



王金平先生率團訪問萬佛城

Mr. Jin-Ping Wang's Delegation Visits CTTB

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中華民國立法院長王金平率領的訪問團於返台前夕，利用週末假日，由駐舊金山辦事處處長李世明陪同，前往北加州規模最大的佛教叢林「萬佛聖城」參訪。

立法委員訪問團及工作人員一行十五人，於六月廿九日上午十一時抵達位於舊金山北方一百一十哩的萬佛聖城。王金平院長首先向同行的立委們介紹萬佛聖城開山祖師^{上宣下化}老和尚生前事蹟，並表示他的家族中有五、六人都皈依宣公上人。王金平院長強調：「上人的境界很高，他講解的《心經》就是不一樣

。」王院長本人研讀《地藏經》，兩年前在立法院，曾經聆聽過恆實法師開示，印象深刻。這次來美訪問，順道前來拜會，並在萬佛殿拈香頂禮，誠心為台灣祈福。

王金平院長也推崇宣公上人創建萬佛聖城的願力及毅力，認為上人所倡導的簡樸苦修道風，正是今天弘揚佛法所需要的精神。

法界佛教總會會長恆實法師將他今年在柏克萊宗教聯合研究所完成的博士論文「淨源法師與宋朝華嚴懺之發展」送了一本給王金平院長，並為前來訪問的立委介紹萬佛聖城的設施及正在積極推動建築設計的「國際哲學倫理研究院」，包括妙覺寶殿、上人紀念圖書館（藏經閣）等多項工程。立委一行也實地前往萬佛聖城東區的工程預定地參觀。萬佛聖城方丈恆律法師沿途解說，立委們對城

A Legislative Delegation from Taiwan, the Republic of China, led by the Speaker Jin-Ping Wang paid a visit to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB), the largest Buddhist monastery in Northern California, on Sunday, June 29, before they returned to Taiwan. They were accompanied by Mr. Matthew Lee, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Culture Office in San Francisco, and several of his staff.

This group of fifteen people arrived at CTTB, 110 miles north to San Francisco, around 11:30 am. Mr. Jin-Ping Wang, Speaker of the Legislative Yuan, introduced to his colleagues the achievements of the Venerable Master Hua, founder of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. He said that five or six people in his extended family had taken refuge with Venerable Master. Speaker Wang pointed out that Venerable Master Hua had reached a very high level of spiritual attainment, which distinguished his commentary on the *Heart Sutra* from that of other Dharma Masters. Having studied the *Earth Store Sutra*, Speaker Wang had been impressed after listening to Dharma Master Heng Sure's lecture two years ago at the Legislative Yuan in Taiwan. Hence, when he led this delegation to the US, he took the opportunity to visit CTTB, where he bowed in the Buddha Hall and sincerely prayed for blessings for Taiwan. Speaker Wang extolled the vows and perseverance of Venerable Hua saying that the simple, frugal tradition and ascetic practices promoted by Venerable Hua are exactly what we need today to propagate the Buddhadharma.

Dharma Master Heng Sure, chairman of Dharma Realm Buddhist Association, gave Speaker Wang a copy of his doctorate thesis "Jingyuan (1011-1088) and the Development of the Avatamsaka Liturgy in Song China." He also gave the delegation a brief introduction to CTTB's facilities and its expansion plan, the proposed International Institute of Philosophy and Ethics, which has received a construction permit from County Board of Supervisors and will include the Wonderful Enlightenment Jeweled Hall as well as a library in memory of Venerable Hua, among other buildings. On the way to the proposed site, the Abbot of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, Dharma Master Heng Lyu, guided the delegation through the campus and explained the daily schedule and



內所見的參天古木、孔雀、麋鹿，都感受到一股祥和寧靜的氣氛。訪問團的立委廖婉汝平日關心教育文化議題，因此看到萬佛城育良小學、培德中學及法界佛教大學的暑期課程，十分感佩海外華人克服萬難興辦教育的精神。

立委們又前往宣公上人人生前曾住過的無言堂瞻仰文物及舍利子，立委湯火聖對佛教經典深感興趣，並自掏腰包請了一套宣公上人講解的《大佛頂首楞嚴經》淺釋。在立委們臨走之前，方丈恆律法師特別向他們介紹宣公上人人生前大力提倡的「不爭、不貪、不求、不自私、不自利、不妄語」六大宗旨，王金平院長認為非常值得大家深思實踐。

前來萬佛聖城參訪的立委還有秦慧珠、卓伯源、立法院參事廖慶弘、李子文及外交部專門委員會曾厚仁等。這次的立法委員訪美團成員以國防委員會的立委為主，他們關心的是軍事採購等議題，在萬佛聖城聽到宣公上人人生前的名言：「教育是最根本的國防」，不僅令他們耳目一新，更足以作為他們今後問政的思考新方向。

practices at CTTB. The legislators felt a sense of serenity upon seeing the old growth trees, peacocks and deer on campus. Wan-Ru Liao, a legislator concerned with educational and cultural issues, expressed her admiration for the Chinese people's spirit in establishing education overseas under difficult situations, when she saw the summer classes of Instilling Goodness Elementary School, Developing Virtue Secondary School and Dharma Realm Buddhist University.

The legislative delegation then proceeded to No Words Hall, where the Venerable Hua had lived for a time, to view his *sharira* [relics], the sutras he had read, and the daily articles he used during his life. Legislator Huo-sheng Tang, was interested in Buddhist scriptures and bought a set of the *Shurangama Sutra* with Venerable Hua's commentary. Before they left, the Abbot, Dharma Master Heng Lyu, introduced to them the Six Guidelines of CTTB promoted by the Venerable Master Hua: No fighting, no greed, no seeking, no selfishness, no pursuit of personal advantages, and no lying. Speaker Wang felt that the Six Guidelines were worthy of deep reflection and should be practiced.

Other members in the delegation included Hui-zu Chin, Bo-yuan Juo, Chin-hong Liao, Zi-wen Lee and Ho-ren Zeng. This delegation was comprised mainly of members of the Legislative Yuan's National Defense Committee, who are primarily concerned with issues involving the purchase of weapons. However, here at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, they heard the late Venerable Master Hua's motto, "Education is the most fundamental national defense." This was not only a new idea, but a new approach that they can use when they return to work.