

Learning

Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles:

Undertaking the Mission to Save the World

Speech by Venerable Master Chin Kung AM
Forum on Resolving Crises through Education

Organizer : The Malaysian Academy of Han Studies
Aug 4, 2012

Palace of Golden Horse, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



安身立命創

業興家建國君民禮

義之邦穩定和諧國豐民

安太平盛世長治久安諸佛

報土極樂世界皆以教學

功德成就者也

建國君民教學為先

淨空



Education is of primary importance for self-cultivation to change one's destiny, for managing a business and a family, for building a country and guiding its people, for creating a society that is courteous and righteous, for bringing forth social stability and harmony, for creating wealth and peace for the people, for establishing a glorious era marked by lasting peace, and even for establishing

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Respected Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew, headmasters and teachers from Chinese schools in Malaysia, teachers from the Chung Hua Cultural Education Centre, and distinguished guests:

Thanks to Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew's kind invitation, I am grateful to be able to participate in this gathering with Chinese schools' headmasters in Malaysia. On another note, I am also delighted to see that the construction of the Malaysian Academy of Han Studies has already begun. The project is expected to be completed in two years' time, after which the academy will start recruiting students. This is indeed an extremely important event of the 21st century! Last year, during the groundbreaking ceremony of the academy, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak, said in his speech: "The establishment of the Malaysian Academy of Han Studies (MAHS) will help impart an education concept that not only

promotes academic excellence but also positive values that are greatly needed by mankind."

I congratulate the Chinese people of Malaysia, because you, the Chinese schools' headmasters and teachers here, will assume (undertake) the mission of reviving Han Studies to save the world and humankind. Here, I'd like to share with you my experiences in my sixty years' journey in studying traditional Chinese culture, the teachings of the saints and sages, and Mahayana Buddhism.

1. The Way to Resolve Human Crises

The society we live in today is plagued by numerous crises — climate change, energy and food crises, environmental pollution, wars, and acts of terrorism. And the crises are becoming increasingly serious day by day. The root cause of all these is that "the human mind has turned bad," that we have overlooked the important teachings on moral relations, and that

the innate nature is good.

According to *Chronicles by Zuo Qiuming*: “If humans abandon moral relations, evil will prevail. ” Guan Zhong [Qi politician, 723 BCE–645 BCE] said, “Dispensing with the four principles (propriety, righteousness, honesty, and shamefulness) will lead to the downfall of a nation.” Mencius, when explaining the principle of management, said to King Hui of Liang: “If the ruler of every country only cares about benefitting his own country, if senior government officials only care about benefitting their own territories, and scholars and the people only care about their personal gains, then, everyone is fighting for his or her own interest and the country will perish.” This means that when all the people in a country are competing with one another for their own benefits, the country will be in peril! Nowadays, “self gains” is of interest to all people, so much so that people seek it at the expense of others. They act in whatever way they like in order to fulfill their desires. This will definitely result in crises throughout the world and invoke global disasters because according to the chapter “The Instructions of Yi” from *Book of Shan*: “Do good and a hundred good fortunes will manifest. Do evil and a hundred misfortunes will ensue.”

The only way to save the world is to return to the traditional teachings of the saints and sages, and to humbly study and implement our ancestors’

teachings in our daily lives. The chapter called “Record on the Subject of Education” [from *Book of Rites*] states that: “Education is essential in building a country and in guiding its people.” Furthermore, education is of primary importance for self-cultivation to change one’s destiny, for managing a business and a family, for creating a society that is courteous and righteous, for bringing forth social stability and harmony, for creating wealth and peace for the people, for establishing a glorious era marked by lasting peace, and even for establishing the lands of Buddhas, for the Pure Land of Ultimate Bliss.

As early as 5,000 years ago, Emperor Shun appointed Qi as Minister in Charge of Education. Subsequent leaders in various dynasties also attached great importance to education. One could say that nearly all administrative units were at the service of education, evident by the fact that the Ministry of Propriety was prioritized among all the ministries under the prime minister. This was especially true during the early times and height of the Qing dynasty, when the emphasis on education was most evident, with proprieties being practiced, and experts on Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism invited to lecture in the imperial court. At that time, the emperor and his civil officials and military attaché would study the ancient classics together. *Complete Library of the Four*

Branches of Literature contains “Daily Explanation of the Four Books” and other classics, clearly demonstrating the lecture contents conducted during the reigns of Emperor Qianlong and Emperor Kangxi.

Some say “the 21st century is a century that belongs to the Chinese.” Some Western countries fear that the rise of China will lead to China ruling the world, posing a threat to other countries. Hence, they are anxious and concerned, and they try to prevent this from happening. In my opinion, the rise of China will definitely not be one that triumphs because of military power, politics, science, technology, or the economy. Instead, what will triumph is a revival and spreading of traditional Chinese culture!

Professor Arnold Toynbee, British historian, asserted that “in order to resolve the social problems of the twenty-first century, we must rely on the teachings of Confucius and Mencius, and on Mahayana Buddhism.” The teachings of Confucius and Mencius propound “benevolence, righteousness, loyalty, and forgiveness,” and Mahayana Buddhism promotes “sincerity and compassion.” Both emphasise a culture of love and sincerity. When we calmly look at the chaos and uncertainties that we face today, we will understand that if we truly want to save the world, we can only do so by reviving the values of “earnestness, sincerity, and love,” which are the core values in traditional

Chinese culture.

Traditional Chinese culture is a culture of love and harmony. The five moral relationships, the five principal virtues, the four moral standards, and the eight virtues are the core values of a culture that promotes the innate goodness of all human beings. In his speech during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Malaysian Academy of the Han Studies, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak, pointed out that “when Admiral Cheng Ho came to Melaka in the 15th century.....having the greatest power, he could have easily destroyed or conquered the sultanate of Melaka. But he chose to come with the hand of friendship.....Why did he do that? Admiral Cheng Ho and the people of China had the wisdom, the values and the characters, which they believed, their action would be a testimony to China being a civilized nation; they came to make friends and not to conquer.” This illustrates fully the peaceful nature of the Chinese culture and its stand on “loving all beings.”

2. The Significance of the Reappearance of *Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles*

The Tang dynasty in China was a golden era, a period where diversified cultures lived together harmoniously. Emperor Taizong, Li Shimin [599-649] was magnanimous

and very broad-minded. He humbly learned from the scriptures of all religions and philosophical schools, and promoted the study of traditional Chinese culture throughout the country. Not only was Emperor Taizong a patron of Buddhism, he was also the supporter of all religions. He respected and protected religions, and he was sufficiently open-minded to accept all religions and to treat them equally. All the virtuous and knowledgeable religious leaders were esteemed as the king's advisors, and he often sought their counsel.

In the ninth year of the Reign of Zhenguan [635], Christian missionary Alopen brought Christianity, then known as zongjiao, to China. Emperor Taizong sent Fang Xuanling, the prime minister, to receive and welcome Alopen. In the 12th year of the Reign of Zhenguan, Emperor Taizong decreed the building of a church at Yining Lane in Chang'an, the capital. This church was called the Persian Temple by Imperial Decree, and it was built for the Christians to propagate their faith.

Another religion that had arrived in Tang dynasty China before Christianity was Islam. It was said that during the Reign of Wude of Emperor Gaozong, Taizong's father, that the founder of Islam, Prophet Muhammad who was alive at the time, asked four of his disciples to go to China with the teachings of Islam. One of his disciples, Saad ibn Abī Waqqās, came via the Persian Gulf and arrived at Guangzhou

in the early years of the Reign of Zhenguan [627]. He established the Commemorate the Saint Mosque in memory of the Prophet.

Emperor Taizong showed how a country could treat all religions equally. All religions are, in fact, excellent educations containing the wise experiences of the saints and prophets, and can help a country to teach its people to achieve harmony and stability.

The biggest contribution that Emperor Taizong made was the compilation of a book, *Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles* — a compilation of books and writings on the important governing principles of ancient China.

At the tender age of sixteen, Emperor Taizong joined the army in his father's forces to stop the turmoil that was going on in the country. For more than ten years, he dwelt on military matters. After he ascended to the throne at the age of twenty-seven, he laid down his armor and began to promote culture and education, paying particular attention to the principles of governing and bringing peace to the country. He sought to rejuvenate the nation from the aftermath of civil strife by restoring order to life.

Although Taizong was an intelligent, brave, and eloquent man, he regretted that his military expeditions had prevented him from much formal education. He also learned from the mistakes made by the fallen Sui dynasty

and realized that to start a new dynasty was no easy task and to sustain it was even harder. Hence, during his reign, he encouraged his ministers to point out his mistakes and to candidly criticize his policies. To make up for lost time, Emperor Taizong ordered two of his advisors, Wei Zheng and Yu Shinan, to comb through all the historical records on governing principles from the *Six Classics*, the *Four Collections of History* and the *Hundreds of Schools* and to extract the wise lessons, ideas, methods, and experiences related to the cultivation of oneself; management of family, governing, and ways to bring about world peace.

The result was a collection, titled *Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles*, which excerpted main points from 14,000 books and 89,000 scrolls of ancient writings — 500,000 words in all, and covering sixty-five book categories — dating from the era of the Five Legendary Emperors to the Jin dynasty.

This truly is a treasured compilation on governing principles that can bring about peace and order. In his foreword, Wei Zheng wrote: “When used in the present, it will allow us to examine and learn from our ancient history. When passed down, it will benefit our descendants.” Emperor Taizong admired the broad, yet concise compilation, and read it every day, saying, “It is you, my ministers, whose efforts enabled me to learn from the

ancients, and made me clear when faced with issues.”

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, in his speech on the Three Principles of the People (Principle of Nationalism 4th lecture), said, “The advancements in science and material civilization in Europe happened mostly in the last 200 years. When it comes to the essence of political philosophy, Europeans still need to look to China for answers. You all know that the best scholars come from Germany. But today, German scholars are studying Chinese philosophies as well as Buddhism from India to correct the bias in science.”

Our ancestors have great wisdom, ideologies, methods, experiences, and have achieved great results. They all come from thousands of years of experience in self-discipline and studies, self-cultivation, managing the family, and governing a country. *Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles* is indeed most precious! It is a treasured compilation that can inspire the global revival of traditional Chinese culture and moral education. If we can fully comprehend and apply these principles, world peace can be achieved in the near future. If we do not follow these principles of governance, we will be inviting endless catastrophes and tragedies.

Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles had disappeared from circulation for close to 1,000 years,

since the beginning of the Song dynasty. Fortunately, there is a complete manuscript in the Japanese Kanazawa Bunko Museum, hand-copied by Japanese monks. The Japanese returned the books to China in the 60th year of the Reign of Emperor Qianlong, and in the second decade of the twentieth century, the books became the master copy for the *Four Series Books* published by the Commercial Press [Shanghai] as well as publications used by Taiwan. At the end of 2010, I was fortunate to obtain a copy of *Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles*. I read the work repeatedly and am filled with immense joy. Eternal stability and world peace can be brought about by the cultural teachings of our ancient saints and sages. Realizing that the reappearance of *Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles* carries a sacred mission, I ordered 10,000 copies to be printed by the World Book Company, to be presented to political parties and various leaders in China, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, and around the world, for them to share the essence of governance. This would be immensely helpful for creating a harmonious society and a peaceful world!

Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles is now included in the main curriculum of the Central Party School of the Communist Party of China. I

have also recommended this book to many world leaders and religious leaders, and it was extremely well-received. For example, the former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tun Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad, heard me introducing the book and expressed his wish to see the English translation as soon as possible. Hence, I entrusted the teachers at the Chung Hua Cultural Education Centre with the task of extracting 360 quotes from *Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles*, adding commentaries, translating them into modern Chinese, and then into English. This edition, known as the *Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles 360 Book I*, enables readers to read a quote a day and finish the book in one year.

After the English translation of *Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles 360* was completed, I immediately presented a copy to Tun Mahathir, and he was extremely delighted. After reading this book, the current Malaysian Prime Minister, YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib, said: "The values in *Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles* should be embraced by leaders, ministers, and officials because the values can help us implement well-rounded policies for the benefit of the people."

I strongly believe that *Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important*

Governing Principles can help the world resolve conflicts and bring forth world peace and stability. I hope that the world will be forever free of war, forever free of conflict, and human beings of all races can live happy and fulfilling lives. Carrying out the teachings in *Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles* can certainly make these dreams a reality. Thus, the 21st century will be a century of the Chinese culture and a century in which *Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles* will exude its radiance!

3. The Methods Used in Studying and Promoting Traditional Chinese Culture

The teachings of the saints and sages — an embodiment of the true self-nature of all beings — transcend time and space. Even now, they still hold true. The key learning method hinges on two words: sincerity and respect. Qu Li says, “Reverence to all at all time.” Emperor Kangxi of the Qing dynasty said, “When interacting with his people, the ruler should fundamentally be respectful.” He also said, “Sincerity and respect are the essence of all the teachings that have been passed down through thousands of years.” The prominent Song scholar Chengzi said, “Respect triumphs over all evils.” Great Buddhist Master Yinguang said, “One percent sincerity and respect allows one to reap one

percent benefit. One hundred percent sincerity and respect allows one to reap 100 percent benefit.”

These sayings manifest the fact that in order to cultivate ourselves, advance our virtues, help people, and benefit the world, only sincerity and respect is of utmost importance. If we lack respect and sincerity toward the teachings of ancient sages and virtuous emperors and kings, little benefit will be gained even if we had read the ancient texts extensively.

The words “sincerity” and “respect” also correspond with the teachings of *Great Learning*, which explains: “If a scholar undertakes the path of the saints and sages (to dwell on the ultimate kindness), he should first have his mind set, and then he would be able to concentrate without being swayed by wandering thoughts. By doing so, he would be calm and peaceful in both favourable and adverse situations. With more practice, he would acquire wisdom and would have insight into ideologies expounded by the ancient saints and sages. Ultimately he would achieve the status of the saints and sages.

Currently, *Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles* has spurred great attention and interest from many, but qualified teachers are needed to continue its propagation. The Malaysian Academy of Han Studies is the ideal place to train such teachers.

The contents of *Compilation of*

Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles was extracted from sixty-five ancient classics. We would need at least sixty teachers to focus on one classic for a long period of time before they can become the world's leading scholars in Han Studies, and to teach and practice what they teach. Resources permitting, I hope groups of three teachers can be formed for each classic. This would require a total of about 200 teachers. For instance, an *Analects* study group, a *Book of Changes* study group, a *Classic of History* study group, a *Book of Poetry* study group, and so forth.

All the teachers would need to be selfless and not pursue personal benefits. They would need to make up their minds to become sages for the sake of eternal world peace and the happiness of humankind. They would need to contribute their love and wisdom by dedicating ten years to study just one classic. It is essential that they combine knowledge with practice. After ten years, they would become the most renowned experts on Han studies.

These experts in the sixty-five subjects would be the living book of *Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles*, and they would become masters in the principles of governance. The teachers could then explain the essence of the sixty-five classics to the world every day via distance-learning tools and media, providing training for the next

generation of teachers. Thus, traditional Chinese culture could be passed down and would be the leading culture in the world! Traditional Chinese culture is the heritage of all human beings. It belongs to everyone. Everyone should learn and practice it for the achievement of eternal peace in the world!

I am eighty-six years old. Although I have this vision, I may not have the energy to make this vision come true. I can only hope that good people will vow to assume the sacred responsibility to accomplish this meritorious project, to continue the magnificent teachings of the saints and sages, and to bring forth world peace and harmony for many generations to come. These people would indeed be the manifestations of Buddhas, bodhisattvas, and saviours.

Conclusion

Dear distinguished guests, you are all experts in the field of education. You shoulder the mission to teach and train the brilliant leaders of tomorrow. I sincerely hope that all of you will aspire to learn *Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles*, so that you can gather the great wisdom of our ancestors, not only to widely promote the cultural teachings, but also to train the next generation of educators. That would be truly commendable! I hope a satellite TV station can be established

to broadcast lectures of *Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles* to the world twenty-four hours a day.

If we can propagate the teachings of the saints and sages, I believe that all would be awakened in the near future! All these are dependent on our shared vision and joint effort. I sincerely wish for the successful completion of this meaningful task, and an early attainment of the commonwealth state. Today, I share the wish of all sentient beings and pray for this to come true. Thank you!

May I wish good health to the Malaysian government leaders,

May peace and prosperity be with you!

All the best to you!

Respectfully,

Chin Kung AM
Chairman of the Pure Land Learning
College Association, Australia
Chairman of the Board of Directors,
Hong Kong Buddhist Education
Foundation, Hong Kong
Hon. Professor, University of
Queensland, Australia
Hon. Professor, Griffith
University, Australia

不求五欲及王位富
饒自樂大名稱受持正法
常清淨莊嚴國土教學先
但為永滅眾生苦利益
世間而發心
吉

Not seeking the Five Desires, the throne, affluence, self enjoyment, or great fame,
but upholding and practicing the proper dharma to always be pure,
and adorn the land with teachings first, forever eradicate suffering,
benefiting the world, this is the arising mind of a bodhisattva.

A Letter to Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia

Your Excellency Prime Minister Najib Razak,

It was a great pleasure to have Your Excellency attend the groundbreaking ceremony of the Malaysian Academy of Han Studies a few months ago. The three thousand participants present were greatly inspired by your high praise regarding the Chinese culture of harmony. Your Excellency has provided the greatest example of mutual respect and global exchange of traditional culture that I gratefully admire.

The essence of China's culture of five thousand years is embodied in the *Complete Library of the Four Branches of Literature*, and the complete wisdom of Buddha is embodied in the *Qianlong Great Buddhist Canon*. These Chinese classics have all profoundly expounded the teachings of morality, ethics and causality, reflecting on the cultivation of oneself, harmony of family relationships, stability of the country, and peace of the world. These classics have captured wisdom, concepts, methods, experience and effect of practicing loving-kindness, loyalty and consideration for thousands of years, which is a worthy goal for modern people. These classics are all written in classical Chinese, so to inherit and propagate the wisdom of ancient saints

and sages will require the cultivation of teachers. I have been praying for many years for receiving two books that contain the utmost essence: *Compilation of Chinese Literature on Cultivation (Guo Xue Zhi Yao)* and the *Imperial Compilation of Books on the Principles of Governing (Qun Shu Zhi Yao)*. I finally received them last year and printed ten thousand copies of each for immediate donation. These two books can be used as the standard textbooks for teaching classical Chinese at the Malaysian Academy of Han Studies. I will be very pleased to provide them to friends who are enthusiastically fond of Chinese classics all over the world.

We will more than welcome the teachers from local community in Malaysia to learn classical Chinese together. I previously had the opportunity to visit the United Kingdom twice, including the University of Cambridge and various colleges of the University of London. I had a chance to witness how lecturers and students mastered classical Chinese. In no more than three years, they became competent in both reading classical Chinese as well as writing.

The renowned British historian, Dr. Arnold J. Toynbee, once said that in order to resolve the social problems of the twenty-first century, we must

rely on the teachings of Confucius and Mencius, and on Mahayana Buddhism. Both are in China. It is conceivable that in the foreseeable future the world will surely enter a brand new era of restoring Sinology and bring benefits to mankind. However, the restoration of traditional Sinology requires an extensive amount of teaching resources. Therefore, the merits of cultivating teachers are countless and benefits to humanity are incomparable. These merits belong to Your Excellency! I sincerely wish that Malaysia is prosperous and that Malaysian people can live in lasting peace! I pray that there will never be any disaster in Malaysia!

My health is satisfactory. I currently lecture on Sutras and read Sutras for four hours, respectively, every day in Hong Kong. I pray for the blessings and protection of the God of all religions and ancestors, for the restoring of traditional teachings of the saints and sages of all ethnicities, and for eliminating natural and man-made disasters globally.

Finally, I wish Your Excellency longevity, good health and the best of good fortune! I wish your family good health and every success!

Chin Kung AM
At the age of Eighty-Six
April 19th, 2012

Education is foremost in
establishing a peaceful country
and a harmonious family.
Everyone, from the ruler to
common people,
must regard cultivation of oneself
as most essential.



自天子以至於庶
人一切以脩身為本
宇清國安家和人樂
一切以教學為先



Profile of Venerable Master Chin Kung, AM

Venerable Master Chin Kung AM (b. 1927) is an eminent monk in the Pure Land school of Mahayana Buddhism. Master Chin Kung has learned Buddhism for almost sixty years and lectured on Buddhism for over fifty years. He is advisor to over 100 Amitabha Buddhist Societies and Pure Land Learning Centres worldwide, and founder of the Pure Land Learning College Association, Inc. in Toowoomba, Australia.

Master Chin Kung pioneered the use of the Internet and satellite television in propagating the Buddha's teachings. His recorded lectures are distributed in books and on DVDs, CDs, and videotapes. He has sponsored the printing and distribution of the Buddhist Canon; Buddhist sutras, books, and images as well as books on moral education. All these are freely distributed worldwide. To this day, the Master still teaches tirelessly on a daily basis. His lectures are broadcasted live via satellite television and the Internet to audiences around the world. Currently he is giving two-hour lectures on the *Infinite Life Sutra* over the Internet.

Born in Lujiang County, Anhui Province, China, the Master studied Buddhism and the classics under the guidance of Professor Fang Dongmei, a

great philosopher of his time; Zhangjia Living Buddha, a renowned monk of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition; and Mr. Li Bingnan, a lay practitioner and master of Buddhism. In 1959, Master Chin Kung became a monk at Linji Temple in Yuanshan, Taipei and was given the Dharma name Chin Kung, which means "pure emptiness." He has served as instructor at the Tripitaka Institute at Shipu Temple, professor of the School of Philosophy at the Chinese Culture University, and president of the Chinese Buddhist College.

Master Chin Kung has held the following positions in Taiwan: in 1960; member of the Propagating Teachings Committee and the Records Committee of the Buddhist Association of the Republic of China in 1961; head instructor at the Buddhist Seminar for University Students at the Buddhist Association of the Republic of China in 1962; research fellow of Buddhism at the Chinese Academia Institute; professor and editor of the Association of Buddhist Sutras, Commentaries, and Translations of Taiwan in 1973; professor of the Spiritual Living Course for East Asian Catholics at Fu Jen Catholic University in 1975; and president of the Chinese Pure Land Practice Research Institute in 1979.

Master Chin Kung also founded

the Hwa Dzan Dharma Giving Association, Taiwan; the Hwa Dzan Buddhist Audio-Visual Library, Taiwan; and the Corporate Body of the Buddha Educational Foundation, Taiwan.

In recognition of his achievements in building interfaith harmony and fostering world peace, Master Chin Kung has been awarded a number of honorary doctorate degrees and professorships by various Australian and overseas universities including the University of Queensland, Griffith University, and the University of Southern Queensland, Australia; and Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University, Jakarta, Indonesia. He is the Honorary Founding Patron of the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Queensland.

In 2005, Master Chin Kung was appointed to the Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division by Queen Elizabeth II. He was recognised for service to the Buddhist community in Queensland, particularly through the propagation of Buddhism and the fostering of interfaith activities between diverse ethnic groups, and to the community through support for educational and health institutions.

In 2009, Master Chin Kung was appointed as an International Trustee of Religions for Peace an international peace organization. Its mission is to create multi-religious partnerships to confront issues such as stopping war, ending poverty, and protecting the

earth.

Master Chin Kung's teachings can be summed up by the following principles for practice: "true sincerity, purity of mind, equality, proper understanding, compassion, seeing through, letting go, attaining freedom, according with proper conditions, and being mindful of Amitabha Buddha." His message of loving-kindness and compassion for all has been the central theme of his life-long teaching. Harboring thoughts of sincerity, respect, humility, and harmony and dedication to help all beings to gain long-lasting happiness and joy has been his meaning of life.

Master Chin Kung has lectured on Buddhism and classics, such as the *Avatamsaka Sutra*, the *Lotus Sutra*, *The Surangama Sutra*, and so forth, for fifty-three years, but specializes on Pure Land Buddhism. He will dedicate his later years in studying and propagating the *Infinite Life Sutra*.

Master's Three Teachers

Venerable Master Chin Kung spent thirteen years studying the classics, history, philosophy, and Buddhism under the guidance of Professor Fang Dongmei, a great philosopher of his time; Zhangjia Living Buddha, an eminent monk of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition; and Mr. Li Bingnan, a lay practitioner and master of Buddhism.

In 1953, after winning recognition from Professor Fang Dongmei, Master

Chin Kung started to learn philosophy from Prof. Fang. When introducing the philosophy of the Buddhist sutras, Prof. Fang said, “The Buddha was a great philosopher, a great sage. Buddhist sutras contain a higher degree of philosophy, and learning Buddhism is the greatest enjoyment in life.” Professor Fang’s comments attracted Master Chin Kung who began studying Buddhism.

After one month, recommended by Mr. Ming Mengjing, Master Chin Kung started to learn Buddhism from Zhangjia Living Buddha. This study continued for three years until the great master’s death. Zhangjia Living Buddha told him to read the Chronology of Buddha Sakyamuni and the Biography of Buddha Sakyamuni. Zhangjia Great Master also taught him to see through and let go, thus helping him to establish a solid foundation for learning Buddhism.

Zhangjia Living Buddha passed away. Master Chin Kung followed his guidance and decided to dedicate the rest of his life to the propagation of Buddhism. He hoped his devotion to Buddhism would benefit all beings.

In 1958, Mr. Ju Jinzhou, a lay Buddhist and the owner of Taiwan Sutra Publishing House, suggested to Master Chin Kung that he go to Taichung where he learned Buddhism from Mr. Li Bingnan and remained under Mr. Li’s guidance for ten years. During those years, Master learned to lecture on five different Buddhist sutras (*Sutra on Ananda Asking about the Good Fortune and Misfortune of Learning the Buddha’s Teachings*, *Amitabha Sutra*, *Chapter of the Vows and Practices of Samantabhadra*, *Diamond Sutra*, and *Shurangama Sutra*). Mr. Li taught Master Chin Kung that “Ultimate sincerity touches all.”



▲ 二〇〇二年八月獲頒格里菲斯大學榮譽教授及榮譽博士學位。典禮中，老法師特贈三個字「念」「忠」「恕」給所有同學。「念」是時時刻刻感念父母、師長、天地萬物長養之恩。「忠」是教我們處事待人接物不偏不倚，公正無私。「恕」則是以寬恕仁慈之心對待天地萬物。右為校長福德女士，左為副校長戴維思先生。

Ven Master Chin Kung was awarded Honorary Professorship and Doctorate Degree from Griffith University in Aug 2002.

▲ 九一一事件後，昆士蘭大學深感老法師的智慧可為世界和平做出重大的貢獻，為方便代表出席國際會議，特頒贈榮譽博士及榮譽教授頭銜予老法師。順此因緣，老法師多次代表格里菲斯大學、昆士蘭大學參加國際和平會議，並於會中受邀作主題發言。

In 2003, Ven Master Chin Kung was awarded Honorary Professorship and Honorary PhD by University of Queensland and Griffith University in Australia.



▲ 二〇〇五年九月英女皇特派澳洲昆士蘭總督代表頒贈AM勳章與淨空老法師，肯定老人家對多元文化教育與宗教團結的卓越貢獻。

Ven Master Chin Kung received the Order of Australia (AM) in Sep 05 from Governor General Quentin Bryce, representing the Queen in recognition of his outstanding contribution in promoting multi-faith harmony.

▲ 二〇〇四年九月老法師榮獲印尼夏利·悉達亞都拉回教大學榮譽博士。創回教大學頒發榮譽學位予其他宗教人士之首例。校方讚揚老法師畢生致力於宗教教育，且不分宗教種族，促進世界和平。

In Sep 2004, the Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University commended Ven Master Chin Kung for his effort in promoting religious harmony and Master was awarded Honorary Doctorate Degree.



▲ 馬來西亞納吉首相在「馬來西亞漢學院」的藍圖上簽名，以表支持與祝福，老法師鼓勵漢學院，遵循古人的教學方法，一門深入，長時薰修，十年專攻一部經典。十年後這些老師都變成世界第一流的漢學家，真正傳承傳統文化，傳承大乘佛法。

Prime Minister Najib Razak put his signature on the drawing of the Malaysian Academy of Han Studies in order to show his support and blessings. Ven Master Chin Kung encouraged prospective lecturers to follow the example of the ancients. They were suggested to choose one classic and delve deeply into it and immerse themselves for ten years. After ten years, they will become world class Dharma masters to inherit and pass on traditional culture and Mahayana Buddhism.



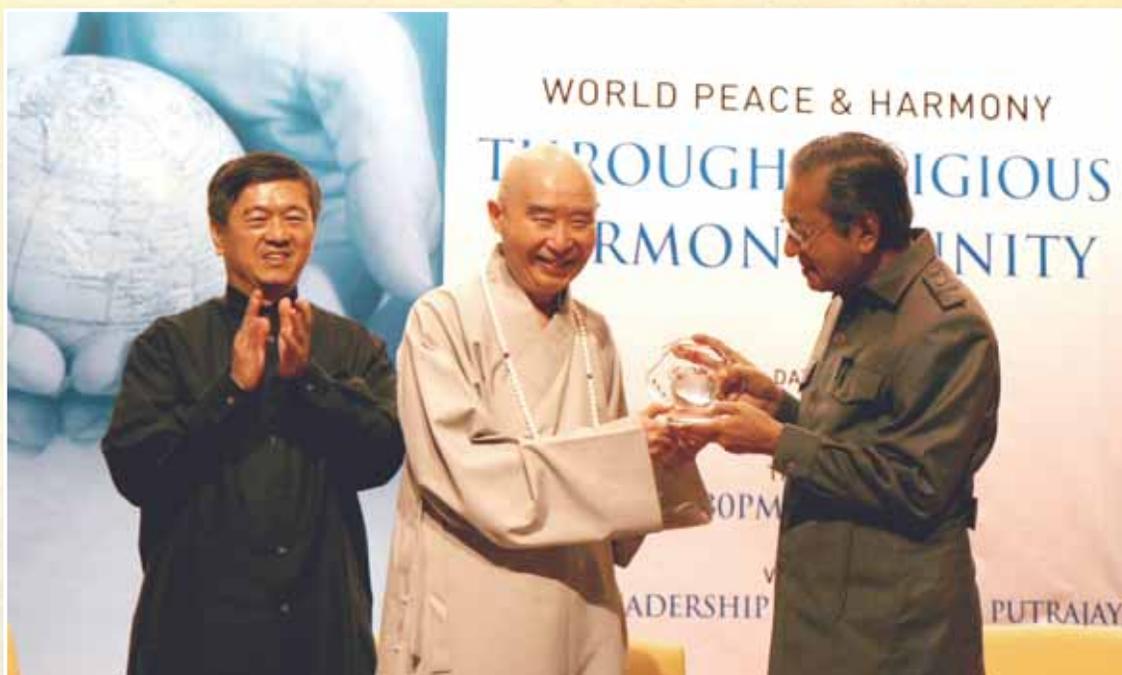
▲ 二〇一一年十月，首相納吉(右四)與老法師應邀出席馬來西亞漢學院的動土典禮，會中老法師開示，漢學是全人類的文化瑰寶，什麼地方認真做，這個國家就國泰民安，風調雨順，首相非常贊同老法師的遠見。

In October 2011, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak (R4) and Ven Master Chin Kung were invited to attend the ground-breaking ceremony of the Malaysian Academy of Han Studies. Ven Master Chin Kung emphasized that Han studies is the cultural wealth of humanity. Whichever country treasures it, the country will be prosperous and people will live in peace. Mr. Razak endorsed the Master's foresight very much.



▲ 二〇〇五年十月，老法師與馬來西亞首相馬哈迪長老首次會面。長老提問，如何化解當前世界眾多的衝突災難？老法師誠懇建言，若能從團結宗教著手，則能影響國家、政黨與群族各方面的和諧合作，化解種種衝突矛盾。長老聽明白了，並深表贊同，次日立即邀請老法師參加十二月於吉隆坡召開的「波達那全球和平論壇」。

In October 2005, Venerable Master Chin Kung met with Malaysian Prime Minister, Dr. Mahathir. Dr. Mahathir asked how to solve problems and conflicts in today's world.



▲ 二〇〇七年八月，馬哈迪長老與老法師於「通過宗教和諧與團結達致世界和平」論壇中接受主持人丹斯里李金友先生之訪問。

Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew hosted an interview in the "World Peace through Religious Unity and Harmony" Forum in Aug 2007. Dr. Mahathir and Master were his special guests.



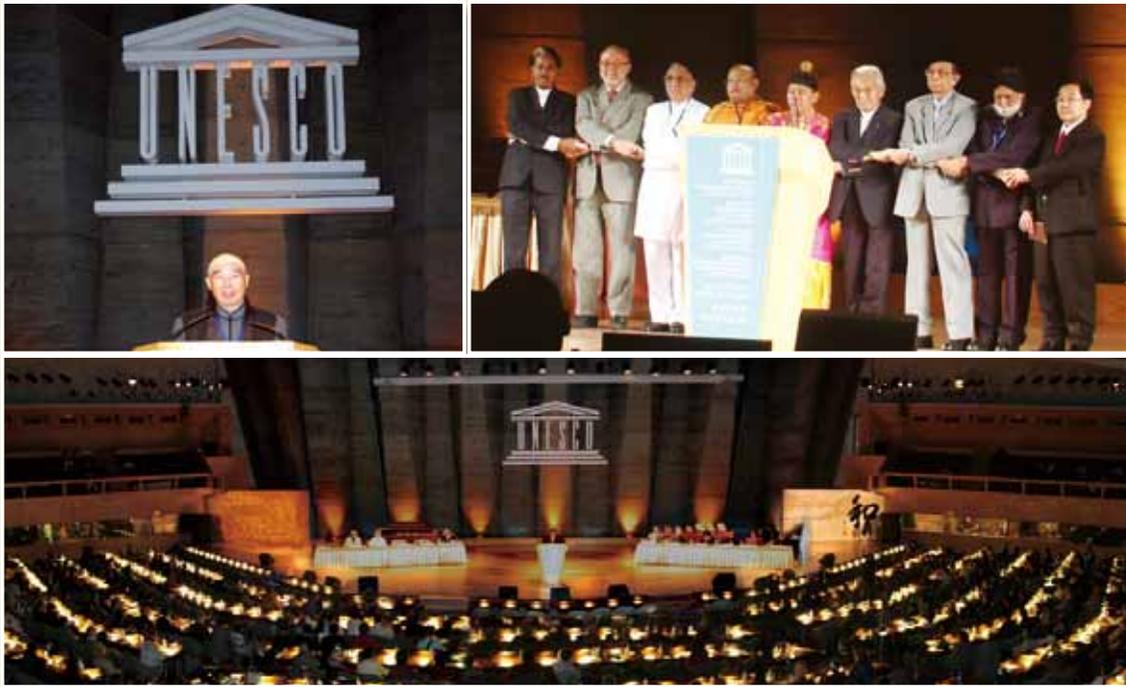
▲ 二〇一一年九月二十五日，馬來西亞吉隆坡，萬人宗教論壇上，淨空老法師與前首相馬哈迪長老（右七）共同發表主題演講，推動馬來西亞宗教和諧。各宗教領袖手牽手為世界和平祈禱，團結如一家人。

At the religious forum attended by more than ten thousand people on 25 September 2011 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Ven Master Chin Kung and Former Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad (R7) delivered keynote speeches promoting religious harmony in Malaysia. The religious leaders, united hand-in-hand like one family, prayed for world peace together.



▲ 二〇〇八年五月，「馬來西亞多元文化宗教中國考察團和諧之旅」訪問中國五大宗教。該團由馬來西亞六大宗教團體的主席、住持、院長和會長所組成。禮請老法師為隨團顧問。參訪位於烏魯木齊的新疆伊斯蘭經學院與新疆伊斯蘭協會等處。

In May 2008, as group advisor, Ven Master Chin Kung accompanied religious leaders of the 6 religions in Malaysia on a visit to places like Xinjiang Academy of Islamic Scriptural Studies and Xinjiang Islam Association in Urumqi, China.



▲ 二〇〇六年十月，聯合國教科文組織以教育與和平為前提，與泰國副代表誠邀澳洲淨宗學院於法國巴黎總部，舉行為期三天的「2550年歡慶衛塞節活動」。老法師說明，此會議目的有三：一、證明宗教是可以團結的；二、人民是可以教好的；三、傳統文化教育於現代社會，仍深具實用！

In response to UNESCO's invitation, Pure Land Learning College organized a 3-day event, titled "Celebration of the 2550th Anniversary of the Buddha" at UNESCO HQ in Paris in Oct 2006. Ven Master Chin Kung explained that religions can work together, people can be taught to become better, and the education of traditional culture is more relevant than ever in today's world.



▲ 二〇〇九年二月，由格里菲斯大學與淨宗學院於布里斯班市政廳主辦「澳洲及亞太地區促進和平與和諧之多元宗教高峰會議」，以《世界宗教是一家》為主題，獲得了熱烈回響。來自澳洲、亞太十六個不同地區，共一百四十八個團體，九種以上不同宗教背景，共二百八十八人參加會議。老法師於會中致詞時強調，多元宗教團結，須以深入學習宗教教育為實質內涵，則能真正為和諧社會、和諧世界奠定基礎。

Griffith University and Pure Land Learning College jointly organized the Interfaith Summit for Peace and Harmony in Australia and the Asia-Pacific Region, "One Humanity, Many Faiths" at Brisbane City Hall in Feb 2009. More than 600 religious representatives from more than 148 faith and religious organizations attended the summit. Ven Master Chin Kung spoke about the importance of cooperation among all religions and faiths, and the necessity to delve further into our own religious teachings as well as truly understand other faiths.



▲ 二〇一二年三月十七至十九日，市長Mr. Peter Taylor (左一)與淨空老法師應邀出席於澳洲圖文巴舉行之多元文化論壇。圖文巴居民共十萬人，宗教有十幾種，族群多達八十幾個，是多元文化的小城。與會的各宗教代表都希望將這小城建設成和諧示範城市。當地政府及居民都非常支持此構想。

On 17-19 March 2012, Mr. Peter Taylor (L1), the Mayor of Toowoomba, and Ven Master Chin Kung were invited to attend the forum title "Morality and Virtues: A Faith Perspective" in Toowoomba, Australia. Toowoomba is a city with an estimated population of one hundred thousand, and is comprised of more than eighty ethnic groups and a dozen different religions. It is a typical multi-cultural city. Delegates from all of the religions have reached a consensus on building the city into a model city of harmony. The city council and local residents were all very supportive with this idea.



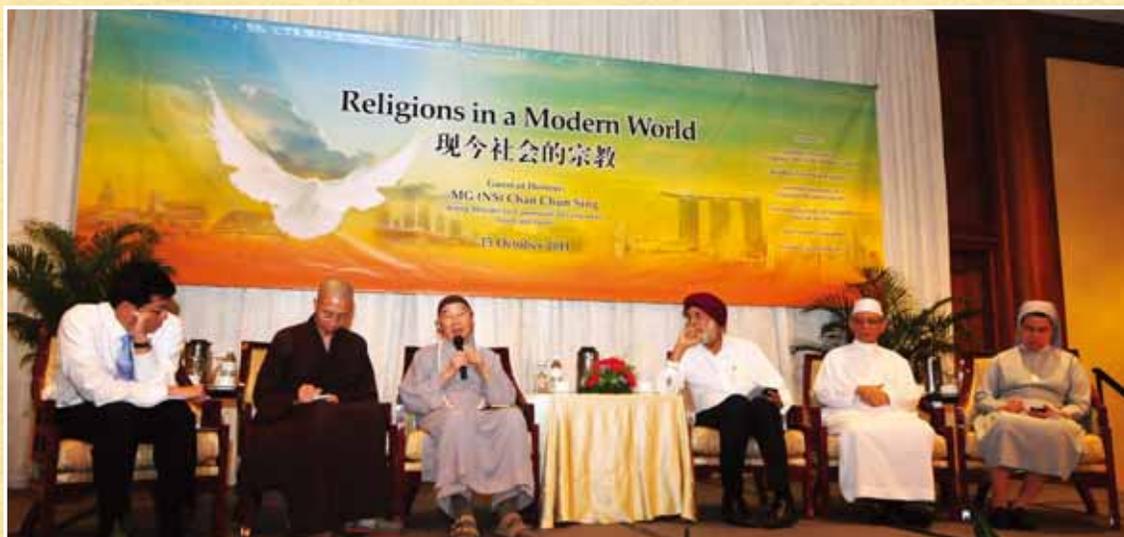
▲ 二〇一〇年六月，淨空老法師應馬來西亞多元文化宗教訪問團之邀，拜訪梵蒂岡及天主教教皇本篤十六世。交流中，老法師強調：宗教是最好的教育，中國幾千年的穩定繁榮，主要來自於國家對宗教教育的重視。

In June 2010, Ven Master Chin Kung was invited to join the Malaysian inter-faith delegation to visit the Vatican. Ven Master Chin Kung emphasized that religious education is what our societies need today and that the religious education contributed greatly towards the long periods of prosperity in Chinese history.



▲ 二〇一一年十月，老法師再度應邀出席「梵蒂岡二〇一一年世界和平禱告日」。老法師勉勵所有的宗教回歸到教育，羅馬有四百多個教堂，等於是四百多個學校，如果每個教堂都有神父講經教學，一年後，羅馬就真正成為地球上天主教的聖城、天堂。天主教如能帶頭做這個示範點，其他宗教也會跟著做。這樣地球就有救了，社會就和諧了。

In October 2011, Ven Master Chin Kung was once again invited to visit the Vatican to participate in its "World Day of Prayer for Peace" gathering. The Master encouraged all religions to restore religious education. There are more than four hundred churches in Rome where there will be more than four hundred schools. If priests of each school can teach the teachings of Christianity, then Rome will become a most Holy City of Christianity within a year. If Christians can take the initiative and identify a trial site, other religions will imitate. Then world peace and harmony will be achieved.



▲ 二〇一一年十月十五日，淨空老法師應邀出席新加坡〈現今社會的宗教〉論壇並做主題演講。老法師表示，新加坡各大宗教在過去十幾年團結和睦如一家人，成為世界的表率，希望各宗教在團結的基礎上更進一步，各宗教學習彼此的經典，知道所有宗教的神聖都是同一真神的化身、分身。

On 15 October 2011, Ven Master Chin Kung was invited to give a keynote speech at a forum in Singapore titled "Religions in a Modern World." The Master stated that in the past decade, various religions in Singapore had become harmonious and united, like one family. They set a great example for the world. On the basis of religious cooperation, the Master hoped that all religions could take the next step to promote mutual learning among religions. Mutual learning will help people realize that there is only one true God in the universe.



▲ 新加坡各大宗教共同牽手慶祝千禧年溫馨晚宴。

Representatives of nine religions in Singapore prayed for the Millennium Dinner Party.



▲ 多元宗教族群交流最好的機會，莫過於組團出國訪問。二〇〇〇年五月，新加坡宗教聯誼會在老法師的邀請鼓勵下，組團訪問中國，參加代表有十餘天共同生活在一起，於輕鬆愉快的氣氛下，化解了長期以來無形隔閡。

The best way for inter-faith interaction is overseas tour. Encouraged by Ven Master Chin Kung, Singapore IRO visited China in May 2000, the members became good friends with one another.



▲ 二〇〇四年十二月十七日至廿三日，淨空老法師應邀參加由已故印尼前總統瓦希德長老(左二)率領的印尼宗教代表團訪問中國，此行受到中國政協賈慶林主席(左一)及中國各級領導和宗教領袖以國賓禮儀熱情款待，顯示了中國與印尼的友好關係以及對多元宗教和睦的高度重視。

The late Indonesian former President Wahid (L2), Ven Master Chin Kung and religious delegates visited China on 17-23 Dec 2004 and were received by Mr Jia Qing Lin (L1), Chairman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Committee.



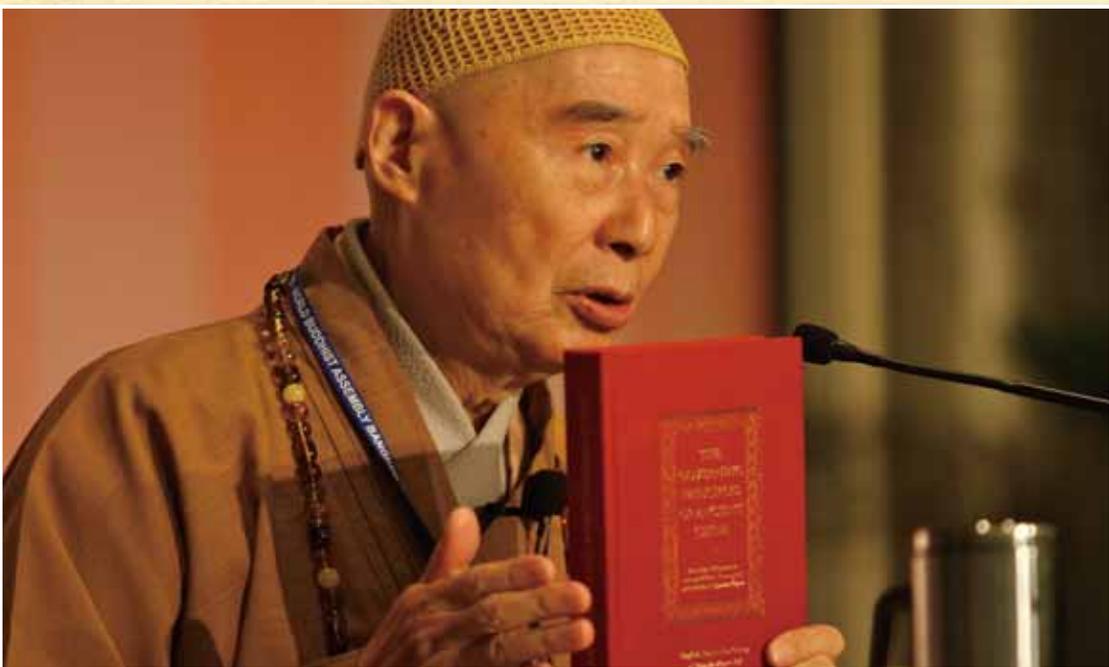
▲ 二〇〇四年六月十九日至廿五日，印尼宗教部秘書長 Prof Dr Faisal Ismail 組成宗教領袖訪問團，帶領伊斯蘭教三大組織 (NU, MUI, MUHAMMADIYAH)、天主教總會、基督教總會、興都教總會、佛教總會的領袖長老們，出訪埃及、義大利和梵蒂岡。並禮請淨空老法師為隨團榮譽顧問，並求通過宗教交流增進瞭解，建立共識。圖為代表團與老法師在埃及與回教艾阿慈哈回教大學教授職員合影。艾阿慈哈回教大學具千年歷史，在回教世界備受尊重，其教學宗旨在於教導大眾互相包容，以仁慈待人及非暴力解決問題，大家同住一個世界裡，應當尊重彼此。

Prof Dr Faisal Ismail, Secretary General for Ministry of Religious Affairs of Republic of Indonesia, led a multi-faith delegation visiting Egypt, Italy and Vatican in the period between 19th and 25th Jun 2004. Ven Master was invited as an advisor to this multi-faith group. This is a group photo of religious delegates and the professors of Al Azhar University taken in Egypt. This university has a history of more than 1000 years and is highly regarded in the Islamic world.



▲ 二〇一二年五月，淨空老法師應邀出席泰國世界佛人組織（World Fellowship of Buddhists WFB）主辦之多元宗教高峰論壇，主題為「透過宗教和諧與化解衝突實現世界和平」，並慶祝泰王八十五歲壽誕及登基六十六周年。老法師鼓勵泰國建設為一佛教的示範聖城，落實佛教的理念、精神、文化。

Ven Master Chin Kung was invited to attend a global multi-faith summit, titled "Achieving World Peace through Religious Harmony and Conflict Resolution", in May 2012, Bangkok. It was hosted by the World Fellowship of Buddhists. The event also coincided with the celebration of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's eighty-fifth birthday and his sixty-six years on the throne. Master encouraged Thailand to establish a most Holy City of Buddhism and practice Buddhist teachings.



▲ 會中老法師開示，唐太宗的《群書治要》是治國平天下的學問，內容包括修身、齊家、治國、平天下。這是中國幾千年智慧的結晶，對今天的世界非常管用。馬來西亞已把它精選翻成白話文，預計每年出一冊，第一冊並已翻成英文。

Ven Master Chin Kung stated at the Summit that the set of books, titled *Imperial Compilation of Books on the Principles of Governing*, embodied the Chinese nation's five thousand year old wisdom of cultivating oneself, maintaining family relationships and governing a state. These are also useful to today's world. The essence of this set has been selected and translated into Vernacular Chinese in Malaysia; one book per year. The first book has already been translated into English.



▲ 二〇〇三年七月，老法師應邀參加泰國聯合國和平大學召開的世界和平會議，適逢泰國王儲馬哈太子 Maha Vijiralongkom 五十壽辰，擬於曼谷東北部的烏汶府，為出家眾建設一座專用的僧伽醫院，以方便泰國及鄰近南傳佛教國僧眾的醫療。老法師隨即捐助，周全款項。此不僅供養泰國僧眾，更溶釋了南北傳佛教間千年互不往來的冰河，實為促進佛教內部團結的一個實質性行動。僧伽醫院於二〇〇八年建設完成，馬哈太子、查瓦利將軍及醫院基金會特邀老法師參加落成典禮，並以老法師法名為主體建築命名，老法師建議改名為佛法僧醫院更妥。並祈願全球佛子團結，謙己尊人，落實佛陀遺教，普度眾生意，正法久住，引導世間眾生破迷開悟，和平安樂。

Crown Prince Maha Vijiralongkom initiated the building of a hospital meant for all Theravada monks in Ubonratchathani Province on his 50th Birthday in July 2003. Ven Master Chin Kung donated to the building fund - an act that broke the ice between Theravada and Mahayana traditions, and attended the completion ceremony of the hospital in 2008, which he renamed as Buddha, Dharma, Sangha Hospital. He hoped all Buddhists would be united and practised what Buddha taught.



▲ 在泰國淨空老法師一行應邀拜訪世界佛人協會，會長瓦拉密帝 Mr. Phan Wannamethee (左三) 及秘書長 Mr. Phallop Thaiarry (左一) 等親切接待。交流中，老法師鼓勵協會重視佛陀教育，於生活中落實經典的聖賢教誨；並舉中國廬江「湯池小鎮」為實例，說明中華傳統文化能解決今日世界亂象；也建議團結各宗教聯合包機組成「宗教和平之旅」，拜訪各國領導及與當地宗教團體交流，肯定有助宗教團結與世界和平。

President of World Fellowship of Buddhists welcomes Ven Master Chin Kung. Phan Wannamethee (L3) and Phallop Thaiarry (L1), President and Secretary of World Fellowship of Buddhists (WFB) respectively, received Ven Master Chin Kung and interacted with him in Thailand. Ven Master encouraged WFB to put Buddha's teachings into daily practice, and to look at ways of uniting religions and bringing world peace.



佛是福慧圓滿。大乘表大智慧。無量壽表第一
大德。莊嚴即是真善美慧。此皆一切眾生本自
具足。但以妄想執着。而不能證得。聖佛教人。修
清淨平等慈悲心。十善六度利生行。則能自證大覺。
名曰成佛。則一切眾生本來是佛。此是佛陀。佛陀
教育宗旨如是。大乘無量壽經。是其治要。世法、
佛法。盡在其中。格物致知。誠意。正心。修身。齊家。
治國。平天下之智慧。理念。方法。經驗。出世法。真
相。究竟圓滿之科哲。亦盡在其中。取之不盡。用之
不竭。須知佛經是大智慧書。是大福德書。中國
人之先祖是大福慧者。孝親。尊師。重道。引進了
第一希有之佛陀教育。化導子孫。成聖成佛。如
是恩德。不知所報。我等幸聞。敢不信受奉行。自
利利他。信。願。念佛。同生淨土。是名真報恩者也。

The renowned British historian, Dr. Arnold J. Toynbee, once said that in order to resolve the social problems of the twenty-first century, we must rely on the teachings of Confucius and Mencius, and on Mahayana Buddhism. The doctrines of Confucius and Mencius cherish loving-kindness, duties and obligations. The expression of it is loyalty and forgiveness. Sincerity is the essence of Mahayana Buddhism and it can be used ingeniously.

悲妙用



As suggested by the American author Dr. Gregg Braden, the only way to reconcile a planet-wide catastrophe in 2012 is to abandon evil and return to virtue, stop all wrongs and do what is proper, and finally correct our erroneous mindsets and lead the world to a better future.

英人湯恩比言解決廿世紀



社會問題唯有中國孔孟學說

與大乘佛法孔孟仁義存心忠

恕為用大乘真誠為體慈

美人布萊登言應對三三三



全球危機唯有全人類棄惡

揚善改邪歸正端正心念將

世界引導到更好的走向

八十五叟淨六禮拜



神愛世人，和平天使。

神愛世人，和平天使。

God Loves All People. Blessed are Angels of Peace.

大乘佛法



孔孟學說



仁義忠恕 真誠慈悲

孔孟仁義忠恕 大乘真誠慈悲

Confucianism represents benevolence, honor, loyalty and forgiveness.

Mahayana Buddhism represents true sincerity, and compassion.



社會安定
世界和平
須要



此四者皆不易達成非常棘手
 然由宗教團結下手較易宗教
 若能團結合作肯定影響前三
 者則世界安定和諧可以落實

淨空時年八十



In order to achieve social stability and world peace,
 there must be impartiality and harmonious living among nations,
 among political factions, among ethnic groups, and among religions.
 It is not easy to accomplish this. In fact, it is extremely difficult.
 But when we begin by focusing on religious cooperation it will be easier.
 If religions can come together and cooperate with one another,
 then this is bound to influence nations, political factions, and ethnic groups.
 In this way, world peace and harmony will be realized.

Chin Kung, at the age of eighty