

Pilot Program at DRBU Extension: Translating Chinese Buddhist Texts Summer Seminar (Report)

法大延伸課程試行計劃：暑期讀經譯經班



By Editorial Staff
編輯部 文

This year, Dharma Realm Buddhist University held a 10-day summer seminar on reading and translating Buddhist literature in Chinese. It was a pilot program for DRBU Extension's future translation program, and provided an immersion experience for Buddhist practitioners, scholars, and students to translate Chinese Buddhist texts in the environment of a living Buddhist tradition – the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. There were fourteen students and twenty supporting staff, which included monastics, instructors, DRBU Extension staff, and teaching assistants (TAs), making a total of 34 participants in the seminar.

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法界佛教大學（法大）於2014年暑假舉辦「讀經譯經班」，為期10天。這個研習營是為法大延伸課程未來的翻譯學位試行計劃而舉辦，讓佛教修行者、學者與學生在萬佛聖城這座落實佛教傳統的道場裏，親臨佛經翻譯的工作。參加這次研討會者，計有法師、講師、助教與工作人員合計20人，學員則有14人，總計34人。

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The program integrated intensive translation work with daily meditation and ceremonies at the Buddha Hall. After going through a section of text together as an entire class in the morning, students formed small groups in the afternoon and drafted their own translations of the text they were assigned for the day. Both morning discussions and afternoon group work were led by the TAs, with support from the instructors. Final drafts of each group's translations were submitted to Dharma Master Heng Chih, who would review and provide feedback by the next day. In this way, students were able to draw on her over forty years' experience of translating Buddhist texts.

During both large- and small-group discussions, students discussed such questions and issues as the meaning of translation, distinguishing translation from interpretation and commentary, keeping the original form in translation, and ambiguity in source texts. In addition to translation classes, students participated in various extracurricular activities. Dharma Master Jin Deng provided a tour of the DRBU library, Dharma Master Heng Tsung taught "Twenty-Four Seasons" *taiko* drumming, Dharma Master Jin Fo taught calligraphy, and Trinh Doan taught yoga. Some of the extracurricular classes were single session only, but were nevertheless met with great enthusiasm by the students.

Moreover, visiting speakers came to the seminar to share their expertise and experience with translation. For instance, Reverend Heng Sure discussed the role of music in teaching the Dharma, and Dharma Master Jin Yan talked about what it takes to nurture a person and a translator. Dharma Master Jin Fan lectured on the Nirvana Sutra and the Lotus Sutra, Dharma Master Heng Shun told stories about the Venerable Master,

研習班不僅有密集的翻譯課程，而且要上殿、過堂、打坐。每天上午大家一起上課，共同研究幾段經文。下午則是分組翻譯，每一組都分配到一段經文進行當天的翻譯。上午的討論與下午的翻譯由助教帶領，指導老師負責支援。每一組的譯文都交給恒持法師審閱，次日由恒持法師點評。如此一來，研習班的學員均可自法師譯經逾四十年的經驗中獲益。

在大班研討與小組討論中，學員們探討的問題包括翻譯的意義、區別筆譯、口譯與釋義的異同、翻譯如何保存原味，以及原文語義含糊時的處理。除了翻譯課程之外，還有若干課外活動，諸如近燈師陪同大家參觀法大圖書館、恒聰法師教導「二十四節氣」太鼓、近佛師指點書法、Trinh Doan 示範瑜伽。這些課外活動有些只上一次，但學員們都深感興趣。

此外，還有客座教授前來分享他們譯經的經驗與專長。例如恒實法師討論音樂在佛法教學中所扮演的角色，近巖法師談到人才與翻譯專才的培養，近梵法師講解《涅槃經》與《法華經》，恒順法師敘述上人的故事，恒信法師介紹佛經翻譯委員會的翻譯守則，舊金山州立大學李文肇教授說明詩詞翻譯的本土化與外文化。這些主題廣泛的演講，提供學生們從不同

and Dharma Master Heng Syin talked about the Buddhist Text Translation Society's translation guidelines. Professor Chris Wen-Chao Li of San Francisco University gave a presentation about domestication and foreignization in the translation of verses. The wide variety of talks gave students many perspectives and stories on the art of translation, and how it can also be a form of spiritual practice.



Though students were required to have some background in both English and classical Chinese, there was a diverse range of ages, backgrounds, language levels, and educational goals for learning translation. Some participants were new to CTTB and DRBA, especially those coming from graduate programs in East Asian Studies or Buddhist Studies, while other students were from the Boys' School and longtime community members.

This diversity gave people a chance to learn from others and to work with viewpoints that were sometimes very different from their own, especially while producing group translations in small groups. In learning to work closely together, there were many open and fruitful discussions that were held in an atmosphere of harmony and good spirits. By the end of the program, it was widely commented that the group's collegial and friendly atmosphere was one of its strengths.

On the last day of the program, program participants, student and faculty alike, shared reflections on their experiences over the past ten days. Dharma Master Jin Jing, one of the instructors, said she took great pleasure in seeing the group work well together and felt that the entire experience rekindled her inspiration for translation. During the seminar, Dharma Master Jin Chuan was reminded of drawings of Buddhist translation centers in ancient China, and thought that this program was a modern version of these translation centers and would be very important for bringing the Buddhist canon to the Western world.

Meng Yin, a graduate student at UCLA, said that she enjoyed reading sutras and meeting people from such a good group and community, and learned a lot from the strengths and translation styles of others. Fedde, one of the TAs, said he was very happy to see people studying the Dharma with so much interest, and felt greatly motivated as a result. Some people stated that initially, they were a bit apprehensive about how the seminar would turn out, but on the whole, feedback was very positive and many participants said that they looked forward to the next seminar.

的故事與角度了解翻譯的藝術，以及如何將翻譯當成一種修行的法門。

參與的學員均須具備一些中文古文與英文素養，但來參加的學員們，其年齡、背景、語文程度及學習翻譯的目的各不相同。有些學員是東亞研究所或佛學研究所的研究生，他們首次來到萬佛聖城，新接觸法界佛教總會；其他學員則包括男校學生及法總信徒。

學員間多元化的背景，使大家有相互學習的機會，特別是在進行小組翻譯時，人人都可接觸到極為不同的觀點。在和諧善意的氣氛下，大家緊密合作，敞開心胸來討論，翻譯的成果相當豐碩。大家都一致認為，能和睦融洽地共事，是此次譯經班成功的要素之一。

譯經班的最後一天，學員與講師們分享回顧此次十天的課程。講師之一的近經師說，看到大家合作無間，讓她很欣慰，整個經驗是激起她再度重拾翻譯之筆的動



力。在研習過程中，近傳師回憶起數幅中國古代佛教譯經圖，感覺這次的譯經班就像是現代版的譯經院，對於佛經帶到西方世界而言，至為重要。

洛杉磯加大博士生尹夢（音譯）說，她很喜歡閱讀佛經，又得與諸善人共聚一堂，學習別人的長處與翻譯方式。助教之一杜飛澤表示，很高興看到大家這麼有興趣研究佛法，他自己也因此備受鼓舞。還有些人表示，研習班一開始時，有些人擔心不知前景如何；但全程下來，大家的回應都很正面，很多學員表示下一次研習班還要再來。



主辦人、講師與工作人員則說，譯經班辦得很成功，學員的反應是他們最佳的回饋，並希望這項試辦課程能儘快在法大延伸課程中開設。❁



The coordinators, faculty and staff involved commented that they felt rewarded by the success of the seminar and the positive feedback of the students, and hope that this pilot program will soon become a regular offering in DRBU Extension's translation program. ❁

