



# 32<sup>nd</sup> World Congress

of the

**International Association for Religious Freedom**

## “Dignity in Diversity”

**26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>**

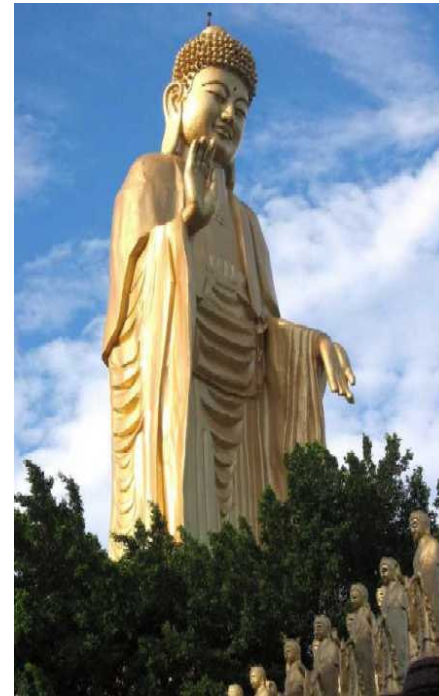
**March, 2006**

at

**Fo Guang Shan**

(佛光山)

— a **Buddhist**  
**monastery about**  
**300km south of Taipei**



**The Congress will provide simultaneous translation for the English, Chinese and Japanese languages for all the major presentations.**

## Registration

The registration fee is **€395.00** (approximately 495US\$ or 54,000JP¥) per person, which includes the five-day congress fee and congress kit.

Accommodation, mostly in shared rooms, and all meals at the monastery during the congress are sponsored by Fo Guang Shan. We are greatly indebted to their generous hospitality. Local hotel accommodation is also available at one's own expense.

The deadline for early registration is **31 January 2006**.

For late registration, the deadline is 28 February 2006, with a fee of €475.00.

## Further information

**President of IARF:** Ellen Campbell. **Vice-President:** Thomas Mathew.

**General Secretary:** Daryl Balia.

*For more details, all interested individuals or groups should contact:*

**Megumi Hirota, IARF Secretariat**

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About the Congress: <http://www.globalinterfaith.org/>

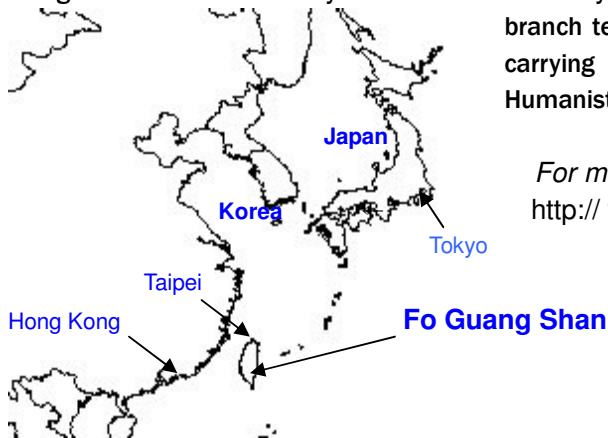
About IARF: <http://www.iarf.net/>

Fo Guang Shan (FGS) is approximately 300km from Taipei, and is easily reached from Kaohsiung International Airport, about 50 minutes' drive.

FGS was founded in 1967 and has evolved from a mountaintop bamboo forest to the largest Buddhist monastery on the island. Presently FGS has over 200 branch temples throughout the world carrying out the goals of promoting Humanistic Buddhism.

*For more details about FGS:*

[http:// www.fgs.org.tw/english/](http://www.fgs.org.tw/english/)





The 32<sup>nd</sup> Congress of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF, founded in 1900), the oldest interfaith organization, will be hosted by the Fo Guang Shan Monastery from 26 to 30 March, 2006. It will bring together members and friends from various countries and faith traditions.

### Congress Programs

**Worship and Religious Practice:** Participants from many faiths attending the Congress will be invited to experience different forms of worship and practice.

**Congress Plenary Themes:** There will be three tracks of plenary sessions, each opened by up to two invited co-keynote speakers: “*Religion and Peacemaking*,” “*Religion and Family Life*,” and “*Religion and Civic Engagement*”.

**Circle Groups:** The Circle Group is designed specifically for participants from different spiritual and cultural traditions to become acquainted with one another. Each group is made up of a small number of individuals.

**Commemorating the Founding Vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:** A special commemorative service will be held to honor the visions of the founders and other significant contributors to IARF, such as Rev. Nikkyo Niwano, Dr. Dana McLean Greeley, Guji Yukitaka Yamamoto, Rev. Toshio Miyake, Mrs. Carolyn Howlett, and Mr. Punyabratha Roy Chowdhury.

**Keynote Speeches:** Venerable Master Hsing Yun, Founder of Fo Guang Shan (FGS), will make a speech of welcome at the Opening Ceremony as well as a keynote plenary address. He is the 48<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of the Lin-chi (Japanese: Rinzai) line of Ch’an. At an early age, he vowed to revitalize Humanistic Buddhism, advocating the compatibility of the eight Mahayana schools and making Buddhist teachings adaptable to our daily life.

Dr. Welton Gaddy, the President of the Interfaith Alliance (TIA), will be invited as a keynote speaker. TIA is an American grassroots organization of over 150,000 individuals from more than 75 different religious traditions or beliefs, dedicated to promoting mutual respect, cooperation and civility in public discourse and to encouraging the active involvement of people of faith in the nation’s political life. Other invited speakers include Rev. Mvume Dandala (Africa), Dr. Kamar Oniah Kamaruzzaman (Malaysia), Dr. Elizabeth Harris (UK) and Dr. Harvey Cox (USA). Two short films on religious freedom produced by IARF will also be shown at the end of each plenary session.



**Monastery Life Experiential Programs:** Participants are invited to take part in monastery life through meditation, early morning chanting, discipline, calligraphy as spiritual reflection, and monastery care as spiritual labor (e.g. sweeping the garden).

← main worship hall

**Cultural Events:** Several entertainment presentations will be offered including music, song and dance by local artists and representatives from other parts of the world.

**Tours:** The area around Kaohsiung is home to several indigenous communities. Participants may visit these groups during the Congress. Several other optional domestic tours will be on offer (e.g. Taipei).

**Post-Congress Tours:** Tours to China, India, Japan and the Philippines are being organized to reflect the interest of participants in various religious and cultural heritage sites. They will also be able to visit to IARF program sites in these countries where possible.



Most Ven. Hsin Pei, Head Abbot of FGS Monastery, with IARF leaders.