



THE IMPORTANCE OF INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE
TO PROMOTE WORLD PEACE:

**A BUDDHIST
PERSPECTIVE**

DR. POEY TIANG PEOW

Published by

Dr. Poey Tiang Peow

No. 67, Jalan 5/62A, Bandar Menjalara,
52200 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan,
Malaysia.

Email: poeytp@gmail.com

Fax: 603-62757580

1st Edition 2009

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia Cataloguing-In-Publication Data

Poey, Tiang Peow, 1967-

**The Importance of Inter-Religious Dialogue to Promote
World Peace: A Buddhist Perspective / Poey Tiang Peow.**

ISBN 978-983-44744-1-6

1. Religious--Relations. 2. Religious Pluralism.
3. Buddhism--Social aspects.

I.Title.

201.5

Printed in Malaysia by

Uniprints Marketing Sdn Bhd

No. 11-15, Jalan 3/148A,

Taman Sungai Besi Industrial Park,

57100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan,

Malaysia.

CONTENTS

Prefacev – vii

Chapter I : The Right Order of Inter-Religious Dialogue

- **Belief**1

- (1) All religions worship One True God is the foundation for unity of religions in inter-religious dialogue to promote world peace
- (2) The essential teaching of all religious saints and sages are the same, which is the foundation for unity of religions in inter-religious dialogue to promote world peace
- (3) The sequence of three stages belief plays a central role in inter- religious dialogue to promote world peace

Chapter II : The Right Order of Inter-Religious Dialogue

- **Understanding**9

- (1) The religious education helps to achieve lasting world peace, thus we must really understand the teachings of our own faiths
- (2) We are encouraged to understand the teachings of other faiths to promote world peace
- (3) We must have the macro views to improve the moral standards of all people
- (4) We must have vows as a momentum to develop the inter-religious dialogue to promote world peace.

Chapter III: The Right Order of Inter-Religious Dialogue	
- Practice	21
(1) The Six Principles of Harmony as an effective guidance and correct method of interfaith-religious dialogue to promote world peace	
(2) Four Attractions are the effective public relations method for the reference of inter-religious dialogue to promote world peace	
(3) Four Right Efforts are the diligence guidelines of interfaith-religious dialogue to promote world peace	
(4) The Three Blessings or Conditions as the principles of blessings for interfaith-religious dialogue to promote world peace	
(5) The Six Paramitas as the practical ways of cultivation for the references of interfaith-religious dialogue to promote world peace	
Chapter IV: The Right Order of Inter-Religious Dialogue	
- Realization	37
(1) Achieving the stages of realization from the One True God through the inter-religious dialogue	
(2) Applying the concept of oneness and one entity through inter-religious dialogue to promote world peace	
(3) Achieving the objectives of inter-religious dialogue through tolerance, respect, love, concern and care to promote world peace	
Conclusion	47
Bibliography	51

Preface

At the dawn of the 21st century, interfaith-religious dialogue plays a central role in public life, and has become one of the best platforms and channels to promote world peace.

In our increasingly pluralistic societies, more inter-religious dialogues and cooperation are needed in order to understand the particularity, universality and plurality of the spiritual, ritual, religious traditions and religious education which are a source of values that can defend dignified life for all. We also must learn to live our faith with integrity while respecting and accepting one another.

At this juncture, analyzing and synthesizing the sequential stages of belief, understanding, practice and realization from a Buddhist perspective towards the importance of interfaith-religious dialogue to promote world peace is a timely, necessary, expedient and long term undertaking.

The objectives to write this book are listed as follows:

- (1) Proving the sequencing stages of belief, understanding, practice and realization from a Buddhist perspective to analyze the importance of interfaith-religious dialogue to promote world peace.

- (2) Promoting mutual respect and trust between individuals and communities of diverse religions, beliefs and civilizations through interfaith-religious dialogue to promote world peace.
- (3) Strengthening and deepening the cooperation of individuals and communities of diverse religions and beliefs locally, nationally, regionally and internationally for building a sustainable world of justice, equality, harmony, peace and prosperity.
- (4) Developing a multi culture of peace, nonviolence, and sharing the universal values of humanity, the destiny of humankind, the responsibility to create and promote world peace.
- (5) Aligning the unique religious, cultural and social strengths of diverse religious communities for mutual development, and actively contribute to the building of a harmonious world.
- (6) Suggesting practical solutions for the conflict mitigation and reconciliation issues such as conflicts, violence, social tensions and stresses facing us in our life.
- (7) Focusing on human capital development to strengthen the relationship among religious leaders, people from all walks of life with different faiths, and to promote world peace by way of understanding religious education and teachings, working together through interfaith-religious dialogues to promote world peace.

I strongly believe that interfaith-religious dialogues can assist us in leading our life by portraying a sincere, truthful, kind image, and thereby revive the peacefulness of the world, and build a great peaceful and universal world.

Chapter I : The Right Order of

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation, sincere wishes and gratitude to Professor Dr. Kazi Nurul Islam, the director of Centre for Inter-religious and Intercultural Dialogue, Dhaka University in Bangladesh for inviting me to present a paper with the title of “The importance of inter-religious dialogue to promote world peace: A Buddhist perspective” during the International Conference on World Peace Through Inter-Religious Dialogue held from the 7th October to the 9th October 2009 at the Bangladesh’s Dhaka University Campus which provides me key momentum and encouragement to write this book.

I am so grateful to my parents who have supported me on my entire endeavor throughout my whole life. Their love and support can never be repaid.

I would also like to thank my wife Chan Poh Yee for her endless support and tolerance, which has enabled me to complete this book smoothly.

Finally, I do hope that this book will disseminate thoughts, ideas and recommendations to enhance our commitment through interfaith-religious dialogues to promote world peace.

Dr. Poey Tiang Peow

BA Hons (UM), MEd (UM), MABP (UniSA), DBA (IAU)

THE IMPORTANCE OF INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE TO PROMOTE WORLD PEACE : A BUDDHIST PERSPECTIVE

Abstract

From the perspective of belief, all religions worship One True God. This is the foundation for unity of religions in inter-religious dialogue to promote world peace; the essential teaching of all religious saints and sages are the same, which is the foundation for the unity of religions in inter-religious dialogue to promote world peace; and the sequence of the three stages belief plays a central role in inter-religious dialogue to promote world peace.

From the perspective of understanding, the religious education helps to achieve lasting world peace, thus we must really understand the teachings of our own faiths; we are encouraged to understand the teachings of other faiths; we must have the macro views to improve the moral standards of all people; and we must have vows as a momentum to develop the inter-religious dialogue to promote world peace.

From the perspective of practice, the Six Principles of Harmony as an effective guidance and correct method of interfaith-religious dialogue to promote world peace; Four Attractions are the effective public relations method for the reference of inter-religious dialogue to promote world peace; Four Right Efforts are the diligence guidelines of interfaith-religious dialogue to promote world peace; The Three Blessings or Conditions as the principles of blessings for interfaith-religious dialogue to promote world peace; and The Six Paramitas as the practical ways of cultivation for the references of interfaith-religious dialogue to promote world peace.

From the perspective of realization, achieving the stages of realization from the One True God through the inter-religious dialogue; applying the concept of oneness and one entity through inter-religious dialogue to promote world peace; and achieving the objectives of inter-religious dialogue through tolerance, respect, love, concern and care to promote world peace.

ISBN 978-983-44744-1-6



9 789834 474416