



The Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Universities (JIABU)

Special Edition on Vesak Celebrations Conference 2018

Aims and Scope

The Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Universities is an academic journal published twice a year (1st issue January-June, 2nd issue July-December). It aims to promote research and disseminate academic and research articles for researchers, academicians, lecturers and graduate students. The Journal focuses on Buddhism, Sociology, Liberal Arts and Multidisciplinary of Humanities and Social Sciences. All the articles published are peer-reviewed by at least two experts.

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*International Buddhist Studies College (IBSC),
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*International Buddhist Studies College (IBSC),
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Owner

International Association of Buddhist Universities

Office

International Buddhist Studies College (IBSC)
Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University
IABU Office, IBSC Building, MCU,
79 Moo1, Lamsai, Wang-noi, Phra Nakorn Si Ayutthaya 13170,
Thailand
Tel: (6635)248-000 ext.7210
Email: iabu@mcu.ac.th

Editorial Message

At the International Association of Buddhist Universities, we have several principles that we take as our guidelines in moving forward in our engagements. Here is a reminder of how we progress:

IABU Vision:

- Motivate future generations to gain and apply profound understanding of the Buddhadhamma in every aspect of life
- Raise the quality of scholarly work within Buddhist Studies and across other academic endeavors
- Contribute to meeting the challenges that face human society worldwide

IABU Mission:

- Support and collaborate with members to ensure humanity can benefit from the richness and variety of the multi-dimensional Buddhist traditions
- Provide a framework towards better understanding diverse policies and activities
- Collaborate in administration, teaching, research and outreach
- Recognize each other's qualifications

IABU Goals:

- Propagate the Buddhadhamma through collaborative academic channels
- Eliminate Buddhist sectarian, national, and institutional barriers
- Raise the academic standards throughout the Buddhist world
- Maximize academic potentials and abilities

Special Edition on Vesak Celebrations 2018:

Buddhist contribution for Human Development

Contributors :

This publication could not have been possible without the persistence, hard work, and dedication of MCU's scholars, Buddhist's Scholars worldwide and IBSC staff. Ven. Prof. Dr. Phrarajapariyatkavi and his team supervise communication and collection of the paper. Director of the IABU Secretariat Office, Venerable Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phramaha Hansa Dhammhaso and his team produce a decent format and design. We wish to also thank all members of the Executive Council and the Editorial Committee for their devotion. We are also grateful to our many sponsors of the Vesak Conference during 25-26 May 2018, the IABU Executive Secretary Venerable Khammai Dhammasami, the academic team of IABU-MCU for their assistance, particularly Ven. Phra Weerasak Jayadhammo – for his kind dedication and editing.

Editorial Team

Preface

On the occasion of the 3rd IBSC International Conference entitled “*Buddhist Contribution for Social Development*” held on 25th -26th May, 2018, organized by the International Buddhist Studies College (IBSC), Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University (MCU), Thailand, I am very honor to wish thank all faculty members, students and director to arrange another meaningful academic conference for the sake of students.

The conference theme “*Buddhist Contribution for Social Development*” is very relevant and needy for the current time in the sense of present social circumstances around the world. From the evidence of the Buddha’s discourses, or *sutta*-s in the Dīgha Nikāya, it is clear that early Buddhists were very much concerned with the creation of social conditions favorable to the individual cultivation of Buddhist values. An outstanding example of this, in later times, is the remarkable “welfare state” created by the Buddhist emperor, Asoka (B.C. 274-236). Eminent Buddhist scholar Walpola Rahula stated the situation — perhaps at its strongest — when he wrote that “Buddhism arose in India as a spiritual force against social injustices, against degrading superstitious rites, ceremonies and sacrifices; it denounced the tyranny of the caste system and advocated the equality of all men; it emancipated woman and gave her complete spiritual freedom.” The Buddhist scriptures do indicate the general direction of Buddhist social thinking, and to that extent they are suggestive for our own times. Nevertheless it would be pedantic, and in some cases absurd, to apply directly to modern industrial society social prescriptions detailed to meet the needs of social order which flourished twenty-three centuries ago. The Buddhist householder of the Sigalovada Sutta experienced a different way of life from that of a computer consultant in Tokyo or an unemployed black youth in Liverpool. And the conditions which might favor their cultivation of the Middle Way must be secured by correspondingly

different—and more complex—social, economic and political strategies. As above-mentioned notes, I personally think it is a very right decision to arrange this academic conference where distinguish professors, lecturers, scholars and students actively participate alongside extending their in-depth knowledge of Buddhism.

As always, I appreciate the entire team of IBSC for arranging another meaningful Buddhist Conference at our university. In end, I am going to conclude with sharing the Buddha's words "*Bahujana hitaya, bahujana sukhaya*", that mean, "*for the benefit of many, for the happiness of many*", which reflects to work together for the good of enormous sentient beings.



The Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmapundit

*Rector, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya
University, Thailand*

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