

Introduction of Ian Green Ian Green and his wife Judy have been Buddhists for 35 years. Ian is Chairman of The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion and The Jade Buddha for Universal Peace Project. Ian is also Chairman of Dalai Lama Australia, which is the body that organises the visits to Australia by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Speech by Ian Green for Opening Ceremony

Namo Shakyamuni Buddha

Venerable Abbot Thich Duc Thien, Venerable Abbots and members of the Organizing Committee, Australian Ambassador Allaster Cox, Honoured Guests, Venerable Sangha, dear friends, Brothers and Sisters.

In the year 2000 an 18 tonne boulder of jade was discovered in Canada. Its massive size and gem-quality sparked intense interest in what was described as “the find of the millennium”.

Today marks the culmination of five years of dreaming, planning and hard work for my wife Judy and myself, as well as for the thousands of people around the world who have donated their money and their time to this project; to create the world’s largest gem-quality Jade Buddha.

Foremost amongst our supporters have been the Vietnamese Australians. And it is our way of thanking them that we arranged for the first showing in the world of the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace, to be here in Vietnam.

So far, our visit has exceeded our greatest dreams. We began at Quan Am temple in Da Nang. This was followed by Dai Tong Lam in Ba Ria Vung Tau, Pho Quang and Hoang Phap in Ho Chi Minh City and most recently Van An in Dong Thap. To date over 2 million people in Vietnam have paid homage to the Jade Buddha. And here at the famous Phat Tich temple in Bac Ninh province the early signs are that we will exceed all previous attendance records.

May the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace be a symbol of the growing friendship between our two countries and between all beings in the world. As the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace tours the world may it inspire everyone who sees it to reflect upon peace; peace for the world; peace in their relationships; peace for their families and friends; peace at work; and peace in their mind.

Buddhism in Australia is a young religion. But it is also Australia’s fastest growing religion and I believe that this growth in Buddhism within Australia and the friendships we establish with Buddhists in countries like Vietnam will have a far reaching positive effect in our world.

This tour has only been made possible due to the support of many, many people. We thank them all and we particularly thank our sponsors.

May the Buddhadharma flourish in our countries. And may peace prevail.

Nam-Mo Bon-Su Thich-Ca Mau Ni Phat