



馬來西亞佛教總會

PERSATUAN BUDDHIST MALAYSIA
MALAYSIAN BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION

182, Bumah Road, 10050 Penang Tel: 04-2262690 (hunting) Fax: 04-2263024
E-mail: mba.hq@mbahq.my / mba.hq@malaysianbuddhistassociation.org
Website: www.malaysianbuddhistassociation.org

Living Harmoniously, Thriving Society.
Wesak Day Speech 2024

VEN. SECK JIT HENG
PRESIDENT
MALAYSIAN BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION

Malaysia is widely known for its unique multiracial society with different cultures. Nevertheless, the people continue to live in this beautiful country while upholding their cultures and languages as well as believing in their own faiths. For more than 60 years since independence, Malaysians have been living together with mutual love and respect, celebrating the festivals of different races and religions together. Despite all the challenges we face when defending and striving for the development of one's religion, we continue to cherish and maintain the bond of unity and love among ourselves. We need to bear in mind that only by strengthening the fundamental foundation of "living harmoniously", can we continue to pen the chapter of unity, stability and harmony of our country proudly.

Harmony advocated by Buddhism is not only limited to mankind but also extends to the animal world and our environment; this is clearly shown by the Buddhist spirit of protecting lives. Protecting lives means safeguarding lives and not harming them, a showcase of Buddhist compassion. The "Jataka Tales" contained within the Buddhist sutras describes the Buddha's acts of protecting life while striving on the Bodhisattva path, including cutting up his flesh to feed an eagle, giving up his body to save a tiger, etc. These actions demonstrate that compassion taught in Buddhism embraces all sentient beings and is not confined only to human beings. Buddhism teaches us about dependent origination that all dharma or phenomenon arises in dependence upon other causes and conditions but it does not teach us to passively use this as an excuse to become negative and accept outcomes pessimistically. On the contrary, it gives us the wisdom to perform wholesome karma and avoid unwholesome ones. We co-exist and live symbiotically with other life forms on this planet. It is the responsibility of every Buddhist to not squander Earth's resources and to protect the environment. In addition, the Six Harmonies and Reverence in Buddhism, namely, harmony in actions when living together, harmony in speech without discord, harmony in resolve through shared joy, harmony in views through common understanding, harmony in benefits through equal sharing and harmony in precepts through common practice, are the best medicines to live harmoniously. The Six Harmonies and Reverence emphasizes mutual respect in getting along with each other, consulting one another when dealing with matters, aligning our interests towards a common benefit, sharing the fruits of one's efforts with all, and abiding by the laws of the country and family rules.

Moreover, it is all of our responsibilities to benefit the society. In Buddhist teaching, we often hear words such as motivation, support, and eradicating sufferings because Buddhism teaches us to perform good deeds and to foster various kinds of good karma for the people and



馬來西亞佛教總會

PERSATUAN BUDDHIST MALAYSIA
MALAYSIAN BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION

182, Bumah Road, 10050 Penang Tel: 04-2262690 (hunting) Fax: 04-2263024
E-mail: mba.hq@mbahq.my / mba.hq@malaysianbuddhistassociation.org
Website: www.malaysianbuddhistassociation.org

the environment around us. The Buddha told us that everyone of us has the Buddha nature; however, we need to perform goodness continuously to benefit others and ourselves until we attain Buddhahood. The Four Universal Vows, the Four Methods of Guidance, and the Six Perfections in Buddhism remind us to inject more positive energy into our society, working and purifying the human's heart and mind, and building a peaceful society and a prosperous country. The Four Universal Vows encourages us to aspire to liberate all sentient beings, to eradicate all sufferings, and to master the immeasurable dharma doors in order to benefit all sentient beings and finally attaining Buddhahood. The Four Methods of Guidance and the Six Perfections additionally teach us various ways to give and offer our help to those in need, to benefit the public through kind words and actions; as well as to observe the precepts, be tolerant, diligent, and remain steadfast, whilst being guided by the wisdom of the Buddha Dharma, continue to learn and benefit all sentient beings.

Right now, I would also like to call upon all Buddhist organisations, temples and every devotee to work diligently together in the sectors of education and social welfare, for the benefit of respective regions and people around us; let us all bring forth our Bodhi mind together, perform altruistic Bodhisattva acts hand in hand for the harmony and well-being of the society, thus creating Pure Land on Earth.