-culturalism in our daily life.
3. To support the seventeen UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in the use of renewable energies, education for children and empowerment of women.
4. To participate in the conservation of Buddhist heritage sites and to promote heritage education.
5. To further engage in interfaith dialogues as a means to promote understanding and world peace.
6. To practice the Pancasila as way to fulfil our commitment to the mother earth.
7. To further propagate the Buddha Dhamma as a way to respect the sanctity of life and properties, and laying the foundation for a harmonious and peace world.