



The World Fellowship of Buddhists



องค์การพุทธศาสนิกสัมพันธ์แห่งโลก
THE WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF BUDDHISTS

**Message from the President of The World Fellowship of Buddhists
in Memory of Most Venerable Grand Master Hsing Yun
Founder of Fo Guang Shan Monastery
5 February B.E. 2566 (2023)**



Most Venerable Grand Master Hsing Yun passed away on 5 February, B.E. 2566 (2023), which has brought great sadness to Sangha and laities around the world.

Most Venerable Grand Master Hsing Yun was born in B.E. 2470 (1927) in Jiangdu, Jiangsu Province, China. He graduated from Jiaoshan Buddhist College in B.E. 2490 (1947). In B.E. 2500 (1957), he established the Buddhist Cultural Service Centre in Taipei and founded Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Order in B.E. 2510 (1967). For several decades, Most Venerable Grand Master had established hundreds of temples and universities in almost every corner of the world. He was known for his "Humanistic Buddhism" philosophy, utilizing Buddhism to fit the needs of the modern world. He was among the forefront Buddhist scholars in modern reformation of Buddhism, and was one of the most influential teachers of modern Buddhism. He was also well-known for his expertise in engaging in religious dialogue with other Buddhist sects and in interfaith dialogue.

There were many times that Most Venerable had assisted the World Fellowship of Buddhists (The WFB) in hosting the General Conference. The first time was in B.E. 2528 (1985), when the seminar of the World Fellowship of Buddhist Youth (WFBY) – a sub-organization of The WFB, was being held in Taiwan. Then, in B.E. 2531 (1988), he assisted in hosting the 16th General Conference of The WFB at Hsi Lai Temple in Los Angeles, U.S.A., the first time in 38 years that The WFB's General Conference was held outside Asia.

In B.E. 2535 (1992), Most Venerable Grand Master Hsing Yun hosted the 18th General Conference in Taipei and Kaohsiung, Taiwan, in which he was graciously appointed as Honorary President of The WFB by acclamation for his remarkable work for the cause of Buddhism. In B.E. 2541 (1998), he once again hosted the 20th General Conference of The WFB in New South Wales, Australia. The last time Most Venerable Grand Master Hsing Yun was the host of this conference was at the 23rd WFB General Conference, held at Fo Guang Shan Monastery, Kaohsiung, Taiwan in B.E. 2549 (2006). As the last gesture of our admiration for his guidance and valuable suggestions, greatly contributing to the progress of the WFB, the resolution was adopted at the 30th General Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand in B.E. 2565 (2022), to invite Most Venerable Grand Master Hsing Yun as the WFB's Ovadacariyas (Religious Advisor).

Buddha's last sermon reminds us all, that nothing is permanent, and that we must work out our salvation with heedfulness, and yet, Most Venerable Grand Master Hisng Yun's demise has brought a deep sense of grief and great loss to me personally, and to the Buddhist world in general because of his Humanistic Buddhism approach, providing guidance and hope to Buddhists all around the world. His achievements will continue to inspire future generations.

On behalf of the World Fellowship of Buddhists, its sub-organizations - the World Fellowship of Buddhist Youth, and the World Buddhist University - may I convey my deepest condolences to Sangha and laities of Fo Guang Shan Monastery on the passing of Most Venerable Grand Master Hisng Yun.

May the merit of the Triple Gem lead Most Venerable to nirvana.



Phallop Thaiarry
President
The World Fellowship of Buddhists