**SPEAKERS**

Prof Dr John D’Arcy May. Australian, has honorary affiliations with the Irish School of Eccumenics, Trinity College Dublin, where he was Associate Professor of Interfaith Dialogue and Director (he is now Fellow emeritus of Trinity College); the University of Divinity, Melbourne; Australian Catholic University, Melbourne; and Monash University, Melbourne. He is a past president of the ENBCS.

Prof Dr Elizabeth Harris, President of ENBCS, is an Associate Professor in the Comparative Study of Religion within the Department of Theology, Philosophy and Religious Studies at Liverpool Hope University in England. She has published in a wide number of areas but has a particular interest in Theravāda Buddhism, Buddhist-Christian encounter and Buddhism in Sri Lanka.

Rt. Revd. Duleep de Chickera is a former Bishop of Colombo (Church of Ceylon). He currently works on issues connected with inter-faith and inter-ethnic relations, within the Diocese of Colombo.

Prof Dr Asanga Tilakaratane is specializing in Buddhist Philosophy. He has authored or edited several books on Buddhist philosophy, philosophy of language, philosophy of religion, practical ethics, contemporary social and political issues, Buddhist epistemology and logic, and inter-religious understanding. Currently he is Professor of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Rev Dr Samuel Ngun Ling, PhD, is Professor of Systematic Theology and President of the Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT). An ordained Baptist Pastor, he is a past Director of the Judson Research Center of MI, the Chairperson of the Dialogue Committees of the Myanmar Council of Churches and of the Baptist Convention.

Professor Dr Saw Hlaing Bwa is from the Myanmar Institute of Theology; Judson Research Centre.

Rev'd Dr Aye Min gained a DMin from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. He is an Assistant Pastor at North Okkalarpa Baptist Church in Yangon and a lecturer at the Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT). In addition, he is a Board Member of the Judson Research Center of MIT, which focuses mainly on the promotion of inter-faith dialogue, and Co-ordinator of the Master of Arts in Interfaith Studies and Dialogue.

Prof Dr Hla Myint BE (Civil Eng), MA (Buddha Dhamma), PhD (BDh) is a Professor in the Faculty of Patipatti at the International Theravāda Buddhist Missionary University, Yangon, Myanmar. Between 1976 and 1998, he attended and contributed to several training programmes abroad on technical and vocational education, including in Singapore, Philippines and RO Korea.

Prof Dr Suwanna Satha-Anand teaches philosophy at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. Her teaching and research interests cover the fields of Buddhist Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Confucian Ethics and Religion.

Rev'd Dr Bantoon Boon-Itt is the Senior Pastor of 4th Church Suebsampantawong, Bangkok, Thailand. His PhD was on ‘A Study of the Dialogue between Christianity and Theravāda Buddhism in Thailand’.

Prof Dr Parichart Suwanbubba is an Assistant Professor within the Development and Religion Graduate Study Programme, Mahidol University, Salaya, Nakornpathom, Thailand. She is a Buddhist who studied Systematic Theology at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Currently, she is a director of The Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies in Thailand.

Prof Dr Martin Repp is assigned by the Church of Hesse and Nassau (Germany) as representative for dialogue with Asian religions. He is a lecturer for religious studies at Heidelberg University, worked at the NCC Center for the Study of Japanese Religions in Kyoto as Associate Director, Editor of its Journal Japanese Religions, and Coordinator of the Interreligious Studies in Japan Program (ISJP), taught as Professor for Comparative Religious Studies at Ruyukoku University (Kyoto).

Dr Maria Di Giorgi is a researcher of Chuo Academic Research Institute of Rissho Kosei-kai, Tokyo, Japan. She has a Doctorate in Buddhism and he specializes in the study of Early Mahāyāna Buddhism, especially the Saddharmapuṇḍarikā (The Lotus Sutra). He currently works on a series of publications titled 'Philosophica Asiatica' in collaboration with The Pali Text Society, Bristol, UK.

Prof Dr Don Baker is Professor of Korean civilization in the Department of Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. He earned his doctorate in Korean history at the University of Washington.

Professor Sister Sung-Hae Kim is a member of the Religious Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill and is currently their General Counselor in Korea. She is an Emeritus Professor in Religious Studies at Hanyang University in Seoul, specializing in Chinese Religion. She gained her doctorate from Harvard University and has also worked with the Catholic University of Leuven.

Ven Dr Jinwool Young Ho Lee, a Korean Buddhist monk and Zen (Zen) Master, is the Chair of the Department of Buddhist Studies at Dongguk University in Gyeongju, Korea. He completed a PhD in Buddhist Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. He has been working as the Secretary General of URI Asia (United Religions Initiative). He was elected as a Vice-President of the World Fellowship of Buddhists (WFB) in 2012.

Dr So Yuen-Tai holds a PhD and an MPhil from the Department of Religion, Chinese University of Hong Kong. He also holds an MCS from the Alliance Bible Seminary, Hong Kong, and an MPhil and BSc from the Department of Computer Science, Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is currently a Lecturer at the Bible Seminary of Hong Kong, and Honorary Research Associate of the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Lai Pan-chiu is Professor, Department of Cultural & Religious Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. His books include Mahayana Christian Theology, as well as articles in the areas of inter-religious dialogue and Christian theology, especially Chinese Christian theology.

Dr Xue Yu is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). He received his doctoral degree in Buddhist Studies from the University of Iowa, USA. His academic areas of interests include Mahāyāna Buddhism, Chinese Buddhism, and the theological and historical dimensions of Humanistic Buddhism. Currently, he serves as director of the Centre for the Study of Humanistic Buddhism at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

**PROGRAMME**

Thursday, 25th June

Evening Introductory Lecture: Buddhist-Christian Encounter in Asia (Professor John D’Arcy May)

Friday, 26th June

Morning (1) Buddhist-Christian Relations in Sri Lanka

Historical Overview, Context, Challenges (Prof Elizabeth Harris)

A Christian Perspective (Rt Revd Duleep de Chickera)

A Buddhist Perspective (Professor Asanga Tilakaratne, University of Colombo)

Afternoon (2) Buddhist-Christian Relations in Myanmar

Historical Overview, Context, Challenges (Rev Dr Samuel Ngun Ling, Myanmar Institute of Theology)

A Christian Perspective (Rev Dr Aye Mint, Myanmar Institute of Theology)

A Buddhist Perspective (Professor Dr Hla Myint, International Theravada Buddhist Monastery, Yangon)

Evening Workshops/Open Presentations. Parallel Sessions (I)

Saturday, 27th June

Morning (3) Buddhist-Christian Relations in Thailand

Historical Overview, Context, Challenges (Professor Suwanna Satha-Anand, Chulalongkorn University)

A Christian Perspective (Rev Dr Bantoon Boon-Itt, Senior Pastor & Bangkok Institute of Theology)

A Buddhist Perspective (Dr Parichart Suwanbubba, Mahidol University)

Afternoon Cultural Tour
Sunday, 28th June

Morning (4) Buddhist-Christian Relations in Japan
- Historical Overview, Context, Challenges (Dr Martin Repp, Heidelberg University)
- A Christian Perspective (Dr Maria di Giorgi, Shinmeizan Interreligious Dialogue Center, Kumamoto)
- A Buddhist Perspective (Dr Yasutomo Nishi, Chuo Academic Research Institute)

Afternoon (5) Buddhist-Christian Relations in Korea
- Historical Overview, Context, Challenges (Professor Donald Baker, University of British Columbia)
- A Christian Perspective (Professor Sister Kim Sung Hae, Sogang University)
- A Buddhist Perspective (Ven Dr Jinwol Sunim, Dongkuk University)

Evening Workshops/Open Presentations. Parallel Sessions (II)

Monday, 29th June

Morning (6) Buddhist-Christian Relations in China
- Historical Overview, Context, Challenges (Dr So Yuen-tai, Chinese University of Hong Kong)
- A Christian Perspective (Professor Lai Pan Chiu, Chinese University of Hong Kong)
- A Buddhist Perspective (Dr Xue Yu, Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Concluding Plenary

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IMPORTANT:
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FURTHER INFORMATION:
Secretary of the Network, Dr Martin Rötting
roettingm@occurs.de

The European Network of Buddhist Christian Studies

The European Network of Buddhist Christian Studies was established in 1996 in Hamburg at the Academy of Mission, University of Hamburg. At that time its title was "European Network for Christian Studies of Buddhism". At the conference of 1997, which was held at the Benedictine Archabbey of St. Ottilien near Munich, the name was changed to the "European Network of Buddhist Christian Studies" so that both Buddhists and Christians could be involved on an equal footing. The administrative home of the Network also changed to the Archabbey of St. Ottilien. The Network is an association of scholars in Europe involved in Buddhist-Christian Studies. Its main activity is to hold a bi-annual international conference on a theme important to Buddhist-Christian Studies.

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