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NEWSLETTER

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# A Trip to Remember

JAPAN & INDONESIA, February 2004



## EDUCATION IS ESSENTIAL IN BUILDING A COUNTRY AND IN GUIDING ITS PEOPLE

Venerable Master Chin Kung  
at the Okayama NGO  
Summit for International Contribution  
Okayama, Japan  
January 2004

### OVERVIEW

The 2004 Okayama NGO Summit for International Contribution was held by the Okayama Topia for International Contribution (OTIC) in Okayama,

Japan on 23-25 January, 2004. It was the 10th summit. The topic for the Summit was "Education for Sustainable Development" based on the United Nations 2002 resolution on the 10-year UNESCO program scheduled to begin in 2005. The Summit was chaired by Mr. Gustavo Lopez Ospina, Director of UNESCO in Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office. He opened proceedings by emphasizing and explaining the topic of the Summit. Four independent but collaborative group discussions were held on problems of environmental issues; religions and peace; human rights and sexual equality; and international understanding. Attending the Summit were distinguished representatives from all over the world notably Japan, U.S.A., France, Australia, Korea, Indonesia, Nepal, Vietnam, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Philippines.





Participants included Japanese government officials, UNESCO representatives, university professors and representatives from Non-Government Organizations (NGO) worldwide.

Venerable Master Chin Kung, representing Griffith University, was invited to attend the Summit. His paper was presented in English by Dr Maosen Zhong of the University of Queensland in the group session for religions and peace. Master Chin Kung said that for the current problems of social crisis and global unrest to be solved, four types of education must be implemented in order to sustain future development. He pointed out that the ancient Chinese saints and philosophers had understood that education is essential in building a country and in guiding its people. Likewise, the four types of education are essential parts of a complete education and should never be separated. The first part is the family education. The second part is the formal school education. The third is social education. The fourth is religious education.

The content of education is based on five principles:

1. Parents should love and care for their children, and children should love and be dutiful to their parents;
2. the ruler should be benevolent to the sub-

jects and the subjects should be loyal to their ruler;

3. there should be conjugal love between husbands and wives;
4. siblings should live in harmony; and
5. friends should be trustworthy.

These principles teach people to cultivate their moral character; their words must be loyal and trustworthy; and they must act respectfully. When they conduct business, they do it as if for a friend, they must not do it because it is profitable. They do what is morally right, not for its merits. When they receive people and attend to matters, they must first treat others the way they wish to be treated. They do not do unto others what they do not want others to do unto them.

Master Chin Kung reminded his audience that all religions were originally multicultural social education. He said the teachings of all the world's religions are about loving-kindness and compassion, about people living in peace and harmony. All the sacred religious teachings are recorded in the scriptures. But if religious followers do not delve deeper into the meaning of their sacred texts and practice them accordingly, then their religions - while not in themselves superstitious - could be perceived as superstitious.

How do we put these ideals into practice? Master Chin Kung suggested that UNESCO should found a University of World Religions where each religion has a separate school, to let religious education be the guiding force to restore all four types of education. Then there will be light for the 21st century and our world will be a better place.

During the three-day Summit, participants not only had formal discussions in the meeting hall, they had the chance to discuss matters freely away from the group sessions. During one such conversation, Master Chin Kung said, "For us to put an end to conflicts and to promote peace, we must first resolve our own inner conflicts and self-contradictions. I often remind my students that when contradictions arise, we must admit that we are always wrong and that



others are always right. We must diligently try to change for the better." Master Chin Kung told participants about his work on inter-religious harmony and racial unity in Singapore, Australia, and Indonesia. He also introduced to the participants his concept of teaching by using long-distance education through satellite TV and the Internet. All participants applauded Master Chin Kung's teaching concept and praised his accomplishments. Mr. Gustavo Lopez Ospina said, "If we want to achieve world peace, we must utilize the method used by Master Chin Kung to gather and concentrate our manpower and material resources to expand education on a very large scale."

To each of the Summit participants, Master

Chin Kung presented a framed word "love" in Chinese calligraphy and a small gift. At the end of the Summit, Master Chin Kung exhibited a huge painting by Mr. Yi-Zi Jiang entitled "*The Changing Forms of Hell*". He called on participants to promote education on causality and the teachings of God and the saints. After the Summit, Master Chin Kung and Summit President Mr Okigaki Tohru co-hosted a banquet for all participants. All were very happy and expressed the hope that Master Chin Kung could participate in the next Summit.

Participants  
January 25, 2004

## Talks on Religious Education and Unity

During the breakfast on Sunday, 25 January, Master Chin Kung and his followers met other Summit participants, including Mr Gustavo Lopez Ospina, director of UNESCO in Latin America and Chairperson of this Summit, Mr Matt Weiner, director of the Inter-Faith Center in New York and Professor Swee-Hin Toh, Director of the Multi-Faith Center of Griffith University. They were all very interested in Master Chin Kung's approach towards world peace by promoting religious education. They all sat around Master Chin Kung exchanging ideas and were able to talk freely for an hour.

Master CK: Religious education is very important to world peace. In order to implement religious education, I give lectures on Buddhist Sutras and have them recorded, copied and have an enormous number



of audio and video cassette tapes, CDs and DVDs made for world-wide free distribution. Now my lectures are broadcast via Satellite TV. There are many audiences. Today the President of Hwazan Satellite TV, Ms Judy Chen, is also here with us.

Ms Chen: Hwazan Satellite TV is Master Chin Kung's temple on television. It propagates





Buddhism 24 hours a day. It has already broadcasted for a year. Currently it covers Asia, the continent of America and the Pacific. Recently we integrated Hwazan Satellite TV into the Internet, so people who get on line all over the world can also watch Hwazan Satellite TV.

Mr. Weiner: How many Dharma masters are giving lectures on Hwazan Satellite TV?

Master CK: So far there is only me. I already have about 20,000 lecture hours recorded on audio and video tapes. If broadcast continuously for 24 hours a day, these materials would last for two years.

Prof. Toh: Plays and operas that are meaningful and educational can also be broadcasted.

Master CK: Yes, we plan on doing that, such as the movie version of Liaofan's Four Lessons and the Buddhist cartoon stories etc.

Mr. Ospina: Currently, disasters abound all over the world; our environments keep on deteriorating; and there are endless conflicts everywhere. UNESCO also has started to realize the importance of teaching ethics and education about virtues and moral principles.

Master CK: This is very important. Each religion

should set up its own special channel of broadcast, TV or otherwise, inviting 20 to 30 lecturers of morality to explain their own religious scriptures or teachings and have them broadcasted 24 hours a day to their followers and students, to remind them daily that they need to purify their minds. I believe the social trend of people's behavior will improve substantially within 3 years and when people are in harmony, the world disasters will also be reduced significantly.

Mr. Ospina: In order for us to achieve world peace, we should use the same method Master Chin Kung uses to concentrate our manpower and material resources to conduct education on a large-scale. Another question, how to unite the religions?

Master CK: All religions should visit and communicate with each other often, treating each other with true sincerity. They all have to make an effort. When I was in Singapore, I donated S\$100,000 to each of the nine major religions. I helped them with their charity work. One of the religions wanted to build a school but was short of S\$750,000. They asked us for help. Since this amount was beyond our capability, we have the other nine major religions joined with us to raise funds for the project by holding a charity walkathon. In just one day, we raised one million dollars. In 1999 together we organized a charity dinner: 3800 people from the nine different religions participated. In 2000, a total of 8000 people attended. In 2001, there were 7500. Today the nine major religions in Singapore are very closely knit.

Mr. Ospina: If all religious leaders could establish a common ground, unity among the religions can be easily achieved.

Master CK: That will not be difficult. Just organize a



world cruise for all the religious leaders. This way all the religious leaders get to see each other and interact with each other everyday. They can freely communicate with each other. Thus all contradictions and misunderstandings can then be resolved by this personal interaction. Take our Singapore experience for example. The representatives from nine religions in Singapore didn't even want to talk to each others. Only after a few trips together, they are all good friends now. Furthermore, all their scheduled activities can be broadcast on satellite TV to the world. This would be a very effective way to unite all the religions.

Mr Ospina: This is a very good idea. UNESCO already offers a similar activity. In Paris, every year we organize a one-month Mediterranean cruise to promote the project of 'Education for Sustainable Development'. This activity has gone on for five years and has proved to be quite effective.



Master CK: I have discussed the possibility of having UNESCO holding its future peace Summit in Queensland with the university vice-chancellors in Australia. If it can be done, we welcome all of you to attend.

P.S. Another Summit participant, Dr Primitivo Chua from the Philippines, subsequently joined in the conversation. He told Master Chin Kung that the broadcast of Master Chin Kung's lectures can now be received on cable TV and satellite TV system in Manila. His father watches it everyday.



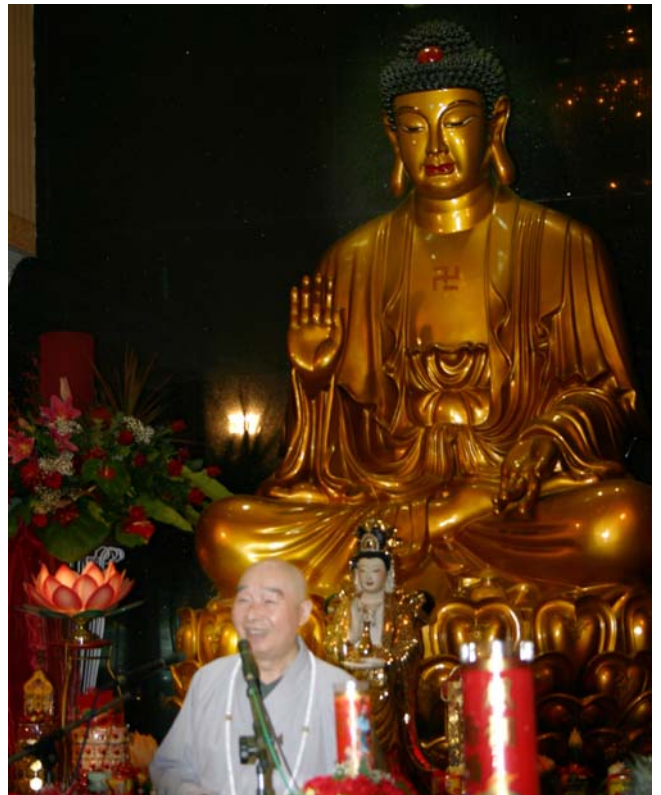
## Harmony Starts from Within

### Speech at Summit's Farewell Banquet

The Summit was successfully concluded on Sunday, 25 January, 2004. Master Chin Kung and Summit President Mr Okigaki Tohru co-hosted a farewell banquet for all the participants. It took place near the Okayama Castle. At the end of the dinner, Mr Tohru asked Master Chin Kung to give a speech. Master Chin Kung happily accepted and said to the audience: "I am very honored to have this opportunity to meet so many people who are devoted to the work of world peace. In the last century, in the 1970s, the well-known English historian and philosopher, Dr Arnold Toynbee, once had a great discussion with a Japanese scholar Mr Iakada Daisako. Dr Toynbee believed that modern social problems could be solved only by adopting Chinese culture. The Chinese culture is very broad and profound. Its focus on education can be summed up in the following three categories of inter-relationships: firstly, the relationship among people - the human relationship with society, country and ethnic groups; secondly, the relationship between people and their environments; thirdly, the relationship between people and beings of different dimensions. True peace can be reached only when these three relationships are in order."

Master Chin Kung then cited an example: "The old Imperial Palace in Beijing has three big Halls. Their names, when translated into English, are Hall of Great Harmony, Hall of Center Harmony and Hall of Keeping Harmony. The names of those three halls have profound meanings. From the perspective of intrinsic nature, Great Harmony means that the nature of our universe has always been in harmony. From the perspective of appearance, Center Harmony symbolizes that all relationships in the universe are in harmony. From the perspective of usefulness, Keeping Harmony is when all relationships are being handled correctly, kept in harmony and corresponding to their nature. They have the same meaning as the Chinese words 'Dao De'. Just as in ancient Chinese times, 'Dao' means the rules of nature; to abide by the rules of nature is called 'De'."

Master Chin Kung continued: "Harmony must start from within. We must be rid of our inner conflicts and discordance before we can be at peace with the outside - our society, the world, even the universe. Finally, I wish you all good health. When your mind is completely pure and kind, you will definitely enjoy good health. Then, will you be able to make important contributions to the world." The dinner guests applauded warmly and thanked Master Chin Kung for the banquet and for his brilliant speech.



# Report of Venerable Master Chin Kung's Trip to Indonesia 2004

On the October of 2003, Venerable Master Chin Kung was invited by the Vice President of Indoensia, Dr. Hamzah Haz, to visit Indonesia. On February 2004, Minister of Religious Affair, Mr. Agil Said invited Master to come to Indonesia one more time, after Master's NGO Peace Conference in Okayama of Japan, for a week long visit. Master was asked to give speech on the grand opening ceremony of the Multi-faith Building. Master shared with everyone his thoughts on the subjects of 'Humanity, Love and World Peace'. Master visited main religious organizations in Jakarta and held dialogs with their leaders. Master Chin Kung was later invited to attend the International Conference of Islamic Scholars. The day before Master returned to Australia, Ambassador of China, Mr. Shumin Lu and his wife invited Master to lunch at his residence.



## **18th of Feb: The Grand Opening Ceremony for the Multi-Faith Building**

Master Chin Kung, under invitation from the Minister of Religious Affair, Prof. Dr. Said Agil, attended the Grand Opening Ceremony for the Multi-Faith Building in Jakarta. Master Chin Kung spoke on 'Humanity, Love and World Peace'. With a broad universal view, he talked about how social unrest had come about in Eastern and Western societies. He firmly acknowledged that only the teachings of saints

and sages could truly bring resolution to this most sever of all problems of our 21st century. People living in this new age longed for this ideal to come true. He also said that "all religious education is based on compassion, love, harmony and sincerity and different religions are all founded by the same Saint or Sages." "When religious education brings about a renewed sense of morality and virtue to people, then this world would still be full of hopes and possibility." Thus, all religions could and should work together in unity. Relying on the morality and virtue of the saints and sages, fully promote religious education, to resolve all conflicts and war of our world.

## **Visiting Former President Mr. Wahid**

This is the second meeting between the two parties. During the one and half hour conversations, both had mentioned again that all the saints and sages that religious followers worshiped in this world, are the manifestation of the One True God of this universe. Mr. Wahid humorously said that all modern religious followers were interested in the 'Clothing of God' and totally ignored the essence of God. Master mentioned the Water Crystal Experiment conducted by Dr. Emoto in Japan. Combining science and Buddhism, Master said that our will could change matters. With sincerity, purity, compassion and love, we could restore our health.

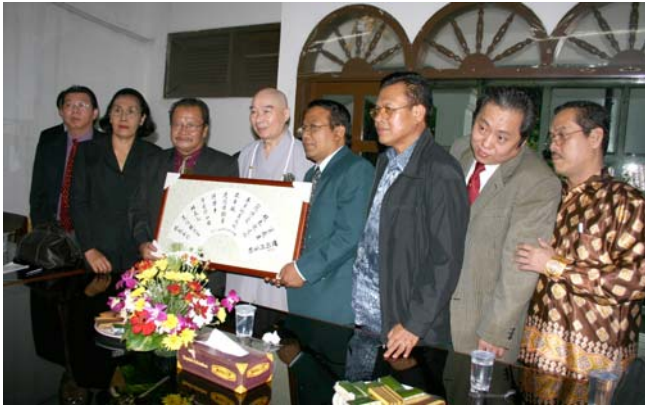


## **19th of Feb, Visiting Headquarter of Hinduism.**

Director Mr. Adi Soeripto talked about how Hindu followers leaded life in Indonesia and he stressed that Master Chin Kung should visit Bali and



attend activities there in the hometown of Hinduism. Master said that he would love to see more communications and contacts between all religions. Understanding, harmony and equality would be realized from doing so.



**20th of Feb: Accompanied by special assistant, Drs. H. Rohadi Abd. Fatah from the Ministry of Religious Affair, Master Chin Kung visited Islamic, Catholic and Christian Headquarters.**



**Visiting Islamic Headquarter, Majelis Ulama Indonesia, (MUI).**

Elder Drs. H.A. Nazri Adlani and a director of the board received Master Chin Kung. The Elder and the director emphasized that Islamic faith did not represent terrorism and men and women were treated equally in accordance to their own culture.



**Visiting Bishops' Conference of Indonesia, (BCI)**

Cardinal Julius Darmaatmadja and three other bishops warmly received Master Chin Kung. They had specially prepared vegetarian lunch for everyone. Master Chin Kung mentioned that he had taught classes in the Catholic College, Thomas Monastery in Taiwan. A high percentage of the population of Indonesia had religious faith. If only the religious education could be more pronounced, then Indonesia would see a stable and prosper society soon. Cardinal said that leading a religious life should not be superficial. Teachings should be realized in real life, as long as we hold a just mind, and practice the scripture of any our own religion, then peace would truly come to this world.



**Visiting Christian Churches Conglomerate of Indonesia, Persekutuan Gereja-Gereja Di Indonesia (PGI)**

Chairman of PGI Dr. Nathan Setaibudi warmly welcomed Master Chin Kung. Master Chin Kung talked about how to promote and facilitate mutual cooperation between different religious groups. Two reporters who had attended the meeting asked ques-



tions on the topics related to modern Indonesian society. Master explained that only by practice God's love with our sincere mind and use our own words and deeds to realize his teaching, could we hope to resolve numerous misunderstanding and conflicts.



**21st Feb: Visiting Islamic University**

Director of Multi-Faith Centre of Griffith University, Prof. Toh Swee Hin and Senior Lecturer in University of Queensland, Dr. Maosen Zhong represented Master Chin Kung, had visited the world renowned university, Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University. Professor Azra and twelve Deans welcomed Prof. Toh and Dr. Zhong. Dr. Zhong made an announcement that Master Chin Kung would like to donate \$200,000 Singapore dollars scholarship to Islamic students in need.

4:00 PM: Invitation by Vihara Mahavira Graha Pusat (Buddhist Temple)

Abbot Venerable Shi Hui Siong invited Master Chin Kung and Catholic representative for a meeting. Master Chin Kung gave a speech to over 600 followers of the temple.

**22nd of Feb: Visiting Guan Hua One Vehicle Zen Temple**

Abbot Venerable Ding Sang warmly welcomed everyone and asked Master Chin Kung to give lecture to over 1000 followers of the temple. Master used 'One Vehicle' as the topic and talked about the secular and the gradual teaching methods of Buddha.



**International Conference of Islamic Scholar Welcoming Dinner**

Master Chin Kung was invited to attend this conference which was held by Indonesian government, Ministry of Foreign Affair and Nahdlatul Ulama. Islamic scholars and various organization representatives from over one hundred countries had participated. Master chin Kung was invited to give a 45 minutes speech to all scholars during this welcoming dinner.

### **23rd of Feb: Attending the International Conference of Islamic Scholar Opening Ceremony**

Director of Multi-Faith Centre of Griffith University, Prof. Toh Swee Hin and Senior Lecturer in University of Queensland, Dr. Maosen Zhong representing Master Chin Kung, had attended this ceremony. They had also attended the rest of the conference which started on the 22nd of Feb and ended on the 25th of Feb.



### **Master Chin Kung received representatives from Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University.**

Four representatives were sent by Chancellor Prof. Dr. Azyumardi Azra to visit Master Chin Kung in Hotel Mulia.



## **Sacred Teachings of God Can Put Humanity, Love and World Peace into Actual Practice**

During the seven days of activity, Venerable Master Chin Kung together with political and religious leaders as well as many academic scholars enthusiastically shared their views on how world turmoil and instability can be resolved. In his lecture, Venerable Master Chin Kung pointed out that

### **1. The cause of social disorder and upheaval in the world is due to the lack of emphasis on the teachings of the ancient saints and sages**

There are four essential parts to an education. They are all parts of a complete education and should never be separated. The first part is the family education. The second part is the formal school education. The third is the social education. The fourth is religious education. Of these four parts, family education is the foundation, and religious education is what makes an education complete and perfect. When all four parts to an education are working, the world will be at peace, society will be stable, and people will be happy. If we neglect any part to an education, the world will undoubtedly become chaotic.

### **2. How the ancient Chinese taught their descendants - they believed in the five ethical normal human relationships and valued education**

Yao and Shun, the ancient Chinese saintly emperors, taught their people the following five principles of education:

- 1) Parents should love and care for their children, and children should love and be dutiful to their parents;
- 2) the ruler should be benevolent to the subjects and the subjects should be loyal to their ruler;
- 3) there should be conjugal love between husbands and wives;



- 4) siblings should live in harmony; and
- 5) friends should be trustworthy.

In order to build a country or a government and to properly guide and teach the people, education is the most important factor of all.

**3. *When the four types of education are not clearly present, the world will be in turmoil***

**4. *Religious education can turn us back to the education of moral principles taught by the saints and sages - the world can still be saved***

Most family education, social education and formal education today has deserted the moral teachings. Only religious education still talks about kindheartedness, peace and respect for God. So the world still has a thread of light; it depends on religious education. If we can believe in God, believe in causality, believe in the teachings of the saints and the sages, if we can let religious education lead us back, to put greater emphasis on ethics and moral principles in family education, formal and social education, this world can still be saved. The end of the world is not here yet.

**5. *Happiness in a family depends on parents being role models for their children***

Mencius said, "It is the parents' fault when children are raised but not taught. When teachers are not strict with their students, teachers are being lazy." This happens when both the parents and the teachers are not exemplary in their behaviour and do not properly fulfil their duties.

**6. *Religious education is an education all about loving-kindness and compassion, about people living in harmony and treating one another with sincerity and respect***

If religious followers do not delve deeper into the meaning of their sacred texts and practice them accordingly, then their religions - while not in themselves superstitious - could be perceived as superstitious. The nature of a religious education is

beneficial to all and it can truly save people.

**7. *All religions are forms of multicultural social education***

When we look at all the religions, we find their teachings are not limited to just people of one country or one race. They propagate their religious teachings to the whole world. Therefore, all religions are forms of multicultural social education.

**8. *Different religions are created by the same God - there can be unity and co-operation within the religions***

Even though the name of the God who created the world that every religion talks about is different, the universe is created by the same God. Thus we firmly believe different religions are created by the same God in different forms and taught by different teaching methods. The different manifestations of God are for the convenience of teaching and accommodating people from different areas, cultures and levels of understanding. We have researched all the religious texts. The principles they teach are the same, heading in the same direction and towards the same goal. Therefore, there can be unity and cooperation within the religions. They should teach people together. They can teach the followers to be sincere, pure, equal and compassionate. They should accept one another, respect and love one another, trust one another, be humble and tolerate each other, be concerned for the welfare of one another, care for one another, co-operate with one another.

**9. *Everyone has the mission to be a ruler, a parent and a teacher***

The sacred texts of the saints and sages tell us that in a society, no matter what profession we are in, we all have this mission to be a ruler, a parent and a teacher. Anyone who wishes to achieve high moral standards or to succeed in a career within this lifetime needs to follow this principle.

Here 'ruler' refers to a person in a leadership position. The leader shows the way and the people



follow. He will lead the people onto the right path so the people following him will not go astray. Therefore, the leader must have wisdom, virtue, moral conduct, and the knowledge to assist people so they will benefit. 'Parent' refers to the giving of kindness and care. We should love and care for others in the same way that we love and care for our own children. As an employer, we should treat all our workers as our children. As a result, would the employees not remain loyal to us? A 'teacher' is a person who teaches and guides people. We are like teachers loving and protecting our students. We should become role models for all. Everyone has those three missions. To fulfil those missions, we must rely on and live by the virtues and the moral principles taught by the saints and sages. Only then will everyone have a happy family. Our society will be stable and our world will be at peace.

#### **10. Propagating religious education on a large scale to all citizens**

It is very important that we restore the teachings of the saints and the sages because the result will bring forth peace and prosperity to Indonesia. Accordingly, I humbly offer you my suggestions:

- (1) To let the government lead in the propagation of religious teachings to all citizens via satellite television and the Internet
- (2) Setting up a National University of Religions to nurture preachers of various religions to have proper and correct understanding
- (3) Holding a quarterly religious interactive event for all religions

I have been propagating the teachings of Buddha Dharma for 46 years. For the past two decades, with the help of many civic supporters, I have circulated numerous lectures on sutras recorded on cas-



*Dr. Hamzah Haz, Vice President of Indonesia*

sette and video tapes, CDs and DVDs. In addition, for the past six years I have used the Internet for long-distance religious education. Since last year I have used satellite television for broadcasting my lectures. These modern technologies have resulted in positive influences for many students all over the world.

If the Government of Indonesia can also utilize the modern technologies to conduct long-distance education, I believe the positive result after just one year will surpass those resulting from our efforts over the past 20 years. I believe that after six months, the safety of the Indonesian community will greatly improve. Furthermore, within one year, peace and harmony will prevail and people will be more honest and kind. When a society is stable, its economy will surely prosper as well.

Other countries will also follow the footsteps of Indonesia and then there will be peace in the world. These approaches are really the answer to save Indonesia and the world from pending disasters.

Within our limited resources, we will help and give you our support for this great undertaking. We deeply believe that peace-lovers throughout the world will, too, extend their firm support for this project.