



Message from Frank Carter B.Ec.

Director, Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd.

for the Audience of the ICT for All Symposium 2012 on “ICT and Buddhism”

November 24th, 2555 B.E., 12:30-17:30 hrs.

*at Panyapiwat Technological College, Nonthaburi Province, Kingdom of Thailand
organized by the Information and Communication Technology for All Club (ICT for All Club)
in Cooperation with the Assembly of Buddhist Organizations of Thailand Association,
the Thai Consumers Development Association, the Association for Constitutional Democracy, the Thai
Council of Civic Political Development, and the Science Technology and Innovation Association of Thailand (STIA)*

To all the Dignitaries, VIP's, speakers, participants and guests of this symposium,

Thank you for your kind invitation to provide a short message.

Thank you for coming together to investigate, discuss and inform on the important role for ICT in supporting, and indeed in some areas, leading the way in the dissemination of the Buddha Dhamma in the world and for the governance of Buddhist organisations in accordance with contemporary standard global business practice.

Your symposium will undoubtedly discuss many aspects of how ICT can be applied more beneficially to our Buddhist core responsibilities of supporting the Buddha Sasane and helping beings to know the Buddhist Path, realise the Path and to follow the Path in the many ways this can be done.

Two limitations on the capability of some Buddhist organisations to fully employ ICT are firstly the capital cost of the equipment, software and its installation and secondly the technical knowledge and skills associated with the technologies adoption and application.

It is my message to the symposium to please consider the role of volunteerism as a valuable and meaningful way to facilitate and support the introduction, application and development of ICT to individual Buddhist organisations which may not themselves have the skill, knowledge or finances to make the transition to effective use of ICT related technologies.

In Australia, for example, there exists well established volunteering opportunities, some of which are available and managed online (*for example www.probonoaustralia.com.au*), where professionals in many fields can offer their particular services to not for profit organisations such as charities, religious organisations, community groups, and so on. These programs are designed bring the benefits of the volunteers expertise and knowledge to those benevolent organisations which otherwise may not have the resources themselves to develop such capabilities.

The Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd for example has for many years been blessed by the support of a volunteer IT technician who has managed all our system maintenance, upgrades and development with a small amount of help by our own Members when needed.

This practical help has enabled our centre to continue with our programs and work without stress, either financial or technical when relying on our I.T. administered processes. Our volunteer IT professional is not a member of our organisation.

In Australia also we have been able to take advantage of a support program run by Microsoft called the Microsoft Authorised Reseller Program. Microsoft accredited resellers of secondhand computers are authorised to sell PC's and laptops to not for profit organisations with an official Microsoft Windows XP or 7 operating system licence and MS Office 2007 licence for just A\$20 per machine. *As Buddhists we completely avoid the illegal use of pirated software so for both cost and morality reasons it is encouraging to have access to such a program.*

It is also worth considering the use of second-hand IT equipment in some instances rather than always choosing the installation of new equipment by default. In the case of the Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd in our approximately 20 years of experience with I.T. we have purchased only about 5% of equipment we have installed new. All the rest has been purchased second hand or donated from business.

The growth of the I.T. industry worldwide has been due, in part, to the rapid technological advancement incorporated as a paradigm of the industry whereby equipment which is perfectly well suited to the needs of business applications appears to be made redundant by the rapid release of successively improved technologies.

Whilst consideration does need to be given to the capability of equipment available second-hand, most of the applications we use at our centre are for basic business software such as word processing, spreadsheets, database and the like, all of which can be run on fairly basic machines running Windows XP.

In conclusion, please consider offering your skills to your local Buddhist organisation or even, for example, the World Fellowship of Buddhists, headquartered in Bangkok, whose business operations have certainly suffered from the lack of experienced I.T. personnel for some years.

Thank you for your valuable time and attention.

Frank Carter B.Ec.

Director

Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd

Australia



NAMO TASSA BHAGAVATO ARAHATO SAMMASAMBUDDHASSA
Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia

LIFETIMES OF LEARNING

and the cultivation of Friendliness, Practicality,
Professionalism, Cultural Adaptability and Scholarship.

www.bdcu.org.au