

鄧偉仁教授訪問法大

Professor Weijen Teng visits Dharma Realm Buddhist University

關參文
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DHARMA REALM NEWS | 法界音

臺灣法鼓文理學院國際事務組組長兼佛學系助理教授鄧偉仁，於8月下旬參觀法界佛教大學柏克萊分校以及萬佛城校本部，並旁聽馬汀·維荷文博士的「佛教詮釋學」。當天課堂上研討馬鳴菩薩的「佛所行讚」，老師與學生熱烈討論的氣氛，讓鄧偉仁印象深刻。

鄧偉仁指出，法大課程著重佛法的法益，而非僅流於學術研究。法大課程大多採取研討型態，教授帶著學生跟經典對話，解讀經典，並鼓勵學生獨立思考，這跟傳統佛學院消文解字的講經方式不同。

擁有哈佛大學博士學位的鄧偉仁認為，法鼓文理學院也有類似法大的研討課程，但不多。因為亞洲學生不太習慣獨立思考，對經文也比較少質疑。相形之下，法界佛教大學的西方學生佔了相當的比例，他們在西方思維模式中成長，因此很主動參與研討式的上課型態。

鄧偉仁並表示，法大研讀的經典，有不少是英文譯本，課堂上也經常以英文探討佛法。他很希望法鼓文理學院的部份學生能來法大短期學習，他相信對於這些學生未來在西方弘法會很有幫助。目前法鼓文理學院在北美地區與天普大學以及柏克萊的聯合宗教研究院有交流計劃，未來他希望跟法界佛教大學也簽訂合作交流計劃。✿

Professor Weijen Teng, Assistant Professor at the Department of Buddhist Studies and Chief of Office of International Affairs at Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts in Taiwan, visited Dharma Realm Buddhist University at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas and DRBU's branch at Berkeley in August. He also had an opportunity to sit in on Dr. Martin Verhoven's class on Buddhist hermeneutics. Class discussion that day was about Ashvagoshā Bodhisattva's Buddhacarita, and Dr. Teng was very impressed by the enthusiastic discourse in the classroom.

Dr. Teng said that the curriculum at DRBU emphasizes the importance of learning the Buddhādharma and is not limited to academic scholarship. Classes are discussion-based, and professors lead students in reading and forming dialogues with sutra text, encouraging students to think independently. This is very different from the pure explanatory approach that most Buddhist academies adopt.

Dr. Teng, who earned his doctorate at Harvard University, says that there are fewer such classes at Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts because Asian students are not as accustomed to critical thought and tend to form fewer questions when reading sutras. On the other hand, DRBU has a substantial amount of Western students, who grew up in Western modes of thought and thus readily participate in discussion-based classes.

Dr. Teng noticed DRBU uses many English Sutra translations for curriculum, and classes are frequently held in English. He hopes that some students at the Dharma Drum Institute for Liberal Arts can come to DRBU for interim study. He believes that in the future, these students will be able to aid in the propagation of the Buddhādharma in the West. At the moment, Dharma Drum Institute for Liberal Arts coordinates exchange programs with Temple University and UC Berkeley's Graduate Theological Union. Dr. Teng hopes that they will be able to set up exchange programs with DRBU as well. ✿