

The text of the intervention from Venerable Wu Shin of WFB

### **Reviving Religious Education to Foster World Peace**

Respected President of the General Conference, respected Director-General, respected Chairperson of the Executive Board, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

My warmest greetings to you all!

On behalf of World Fellowship of Buddhists and the Association of Master Chin Kung's Friends at UNESCO, we would like to extend our sincere congratulation to Her Excellency Mrs Zohour Alaoui on her appointment as the new president of the General Conference. We wish to thank also Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa, for his outstanding leadership in the past two years. We are grateful to the Director-General H.E Madame Irina Bokova for her unwavering commitment to world peace in the past eight years. We would also like to extend our congratulations and support to H.E Madame Audrey Azoulay, the newly elected Director – General by the Executive Board.

UNESCO was established with a principal objective to promote world peace. Without love, it is impossible to realize world peace. Love is the core value of all religions, and the core of all religious teachings is about “divine love” – selfless love. All the founders of major religions were great social educators. Their teachings, without exception, were about education of morality, ethics, causality and sacred wisdom. The World Fellowship of Buddhists always highlight that Buddhism is the education that pioneers teach living beings how to avoid suffering to gain happiness. Master Chin Kung summarizes that religion is a vital education, important teachings and revered transformation of humanity. Religious education is a fundamental education indispensable to humankind. Nowadays, *religions should return to basics and undertake the sacred mission of propagating education to guide people to abandon rivalry, conflict, and war, revive the divine love and work for the well-being of humankind.*

Since 2006 when we commemorated the 2500<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Buddha here at UNESCO, we held in this beautiful room several Peace Conferences in partnership with the permanent delegations. During these conferences, we made the reports of our activities and our achievement in inter faith dialogue and rapprochement of Cultures especially in Singapore, Malaysia, and in Toowoomba the “Model City of Peace and Harmony” in Australia. We put the reports of these Peace Conferences at your disposal. Please have a look.

Under the leadership of Venerable Master Chin Kung the practitioners of ten major religions were requested to select 360 excerpts from the most essential teachings in their respective sacred scriptures and compile them into a set of books titled *Classical Scriptures 360*. These books are available and ready to be distributed everywhere. We hope this will facilitate learning for everyone on the essential teachings of different religions. Reading these books, we discover that every religion emphasises the teachings of compassion and universal love.

The mission of the Association of Master Chin Kung's Friends at UNESCO is to serve as a bridge to facilitate communication and learning among religions; to promote religious education of divine love; to revive the importance of religious education. We sincerely hope that all religions will truly become one big family, if different religions could learn and understand from each other, the influence will become greater. Then the equality and harmony among different ethnicities, political parties, and eventually among all countries will be achieved. So the world peace will be attained – this will be the greatest contribution religion can make to humankind!

We sincerely hope that UNESCO will strengthen its efforts in propagating *the education of love, morality, ethics, causality and sacred wisdom* in the universal education to make world peace a reality. We would like to encourage UNESCO to reinforce its leadership in facilitating the inter-religious dialogue; We have full confidence in UNESCO and will provide our unequivocal support to UNESCO to fulfil its sacred mission!

Thank you very much.