

*Closing Speech by Ian Green: **Co Lam Pagoda***

NAM MO BON SU THICH CA MAU NI PHAT

Venerable Sangha, Honoured Guests...Brothers and Sisters.

It is a great pleasure for my wife Judy and I to be here at the closing ceremony at **Co Lam Pagoda**. The Jade Buddha for Universal Peace is being taken on a tour of the world in the wish that it will inspire everyone who sees it to follow the path of peace.

I am pleased to say that the showing here in **Co Lam** has been a great success which has exceeded our expectations.

Over the last nine days we estimate that 35,000 people came to see the Jade Buddha.

Our Master Lama Zopa Rinpoche called the Buddha the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace and he said that this Buddha would “illuminate the world with the light of peace”. I am so happy to see the light of peace shining so brightly here in Seattle.

The world tour commenced in March 2009 and so far five million people have paid homage to the Jade Buddha.

I congratulate **Thich Nguyen An**, the organizing committee and everyone associated with **Co Lam Pagoda** who created this magnificent and sacred presentation of the Jade Buddha.

The Jade Buddha now travels to **Portland** and it will then be in USA until May 2011 before leaving for Europe.

After the world tour concludes in 5 or more years the Jade Buddha will come to its final home at the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion in Bendigo, Australia.

Rising to a height of nearly 50 metres, the Great Stupa will be the largest Buddhist Stupa outside of Asia. Its total cost is in excess of \$20 million and it is entirely funded by donation.

Every dollar placed in any of the donation boxes here has gone to Co Lam Pagoda to help cover their costs.

All proceeds from the jade items sold here at **Co Lam Pagoda** has gone to the world tour of the Jade Buddha and the construction of the Great Stupa.

Thanks once again to **Thich Nguyen An**, the monks, nuns and volunteers here in Seattle. Thanks also to the team of volunteers from Seattle and Houston who helped us with the jade items. And thank you all.

May the Buddhadharma flourish. May peace break out around our world.

NAM MO HOAN HY TANG BO TAT MA HA TAT