

Academy of Wisdom & Enlightenment (AWE)

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www.awe-edu.com

**AWE 2014 Annual Report
A Year-end Review of Dharma Propagation Endeavours**

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

International Scholastic Recognition

AWE is honoured to have three articles accepted for publication at the International Buddhist Academic Conference sanctioned by United Nations. This conference invites articles contributed by any scholars worldwide including professors from Buddhist universities, patriarchs and leaders from all schools and traditions of Buddhism. Due to the high number (>330) of articles submitted, and limited speakers' podium time, the manuscript rejection rate is as high as 78% by two rounds of blinded peer review processes. The three authors from AWE were invited to the conference in Vietnam in May to present their papers as speakers on three separate panels. Summary of the panels were submitted to the United Nations Economic Development Council.

All three of our articles belong to the AWE Year-1 syllabus. In particular, two of the three articles represent lecture-1 and Lecture-4 of our first year curriculum. Evidently, the quality of even our most preliminary syllabus is of a calibre recognized by the top international scholastic forum. This recognition is an undisputed endorsement that our method of dharma teaching is correct and relevant to modern times. It is also an encouragement for us to continue building on our success in this direction.

International Collaboration in Dharma Propagation

- AWE has been appointed Coordinator of Canada by the Buddhist Global Network. We are the editor for the English web page of this trilingual website.
- A story describing the Brampton Buddhist Mission Centre was submitted for publication in the international trilingual magazine.
- As a Canadian delegate representing AWE, Dr. Lo was invited to the millennium celebration of the rebuilt and grand opening ceremony of the Chongren Temple, Zhejiang Province, China. The renewal of this temple (in which its pagoda was hidden the Avatamsaka Sutra 華嚴經 over turmoil times) after 1,000 years signifies the revitalization of the Avatamsaka (Huayan 華嚴) School of Nagarjuna 龍樹. AWE's teachings are based on the Avatamsaka School.
- Dr. Lo delivered a whole day lecture by invitation by the current Patriarch Grand Master Dr. Dayuan at the 6th Patriarch Temple in Guangdong, China. Zen Buddhism was made in China in the early 5th century by Bodhidharma who was the 1st Zen Patriarch at the Shaolin Temple. The 6th Patriarch Huineng (638-713 born in Guangdong) rendered Zen Buddhism the largest lineage in China from which almost all other Chinese Buddhist Schools descended.

LOCAL EVENTS

Local Dharma Activities

An ongoing achievement is the continuation of the teachings of the AWE curriculum at the Pho Hien Temple, Toronto, Canada.

- For the fourth time, the Year-1 syllabus has been taught. The syllabus is an endorsement by a Tripitaka Vagishvaracharya, by the Patriarch of the Avatamsaka (Huayan) School, by the Chief Monk of Canada and by the Council General of Sri Lanka. We are grateful

for their support which validated AWE. Buddhism repackaged in modern, scientific and philosophical language is not only relevant but timely.

- For the first time, Year-2 syllabus is completed. Year-2 students are expected to teach Year-1 lectures and to improve lecture delivery. The Year-2 students taught the Year-1 syllabus twice in 2014 and their lectures were posted on our website www.AWE-edu.ca/Syllabus/2014. See audio on <http://awewb2.yolasite.com/2014.php>
- For the first time, the lecture portion of the Year-3 syllabus ("Heart Journey") was completed. The practical portion, which entails research and publication are on-going.
- Graduates from Year-3 are expected to become providers of answers to dharma questions. Publications from our Year-3 graduates are posted as PDF articles on <http://awewb2.yolasite.com/publication.php>
- AWE hosted a significant event, the celebration of 50 years of monkhood for Dr. Sumana Siri, Tripitaka Vagishvaracharya <http://awewb2.yolasite.com/events.php>. He is the Chief Editor for the English webpage of the Buddhist Global Network.

Promotional Activities

- AWE displayed a booth at the Chinese New Year celebration at the Canadian National Exhibition grounds organized by the Vietnamese community and attended by thousands. The event marked the beginning of Chinese New Year 2014. Our booth promoted public awareness of AWE's Buddhist teaching in Toronto using modern language.
- New classes were announced through numerous public websites.

Brampton Parade

AWE actively participated and supported the annual International Buddhist Parade for World Peace organised by the Brampton Buddhist Mission Centre on August 17, 2014 under the leadership of the Most Venerable W. Pannasara Thera, Chief Monk of Canada. This successful event was joined by 11 Buddhist communities including Montreal and other localities of Ontario. The principal of the Academy of Wisdom and Enlightenment, Dr. Ching Lo was amongst the honoured guests. This enhanced the intimacy of AWE with other Buddhist centres.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvlzHHEtIck>

Networking with Turkish Chamber of Commerce

AWE members attended a gathering at the International Dialogue Institute (IDI), GTA's headquarter on Sept 17, 2014 organized by the Turkish Chamber of Commerce. Highlight of the gathering was "Exploring Greater Buddhism" by Rev. Zenji Acharya, President of The Bodhisattva Initiative, World Buddhist Council and Mission. We had an intimate exchange of ideologies. A highly eloquent speaker, Rev. Zenji Acharya advocated Pure Land/Amitabha Buddhism. However, Sakyamuni taught moksha without relying on heaven or god. The 6th Patriarch clearly told us that Pure Land only exists in our hearts. We also have a difference in opinion regarding the root cause of the historical schism between the Vibhajyavadin and the Sarvastivadin. These scholastic debates were intellectually nurturing.

Interfaith Outreach

2 papers on the role of Islam and world peace:

Dr. Hamid Slimi is a prominent Muslim leader in Canada, founder and former Chair of the Canadian Council of Imams (2006-2013). He founded Sayeda Khadija Centre in Mississauga. <http://www.sayedakhadijacentre.com/index.php/imams-office>. On November 6th, 2014 he was an invited speaker at a forum "Radicalization and Homegrown Extremism" along with the Deputy Director of CSIS, Toronto Region, the RCMP Superintendent, and the Syria/Iraq Analyst, Sec/Dev & Senior Middle East Analyst, NATO Council of Canada.

The AWE delegates met with Dr. Slimi and decided to submit 2 papers to the International Buddhist Academic Conference 2015 Thailand. Dr. Lo co-authored 2 abstracts; one with Dr. Slimi and another with Omar Ahmed. Unfortunately the International Buddhist Academic Conference committee is not ready to accept these papers. AWE will continue to support imminent struggle for world peace...the big picture, the Mahayana Bodhisattva way.

Dr. Slimi was invited to the World Alliance Religions' Peace (WARP) Summit held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, September 16-19, 2014. Approximately 200,000 people attended and amongst them are 1,500 leaders including international heads of states and leading representatives of world religions. The WARP Summit is a meeting of different leaders of the world, including prominent figures in both secular and spiritual sectors of society, in order to discuss and share insights on how to achieve world peace. This signifies the beginning of an era of grass root peace movement, alternative to the UN.

2015 Objectives

1. Implement a co-requisite course on critical thinking to the Year-2 curriculum.
2. Carry out the publication portion of the Year-3 curriculum.
3. Ensure Year-1 students meet their learning objectives as specified in the syllabus.