

Editorial Message

Welcome to the 3rd Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Universities. This volume is long overdue, for too many or numerous reasons, none of which should be recollected. It's here now, and we are excited to see it finally in print.

The IABU has been functioning for several years now, bringing Buddhist universities together on a larger academic platform, through the many successful academic conferences that we hold at Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, the gracious host for the office for the IABU Secretariat. Nearly annually, we organize academic conferences in which around seventy academics presenting their research or academic articles on Buddhism are brought to the public and attending students. Each conference has about four subthemes in which, generally each paper is given about fifteen minutes of presentation-time, followed by about five minutes for some brief comments. Our papers in this journal have been contributed by several professors, all of which attend and present in our academic conferences, and it is well within our hopes that each paper can find a home in the hearts of someone, perhaps some young researcher, who can take up the knowledge or wisdom in the paper and create a larger or better text – maybe be a reference or serve as a catalyst for a thesis or a dissertation project.

The International Association of Buddhist Universities is committed to improve the academic scholarship of Buddhist Studies scholars. We have well-established scholars in our network, as well as younger, aspiring scholars working equally as hard to bring aspects of Buddhism to the interested reader.

Professor Kwee brings the knowledge of Indonesia to our attention. The IABU has many universities from Indonesia in our association, and such an article shares the wisdom of this ancient Buddhist chain of islands. Professor Abeynayake's paper is the Keynote Speech delivered to our 2nd IABU Academic Conference on Buddhist Philosophy & Praxis, which discusses a dilemma with the four noble truths. Dr. Peoples contributes an article here on

a possible relationship between a philosophical-school and a group of people that the Buddha met. Both Jana Igunma and Professor Mahanta discuss a popular Jataka story, from different perspectives. Dr. Peoples contributes a second piece, a fresh article on a recent controversial figure who possesses an interesting critical-perspective on Buddhism. Finally, Professor Lee contributes an article on the peace work done in the United States by the Tzu Chi organization. Please enjoy these contributions to the emerging realm of Buddhist academia.

Please take the time to read these articles, and we hope to bring out additional issues in a more timely manner. We also will strive to bring out higher-quality material in the future. Our goal is to continually improve our young association.

The 2012 IABU Editorial Team

Table of Contents

Forward

Editorial Message

1. **The Borobudur: A Psychology of Loving-kindness Carved in Stone** 1
Maurits G.T. Kwee
2. **Noble Truths versus Dependent Origination** 29
Professor Oliver Abeynayake
3. **Possible Relationship between Kalām and the Kalama Sutta** 43
Dr. Dion Oliver Peoples
4. **A Buddhist Monk’s Journeys to Heaven and Hell** 65
Jana Igunma
5. **Narratology in the Isan Mahachat Sung-sermon** 83
Asst. Prof. Dr. Dipti Mahanta
6. **Slavoj Žižek’s Interpretation of ‘Buddhism’** 107
Dr. Dion Oliver Peoples
7. **Tzu Chi Compassion Society’s Peace Work in America** 145
Jonathan H. X. Lee