

Wonderful Enlightenment Buddhist Institute Project Presentation

妙覺佛教學院說明會

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On June 20th 2015, the night before the 20th Anniversary of Venerable Master Hua's Nirvana, the Oversight committee of the International Institute of Philosophy and Ethics (Wonderful Enlightenment Buddhist Institute) project gave a presentation on the progress of the proposal to the assembly. The presentation was also recorded and streamed online for people at branch monasteries to watch.

Abbot Heng Lyu first introduced the project. He said that the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas used to be a mental hospital. The whole campus site can be divided into two areas. The west side is where people live now. It is a developed land with electricity, water, sewage systems and many buildings. The east campus is a vacant agricultural land without water, electricity, sewage system or buildings.

Under the direction of Venerable Master, DRBA purchased CTTB's campus in 1976. At that time, Master Hua planned to develop the eastside campus. He designed the west campus for educational use where the elementary schools, high schools and the university would be located. The east campus would be for spiritual cultivation use where left home people and sincere lay cultivators could reside. Therefore, there will be a larger Buddha Hall, new Precept Hall, meditation halls, larger dining hall, classrooms, library and dormitories on the east campus.

宣公上人涅槃20週年紀念法會之前，妙覺佛教學院建設監督小組在6月20日的晚課後，特別舉行妙覺山建設計劃說明會，向大眾說明這項計劃的最新進展。當天法界佛教總會各分支道場，透過電腦連線，一同收看這場說明會。因時差之故，無法同步上線的分支道場，則於事後觀看錄影。

說明會由方丈恒律法師首先開場，他指出，萬佛聖城以前是加州的精神病院，整個醫院可以分成東西兩區，西區是已開發的區，也就是我們現在所在之地，有水，有電，有污水系統，還有許多建築物。東區是一塊空的農業用地，沒水，沒電，也沒有污水系統，更沒有任何建築物。

宣公上人在1976年買下了萬佛聖城之後，就積極地開始計劃來發展東區，將現在的西區作為小學、中學和大學的校舍教育用途來使用；而東區就給出家眾和誠心修行的在家居士們，作修道之用。所以，在東區以後會有新的大殿，有禪堂、戒堂、大齋堂、圖書館、教室和宿舍。

然而，開發東區並不是一件容易的事情，因為農業用地要變更土地使用，過程非常複雜困難。

However, it is no easy work to develop the east campus, as it is an agricultural zone. In fact, it is complicated and difficult. Venerable Master Hua spent a lot of time and energy applying for a permit for the east campus and before he entered nirvana, he asked us to continue the development of the east campus. The Venerable Master has entered nirvana for 20 years. We, disciples, follow his instructions and carry out his unfulfilled wishes to develop the east campus.

Dr. John Vu, after retiring from his position as chief engineer at Boeing, currently directs the Master of Science in Biotechnology, Innovation and Computing program at Carnegie Mellon University. He has been a member of the management team of IPE/WEBI project. He said that the Venerable Master established the American Sangha according to the tradition that the Buddha had instructed and the Sangha Jewel began to develop in America. Moreover, Master Hua also set up schools to educate young people, offering them a firm moral foundation. He established a translation center to translate Buddhist texts into several languages and propagate orthodox Buddha Dharma, so people could develop their inherent wisdom.

The whole world is under great stress from the many wars, hunger, and environmental destruction, and from the rapid advances of technology without proper and timely ethical guidance. These current and potential problems have converged and brought forth a most severe crisis to test whether we humans could indeed save us from self-annihilation. It is of ultimate importance for us who gather here today to be dedicated to the unfinished work of the Venerable Master. We hope that the Wonderful Enlightenment Buddhist Institute (WEBI) will be a “beacon of wisdom and compassion for all living beings of the Dharma Realm”.

Indeed, The Venerable Master traveled thousand miles to bring Buddhadharma to America and used Dharma and the principles of education to rescue living beings. As his disciples, all of us must continue the Venerable Master’s work of propagating Buddhadharma in the U.S. and in the world. We must all make vows to support development of the Wonderful Enlightenment Buddhist Institute as one of the way to repay his kindness.

Bhikshuni Heng Liang said, “Some of you may remember hearing a report on this project in this very tent on the Master’s anniversary over ten years ago. At that time it was called the ‘International Institute of Philosophy and Ethics.’” Although much time has passed with little apparent results, this project was never abandoned, and during these interim years, the causes and conditions have been slowly but surely perfecting themselves.

And so, what the Venerable Master predicted would happen and has happened—CTTB has continued to grow until it is not only desirable, but necessary to expand its facilities. Three decades ago, he instructed us that, one day, the Sangha—along with its educational and training programs—would move to the East Campus, to Wonderful

所以，宣公上人花費了很大的時間和精力來變更和使用，直到圓寂之前，他還是囑咐我們要繼續將東區開發起來。宣公上人圓寂二十年了，我們做弟子的，秉承他的遺願，繼續開發東區。

前波音公司總工程師武親道博士，退休後投身教育，擔任卡內基美隆大學生科創新與計算機研究院院長，目前為妙覺山計劃管理團隊成員之一。他表示，宣公上人根據佛制，在美國率先建立僧團，僧團因而得以在西方發展。此外，上人建立教育機構來教導年輕人，使他們具有穩固的道德基礎。上人也創辦了譯經院，將經典翻譯成多國的語言，使佛法弘揚於全世界，所以人人都得以啟發他們本具的佛性。

現在全世界正承受著巨大的壓力，這些壓力來自於現在許多戰爭、饑荒、環境破壞，以及因為科技突飛猛進後缺乏正確及時的道德指引，所造成的危機。所以，現有的以及潛在的這些危機，已經交會在一起，這些危機正在測試著人類是否可以從自我毀滅中拯救自己出來。我們今天齊聚一堂，為的就是為了上人未完成的妙覺山計劃，奉獻一份心力。妙覺佛教學院是「為法界所有眾生而興建的一座智慧與慈悲的燈塔」。

上人遠渡重洋將佛法傳到美國，以佛法的真理來救度一切的眾生。身為上人的弟子，我們每一個人都要繼續上人在美國還有世界上的工作，將佛法傳承下去；身為上人弟子，我們必須發願來護持妙覺佛教學院的興建計劃，以報答上人的恩德。

比丘尼恒良法師說，在座有些人，可能十多年前在上人涅槃紀念法會中，就在這同一座帳篷裏，已經聽過關於這個計劃的報告，當時的名稱是「國際哲學倫理學院」。雖然很多時間已經過去了，並沒有展現出具體的成果，但是我們從來沒有放棄過這個計劃，這些年來，因緣已逐漸成熟圓滿。

因此上人預言會發生的事情，現在已經發生了，就是萬佛聖城的擴建不僅僅是可取的，而且已經成為必要的。在三十多年前，上人已經指示我們：有一天，僧團還有它的教育機構，跟訓練僧團的中心會搬到東區去，西區將會留下來辦世間的教育。

Enlightenment Mountain, while the West Campus would be dedicated to CTTB's more secular educational programs.

Well, the time has come that, in order for the Venerable Master's Sangha legacy to continue to flourish according to the teachings and tradition he bequeathed us, the Wonderful Enlightenment project can no longer be a dream but must necessarily become a reality. In order for this project to succeed, it will require support from all of you. The most vital source of this support is your sincere cultivation, and your good wishes and dedications of merit. That is why, tomorrow, on the observance of the 20th Anniversary of the Venerable Master's Nirvana, we will proceed to the East Campus and recite the Great Compassion Mantra. On this 20th Anniversary of the Venerable Master's Nirvana, may we, each and everyone one of us, make the resolve for realizing the Master's vision for Wonderful Enlightenment Mountain for the sake of all living beings now and in the future.

John Chu, another member of the IIPE/WEBI project management team, presented a slide show introducing the preliminary design of the project. He said that men's area will be built first. The monks were surveyed and no one opposed it. Everyone either agreed or did not oppose the preliminary design, which indicates the project is "off to a good start".

Mr. Chu said that the buildings at CTTB have their architectural features. Therefore, the preliminary design will reference CTTB's architectural and building styles while adding some Chinese Buddhist decorative designs and features so that the buildings in both East Campus and West Campus will look unified as one style. There will be buildings of Chan Hall, Precept Hall, classrooms, multi-purpose rooms and Sangha Dorms in the men's area. Sangha Dorms are one-story buildings and classrooms are located in a two-story building.

Bill Dede, a long-time disciple of Venerable Master Hua, with California architect license, is also a member of the IIPE/WEBI project management team. He said that these buildings will not be built at the same time. As mentioned before, the first phase to be built is the northeast corner of the men's housing. It will be the men's dormitories, the Chan Hall, Precept Hall, multi-purpose rooms. The current status is we have hired architects to start designing and engineering these buildings.

While the phase 1 buildings are starting to be designed and constructed, we are actually now even thinking about phase 2. We started talking about the design of other related buildings so we can build the phase 1, 2 and 3 buildings simultaneously. We hope that we can finish within a reasonable amount of time. The proposed project timeframe would be at least ten years.

As you could see from the slideshow John presented, the first buildings are a blend of the Chinese elements with the older buildings from the west campus. All of the buildings will have this kind of blending

所謂這個未來的時間，現在已經來到了。為了使上人創辦的這個僧團按照他遺留下來的教義和傳統，能夠更蓬勃地發展跟興盛，妙覺山計劃不能只是夢想，而是必須實現成真。這個計劃要能夠成功實現，需要在座每一位的支持，這個支持最重要的來源就是你們大家誠心的修行，以及你們大家善意的祝福和功德迴向。這也就是為什麼我們在紀念上人涅槃二十週年的同時，將會到東區去念〈大悲咒〉。在上人涅槃二十週年的紀念法會，願我們每一個人為了現在以及未來的每一位眾生，都發願要實現妙覺佛教學院的這一個計劃。

妙覺山計劃管理團隊另一位成員朱建和居士，播放幻燈片介紹妙覺佛教學院的初步設計。他表示，妙覺佛教學院將首先興建男眾修行區，而男眾修行區的初步設計，已詢問所有男眾法師，沒有任何反對意見，還有很多人贊成，可以說「好的開始是成功的一半」。

朱居士並說，現在萬佛聖城的建築有其特色。因此妙覺佛教學院的建築設計將會參考萬佛聖城現有建築樣式，融合一些中國佛教裝飾特色。讓人感覺東區、西區是一體的。男眾區計有禪堂、戒堂、教室、多功能房、以及僧院等建築，僧院是一層樓建築，教室則為兩層樓建築。

擁有加州建築師執照的比爾·迪諦（果基）是上人座下資深弟子，也是妙覺山計劃管理團隊成員之一。他指出，妙覺佛教學院的建築物不會同時興建完成，而是分期施工。第一期是在東北邊的這一塊，為男眾法師寮房和他們的禪堂、戒堂、多功能房。目前的進展是已聘請建築師開始設計並將施工。

所以，第一期的工程計劃，已經開始設計，然後將要興建；同時第二期計劃，也已開始構想與設計。整個計劃的進展不是第一期建完才開始第二期，而是同時進行的。所以，這三期的計劃將會同時進行，希望能夠在一個合理的時間範圍內，完成這個計劃，目前預估至少需要十年。

你們從朱居士介紹的幻燈片上看到，第一座建築物是將中國的建築風格，以及目前西區建築物的風格，混搭在一起。所以，在東區的所有建築，你都會看到這種風格，就是中國和西

of east and west, Chinese and Western. Finally, these buildings will focus on practicality, sustainability and harmony.

During the Q&A session, the first question was: Will the future Buddha Hall house 10,000 people?

A : (DM Liang) No, unless you count invisible beings, then there will be enough for 10,000. It should be enough for our large Dharma assemblies so we won't have to be out in a tent. It should be big enough for all of us here tonight and some more.

Bill Dede: We are restricted by the county of Mendocino, so the interior of the Buddha Hall cannot hold more than 2,800 people. That was one of the restrictions when they gave us permission to build on the east campus, on the agricultural land.

Q: What's the time frame of the 1st phase?

A: (Bill Dede) As I just said, we just hired the architects to start their drawings so we can start building the first phase, the essential facilities for the monks' dormitories. This construction should start at the beginning of next year (2016) and should take probably two years to finish.

Q: Is there a pond for liberation ceremonies?

A: (John Chu) Not in this particular area. So far we don't have it in this in the overall design layout, but we have a liberation of life fund we can use in the future for certain areas if that is suitable.

Q: Will phase 1 include the assembly hall or not?

A: (John Chu) It's part of phase 2.

Q: How will the east and west sides be used?

A: (Bill Dede) As previously mentioned, the east campus will be for serious Sangha and laypeople to use. The west campus will be used for the current type of more secular type learning, such as the boys and girls school. The east campus is not to be built as a tourist attraction. It is not built for the sake of people coming just to look at the buildings and see the Buddha Hall. It is only for serious people to be back there. There will be probably some restriction on people who come to the west campus to be allowed to be back in the east campus only on certain ceremonial days, probably. That's an operational issue that CTTB will work out but that is the intent of the design. There will be some sort of separation between the two so that people who come to the west campus just to look around will not be able to get to the east campus and disturb the serious cultivation there. ❀

方建築風格的融合。所有建築物的重點就是務實、永續、和諧。

在問答時間內，**第一個問題是：**未來的佛殿是不是可以容納一萬人？

恒良法師答：沒有辦法容納一萬人，除非連無形眾生也算進去，那就可以容納到一萬眾生。它（未來佛殿）就是我們在大法會的時候，足夠使用，就不需要再搭帳篷。比如說今天晚上來的人都可以容納得下，還可以更多一點。

比爾·迪諦補充說：這個限制是來自曼都仙諾郡政府，就是我們（以後東區）佛殿內部的總人數不得超過兩千八百人。這是當時他們發給執照，容許我們在農業用地上蓋建築物的規定。

問：第一期工程的時間，大概要多久？

比爾·迪諦答：我們剛聘請了建築師來給我們畫圖，因此可以開始興建男眾法師的寮房。預計2016年初動工，大約兩年完成。

問：在東區妙覺佛教學院有沒有放生池？

朱建和居士答：目前我們的設計沒有放生池，但是我們有放生基金。假如我們有合適的地方，我們可以到野生動物能夠安居的地方放生，但並不是在目前這個地點。

問：新的大殿是否在第一期工程內？

朱建和答：新的大殿是在第二期工程施工。

問：建起來以後，這個東西區怎麼協調、運作？

比爾·迪諦答：東區基本上是給出家眾，以及誠心修行的居士居住；西區就是我們現有的地方，是側重世間法的教育功能，比如男校、女校、大學等教育機構。東區不是要興建觀光景點，不是供人參觀建築物，或者參觀佛殿等等。東區就是讓想要很認真修行的人來安心辦道。在某一些法會的日子，西區的人可以到東區的佛殿去參加法會，但是這個基本上由萬佛聖城內部自己來協調。東西區兩邊使用將會分開，東區是給出家眾和誠心修行的居士。所以，到西區參觀的民眾，不能隨隨便便就進入東區，來干擾修行。 ❀