

法大整修工程展開動土儀式

Groundbreaking Ceremony for Dharma Realm Buddhist University Building



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法界佛教大學整修工程於2016年5月10日舉行動土儀式，約有60人參加。動土儀式包括香讚、請聖、心經、致詞、動土、迴向、三皈依；歷時半小時。這項工程是將目前的123建築物重新裝修成法大教學大樓，預計今年11月完工，2017年1月正式啟用。

今年恰逢法大成立四十週年，比丘近梵法師指出，法界佛教大學創辦於1976年；40年來很努力辦學。並以一首偈頌代表如來寺祝福法大：

香花恭迎十方佛，菩薩善神同護臨。
無盡光明遍法界，是故此處最吉祥。

法大校長果載居士則說，1976年宣公上人在同一地點宣布，將萬佛聖城與法界佛教大學作為青年敦品勵學之地。上人當時表示，他送給美國以及美國人民的禮物就是給青年人良好的品德教育與學習的機會。上人說：「我們學佛，也要學做個好人。人道盡，佛道成。」法大這棟未來的

On May 10th, 2016, around 60 people attended the groundbreaking ceremony for Dharma Realm Buddhist University's new building. The structure of the existing 123 building will be renovated as the central classroom building for DRBU on campus. The half-hour program included Incense Praise, an invitation of the sages, the recitation of the Heart Sutra, speeches, groundbreaking, dedication of merit and Three Refuges. The construction is scheduled to be completed in November 2016. DRBU will start to use this building for classes at the start of the Spring Semester next year in January 2017.

DRBU is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Bhikshu Jin Fan noted that DRBU has endeavored to provide great education since it was founded in 1976. He wished DRBU the best on behalf of the Tathagata Monastery with the following verse:

*We respectfully invite all Buddhas
of the Ten Directions with incense and flowers;
Bodhisattvas and Dharma-protecting deities all come to protect us.
Endless radiance pervades the Dharma Realm;
This is the most auspicious place for that reason.*

Susan Rounds, President of DRBU, said, "In 1976, Venerable Master Hsuan Hua on this very spot dedicated the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas and Dharma Realm Buddhist University as a place for the education and training in virtue of all bright young people, saying, 'My gift to America and its citizens

教學大樓在2016年展開整修，正是朝上人的理想更邁進一步。

建築公司代表來瑞·斯專安以及施工承包商代表布來恩·萊特，也都在動土儀式中致詞，送上祝福。之後，比丘近梵法師、比丘尼恒良法師、法大校長果載居士、法大榮譽校長阿匹納博士、教務長果廷居士、法大校董會主席易果參、法大教授芭芭拉·娃等七人，象徵性地手執鏟子鏟土，共同完成這項載滿祝福的動土儀式。

整修計劃專案經理蔡禎禎當晚在萬佛殿報告法大近況時指出，整修工程團隊於2015年6月選定建築公司。另於2016年2月，自五家參與投標的公司中，選中曾為聖塔蘿莎學院分校施工的承包商，為法大進行整修工程。

這棟123建築興建於1950年代，過去多年曾是萬佛聖城的大書庫。2016年5月開始清空工地範圍，6月起施工。目前的裝卸貨物台將成為未來的法界佛教大學大門，並有八間教室、兩間電腦室、五間會議室、25間辦公室、禪堂、圖書室、校園書店等，總面積25,000平方呎。2017年正式啟用後，校舍可容納的學生人數，將為現有的兩到三倍。✽

is a quality education in virtue and finest academic disciplines for all young people. We study with the Buddha, but we learn how to be good human beings. When one's humanity is developed to the ultimate point, Buddhahood accomplishes itself.” The renovation of the new DRBU building, starting in 2016, advances the Venerable Master's vision for education.

Larry Strain of the architectural firm and Bryan Wright from the contracting company both gave a brief talk and shared their best wishes for this renovation project. After the speeches, Bhikshu Jin Fan, Bhikshuni Heng Liang, DRBU President Susan Rounds, DRBU President Emerita Snjezana Akpinar, DRBU Dean of Academics Marty Verhoven, DRBU Board Member Terri Nicholson and DRBU Professor Barbara Waugh symbolically broke the ground together with ceremonial shovels in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new DRBU building.

Project manager Kristine Ang Go made a presentation on the updates regarding the new DRBU building that evening in the Buddha Hall. She mentioned that the architectural firm was selected in June 2015, and that the contractor was selected from five bidding companies in February 2016. This contractor was also the previous construction manager for the renovation project on one of the Santa Rosa Junior College campuses.

Building 123 was built in the 1950s and used as the central book warehouse at CTTB for many years. The abatement and demolition work begins in May and the construction will start in June. The future entrance of DRBU will be where the loading dock is currently located. Once the renovation is complete, there will be eight classrooms, two computer labs, five conference rooms, 25 offices, a meditation room, a reading room and a campus store in the 25,000 square-foot space. When the building is opened in 2017, the number of students that DRBU can accommodate will be double or triple the current student body. ✽

