

2nd WORLD BUDDHIST SUMMIT

“Lumbini: A Symbol of Unity in Diversity – The Fountain of World Peace”

Held at Lumbini - the birthplace of Lord Buddha
Nepal 30th November to 2nd December 2004

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Mr. Peter Boswell represented the Chan Academy Australia as an Observer to the Summit. Chan Academy is a registered trading name of the Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd. On the 27th November 2004 Mr. Boswell travelled by Thai Air to Kathmandu where he was met at the airport by the Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mr. Deep Kumar Upadhyaya, and a delegation of eight to ten members of the Lumbini Development Trust. Peter then travelled by domestic airline Yeti Air to Gautam Buddha Airport in Bhairawa and was met by three local persons working for the Trust and taken to Bhairawa Township to the hotel.

The following day Peter took a taxi to the Lumbini site where he was taken around the Lumbini development area and visited Temples built by the Vietnamese, the People's Republic of China, Japan and several other Temples under construction. The Japanese Temple workers had also completed a lot of natural restoration around their site to create the wetlands for the return of the Lumbini stork, which had thought to previously been extinct. (The stork had returned and in fact there was a pair in the yard of the local hotel).

On the 29th of November our Member was picked up by bus from the hotel Nirvana and taken to the Lumbini site for the pre-Summit session.

All delegates and observers were welcomed to the Summit by the Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr. Deep Kumar Upadhyaya as president of the Lumbini Development Trust and Chairman for the Summit.

The opening address on “Indispensability of Peace in the Present World Context” was delivered by the Venerable Dr. Sugandha Mahasthvir. This proved to be a very scholarly and thought provoking paper where the Venerable Dr. Sugandha stressed the importance of the peacemaker that the Lord Buddha was and recounted many examples from his Teachings that advocated the need for people to first seek peace within themselves providing a basis for building peaceful communities, peace-loving nations and eventually a peaceful world. He also cited the example of bringing the Maoist insurrection into the Government of his native Thailand where the King went

into the villages and then brought the Maoists into dialogue and eventually membership of the Government.

The second paper presented that morning was by Karna Shakya and focussed on the future of Lumbini and dwelled specifically on the idea of developing Lumbini as a world broad-based World Peace City. He stressed the need to refocus the development by integrating all three – dharma (religion), marma (wisdom), and karma (deeds). He proposed that the site was more than just a religious site because it had a historical and archaeological significance whose architectural design and theme was important in its own right.

He said that the Peace City was a global affair and not just a communal or national affair. Mr Shakya stressed the value of need for action to achieve the aims of the Lumbini World City of Peace concept. He also argued that the completion of the international airport would enable Lumbini to become a major site for pilgrimage tourism thus bringing in sufficient finance to complete the entire project.

Another presentation was given by Dr. Ananda Guruge who said he had reasons to be happy with the development taken place at Lumbini since the 1998 Summit. He added to Dr. Sugandha's presentation on Lord Buddha's messages of peace and peace making and said Lord Buddha is a Nepali and Nepal's most famous son, and said his Teachings were a-kalika (relevant at all times). Dr. Guruge's advice for peace making was, begin with yourself and demonstrate the value of peace in everything you do. He added thoughts are important as deeds and deeds are as important as words. Dr. Ananda Guruge said Lord Buddha is the greatest human being we have been blessed with and said that when Lumbini becomes a World Peace City, the Buddha's teachings would radiate his messages of peace.

After these presentations some 23 delegates gave comments and raised issues including those relating to clarifications of the concepts in the theme presentation as well as seeking further explanations to the ideas mentioned in the above papers. Many of the comments stressed the need for action as well as voluntary enforcement of a basic code within the Lumbini area.

The chairman of the pre-summit sessions, the Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Deep Kumar Upadhyaya summarised the day's proceedings. He stressed that the Government's decision to establish a Buddhist University and the organisation of this summit itself were positive signs of the Government's continued commitment for the development of Lumbini as a World Peace City.

The following day, the 30th November 2004, was for the attendance of His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and Her Majesty Queen Komal Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah to attend for the inauguration of the Summit. Consular dignitaries, Ministers of the Government, senior Army Officers and Sangha leaders were present with several of them giving prepared speeches. The inauguration was followed by lunch after which all delegates returned to the conference area for final presentations prior to deciding the Declaration of the Summit.

It was in this session that our Member Peter Boswell was invited to present the paper submitted by our Temple, the Chan Academy Australia. However, when asked how

long the presentation was, Peter told them that after practice it took 22 minutes. He was asked to reduce the presentation to 10 minutes. Peter spoke on the Buddha's teaching on the causes of war and peace giving the seven conditions necessary to achieve peace, he spoke on the need to preserve the Dhamma teachings for further generations to come including the many points to put Dhamma into the world as action. Some teachings of the Venerable Master Sheny-yen on the origin or cause of suffering being kamma were also given. Those paragraphs about putting Dhamma in the world were also given together with the three principles of universality (1. Universality of the Law, 2. Universality of Humanness, 3. Universality of Love). After the completion of the day's presentations Peter was congratulated by Venerable Dr. Sugandha and several other delegates expressed their appreciation of the points raised by us.

On the third and final day the Summit was presented with a summary of the proceedings together with a preliminary declaration. This was discussed and a panel of 17 delegates and members retired to present the final declaration to be adopted by the Summit after lunch on that day. The following is that declaration.

Declaration of the Second World Buddhist Summit

**Lumbini, Nepal
2nd December 2004**

Assembled at the holiest site of Buddhist pilgrimage and the fountain of world peace - the Sacred Garden of Lumbini, the Birthplace of Lord Buddha - we the delegates at the Second World Buddhist Summit, representing the global community of Buddhists, friends of Buddhism, admirers of the Lord Buddha and his teachings and the peace loving people of all faiths, express our gratitude to His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev for his kindness in inaugurating the Summit and to Her Majesty Queen Komal Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah for her gracious presence at Lumbini.

1. We do hereby solemnly recognise the Holy Shrine of Lumbini as a source of eternal inspiration for the peace loving people of the world to promote world peace.
2. We express our grateful thanks to His Majesty's Government of Nepal for:
 - ◆ Implementing the decision of the First World Buddhist Summit held in 1998 (especially the completion of the Mayadevi Temple, the construction of the pond and other developments according to the Lumbini Master Plan)
 - ◆ Enacting the law to establish the International Buddhist University at Lumbini.
 - ◆ Further continuing the archaeological excavations at the Sacred Garden.
 - ◆ Granting permission to operate international flights from the Gautam Buddha Airport, Siddharthanagar, to the neighbouring cities of India, and
 - ◆ Continuously observing the Baishak Purnima (Full moon day of May) as Lumbini Day.

3. We express appreciation to His Majesty's Government of Nepal for agreeing to take action to expeditiously complete the implementation of the Master Plan and the development of the surrounding areas. In this connection it is requested that the government make clear commitments with time bound action plans, including
 - ◆ Declaring the Sacred Garden of Lumbini as a Five Precept Zone, and
 - ◆ Incorporating peace education in the curriculum of educational institutions at all levels and forms.
4. The First World Buddhist Summit recommended making Lumbini the Fountain of World Peace following which the UN commissioned the exploration the vision of the **World Peace City of Lumbini** as a living centre of learning and teaching for all to live together inspired by peace, harmony, non-violence and coexistence. Taking into consideration the theme paper presented to the Summit, we earnestly propose to His Majesty's Government of Nepal to translate into action this unique and right vision to create a World Peace City of Lumbini around the Sacred Area. It is envisioned to be a radiating centre of a world peace civilisation with a rural-urban fabric resulting in a metacity exemplifying the Lord Buddha's teaching.
5. We extend support to His Majesty's Government of Nepal for its untiring efforts in developing Lumbini and propose that His Majesty's Government of Nepal will
 - ◆ Promote and develop other holy sites namely Kapilvastu, Devdaha and Ramgram evenly by taking immediate steps to undertake research archaeological excavation and conservation for developing the sites to attract international and domestic visitors.
 - ◆ Take appropriate and immediate actions for the extension of the Gautam Buddha Airport into an international airport,
 - ◆ Continue to enlist the fullest cooperation of all national and international bodies for the development of Lumbini and other holy sites,
 - ◆ Ensure full national commitment and encourage and enhance communities in the promotion and development of Lumbini and the surrounding areas with special emphasis on the environment,
 - ◆ In the light of increasing responsibilities, undertake necessary actions to constantly review the adequacy of implementation capacity whose enhancement is essential for fulfilling the government commitments,
 - ◆ Take immediate appropriate actions for the implementation of Resolutions of the UN and other regional organizations which remain unimplemented, and the revitalization of the UN International Committee for the Development of Lumbini and the UN International Advisory Committee,
 - ◆ Make necessary arrangements so that decisions of this Summit are gazetted, as appropriate, and implemented accordingly.
6. We reaffirm and resolve to be partners in all promotional activities aiming at the implementation of this Declaration and hope and aspire that the collaboration between the leadership of peace lovers and His Majesty's Government of Nepal will continue to be further strengthened and widened.
7. We, therefore, fervently wish that future Summits be organized in Lumbini every four years.

8. We acknowledge the leadership of the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba and contributions of Hon'ble Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Deep Kumar Upadhyaya, Most Venerables, Scholars, distinguished delegates, government officials, members and staff of the Lumbini Development Trust and the Summit Secretariat, and the hospitable people of Nepal who have helped to make this Summit a grand success.
9. We express our thanks Dr Young Hoon Kwaak who led the UNDP's vision and scoping mission of the World Peace City of Lumbini study. We also thank Venerable Dr. Sugandha Mahasthavir and Karna Shakya for the presentation of the theme papers at the Summit. Likewise we appreciate the third theme paper prepared by Sunao Miyabara.
10. Finally, we respectfully urge that all efforts be made to resolve the existing situation in Nepal in the spirit of the Buddhist peace vision involving all the parties in conflict.

OTHER MATTERS

As part of Peter Boswell's discussions with delegates and others, he made some important contacts that give merit making opportunities to the Chan Academy Australia.

1. Ms. Gyamu Lama as President of the Nepal Women Awareness Skill Development Center Office. This lady as part of her many functions is providing educational opportunities for the 48 % of Nepali children who are unable to access schooling or other formal education. A merit making opportunity exists for us to acquire paper pads and byros to send her for this work.
2. Mrs. Ratna Laxmi Shrestha, Chairperson of the Women for Social Energy, Vice Chair Person for the Human Right Peace Society, Kathmandu (HURPES), and General Secretary of the Parsa Milan kendra, Kathmandu. Mrs. Shrestha took the trouble to show Mr Boswell around various parts of Kathmandu.
3. Mr. Lokapriya Barua, delegate from Bangladesh, with whom Peter developed a friendship and an intention to remain in contact with each other.
4. Mrs. Mitra Rana, manager of Yeti Travels in Kathmandu, who provided her bus and driver to bring me from the airport to the Hotel Radisson in Kathmandu and took me back to the airport for departure to Bangkok. She also provided a driver and guide to take me into the Tibetan area and old Patan where Buddha and other images are made and sold. Also, Peter met a Tibetan painter of Thangkas, who showed some beautiful Thangkas.