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Report of the XVIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies

Ulrich Pagel

General Secretary, IABS

The XVIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS) took place at Dharma Drum Buddhist College in Jinshan, New Taipei City (Taiwan) from 20 to 25 June 2011. Attesting to the steady increase of interest in Buddhist Studies worldwide, participation at this IABS congress exceeded once again previous registration figures. More than seven-hundred delegates, arriving from all corners of the globe, joined the proceedings at Dharma Drum Buddhist College over a period of six days. The Congress was prepared by a local planning committee, led with great competence by the venerable Jenjou Hung and Professor William Magee. The team in charge of organization of the Congress drew on the support of a very large and well-prepared team of staff and students, including a veritable army of volunteers drawn from the Saṅgha, many of whom had travelled to Jinshan from afar for this very purpose. The local arrangements and hospitality were truly exemplary and set a new benchmark for all future congresses.

The academic program commenced with a convocation ceremony at which the IABS President Professor Dr Scherrer-Schaub delivered her address, entitled: 'Perennial Encounters – The Simile of the Painter and the Irruption of Representation in Indian Buddhism.' This was followed by a keynote address of Professor Tom Tillemans (IABS General Secretary, 2002–2008) with the title 'Mind, Dharmakīrti and Madhyamaka.' Over the course of the next five days, IABS delegates delivered a total of 565 papers, probing a wide range of issues in Buddhist studies. The academic program was complemented by a fine selection of excursions and evening performances, including a memorable visit to the National

Palace Museum and a trip to the Yeliu Geopark at the northern coast of Taiwan. The proceedings concluded with a general meeting of the members of the Association and a lavish farewell dinner, hosted on the grounds of Dharma Drum Buddhist College.

Sections and Panels

Emulating the arrangements adopted at previous IABS congresses, all talks were assigned to either a 'section' or a 'panel.' The sections typically accommodated a collection of papers held together by a common topical denominator aligned to a broader theme or subject matter. The panels were organized and chaired by one or more convenors, responsible for the quality and intellectual cohesion of the content of the papers. The sections were instituted by the members of the local planning committee who grouped together contributions submitted individually in the run up to the conference. It follows a list of panels and their convenors:

The Panels

1. *A Comparative Approach to Buddhist Philosophy.* Jiang, Tao.
2. *Against Harmony: Radical Buddhism and Buddhist Socialism in Thought and Practice.* Ladwig, Patrice; Shields, James.
3. *Approaches to Early Mahāyāna.* Osto, Doug.
4. *Buddhism & Sacred Geography.* Bingenheimer, Marcus; Robson, James.
5. *Buddhism among Iranian Peoples.* Maggi, Mauro.
6. *Buddhism and Divination.* Redmond, Geoffrey.
7. *Buddhism and Law beyond the Vinaya.* Lammerts, Christian.
8. *Buddhism and the Medieval Religious Traditions of China/Tibet/Japan.* Kapstein, Matthew; Mollier, Christine.
9. *Buddhism as a Social Minority: Schemas and Strategies for the Identity Maintaining.* Cirklova, Jitka.
10. *Buddhism in Taiwan.* Tu, Aming.

11. *Buddhism Naturalized?* Siderits, Mark.
12. *Buddhism on the Silk Road.* Walter, Mariko.
13. *Buddhist Caves from practical Points of View: their Use and Functions.* Yamabe, Nobuyoshi.
14. *Buddhist Constructions of 'Rational Religion' across East Asia.* Mohr, Michel.
15. *Buddhist Nuns: Transmission of Ordination.* Heirman, Anne.
16. *Buddhist Philosophy of Language.* Garfield, Jay; Westerhoff, Jan.
17. *Chan and the Teachings during the Late Tang-Yuan Dynasties.* Huang, Yi-hsun.
18. *Chinese Ch'an Meditation.* Shi, Guo Huei.
19. *Clinical Buddhist Studies in Hospice Palliative Care.* Chen, Ching-Yu.
20. *Digital Resources for Buddhist Studies.* Bingenheimer, Marcus; Hung, Jenjou.
21. *Discoursing Journeys: the Authorial Hermeneutics of Travel.* Holmes-Tagchungdarpa, Amy; Brownell, Paul.
22. *Dynamics of Locativization, Translocation, and Recontextualization of Buddhism in and across Asia.* Neelis, Jason.
23. *Early Expressions of the Tathāgatarbha Doctrine in India.* Gomez, Luis.
24. *Emptiness and Ethics: Buddhism in 20th-Century East Asian Thought.* Nelson, Eric.
25. *Ethnic Buddhisms Crossing Ethnic Lines: Buddhisms in Southeast Asia.* Samuel, Geoffrey.
26. *Forms or Aspects in Buddhist Philosophy and Soteriology of Consciousness.* McClintock, Sara; Kellner, Birgit.
27. *Gandhāran and Andhran Buddhist Narratives in Context.* Shimada, Akira.

28. *Gandhāran Texts and Gandhāran Buddhism*. Salomon, Richard.
29. *Gene Smith: His Life and Work*. Sheehy, Michael; Wallman, Jeffrey.
30. *Humanism and the Human Being in 20th-Century Chinese and Japanese Buddhist Thought*. Curley, Melissa.
31. *Indian Buddhism through East Asian Sources*. Deeg, Max.
32. *Indian Buddhist Thought in 6th to 7th-Century China*. Lin, Chen-kuo.
33. *Jātaka Stories*. Appleton, Naomi; Sheravanichkul, Arthid.
34. *Korean Buddhism and Environmental Activism*. Cho, Eun-su.
35. *Kumarājīva and the Development of early Mahāyāna Meditation in China – Remarks on Textual and Iconographic Evidence*. Yit, Kin-tung.
36. *Liturgical Manuscripts and the Study of Buddhist Ritual*. Teiser, Stephen.
37. *Madhyamaka and Yogācāra: Rivals or Allies*. Garfield, Jay; Westerhoff, Jan.
38. *Maitreya Buddha: Studies of Images and Texts from Gandhāra, China, and Southeast Asia*. Chirapravati, M. L. Pattaratorn.
39. *Meditation, Experience, Transmission, Text, and Interpretation in the Chinese Tiantai Teaching*. Wang, Ching-wei.
40. *Narrative Strategies in Buddhist Historical Writings*. Doell, Steffen; Nuernberger, Marc.
41. *On the Problem of the Compilation of the Vibhāṣa*. Mitomo, Kenyu.
42. *Patterns of Transmissions of Indian Buddhism in Medieval Asia*. Nietupski, Paul.
43. *Performance and Recitation: The Vessantara Jātaka in Theravāda Buddhist Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka*. Lefferts, H.; Leedom, Birgit.

44. *Plants, Animals, and Gardens in Chinese Buddhism*. Chen, Huaiyu.
45. *Rang stong/Gzhan stong: Perspectives on the Discourse in India and Tibet*. Sheehy, Michael.
46. *Re-examining Sheng-yen's Chan Practice, Academic Research, and Interpretation of Mahāyāna Sūtras*. Wang, Ching-wei.
47. *Recent Progress in Vinaya Studies*. Clarke, Shayne.
48. *Reconsidering the Abhidharma*. Meyers, Karin.
49. *Reconstructing the History of late Indian Buddhism: Relationship between Tantric and Non-tantric Doctrines*. Kyuma, Taiken.
50. *Relics of Cambodia*. Guthrie-Higbee, Elizabeth.
51. *Right Belief, Orthodoxy, and the Boundaries of Modern Chinese Buddhism*. Scott, Gregory.
52. *Searching for Vasubandhu*. Gold, Jonathan.
53. *Strategies for Teaching about Socially Engaged Buddhism*. Green, Ronald.
54. *Study of Dignāga*. Yao, Zhihua.
55. *Tantric Buddhist Ritual: Esoteric Cult in Southeast and East Asia*. Payne, Richard.
56. *Tengyur Translation Project*. Thurman, Robert.
57. *The ancient Japanese Manuscripts*. Ochiai, Toshinori.
58. *The Construction of Contemporary Chinese Buddhism*. Yu, Jimmy.
59. *The Lotus Sūtra: Mahāyāna or beyond Mahāyāna?* Logan, Joseph.
60. *The Prospects for Bhikṣuṇī Ordination in Tibetan Buddhism*. Roloff, Carola; Finnegan, Damcho.
61. *The Role of the Laity in the Formation of Modern Buddhism*. Aviv, Eyal.

62. *The Sense of Place, Real or Imagined, in Japanese Buddhist Visual Culture.* Chin, Gail.
63. *The Spread and Use of Dhāraṇī Sūtras in East Asia, 8th to 12th Centuries.* Vermeersh, Sem.
64. *Translating Tibetan Buddhism: Language, Transmission and Transformation.* Doctor, Andreas.
65. *Women in the Texts of Early Indian Buddhism.* Collet, Alice.

The Sections

1. Art and Archeology.
2. Buddhist Philosophical Studies.
3. Buddhist Places.
4. Chinese Buddhist Thought.
5. Early Buddhism.
6. Early Buddhist Literature and Art.
7. Epistemology and Soteriology.
8. Ethnic Buddhisms.
9. Japan and Korea.
10. Logic and Epistemology.
11. Madhyamika.
12. Mahāyāna Buddhism.
13. Precepts and Vows.
14. Protecting the Spiritual Environment: An Inquiry into Chan Buddhism and Buddhist Ethics.
15. Tantra.
16. Textual Studies in Chinese Buddhism.
17. Tibetan Doctrinal Studies.
18. Tibetan Sociological Studies.
19. Tibetan Textual Studies.

The combination of sections and panels provided, once again, a successful constellation representing the diversity of the field and allowed for specialized discussions of the many themes found within its parameters.

IABS Business

Below is a summary of the various resolutions passed at the IABS Board Meeting and at the General Meeting of the members:

- *Nomination of Honorary Members*
The Board awarded an IABS honorary fellowship to Jikido Takasaki and Fernando Tola in recognition of their substantial and long-standing contribution to Buddhist Studies.
- *IABS Conference 2014*
The Board decided to accept the invitation of Vienna University to host the XVIIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (18 to 23 August 2014).
- *IABS Conference Program for Publication on the IABS Website*
The Board decided that the program of the last three congresses (London, Atlanta and Taipei) should be mounted on the IABS website as a trial. If this proves popular as a scholarly resource, the program of future congresses shall also be hosted on the website.
- *Increase in Membership Dues*
The Board agreed to raise membership fees and journal subscription levels in order to improve the ailing financial situation of the Association. The new rates, effective from January 2012, run as follows:

Student membership:	\$ 35
Ordinary membership 1 (low/middle income countries):	\$ 45
Ordinary membership 2 (rest of the world):	\$ 65
Institutional Journal Subscription:	\$ 105
Life Membership:	\$ 1500

The Board also agreed that, beginning with Volume 33, all members will have a choice to receive the Journal either in electronic

format (Pdf) or as a printed copy. It falls to the individual member to inform the Membership Secretary of his/her choice. The default position remains shipment of the printed copy.

▪ *JIABS online*

The Board agreed to publish JIABS online, beginning in January 2012. The online repository of JIABS is to be hosted on a server managed by Heidelberg University (<http://journals.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/jiabs>).

▪ *Construction of New IABS Website*

The Board agreed to move the IABS website to a server belonging to the University of Lausanne, largely because Lausanne continues to be the city where IABS is formally registered. It also agreed to commission an update of the current website in order to enhance its design and functionality as well as to strengthen the profile of the Association on the web.

It remains to me, in the name of the IABS, to thank the organizers of the XVIth Congress for their truly outstanding organization and hospitality. The panels and sections of the Congress attracted an impressive cross-section of the very best in Buddhist Studies research and thus formed a milestone in the professional development of this flourishing field.