



佛光世紀

Buddha's Light Newsletter

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Buddha's Birthday Festival



On May 16th there was the Buddha day celebration on the Nieuwmarkt with bathing rituals, vegetarian food stalls, children activities, and a stage with many performances.

Buddha day, Buddha Bathing day or Vesak day which commemorate the birth, enlightenment and the transition of the Buddha. The official date is on the 8th day of the 4th month of the lunar calendar.

The celebration started with a small

procession led by dragon and lion dances from the He Hua Temple around the block to the Nieuwmarkt. On the Nieuwmarkt we started the opening ceremony with chanting and some speeches distinguished guests. There weren't many people in the early afternoon due to the heavy rain, but when the sun broke through, the market was filled with more people again. Volunteers prepared together the food items of the Buddha's Birthday Festival

and visitors enjoyed them while watching the wonderful performances, which created a very nice atmosphere on the market. Many of the food items were sold out in no time. After the visitors enjoyed their snacks they could "bath the Buddha". This ritual is to cleanse one's 'inner dirt' of greed, anger and ignorance. The day ended with handing out the prizes to the lottery winners.



Fo Guang Shan 50th Anniversary Photo Exhibition

At the end of the ceremony of the Buddha Bathing Day, Venerable Man Jung announced the opening of the Fo Guang Shan 50th Anniversary and the 20th Fo Guang Shan Netherlands Anniversary Photo Exhibition. The exhibition started on the 14 of May and continued till 18th of June 2016 with over 12000 visitors during the month of the exhibition.

The photo exhibition showed the vision of the founder of the organization venerable master Hsing Yun through photos. He believes that through cultural activities, education, charity and cultivation it will help with creating harmony amongst the people. The photo exhibition also showed photos of the history of the He Hua Temple here in The Netherlands.

The photos of Buddha Memorial Centre and the story behind it were



many visitors were interested in. Pictures of the Buddha Memorial Centre, next to the Fo Guang Shan monastery in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, which was opened in the year 2012. The build was planned by master Hsing Yun for over 20 years. This is because the whole process had to be well made, since the Buddha Memorial Centre was built to hold a tooth relic of Buddha and to offer it for the whole

world to see. The local visitors really enjoyed the photos of the history of this temple. The photos of former Dutch queen Beatrix attending at the grand opening of the He Hua temple. But also the photos of the years of the nineties before this temple was build. To actually see the contrast of how the temple helped with reducing the criminal activities and brought more prosperity to the Zeedijk.



Marian van de Veen-van Rijk and Eveline Renaud made a video on Master Hsing Yun's Humanistic Buddhism, these are posted on the following web address: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sdwV877oaTM>
ThismustbeAmsterdam - Master Hsing Yun's Humanistic Buddhism

One-stroke Calligraphy Exhibition

On July 1, the opening ceremony of Venerable Master Hsing Yun One-stroke Calligraphy 2016 International Touring Exhibitions was held.

Venerable Master Hsing Yun, the founder of Fo Guang Shan. Was born in Jiandu, China in 1927 and moved to Taiwan in 1949 due to a civil war in China. After he moved to Taiwan he arrived at a temple where he didn't have money for books. He began to write characters on pieces of paper just to decorate the plain walls during the chanting rituals. This was how he practiced his calligraphy for many years.

Even though he was not well educated, he just wanted to share the little wisdom that he had with the world. But at the age of 70, due to diabetes his vision started to blur and his hands were shaking. In spite of this, he continued with his writing. Once he started a stroke, he could not stop. Otherwise it would make it more difficult to continue to the next stroke. For this reason, he had to complete each character with one stroke. Now at the age of 90, living in Taiwan, he still uses his writing to share his wisdom with the world.

At arrival all the guests were wel-



comed in the Jade Buddha hall to watch a short clip of Venerable Master Hsing Yun. Afterwards everyone was invited to go downstairs for the opening ceremony. Kitty Ng played a short piece on the Guzheng for the opening. The welcoming speech was delivered by Venerable Man Jung. She explained that this year is the 50th anniversary of F.G.S. and the 90th birthday of Venerable Master Hsing Yun. Then a few words were given by distinguished guests, Mr. Man, Annemieke Bieringa and Janny Alberts. They said that they have supported the temple since the grand opening. And looking back to the old time it was too dangerous to walk around this area. They have seen the neighborhood improving a lot since then. And they will continue supporting the temple and helping with tasks like supporting the annual celebra-

tion of Buddha's Birthday. In addition also help keeping the front gate clean from wrongly parked bikes and graffiti.

All the distinguished guests were invited to the front to cut the ribbon for the opening.

Later in the evening with some refreshment and accompanied with live Guzheng music for everyone to enjoy, the calligraphy work of Venerable Master Hsing Yun was shown.



The international BLIA YAD conference 2016 (Taiwan)

Theme: Future and Hope

More than 1000 youths from the five continents, 23 countries and 41 regions attended the opening ceremony. BLIA YAD Headquarters Secretary General: Venerable Hui Chuan, stated the deep meaning behind senior YAD members returning to Fo Guang Shan in regards to passing down the light and that is to restore the glory of Buddhism using their Bodhisattva heart and youthful energy. Fo Guang Shan Abbot: Venerable Hsin Bao, said YAD member are demonstrating their mission and courage through spreading out seed of peace.

Let's Talk About Fo Guang Shan by senior YAD

In the morning of the July 10th, "Let's Talk About Fo Guang Shan" Forum was held in the Tathagatha Hall. It was host by Venerable Hui Chuan, the chief executive for BLIA YAD Headquarter. This forum is focused on the youth's future career and invited 16 senior YAD members to share their transformation through the experience in the YAD. They are from different walks of life, like the Venerable, BLIA, Buddha's Light career, regular career and Buddhism family etc. This part gave me positive inspiration about "How can Buddhism leading us in our future or career."



Report Presentation

33 divisions over 5 continents presented their progress in their propagation of Humanistic Buddhism over the last year. In their YAD Executive Reports, they introduced the history and development of each division and understanding of their heritage of YAD over the last 20 years. Venerable Hui Chuan encouraged the youth that history is always fair and he hopes the youth could make great vows in order to write history and be the models for the future generation.

Path of Dharma Propagator – Connecting with the Sages
The minigames were held throughout the Cloud Dwelling Building. The 10 stages told the stories of the Buddha's their struggles in propagating the dharma. We connected with the sages through minigames such as restoring the Buddhism flag and reciting sutra. This game part was held actually at the Fo Guang Shan Buddha Memorial Center, because of the heavy rain this whole part is moved inside the Cloud Dwelling Building. We are really thankful to the Taiwan YAD for the preparation. We learnt a lot about teambuilding and Dharma stories in the funny way.



Humanistic Buddhism: Holding True to the Original Intents of Buddha – Proud of our Faith

What is Buddhism in the new generation minds? This part was hosted by BLIA Taiwan Headquarter Secretary General: Venerable Jue Pei. Nine youths representatives from five continents and different ages invited for discussion. I was one of them and I felt really excited about it. Venerable Jue Pei used a Q&A format to facilitate the discussion, starting with the topic, the first impression of Buddhism in the society. "Buddhism is a religion with wisdom that believes in cause and conditions!" The Humanistic Buddhism that Venerable Hsing Yun propagates emphasize on education, democracy, equality and compassion, which is the original intents of the Buddha.



Master Hsing Yun: Become the Eight Types of Masters
At the evening of July 11, Fo Guang Shan Founder Venerable Master Hsing Yun held a Heart-To-Heart talk with the youths at the Tathagata Auditorium. He encouraged youths to strengthen their faith and mind through the eight types of masters:

- The sculpture artist
- The healing doctor
- The self-reinventor
- The generous philanthropist
- The productive farmer
- The social advocate of the Five Harmonies
- The philosophical thinker
- The teacher of the truth.

Master Hsing Yun also answered questions from YAD members; he urged all BLIA YAD members to uphold the Three Acts of Goodness, the Four Givings and the Five Harmonies. By practicing responsibility, diligence, compassion, endurance and service, one can be their own mentor in their respective fields.



The Grand Ceremony

There was a grand ceremony combining the Adulthood, Three Refuge and Five Precepts ceremonies. Over 1000 youth gathered together at the Cloud Dwelling Building, they took the vow to spread Buddhism and pass Buddhism to future generations. Most Venerable Hsin Bao encouraged the youths: "Taking refuge is to find reliance and let the seedlings thrive." Youths must learn the compassion equality and wisdom of the Buddha.

Discussion of 11 Conference Proposals, Humanistic Buddhism shared all around the World
During the 2016 IBLYAC joint discussion, 11 Conference Proposals were asked including: 'Promote the Inheritance of Buddhism Faith within BLIA YAD'; Training of BLIA YAD Life Education Lectures; 'Three Acts of

Goodness School Education Programs', '2017 BLIA YAD Cultivation Year', Promote Environmental Protection and Look after our Global Environment', Regional YAD Conference in all Continents', BLIA YADs are encouraged to use their 'Bodhisattva Heart and Power of Youths' to share joy and love and to share the Humanistic Buddhism ideals and the spirit of 'Loving-Kindness, Compassion, Joy and Equality' all around the world.

Conference Proclamation

Fo Guang 50th and YAD 20th, supported by Bodhisattvas all over the world.

Undeterred by the storm, the YAD members protected their homeland hand in hand.

Senior youths shared their previous experiences; the Dharma enriched their lives.

In city tours around Southern Taiwan, the temples gave their passionate welcomes.

By attaining adulthood and taking the refuge & Five Precepts, youths made great vows to propagate the Dharma.

Keynote lectures gave insights on international affairs; impact others' lives through education.

The original intent of the Buddha manifests with humanity; thus practice the Three Acts of Goodness and the Four Givings.

Venerable Master's Heart-To-Heart was a discourse about goal-setting; we strive to become the Eight Types of Masters.

Songs of the Human World reached far and wide, propagating the Dharma across centuries.

Passing down the torch relies on you and me; the light transmits across the five continents.



Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run

On July 5 we got a visit of Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run. It was their second visit and the last time they were here was in 2005, 11 years ago.

Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run is a global torch relay. Their belief is very much aligned with that of ours of creating harmony amongst the people. By relaying the torch they try to seek friendship and understanding amongst the people. The relay offers people the opportunity to express their hopes and dreams for a better future.

We welcomed them with our wel-



coming song. After sharing a few words, we started by transferring the torch from one person to the next one, and speaking loud our words of peace to share with everyone. We also got to listen to their wonderful, catchy 'peace run song' which you will automatically sing along with them. Then we went out with the torch for a small run around the block. Back at the temple, we shared some gifts and spoke Venerable Master Hsing Yun's prayer for world-peace.

Downstairs at the dining hall, there was a delicious vegetarian meal prepared, diner started after we said the Transfer of Merits. The Peace Run group is all vegetarian.

Before they left, they shared another song with us, a thank you song.



At the 2016 Life and Ch'an Heart-to-Heart Connection with Venerable Master Hsing Yun, Lady Ann from Guang Ming College said to him,

"I promise you Master, that in 10 year's time, all Guang Ming College graduates will be propagating Humanistic Buddhism. I also promise that we will use everything we have learnt to contribute to world peace."

In reply, Ven. Master said, "If I don't live to see that day, I promise to come back and see you in my next life."

This was the moment when tears rolled down the cheeks of the entire audience. I too, choking on this overwhelming moment, almost couldn't continue interpreting....

There is always times in life when you'd tell yourself, "Upon this moment, nothing else mattered anymore..."

Date	Day	Time	Activities
21/8	Sunday		Pilgrimage to Fo Guang Shan Monastery in Taiwan. Celebrating the 50 th Anniversary No Service
28/8			
4/9			
11/9	Sunday	10.30	88 Buddha Repentance
18/9	Sunday	10.30	Light Offering Dharma service
		14:00	Mid-autumn Moon Festival
25/9	Sunday	10.30	Recitation of Diamond Sutra
		12-17	SAMEN EEN AMSTERDAM (Together one Amsterdam)
11-16/10	Sunday		BLIA General Conference in Taiwan
16/10	Sunday	10:00	The Great Compassion Repentance Service
29-30/10	Saturday/Sunday	10:30	Medicine Buddha Dharma Function