

Report on Participation in Lotus Sutra Recitation Program, South Korea 6th - 19th June, 2017

Background of Visit and Major Program

Lotus Association for World Enlightenment (LAWE) in South Korea is also called as Bhuphwa Jungsa Monastery. It is a prominent monastery in the South Korea. A Group of more than 100



Venerable monk, Dorim in the Lotus Sutra Procession with his followers.

members from this monastery led by Venerable monk Dorim visited in December, 2016 to Lumbini Buddhist University (LBU) as their first visit. Similarly, it was an opportunity for the LBU to participate the Honorary Annual Lotus Sutra Recitation Program

organized by that monastery.

Registrar Mr. Tilak Acharya, Campus Chief of Central Campus Mr. Indra Kafle and Lecturer and Korean Language Expert of LBU, Mr. Nir Bahadur Gurung was participated the program.

The major program was conducted in the Chcheonan city of the Korea. The organizer also was arranged the field visit program in some touristic sites related Buddhism as well as historical



Mr. Tilak Ram Acharya, Registrar of LBU, delivering speech in the Lotus Sutra Recitation Program.

monasteries in Seoul city and Jeju Do. During the program, the delegates from LBU conducted some academic visits of major Buddhist Universities and organizations. At that time, MoU was signed between LBU and LAWE to continue support for the tenure of ten years to support the academic development and prosperity of Buddhism in

Nepal. This support was announced by the venerable Dorim in that occasion. At the same time,

Venerable Dorim handed amount of 30 Thousand Dollors to the registrar of LBU, Mr. Tilak Acharya for the term of 3 years as per the provision quoted in MoU. Mr. Acharya offered the Buddha image and Dhaka Khada as souvenir from the University. He expressed sincere thanks to the Venerable monk, Dorim, LAWE and all the members for their valuable contribution and also was assured that it will encourage to all the students of the Buddhist studies and also helpful to attract the new students.

Academic Visit

The delegates of LBU visited the major Buddhist universities such as Donguk University of Seoul, Sunga University in Kimpo city and Uiduk University in Phohang city. In addition, visiting to Chogye order and Chief Abbot of the Guryong Sa, Venerable Jung Woo also a harmonious and fruitful. Brief report of the visits are as follows.

Sangha University

Sangha University, located at Kimpo city which is close vicinity of Seoul. It has more than 35 years history and is managed under the Chogye order. It was established particularly for the



LBU delegates with Venerable nun Hae Jin, Director of General Affairs Department, Sangha University, Kimpo City.

academic education for monastic nuns in Buddhism. The LBU delegates visited to the Venerable nun Hae Jin, Director of General Affairs Department. Venerable nun explained briefly to us about the overall education system and was provided the precious opportunity to observe the physical infrastructural condition ie. Library, research centre, hostel, class rooms, seminar hall, laboratory etc.

Meanwhile, registrar of LBU, Mr. Acharya was delivered the general introduction of the Lumbini Buddhist University and its education system. He offered the newsletters and new volume of *Lumbini Prabha* annual Journal which was published by Central Campus of the LBU on the occasion of *Buddha Purnima*. Venerable Hae-Jin

expressed her gratitude for visiting the university and expressed her enthusiasm for the bilateral cooperation and support in upcoming days.

Donguk University

Donguk University is the oldest Buddhist University located in the heart of the capital city, Seoul. It has more than 110 years of glorious history for the development of Buddhist studies in Korea. The university has launching many other general subjects apart from Buddhist studies. In this visit, Ms. Joo Yong Yun, Team Manager, Central Library and Academic Information Service were kindly cooperated to us.



Delegates observing the science laboratory in Donguk University, Seoul.

On the occasion, Ms. Joo was described about the library, research and general academic activities of the university. We also had opportunity to observe the laboratory as well as physical premises of the university. According to the

short discussion after observation, she was equally interested in seeking possibilities for the access of reading materials available in the library of both universities. She further expressed wish for seeking possibilities of mutual relation in the direction of development of Buddhism through academic activities and Buddhist education as much as possible.

Uiduk University

Uiduk University is a renowned University located at the vicinity of Industrial city, Pohang. We spent a whole day to visit the Uiduk University since it was the far from Seoul. This University has also a long history of Buddhist studies. It has been offering the various general subjects such as Sociology, Social Welfare etc. Professor Kwon Gi-Hyun from Department of Buddhist Cultural Studies welcomed us.

Professor Kwon gave us the overall introduction of the University and its academic activities.



Delegates with Prof. Kwon Gi-Hyun, Uiduk University, Pohang city.

We spent time by observing the different departments and its administrative system, controlling system infrastructures i.e. class rooms, library, sport section, hostel, laboratory etc.

According to the Professor Kwon, the university is conducting students exchange program for the foreign students. As inform of

the Nepalese students has completed their Masters as well as Ph.D. level study. During the visit, professor expressed will for the academic exchange between two universities.

Chogye Order

Chogye Order is one of the biggest Buddhist order in Korea located in the center point of the



Main Gate of the Head Office of the Chogye Order, Seoul.

Seoul. It has it's glorious history in the development of Buddhism in Korea. There are many temples as members under this order. Some of the major Universities are also under it's management. During our visit, we observed the head office of the order

and main premises. In course of our short visit, we also observed some Buddhist culture as new model of tourism development i.e. temple stay in the initiation of the order and government.

Guryong Sa Temple

Guryong sa, Buddhist monastery is located near to Seoul in Yangje has it's glorious history. The Abbot of the monastery, Venerable Jung Woo has individually as well as institutionally intimate



Registrar of the LBU, Mr. Acharya giving Published materials of university to Venerable Monk, Jong Woo of Guryong Sa Temple

relation to Nepal and Nepalese. His contribution to Nepal in humanitarian sectors even to the Nepalese in Korea is highly appreciable. He expressed his happiness for the establishment of LBU as a academic institution of Buddhist studies in Lumbini. In that moment,

Venerable monk, Jung Woo hearty accepted the propose to visit LBU, Lumbini.

There was a discussion on the possible sectors to build the mutual relation between the Guryong sa temple and LBU and also in the common interest of development in the field of Buddhism.

Nepal Buddhist Family (NBF)

Nepal Buddhist Family (NBF) is the first organization of migrant Buddhist community of



Delegates of LBU and Members of NBF, South Korea

Nepalese resided in abroad. It was established particularly by Buddhist community among Nepali Migrant Workers in South Korea. It has carried about two and half decades of continuous history.

The major objectives of this organization are to support migrant

workers who are suffered or victimized by various problems in course of migrant life, to introduce the Nepal as a birthplace of Buddha, to educate to people about Buddhism to support for strengthening to the relationship between Korea and Nepal.

The delegates of LBU visited to Mr. Pemba Dorje Hyolmo (President of NBF), Mr. Preetam Gurung (General Secretary) and Chief Lama of the Nepalese Community. At that time, President

welcomed us and introduced about the NBF. General Secretary explained about the activities of the organization and Chief Abbot also expressed the challenges to continue the spiritual practice which is highly important for all. The Registrar of the LBU, Mr. Tilak Acharya gave a brief introduction of LBU, its objectives, important mission to expand the Buddhism in Nepal.

There was fruitful discussion for the mutual cooperation in the common interest of expanding Buddhism in the future. The representatives of both organizations concluded their views by realizing the mutual support between both institutions.

Conclusion

The visit of Korea is completed fruitfully. Multi-dimensional relationship with many Korean Buddhist universities, Buddhist monasteries and Buddhist organizations are opened for the LBU. There seems to be taken more initiatives for the further development of this relationship. The visit found that many possibilities are opened up which can be accomplished in the academic field of Buddhist studies.

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