

# JIABS

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## REPORT ON THE XIII<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE IABS

OSKAR VON HINÜBER

### **I. Report on the Conference**

The conference was held on the beautiful premises of the Chulalongkorn (Cūḍālaṃkara) University in Bangkok between 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2002. It was well attended with 214 participants from 28 countries, with a majority of participants coming from Japan, the United States, Thailand, England and Germany.

The conference began on 8<sup>th</sup> December (Sunday) with registration and a greeting party in the traditional Thai Pavilion of the University. The opening session on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December was graciously presided over by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, who also opened the conference with her address. The opening meeting was first addressed by the president of the hosting institution, Chulalongkorn University, Prof. Dr. Tatchai Sumitra followed by the president of IABS, Prof. Dr. Colette Caillat. A Buddhist benediction was conveyed via video by the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand, HH Somdech Phra Nyanasamvara followed by a video address by the Venerable Phra Dhammapitaka. The plenary lecture was delivered by Paul Harrison on “Relying on the Dharma and not on the Person: Reflections on Authority and Transmission in Buddhism and Buddhist Studies”.

All contributions were either read within one of the 24 sections or within the following 17 panels:

1. Jonathan Silk: Vinaya, Monastic Life and Economics
2. Robert Gimello: The Practice of Scripture Commentary in Medieval Chinese Buddhism
3. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn: Words of Power in Theory and Practice
4. Florin Deleanu / Toshinori Ochiai: New Discoveries of Buddhist Manuscripts in Japan

5. Robert Kritzer: Sautrāntika Reconsidered
6. Pierre Pichard: The Buddhist Monastery: Sharing Roles among Sangha, King and Laity
7. Ronald Davidson: Medieval Indian Buddhist Culture, 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> centuries
8. Richard Salomon: Further Discoveries and Studies of Gandharan Buddhist Manuscripts
9. Max Deeg: Chinese Pilgrim Monks in India and their Impact on Buddhist Studies
10. Mahinda Deegalle: Indigenous Buddhist Preaching Traditions in Asia
11. Haiyan Hu-von Hinüber: Buddhist Studies in China: Tripiṭaka and Monastery
12. Michael Zimmermann: Buddhism and Violence
13. Shoryu Katsura / Tom Tillemans: Buddhist Logic
14. Pattaratorn Chirapravati: Expressions of Buddhism in Pre-modern South and South-east Asia
15. Charles Muller: The Changing of the Medium: Trends and Models in Digital-Based Buddhist Research (Plenary Panel)
16. Louis Gabaude: Preaching and Teaching the Buddha's Message within Modernity: Evolution and Diversity of Forms
17. Jens Braarvig / Jens-Uwe Hartmann: Buddhist Manuscripts: Recent Finds

The following 19 topics were discussed within the 26 sections, sections 23 and 26 being devoted to miscellaneous subjects:

1. Ritual Buddhism
2. Aspects of Tibetan Buddhism
3. Narrative and Performance I, II
4. Pramāṇa
5. Bodhisattvacarā
6. The World of Theravāda I, II
7. Sūtras and Śāstras I, II
8. Language and Commentary I, II
9. Meditation and Psychology
10. Korean and Japanese Buddhism
11. Archaeology of South Asian Buddhism

12. Buddhist and Indian Philosophy
13. Buddhist Ethics in the Modern World
14. Theory and Practice in Tibetan Buddhism
15. Ideology and Iconography I, II
16. Textual Practices and Interpretation
17. Studies in Poetry, Narrative and Music
18. Hagiography and History
19. Buddhist Philosophy

In the evening of Tuesday (10<sup>th</sup>) Prof. Visudh Busyakul introduced the edition of the Theravāda Tipiṭika prepared on the auspicious occasion of His Majesty The King's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday with a special lecture on "The B.E. 2500 Great International Buddhist Council Pāli Canon Roman Script B. E. 2545 (C.E. 2002)". This was followed by a reception.

The participants had the opportunity to attend a traditional recitation of the Vessantarajātaka on Monday (9<sup>th</sup> evening), and on Tuesday (10<sup>th</sup> morning), a Buddhist ceremony was organized for early risers. The excursion on Wednesday afternoon (11<sup>th</sup>) to the capital of old Siam, Ayuthaya, was well attended and ended with a magnificent dinner by the river.

The conference was closed with a formal dinner at the Imperial Queen's Park Hotel presided over by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. This occasion was a most appropriate farewell after a conference which ran smoothly in a most agreeable atmosphere due to the highly successful efforts of local organizers, first of all Dean Mom Rachavong Kalaya Tingsabadh and her staff, Prof. Prapod and Peter Skilling as the regional secretary of IABS.

## **2. Report on the Meeting of the Board of Directors on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December.**

The Board of Directors met on 9<sup>th</sup> December between 18.15 and 19.20 hours. The discussions continued afterwards over dinner.

1. The proceedings of the business meeting were prepared.
2. As Treasurer, Prof. Dr. C. Scherrer-Schaub, reported on IABS: The number of members has risen sharply from 380 members at the end of the Lausanne conference (see report in JIABS 23. 2000,

pp. 155-157) to currently 690. Quite a few new members enrolled during the conference.

As the finances of IABS developed in a very satisfactory way and the costs of administration remained at a low level, there is no need to change the membership fee.

The General Secretary thanked Prof. Scherrer-Schaub for her highly successful handling of the IABS finances.

3. It was considered to transfer the legal seat of IABS from Wisconsin to Lausanne for practical reasons.
4. The last sentence in article III (a) of the constitution of IABS needs to be rephrased in such a way that it is made clear that all members (not only ordinary members) of good standing have the right to receive IABS (as they actually do).
5. As it had been agreed previously, the next IABS conference will be held in London at the School of Oriental and African Studies from 28<sup>th</sup> August to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2005.
6. There are preliminary invitations for conferences at Peking and at Nalanda, where the II<sup>nd</sup> Conference was held in 1980. It was agreed to leave a decision to the next board, because the dates are still far ahead in the future.
7. HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn was elected and graciously accepted the honorary membership of IABS. Furthermore, Raniero Gnoli, Ji Xian-lin; Awadh Kishore Narain, Erik Zürcher were elected as honorary members.

### **3. Report on the Closing Session and Business Meeting.**

The president opened the business meeting, which preceded the farewell dinner, at 17.40 hours on Friday (13<sup>th</sup>). It was attended by only 47 participants.

1. The president commemorated the deceased honorary member Akira Hirakawa († 31.3.2002).
2. The president gave a brief account on IABS.
3. The result of the elections for the IABS board (1.1.2003-31.12.2006) was announced:

PRESIDENT: J. Takasaki; VICE-PRESIDENT: E. Steinkellner

GENERAL SECRETARY: T. J. F. Tillemans (current address of IABS:  
Section de langues orientales, Université de Lausanne, BFSH 2,  
1015 Lausanne, Switzerland)

TREASURER: Jérôme Ducor

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD: N. Balbir; G. Dreyfus; R. M. Gimello;  
J. Gyatso; O.v. Hinüber; S. Katsura; Kuo Li-ying; K. Matsuda;  
Richard Salomon; L. Schmithausen; D. Seyfort Ruegg; Peter  
Skilling. — The editors of JIABS will continue.

4. The names of the elected honorary members were announced.
5. The president thanked the local organizers.
6. The organizers reported on the conference and suggested to publish the list of participants on the internet (not done).
7. U. Pagel gave brief explanations on the London conference in 2005, which will be accompanied by an exhibition organized by the British Library.
8. The General Secretary thanked Prof. C. Caillat as outgoing president.
9. Thanking all participants for their contributions to the conference, the president closed the meeting and the conference at 17.55 hours.