

## **Dissemination of Buddhism Through Modern Technology**

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Concerning the modern developments for trends in the dissemination of Buddhism, across the world – our goal is to find feasible methods for propagating the Dhamma in modern ways. Another goal is to propagate Buddhism across the world, and even into Thailand. Today, in this solemn atmosphere, millions of the Buddha's children are gathering with joy, here in Thailand - to attend our Lord's Birthday, coinciding with the 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the King of Thailand. On this special occasion, we share great solutions supporting the development and solidarity of Buddhism for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Under the halo of Buddha, with solidarity and harmony, and representing the Buddhist Sangha and Followers from Vietnam, I would like to send my best regards to you all. May the conference succeed.

Over 25 centuries, with the rise and fall of societies, the Buddhist congregation has continually propagated the Dhamma-Vinaya doctrine – ensuring the progression of the Sangha, operating in transferring religious specialty-knowledge across many skill-fields.

Our predecessors always attached special importance to the dissemination of doctrine. They devoted themselves with the noble-duty to spread and propagate Dhamma in every direction, when possible. In India, after the Buddha had gained Enlightenment under the Bodhi-tree, he dispersed the Dhamma-doctrine and disciples to every parts of India for 45 years. He utilized various skillful methods: dependent on time, situation, levels of kamma in the people – giving a suitable discourse pointing to the cessation of suffering. Especially about 300 years later after his death, Buddhism not only spread everywhere in India but also reached the other continents. Emperor Asoka [born: 304BC; died: 232 BC] – after a brutal and bloody war with Kalinga [around 265-263 BC] – he felt sorry and repented through taking refuge in the Triple Gems: the Buddha, the Dhamma and Sangha. He built many stupas and monasteries; and he also promoted Buddhist monks to go travel abroad for propagating *Buddhadhamma* –or the doctrine. To this very day, Buddha's disciples continue to do missionary activities. Keeping the Wheel of Dhamma in motion depends on differences of each era, each nation, each civilization, and each period of development - but it can never be stopped! With the goal to make the world better, to equally educate humanity, teach non-ego, altruism, etc. - the skillful ways to disseminate Buddhist propaganda must change and adapt itself to the needs of humanity, while his/her

civilization is evolving.

Generally speaking, knowledge guides the social life – so, we have to discuss society's present situation, in order to develop propaganda or the seeking of solutions. On this trip to Thailand to celebrate the Buddha's birthday, I would like to share some opinions on social management and development.

Dear Sirs and Madams,

According to our Buddhist tradition, we have a fundamental principle: 'Serving humanity is an offering to the Buddha'. Every real Buddhist priest leads a virtuous life, brings peace to everybody, and protects the motherland and people. Purifying the world is purifying the *Pure Land* on earth. In order to do so, we must focus on the following solutions:

1. Propaganda from the congregation of Buddhists should meet the needs of modern knowledge, become developed, and make full use of powerful Dhamma resources, and to propose healthy lifestyles for the body and mind.
2. Accompanied with the traditional propaganda such as oral Dharma preaching, canon publishing and so on... Mp3 players, cameras and other digital technology should be used; and more Buddhist websites should be built. Thanks to modern media such as radio and television stations, everyone can study Buddhism from a distance.
3. For the development of global Buddhism - we should promote, support and provide opportunities for Buddhist monks and nuns to go abroad to study.
4. The Buddhist Sangha of each country should have its own multi-language website
5. We should prepare inheritors by training and re-training young ones.

The above ideas are proposed for the purpose of contributing to the propagation of Dhamma, in this modern age – from our own thinking.

May the *Buddhas from Ten Directions* bless us as messengers of the Lord to achieve completion.

May your body and mind be permanently peaceful.