

The 2016 CESNUR Conference

RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN A GLOBALIZED
WORLD: KOREA, ASIA, AND BEYOND

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES OF WON BUDDHISM

Focused on Education and Interfaith Dialogues

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COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY FOR THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

- The Commemorative Ceremony for the 100th Anniversary
May 1, 2016
- Communal Deliverance Service
April 25, 2016
- International Academic Conference
April 28-30, 2016
- Great Opening Pilgrimage to sacred sites led by the Seoul Won-CultureTour Guides
April 25 –May 1, 2016
- Ceremony marking the close of the 10-Year Great Accumulation of Merit Prayer
April 27, 2016



Won Buddhism turned 100 this year so there were many special events to celebrate its centennial such as the Great Opening Pilgrimage to sacred sites from April 25 to May 1, the International Academic Conference on April 28-30, the Conclusion of the 10-year prayer on April 27, the Communal Deliverance Service on April 25, and the Commemorative Ceremony for the 100th Anniversary with 50,000 people in Seoul on May 1.

What is Won Buddhism? Before discussing about its social participation activities, I would like to introduce some basic information on Won Buddhism.



COMMEMORATIVE STAMP 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WON- BUDDHISM

- Title: 100th Anniversary of Won-Buddhism
- Date of Issue: April 28, 2016
- Size of Stamp: 40mm X 30mm
- Designer: Park Eunkyung
- The commemorative stamp features the **Il-Won (One Circle)**, which is the symbol of Won-Buddhism that signifies ultimate truth; the **founding motto**; and an image of the Sacred Pagoda of the Founding Master Sotaesan located at the Won-Buddhism Holy Ground in Iksan, Korea.

Extracted from : http://www.korst.go.kr/eng/html/woeapoooyo/2016_05.jsp?contid=e1040118



This is a commemorative stamp. It says Korea, 2016, 100 years, and 300; displays a circle and a pagoda; and has one sentence at the bottom. 300 Won is the price of the stamp in Korean currency, which is equal to about a quarter in US currency. The pagoda is for the Founding Master of Won Buddhism. The circle is the symbol of ultimate truth which the Founding Master became enlightened to a hundred years ago. Won Buddhists call this circle “Il-Won-Sang,” which literally means “one circular image.” The sentence at the bottom reads “With this Great Opening of matter, Let there be a Great Opening of spirit.” It is the founding motto of Won Buddhism, and the meaning of “great opening of matter” and “great opening of spirit” will be discussed later. In all, the stamp tells us that Won Buddhism was established in Korea when the Founding Master attained great enlightenment on April 28, 1916.

WONKWANG UNIVERSITY

- **Founding Philosophy**
 Wonkwang University provides societies future leaders a full integrated education that combines knowledge and morality to realize the founding principle of Won-Buddhism, With this Great Opening of Matter, let there be a Great Opening of Spirit.
- **University Motto**
 Cultivation of Both Knowledge and Morality (知德兼修)
 Practice of Moral Principle (道義實踐)

Extracted from : http://www.studyinkorea.go.kr/es/sub/college_info/college_info.do?ei_code=530880



The first is on education in Won Buddhism. There are universities, schools and kindergartens run by Won Buddhism. One of them is Wonkwang University, which is 70 years old in 2016. Its mottoes are “Cultivation of Both Knowledge and Morality” and “Practice of Moral Principle.” The vision of Wonkwang University basically follows Won Buddhist teachings.



THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF KOREAN GOVERNMENT

- “The principal of **Mind Practice**(‘마음공부’ in Korean) of Won Buddhism as applied in its school is acknowledged as making a **safe nest for students mentally suffering for bullying and school violence**....the Mind Practice of **Youngsan Seongji High School** is regarded as a sound educational philosophy in our society... The biggest message from Youngsan Seongji High School was that the students who have many difficulties in public education are not weak and are not at fault; the school system, which created difficulties for many students and culled them out of the existing system is to blame. Furthermore, it taught that schools should be diverse and more warm-hearted in nature.” (p.44-45)



However, I want to talk about some special schools rather than this university. The Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development of the Korean Government published a white paper on alternative education. It says “The principle of Mind Practice(‘마음공부’ in Korean) of Won Buddhism as applied in its schools is acknowledged as making a safe nest for students mentally suffering from

bullying and school violence....the Mind Practice of Youngsan Seongji High School is regarded as a sound educational philosophy in our society... The biggest message from Youngsan Seongji High School was that the students who have many difficulties in public education are not weak and are not at fault; the school system, which created difficulties for many students and culled them out of the existing system, is to blame. Furthermore, it taught that schools should be diverse and more warm-hearted in nature.”

YOUNGSAN SUNGJI HIGH SCHOOL



- “Students and teachers live in a “dormitory” like a family – nine students share three bedrooms and a teacher has the fourth. ~ Students’ liveliness during our visit was impressive. It was clear that they enjoyed their school life immensely.” OECD. (2000), *Motivating Students for Lifelong Learning*, OECD Publishing, Paris.
- “We may discard knowledge, but we don’t discard people”



It is Youngsan Sungji High School. I know about this school because, during my practicum, I taught meditation there about 10 years ago. One thing I could not forget was a phrase I saw in the lobby of the school. It says, “지식은 버려도 사람은 버리지 않는다” in Korean or “We may discard knowledge, but we don’t discard people”. I think that is why the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) said in 2000 that, “Students and teachers live in a ‘dormitory’ like a family – nine students share three bedrooms and a teacher has the fourth. ~ Students’ liveliness during our visit was impressive. It was clear that they enjoyed their school life immensely.” This is a small but beautiful school run by Won Buddhism.

Why then did Won Buddhism create this school? The answer can be found in its teachings.

처처불상
사사불공

Everywhere a Buddha image
every act a Buddha offering

Extracted from : 석연서예작품

http://www.wbni.kr/mbs/wbafm/jsp/album/viewRSS.jsp?page=30&boardId=10021&boardSeq=470949&categoryId=06&categoryDepth=&categoryId=&id=wbafm_030700000000



EVERYWHERE A BUDDHA IMAGE EVERY ACT A BUDDHA OFFERING

- Everywhere is the Buddha-image; Do everything as making an offering to Buddha. (Chung's translation)
- Since all things in the universe are precisely the transformation bodies of the Dharmakaya Buddha, every place we find ourselves there is a buddha (Everywhere a Buddha Image) and all our acts are the dharma of buddha offerings (Every Act a Buddha Offering).
- 읽기 편한 version으로 바꿀 필요가 있음.

On the left is the calligraphy for the motto of faith. It says, “Everywhere A Buddha Image, Every Act A Buddha Offering.” People consider people as buddhas or “We may discard knowledge, but we don’t discard people.” The Principal Book of Won-Buddhism says “Since all things in the universe are precisely the transformation bodies of the Dharmakāya Buddha, every place we find ourselves there is a buddha (Everywhere a Buddha Image) and all our acts are the dharma of buddha offerings (Every Act a Buddha Offering).”

타자녀교육

Educating Others' Children

Extracted from : 석연서예작품

http://www.wbni.kr/mbs/wbafm/jsp/album/viewRSS.jsp?page=1&boardId=10021&boardSeq=470911&categoryId=06&categoryDepth=&categoryId=&id=wbafm_030700000000



EDUCATING OTHERS' CHILDREN

- The 3rd article of The Four Essentials
- Our aim is to advance the world's civilization by expanding educational institutions, transcending the boundary between self and others, and widely educating all those who come later, and to enable all fellow beings to live a life of paradise.

And there are the Four Essentials for an equal society. The 3rd is Educating Others' Children. Our aim is to advance the world's civilization by expanding educational institutions, transcending the boundary between self and others, and widely educating all those who come later, and to enable all fellow beings to live a life of paradise.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION FOR YOUNG NORTH KOREAN DEFECTORS

- **Hangyere High School** is the first alternative school for students who came from North Korea.
- The principal of the school had a long and deep experience about alternative education. For example, he was a vice-principal of Youngsan Seongji High School and principal of Songhak Middle School (the first alternative middle school in Korea).
- Naturally "Everywhere a Buddha image, Every act a Buddha Offering"



The man on the right is the principal of Hangyere High School. He managed Youngsan Seongji High School for a long time as vice-principal. A news article introduced him with the headline, "The Godfather of Alternative Education." Naturally, the spirit of Youngsan Seongji High School influenced Hangyere High School, which is the first alternative school for students who came from North Korea. So Hangyere school could warmly embrace young students who escaped from North Korea by healing their suffering and educating them to understand South Korean society.



- **Mission and Goals**

The mission of the Won Institute of Graduate Studies is to provide quality graduate-level professional education and training in the practical applications of spirituality and the healing arts for the well-being of individuals and society. It is guided by the conviction that meditation is essential to spiritual cultivation, and that spiritual cultivation is necessary to balance material and technological advances.

- In 2002, it began with Acupuncture Studies, Applied Meditation Studies and Won Buddhist Studies and these studies tell the feature of the Institute.

<http://www.woninstitute.edu/>



Next is a somewhat different type of school. The Won Institute of Graduate Studies in the US started in 2002 with three graduate-level degree programs. Acupuncture Studies, Applied Meditation Studies, and Won Buddhist Studies. The mission of the Won Institute of Graduate Studies is to provide quality graduate-level professional education and training in the practical applications of spirituality and the healing arts for the well-being of individuals and society. It is guided by the conviction that meditation is essential to spiritual cultivation, and that spiritual cultivation is necessary to balance material and technological advances. So even Acupuncture Studies students learn and practice meditation each semester.



OVERSEAS SCHOOLS

There are some more overseas schools. For example, a woman's development center that teaches specific skills to enable women to live on their own in Kaphunga, Swaziland, Africa. Samdong schools in Nepal and in Laos, and a Job Education Center in Mongolia. These schools have been established based on the needs of local societies. And the lady in the middle is a Won Buddhist minister who has volunteered more than 20 years in Africa.

물질이 개벽되니
정신을 개벽하자

With this Great Opening of matter,
Let there be a Great Opening of spirit.

Extracted from: 석연서예작품

http://www.wbni.kr/mbs/wbni/jsp/album/viewRSS.jsp?spage=1&boardid=10031&boardSeq=1021478&categoryid=0&categoryDepth=&categoryid=&id=wbni_030700000000

FOUNDING MOTTO OF WON BUDDHISM

With this Great Opening of matter, Let there be a Great Opening of spirit.

Matter implies scientific development. This society is changing rapidly through material and technological advances.

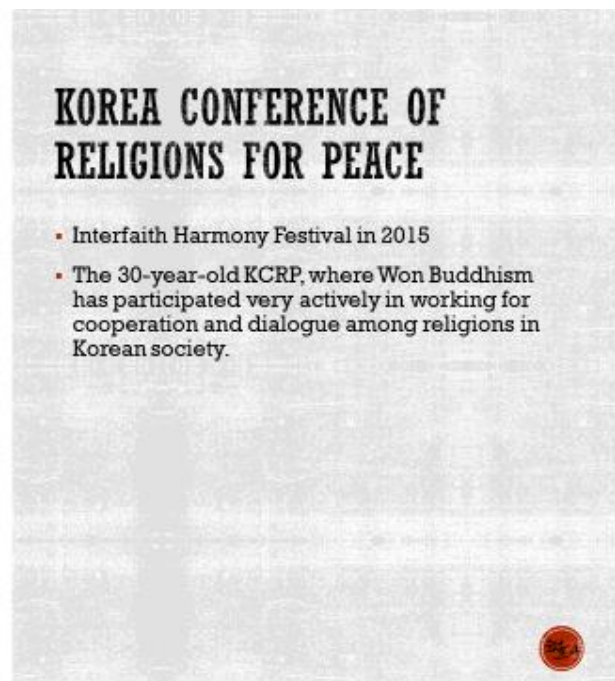
Don't you think that many of us are living a life enslaved by scientific development?

That's why that we need to cultivate our spirituality. And it is the reason of why Won Buddhism has been established.

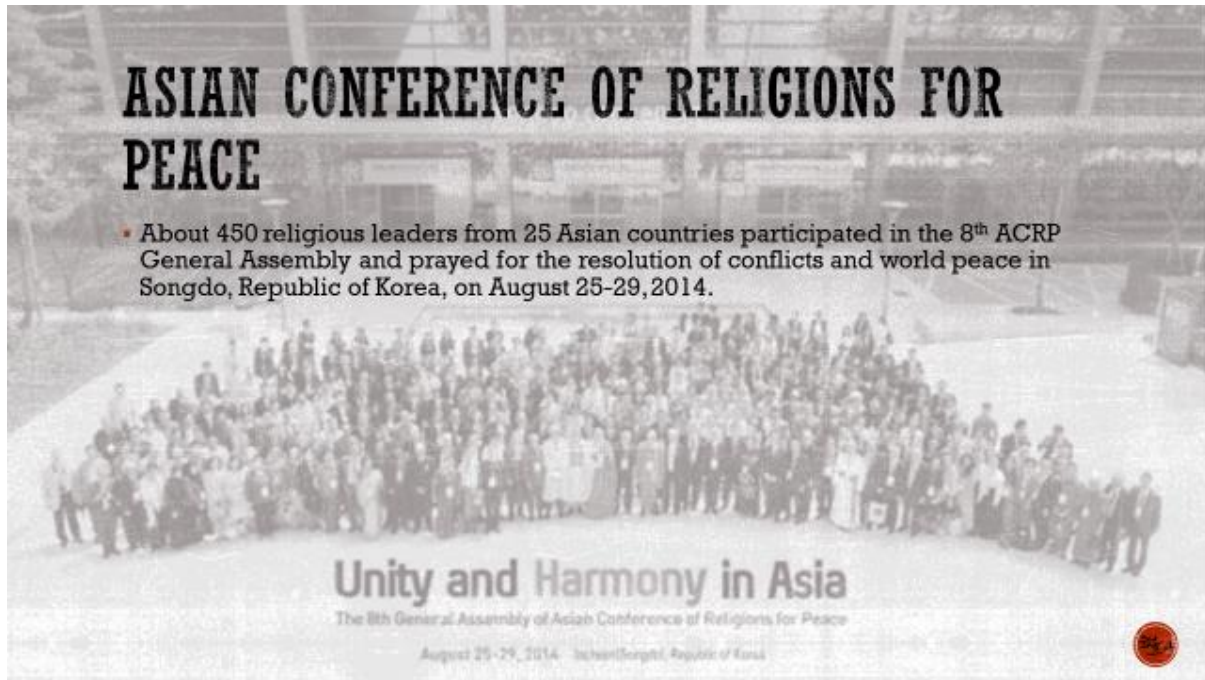


Matter implies scientific development. This society is changing extremely rapidly through material and

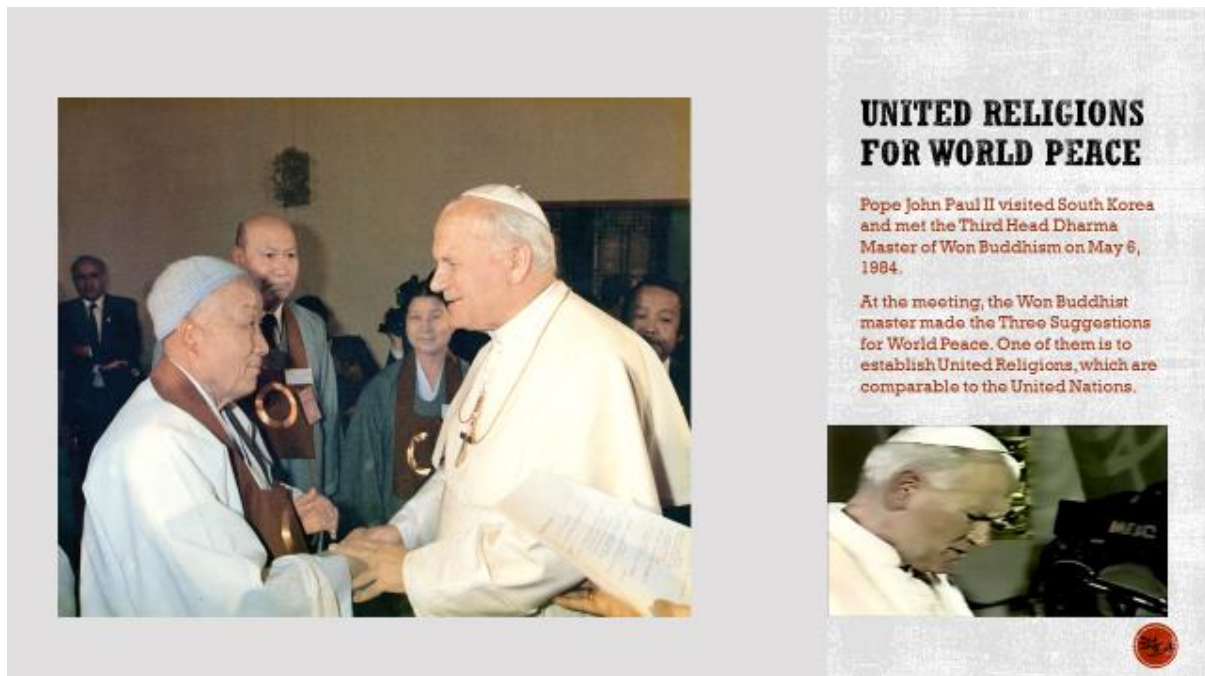
technological advances. Don't you think that many of us are living a life enslaved by scientific development? The word "enslaved" is a very serious term. Unfortunately, this is happening in this society right now. Many global challenges such as climate change and nuclear contamination are directly and indirectly influenced by scientific development. Scientific development can work positively for our society if the people also continue to grow and develop spiritually. The founding motto of Won Buddhism is "With this Great Opening of matter, Let there be a Great Opening of spirit." We need to cultivate our spirituality, and this is the reason why Won Buddhism was established. As material civilization develops, cultivate spiritual civilization accordingly.



This is the ceremony of the Interfaith Harmony Festival in 2015. Six people are standing in the photo. They are each leaders of religions in Korea: Buddhism, Roman Catholicism, Protestantism, Chondokyo, Confucianism and Won Buddhism. It was hosted by KCRP(Korea Conference of Religions for Peace). The history of Interfaith dialogue in South Korea started about 50 years ago, and the 30-year-old KCRP, where Won Buddhism has participated very actively, is working for cooperation and dialogue among religions in Korean society.



The photo is for the 8th ACRP General Assembly. ACRP stands for Asian Conference of Religions for Peace. About 450 religious leaders from 25 Asian countries participated in the conference and prayed for the resolution of conflicts and world peace.



The picture shows the moment, on May 6, 1984, when Pope John Paul the Second visited South Korea and met the Third Head Dharma Master of Won Buddhism. At that moment, the master made the Three Suggestions for World Peace. One of them is to establish a religious UN or United

Religions comparable to the political United Nations.

To fully understand the reasoning behind this, one needs a background understanding of Won Buddhist teachings. Won Buddhism regards the relationship between religions and politics as the mother and father of the family respectively or the two wheels of a cart. Both parents together can make a better family and both wheels together can move the cart. Family and cart imply the world where we are living together. Through the work of religions, we can do something positive for the world.

And nowadays it is hard for one religion to solve the global problems created by scientific development (or Great Opening of matter). We don't have time to waste fighting among religions. We really need to solve problems together through interfaith dialogue and cooperation. This will deepen the relationship of religions, and the Won Buddhists foretell it will naturally make a kind of United Religions for world peace as the third Head Dharma Master of Won Buddhism suggested to the Pope in 1984.

모두가 은혜입니다

Everything is Grace



Everything is Grace. Without the heaven and earth, we cannot exist and live life. Neither can we live without parents, nor fellow beings. Everything is supporting us to exist and live our lives right here. They are the Graces. We are interconnected with the graces, and we can also create grace to others. Won Buddhists want to create grace because we are living within grace.



SOCIAL PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES IN WON BUDDHISM

- **Education:**
- Everywhere a Buddha Image, Every Act a Buddha Offering
- **Interfaith Dialogues:**
- Religions made their efforts to solve the global problems.
- To realize it, it is necessary to enhance cooperation and dialogues among religions.
- One good systemic solution is to build the United Religions.

원불교

With this Great Opening of matter, Let there be a Great Opening of spirit. Everywhere a Buddha Image, Every Act a Buddha Offering. And Everything is Grace. With these teachings, Won Buddhism socially participates in education and interfaith dialogues for a better world.