

如果我們只知道物質，像電腦、手機經常改變，一味追逐物欲，那生命就沒有很大的意義；如果能迴光返照到心靈裡邊，生命就會很豐富，這是非常重要的。」

「很多的工程師發明新的東西或者是武器，如果問他：『你發明這個，應不應該？』他說：『這個不可以問的，我就發明，由你自己決定用不用。』有些工程師來問我：『佛教有沒有什麼指導，讓我們知道決定應不應該？』有，就是古來的倫理道德觀念，有這些做人的道理，我們就不會走錯路。所以發明東西，一定要用智慧，幫助人類愈來愈走向光明。」

left. Why? Because the resources of this world are limited, but our minds are unlimited, all the way until Buddhahood is achieved. Who is it who realizes Buddhahood? When we become Buddhas, we neither change bodies, nor do we become a Buddha with another heart and mind. It is our mind of cultivation that realizes Buddhahood. If we are overly materialistic and keep having the desire to chase things like computers and cell phones that become obsolete in a short period of time, then there isn't much meaning to life anymore; conversely, if we can reflect upon ourselves and shine on our souls, our lives can be meaningful, and this is of paramount importance.”

“Some engineers devised inventions or weapons, and if you ask any of them, ‘Do you think your invention is unethical?’ he or she will reply, ‘I cannot answer such questions. I am merely the creator; it is you who are responsible for the decision of whether to use it or not.’ Some engineers come up to me and ask, ‘Does Buddhism have a compass that aids us in making the right decision?’ Yes, this is comprised of the principles and moral concepts passed down from the ancient days. With these principles on how to live our lives, we won't take the wrong path. So when we formulate a new creation, we must use wisdom and help humanity move towards a brighter future.”

歷史性的多元宗教代表團訪問中國

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Historic Multi-Faith Delegation to China

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SARA officials host the multi-faith delegation at SARA headquarters. Prof. Ron Epstein is the fourth from the left, second row.

國家宗教事務局官員在總部接待宗教聯合代表團。易象乾教授站在第二排左四位置。

Last October a delegation of American Buddhist, Catholic, Protestant, and Muslim religious leaders visited China and met with their counterparts, and also with Taoist leaders there. The visit was jointly sponsored by the Chinese government's State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA) and the American-Chinese Multi-Faith Religious Exchange (ACMFRE), which is headquartered in Raleigh, North Carolina. The delegation was the very first of its kind ever to be officially welcomed by the Chinese government. SARA and ACMFRE had requested that the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association (DRBA) represent American Buddhism on this visit. Ron Epstein, a research professor at the Dharma Realm Buddhist University, was then selected as the DRBA member of the delegation.

由美國佛教、天主教、基督教（清教徒）與回教的宗教界領袖組成的聯合代表團於去年十月份訪問中國，也與道教的領袖會面。這個訪問是由中國政府的「國家宗教事務局」（SARA）與位於美國北卡羅萊納州羅萊市的「美中多元宗教交流協會」（ACMFRE）聯合贊助。這是第一次訪

Upon its arrival in China, SARA Director General Mr. Wang Zuoan and SARA Director of Foreign Affairs Madame Guo Wei warmly welcomed the delegation at SARA headquarters in Beijing. After meetings with religious leaders in Beijing, the delegation traveled to Nanjing, Suzhou, Shanghai, and Hong Kong for meetings with regional officials and religious leaders. The group also visited churches, seminaries, and monasteries and attended religious services.

Dharma Master Xuecheng, Vice-Chairperson of the China Buddhist Association (CBA) and abbot of Longquan Monastery on the outskirts of Beijing, warmly welcomed the delegation to his monastery. At a meeting of the CBA there, Professor Epstein conveyed the best wishes of DRBA to the CBA and presented a paper entitled 'China and America: Buddhist and Interreligious Connections.' [The paper was published in the December 2009 and January 2010 issues of VBS] Dharma Master Xuecheng also participated in a discussion meeting that SARA arranged for the delegation with the various Chinese religious leaders at the National Islamic Center.

The delegation also received warm welcomes from the abbot of Hanshan Monastery in Suzhou, Dharma Master Qiu Shuang, and from the abbot of Jade Buddha Monastery in Shanghai, Dharma Master Jue Xing.

The members of the delegation were Mr. Davis Edward Froeber, Executive Director of the ACMFRE; Father Larry Janezic, Executive Director of the Franciscan Action Network; Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, Episcopal Leader of the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church; Dr. Ghulam Nabi Mir, Chair of the Founders Coordination Committee, Islamic Society of North America; Professor Ron Epstein, Representative, Dharma Realm Buddhist Association; Dr. Larry Harper, Senior Pastor of Forest Hills Baptist Church; Mrs. Sandra S. Haskins, Director of ACMFRE; Mr. Al Haskins, Finance Director of ACMFRE; Mr. Jeff Wood, Project Coordinator of ACMFRE; Dr. Robert N. Nash, Jr., Global Missions Coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; Dr. Harry M. Rowland, Jr., Director of Missional Church Ministries, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; Dr. J. Brent Walker, Executive Director, Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty; Mrs. Sara Mir, Islamic Society of North America; and Mrs. Angela Harper, Forest Hills Baptist Church.

The visit provided a unique opportunity for members of the delegation to develop a deeper understanding of religious conditions in China and of Chinese culture, and also to meet and get to know religious leaders and officials there.

問代表團的組成，也是首次受到中國政府官方正式的歡迎。「美中多元宗教交流協會」要求法界佛教總會(DRBA)代表美國佛教組織參加這次的訪問。由法界佛教總會推薦法界佛教大學的研究教授易象乾，代表法界佛教總會參與此次訪問。

在抵達中國後，中國國家宗教事務局王作安局長，外事司郭偉司長，在位於北京市的國家宗教事務局總部熱情迎接代表團。在北京與宗教界領袖的會議結束後，代表團前往南京、蘇州、上海與香港與當地的官員與宗教領袖舉行會議。代表團也訪問了教堂、神學院，寺院等，參加了宗教儀式。

中國佛教協會副會長暨北京外郊龍泉寺方丈學誠法師，在寺內隆重迎接訪問代表團。在龍泉寺與中國佛教協會會議時，易象乾教授致上法界佛教總會對中國佛教協會的最高祝福，並發表「中國與美國：佛教以及各宗教間的聯誼」一文（此文已登於本刊2009年12月號及2010年1月號）。學誠法師也參與了由國家宗教事務局安排，在國家伊斯蘭教中心舉行與中國各宗教界領袖的會議。

代表團也受到蘇州寒山寺方丈秋爽法師和上海玉佛寺方丈覺醒法師的熱烈歡迎。

訪問代表團的成員包括「美中多元宗教交流協會」(ACMFRE)的執行長佛柏爾先生，法蘭斯行動網路執行長亞內欣克神父，北伊利諾州聯合衛理公會教堂，聖公會領導鍾希舒主教，北美伊斯蘭學會，創辦協調委員會主席米爾博士，法界佛教總會代表易象乾教授，森林山浸信會教堂資深牧師哈波博士，「美中多信仰宗教交流協會」主任哈斯金夫人，「美中多信仰宗教交流協會」財務主任哈斯金先生，「美中多信仰宗教交流協會」項目協調主任伍德先生，浸信會合作團契，全球佈道教協調主任納許博士，浸信會合作團契，佈道教會部主任羅蘭博士，浸信會宗教自由聯合委員會執行長沃克博士，北美伊斯蘭學會米爾夫人，以及森林山浸信會教堂哈波夫人。

這次訪問，給代表團的成員提供一個很難得的機會，對中國與中國文化的發展有更深一層的瞭解，也提供與當地的宗教領袖、官員相見與認識的機會。