

Realizing the Ven. Master's Vow for Education in Australia: The Australian School of Arts and Philosophy at Gold Coast Dharma Realm

在澳洲實現上人的教育願景： 金岸法界成立澳洲藝文哲理學院

比丘尼恒音 文 • 王立夫 中譯

Written by Bhikshuni Heng Yin • Chinese Translation by Cliff Wang



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In 1961, the Venerable Master spent a quiet year in Australia, “planting the seeds” of Buddhism on this continent, before heading to the USA. Fifty years later, Buddhism is now flourishing in the Australian community, with an increase of 48% in the number of Buddhists from 2001 to 2011, at the last ABS census for a total of 529,000 people. Rosaline Kang found a 22 acre property for Dharma Realm Buddhist Association to establish its first Australian branch, Gold Coast Dharma Realm (GCDR) in 2000. Through regular Dharma activities and daily practice, over the years the Sangha at Gold Coast Dharma Realm has introduced the Venerable Master Hua's teachings to Australians.

Under the direction of Dharma Master Heng Chih and Dharma Master Jin Fu, a team led by John Spiro, Sam Kun Ong, and Ian Johnson came up with the long-range plan for establishing the Australian School of Arts and Philosophy (ASAP) at GCDR, as a way to realize the Master's vision in the areas of education and outreach. The Mission of ASAP is to: “Educate the people of the nation with strong moral values and ethics so to bring forth their inherent wisdom and self-nature in order to benefit the world.”

To do this, “The School regards and teaches languages as important enablers to grasping the profundity of the Eastern culture and its Western relevance; and to have at least competent translation prowess in its students essential to support the exploration of the human potential through investigation of Buddhist philosophies, ancient wisdom and other Eastern philosophical systems of thought and yogic practices, and through these principles apply them in all fields of the human life.”

See <http://www.gcdr.org.au/australian-school-of-arts-and-philosophy-asap.html> for more information.

在離開香港到美國之前，宣公上人於1961年曾在澳大利亞這塊大陸上播撒佛教的種子，並度過鮮為人知的一年。50年後的今天，佛教在澳洲社會蓬勃發展，基於ABS針對52.9萬人的社會調查得出的結果，從2001到2011年澳大利亞的佛教徒人數增加了48%。江黃雪玲女士在2000年捐獻出了22公頃的土地，給法界佛教總會用以成立其在澳洲的第一個分支道場——金岸法界。通過多年如一日的日常修行和定期舉辦的佛事活動，金岸法界的出家眾已經把宣公上人的教法帶給了澳洲人民。

在恒持法師和近賦法師的指導下，由約翰思必若、山姆坤翁和伊恩強森三人組成的團隊提出了一個遠景規劃，計劃在金岸法界建立「澳洲藝文哲理學院」（英文縮寫A.S.A.P.），用以延伸佛法於世間的教育，作為實現上人教育願景的一個平台。澳洲藝文哲理學院的宗旨是，「通過提高道德價值觀和倫理教育，開啟國民內在智慧和自性，從而造福世界。」

而「為了實現此一願景，學院認識到以語言教學作為內在橋樑，用來連接東方文化和西方世界的重要性，而將高水平翻譯技能的培訓列為重要的學習目標。通過研究佛教哲學、古代智慧和其他東方哲學思想體系，再加上瑜珈訓練，開發人類的潛能，並將這些原則應用至生活的各個層面。」

更詳細的說明，請參看學院網頁<http://www.gcdr.org.au/australian-school-of-arts-and-philosophy-asap.html>

澳洲藝文哲理學院的學術主管，由格里菲斯和邦德大學客座講師伊恩強森擔任。伊恩擁有43年的英

Ian Johnson, Academic Manager of ASAP and an adjunct lecturer at Griffith and Bond universities, brings 43 years of ESL teaching experience to the project and has been essential in translating the vision for ASAP into reality.

This year, ASAP offered a pilot English as a Second Language (ESL) program providing English instruction and practice for non-native speakers at all levels of proficiency. See <http://www.asapenglish.com.au>. On July 4th, 2014, ASAP's first two students, Kevin and Benson, completed a one-month intensive English Language program. Ian Johnson was the lead tutor, along with Lynwen Birch and Paul Knudsen, also instructors at Griffith University.

Kevin An and Benson Tsai, both preparing to enter college in Taiwan, chose to spend the summer learning English and Australian culture at ASAP. Besides their daily classes in Blessings House at GCDR, they learned English on multiple field trips to beaches, wildlife sanctuaries, Seaworld, Dream World, local restaurants, shopping malls, and in the homes of laypeople helping with the English program. Sea kayaking was a favorite. They also attended the evening lectures at GCDR, where they studied sutras in English and Chinese. Having grown up in the city, they enjoyed the natural environment and opportunity to interact with animals (such as koalas and kangaroos).

Ian Johnson noted that their spoken English improved tremendously as did their confidence in speaking. After completing their English program, the two decided to extend their stay and join GCDR's Avatamsaka and Earth Store Sessions.

Ian, John, and Sam shared their plan to offer four to twelve week intensive English courses for small groups of spiritually inclined international students attracted to the opportunity to live in the safe and peaceful setting of a Buddhist monastery and experience a variety of traditional Eastern arts such as meditation, yoga, traditional Chinese medicine, vegetarian cuisine, gardening, Buddhist rituals, and scriptural study with Buddhist teachers, while also enjoying easy access to Gold Coast's tourist attractions—beautiful beaches, wildlife, hiking, kayaking, cultural treasures, recreational parks, and city life.

語非母語（ESL）教學經驗，他的加入對實現學院的願景發揮了關鍵作用。

今年澳洲藝文哲理學院針對英語非母語的學生，開設了不同程度的英語課程，提供英語教學和實習，請參閱<http://www.asapenglish.com.au>。首批的兩名學生——凱文和本森，於7月4日完成為期一個月的密集英文學習，由伊恩擔任首席指導老師，與同在格里菲斯大學任教的林文博世和保羅克努森共同指導他們。

凱文和本森是今年準備進入大學就讀的台灣年輕人，兩人決定利用這個暑假來澳洲藝文哲理學院學習英文和澳洲文化。除了在金岸法界的福居堂內上課，他們也前往海灘、野生動物保護區、海洋世界、夢幻世界、當地餐館、購物中心以及當地人的家裏學習英文，其中海上皮划艇是他們最喜歡的運動。他們也參加金岸法界的日常晚課，學習英文和中文的佛經。澳洲優美的自然環境以及接觸野生動物（例如澳洲無尾熊和袋鼠）的機會，對於從小在都市裏長大的他們來說是一種享受。

伊恩強森指出，課程培訓之後，他們二人的英文口語，連同自信心都大大地提升。英語課程結束之後，他們決定延長逗留並參加金岸法界的華嚴法會和地藏法會。

伊恩、約翰、山姆計劃為有興趣心靈靜修的國際學生，提供四到十二週的小班密集英語課程，接引他們在安全平靜的佛教道場裏生活，體驗包括冥想、瑜珈、中國傳統醫學、素食烹飪、園藝、佛教儀式在內的各種傳統東方藝術，並在佛學老師指導下研讀佛經，同時享受黃金海岸的美麗海灘、野生動物、徒步旅行、皮划艇、文化遺產、娛樂公園和城市生活等旅遊計畫。





This program can potentially bring many spiritual seekers into the Dharma. Once ASAP is accredited and becomes a Registered Training Organization in Queensland, GCDR hopes to expand its scope to offer vocational training for Buddhist laity and Sangha as well. ❀



這個課程，將能引導靈性追求者認識佛法。澳洲藝文哲理學院一旦獲得政府認可，並成為在昆士蘭州註冊的一個培訓組織之後，金岸法界希望能夠將僧伽與居士的訓練課程也納入學院的教學範疇。❀

