

DISSEMINATION OF BUDDHISM THROUGH MODERN TECHNOLOGY

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In the development trend of Buddhism all over the world, with the mission spreading the Dharma in modern life, our goal is to find out feasible solutions to propagate the Dharma to Buddhist communities in the world and in Thailand, too. Today, in the solemn atmosphere, millions of the Buddha's children are with joy gathering here in Thailand to attend our Lord's Birthday, and the 80th birthday of the King of Royal Thailand. On this special occasion, we together share best solutions to support Development and Solidarity of Buddhism in the 21st century. In the halo of Buddha's, with solidarity and harmony, representing Buddhist Sangha and Buddhist followers of 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 congregation of the propaganda has played an important role to spread the Dharma and make the Sangha progress continuously in many fields. Talking about the propaganda is to talk about how to transfer religious messages with special skills.

The predecessors always attached special importance on the propaganda. They devoted themselves in this job to spread Dharma everywhere when possible. In India, after the Buddha had gained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree, he spread Dharma every part of India during 49 years, with various means, various methods; this depended on points of time, different situations, levels of Karma of people, he gave a suitable practice. Especially about 300 years later after his death, Buddhism not only spread everywhere in India but also reached the other continents. In Asoka dynasty (447 BC), after repenting killing too many people, the King took a refuge in the Buddha, the Dharma and Sangha. He built many stupas, monasteries, and he also promoted Buddhist monks to go abroad for propaganda. So far, the Buddha's disciples still keep on doing this. Moving the wheel of Dharma depends on differences of each age, each nation, each civilization, and each period of development. With the goal to make the world better, and to educate man with equality, non-ego, altruism, the way of propaganda has to change to adapt itself to the need of man's evolution in every field.

In general, trend, knowledge is ruling the social life, so how to develop the propaganda suitably for the present situation must be discussed to find out best solutions. On this trip to Thailand to celebrate the Buddha's birthday, I would like to share some opinions on the social management and development.
Dear Sirs and Madams,

According to our Buddhist tradition, with the fundamental principle, 'Serving the human being is offering the Buddhas, every Buddhist priest leads a virtuous life, brings peace to everybody, and protects the motherland and its

people. Purifying the world is purifying the Pure Land on earth. In order to do so, we must focus on the following solutions.

1.- The congregation of the propaganda has to meet the needs of modern knowledge, develop and make full use of the power of all sources of Dharma, and propose lifestyles healthy for body and mind.

2.- Accompanied with the traditional propaganda such as oral Dharma preaching, canon publishing and so on... Cassette players, cameras should be used, and Buddhist websites should be built. Thanks to modern media such as radio and television stations, everyone can study Buddhism from the distance.

3.- For the cause of worldwide Buddhist development, we should promote, support and provide opportunities for Buddhist monks and nuns to go abroad to study.

4.- The Buddhist Shanga of each country should have its own website.

5.- We should prepare inheritors by training and re-training young ones.

The above ideas with main purposes contribute the propaganda of Dharma in the modern age from our own thinking. May the Buddhas from ten directions bless us as the messengers of the Lord to achieve the completion. May your body and mind be permanently with peace.