

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VIETNAMESE BUDDHIST MONKS TO THE WORLD BUDDHIST SANGHA COUNCIL OVER THE PAST 60 YEARS

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The **World Buddhist Sangha Council (WBSC)** was established in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in 1966 as an international Buddhist monastic organisation dedicated to fostering connections, strengthening mutual understanding, and promoting cooperation among Buddhist monastic communities belonging to various traditions throughout the world.

Over the sixty years of its establishment and development, from 1966 to 2026, the WBSC has become an important forum for the international Buddhist Sangha, bringing together representatives of the three major Buddhist traditions: **Theravāda, Mahāyāna, and Vajrayāna.**

According to currently available information, the WBSC has official members from approximately 25 countries. However, the scope of its activities and influence extends beyond the number of its officially represented member nations.

At many General Assemblies and international conferences, the number of countries represented by Sangha delegates has frequently ranged from approximately 30 to more than 40, encompassing Asia, Europe, the Americas, Oceania, and Africa.

This demonstrates that the WBSC is not merely an organisation with an international membership structure, but also an extensive network of exchanges and cooperation among Buddhist communities worldwide.

Membership in the WBSC takes various forms, including Buddhist churches and associations, Sangha organisations, monasteries, Buddhist centres, and individual Bhikkhus and Bhikkhunīs representing different countries and Buddhist traditions.

Because its membership structure encompasses both organisations and individuals, the WBSC does not publish a fixed figure for the total number of monks and nuns affiliated with it worldwide.

Nevertheless, through its network of member Buddhist organisations, associations, and monasteries, the Council maintains connections with a large and diverse Sangha community across many countries and territories.

From its establishment, the WBSC set forth several fundamental objectives: to strengthen mutual understanding, unity, and harmony among Buddhist traditions; to promote **Dhammadūta — the propagation of the Buddha's teachings**; to develop exchanges in Buddhist education, culture, and scholarship; to strengthen relationships among international Sangha organisations; and to uphold the Buddhist values of compassion, nonviolence, and wisdom in contributing to peace, harmony, and the welfare of humanity.

Throughout these six decades, Vietnamese Buddhist monks have maintained a presence in the WBSC from a relatively early stage and have continuously participated in its activities.

They have undertaken numerous responsibilities within the Council of Elders, the Executive Committee, and various fields, including Dharma propagation, education, culture, research, Buddhist ceremonies, Sangha communications, and Buddhist youth activities.

Their sustained participation across several generations has contributed significantly to the increasingly active involvement of Vietnamese Buddhism in the international Buddhist Sangha community.

Within this historical development, one of the most prominent figures who left a particularly profound and lasting impression on Vietnamese Buddhism's participation in the WBSC was **Most Venerable Thich Tam Chau**.

He joined the Council during its early years, held several important leadership positions, and made substantial contributions to laying the foundations for the participation of the Vietnamese Sangha within this international organisation.

In particular, the hosting of the WBSC's Second General Assembly in Saigon represented an important historical milestone, demonstrating the standing and active contributions of Vietnamese Buddhism to the international Buddhist Sangha movement during the Council's formative period.

Building upon these foundations, successive generations of Vietnamese Buddhist monks, both in Vietnam and overseas, gradually joined the Council

and assumed various responsibilities.

Their involvement was not confined to Vietnam but extended to Vietnamese Buddhist communities in France, Germany, Australia, Finland, the United States, and other countries.

Thus, throughout the WBSC's sixty-year history, Vietnamese Buddhism has not merely participated as a member but has also become an active contributor to the development of Sangha solidarity, the promotion of international Buddhist exchanges, and the dissemination of the Buddha's message of compassion, wisdom, and peace to the wider world.

1/ MOST VENERABLE THICH TAM CHAU – A PIONEER WHO LAID THE FOUNDATIONS FOR VIETNAMESE MONASTIC PARTICIPATION IN THE WBSC

According to historical documents preserved on the website of the World Buddhist Sangha Council, Most Venerable Thich Tam Chau was among the Vietnamese Buddhist monks who participated in the WBSC from its earliest period.

The documents identify him as a **co-founder and Vice President of the WBSC in 1966**. However, another section of the same historical records indicates that he officially assumed the position of Vice President in 1969.

Although there are slight differences regarding the dates recorded within the source documents themselves, his central role in the development of the WBSC remains clearly established.

Of particular historical importance was his organisation of the **Second WBSC General Assembly in Saigon, Vietnam, in 1969**.

This event represented a major milestone because, only three years after the Council had been established in Colombo, Vietnam became the host country of its second General Assembly.

During the same occasion, the World Buddhist Society for Social Service also convened, and Most Venerable Thich Tam Chau was elected President of that organisation.

His contributions did not end with a single term of office.

From the Fifth General Assembly onward, Most Venerable Thich Tam Chau continued to participate actively in the Council's leadership structure while also recommending numerous Vietnamese Buddhist monks for important positions on its specialised committees.

At the Fifth General Assembly in 1989, he was appointed to the Council of Elders.

At the Seventh General Assembly in 2000, he was elected Vice President of the Council of Elders.

At the Ninth General Assembly in 2012, he was elected **President of the Council of Elders of the WBSC**.

Viewed from a historical perspective, the exceptional contribution of Most Venerable Thich Tam Chau lies not only in the positions he held but also in the opportunities he created for successive generations of Vietnamese Buddhist monks to become involved in the international leadership structure of the WBSC.

2/ THE GENERATION PARTICIPATING IN THE FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY – 1989

At the Fifth General Assembly, **Most Venerable Thich Tam Chau** was appointed to the Council of Elders.

During the same Assembly, according to the historical documents, he recommended several Vietnamese Buddhist monks to undertake important responsibilities within the Council:

- **Most Venerable Thich Huyen Vy** – Vice President.
- **Most Venerable Thich Man Giac** – Vice President.
- **Most Venerable Thich Thien Dinh** – Member of the Sangha Liaison Committee.
- **Most Venerable Thich Tinh Hanh** – Member of the Education Committee.
- **Most Venerable Thich Minh Le** – Member of the Ceremonial Committee.

This distribution of responsibilities demonstrates that Vietnamese Buddhist monks were not merely present as representatives but had already begun contributing directly to various practical activities of the Council.

Their responsibilities ranged from senior leadership positions at the Vice-Presidential level to Buddhist education, religious ceremonies, and international Sangha communications.

3/ THE SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY – 1995: EXPANDING THE PARTICIPATION OF OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE BUDDHIST MONKS

At the Sixth General Assembly, held in Penang, Malaysia, in 1995, the representation of Vietnamese Buddhist monks within the WBSC continued to expand.

The following appointments were recorded:

- **Most Venerable Thich Phuoc Hue – Australia:** Appointed to the Council of Elders.
- **Most Venerable Thich Thien Dinh:** Appointed Vice President.

- **Most Venerable Thich Minh Tam – France:** Appointed Member of the Cultural Committee.
- **Senior Venerable Thich Nhu Dien – Germany:** Joined the Buddhist Youth Committee.
- **Venerable Thich Phuoc An – Australia:** Joined the Buddhist Youth Committee.

This development represented a significant step forward.

Following 1975, Vietnamese Buddhist communities gradually became established across many continents.

The WBSC subsequently became one of the important international forums through which Vietnamese Buddhist monks living overseas could establish and strengthen relationships with the Sangha communities of other countries.

4/THE SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY – 2000: MOST VENERABLE THICH TAM CHAU ASSUMES LEADERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS

At the Seventh General Assembly, held in Taiwan in 2000, Most Venerable Thich Tam Chau was elected **Vice President of the Council of Elders**.

This appointment carried particular significance because the Council of Elders represents the moral authority, accumulated experience, spiritual maturity, and respected voices of senior monastic leaders within the organisation.

The appointment of a distinguished Vietnamese Buddhist elder to this position demonstrated that Vietnamese Buddhism had established a relatively strong and respected standing within the WBSC's international Sangha network.

5/THE EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY – 2005: CULTURE, RESEARCH, AND SANGHA COMMUNICATIONS

At the Eighth General Assembly in 2005, three additional Vietnamese Buddhist monks assumed important responsibilities within the Council:

- **Most Venerable Thich Minh Tam – France:** Vice President.
- **Most Venerable Thich Nhu Dien – Germany:** Member of the Research and Development Committee.
- **Senior Venerable Thich Hanh Bao – Finland:** Member of the Monastic Liaison Committee.

These appointments illustrate how the contributions of Vietnamese Buddhist monks continued to develop beyond general participation into increasingly specialised fields.

Such fields included Buddhist studies, organisational development, cultural activities, and the strengthening of communications among international Buddhist monastic communities.

6/THE NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY – 2012: MOST VENERABLE THICH TAM CHAU BECOMES PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS

The Ninth General Assembly in 2012 marked a significant high point in the long history of contributions made by Most Venerable Thich Tam Chau.

At this Assembly, he was elected **President of the Council of Elders of the World Buddhist Sangha Council**.

From his early position as Vice President to his later appointment as President of the Council of Elders, the journey of Most Venerable Thich Tam Chau reflects nearly half a century of dedicated involvement in promoting unity and solidarity among Buddhist Sangha communities throughout the world.

7/ THE TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY – 2018: THE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF VIETNAMESE BUDDHIST LEADERSHIP

At the Tenth General Assembly in 2018, five Vietnamese Buddhist monks continued to undertake important responsibilities within the WBSC's organisational structure.

They were:

- **Most Venerable Thich Nhu Dien** – Vice President.
- **Most Venerable Thich Phuoc An** – Vice President.
- **Senior Venerable Thich Phuoc Tan** – Vice President.
- **Senior Venerable Thich Quang Dao – France** – Member of the Liaison Committee.
- **Senior Venerable Thich Hanh Bao – Finland** – Member of the Liaison Committee.

One particularly noteworthy development during this period was that the participation of Vietnamese Buddhism was no longer centred primarily upon a single prominent figure, as had been the case during the earlier leadership of Most Venerable Thich Tam Chau.

Instead, a broader group of Vietnamese Buddhist monks residing in various countries had emerged, collectively participating in the administrative and leadership structure of the WBSC.

8/THE ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY – AUCKLAND 2024: MOST VENERABLE THICH BAO LAC AND SENIOR VENERABLE THICH NGUYEN TANG

The Eleventh General Assembly – Auckland 2024: Two New Vietnamese Members Join the WBSC

The Eleventh General Assembly of the World Buddhist Sangha Council was held in Auckland, New Zealand, from **2 to 6 March 2024**.

This important international gathering continued to mark the active presence and contributions of Vietnamese Buddhist monks within the international Buddhist community.

Of particular significance was the fact that **two Vietnamese Buddhist monks residing in Australia officially became new members of the WBSC at this General Assembly**.

Their admission represented another important milestone in the continuing participation and service of Vietnamese Buddhism within this international Sangha organisation.

The two newly appointed members were:

Most Venerable Thich Bao Lac

Founder and Patriarch of Phap Bao Monastery, Sydney, Australia.

He was introduced and recommended by Most Venerable Thich Phuoc An and was subsequently **appointed to the Council of Elders of the WBSC** by the General Assembly.

Senior Venerable Thich Nguyen Tang

Abbot of Quang Duc Monastery and Chief Editor of the Quang Duc Buddhist Website, Melbourne, Australia.

He was introduced and recommended by Most Venerable Thich Nhu Dien and was subsequently **appointed to the Dharma Propagation Committee of the WBSC** by the General Assembly.

The official admission of **Most Venerable Thich Bao Lac and Senior Venerable Thich Nguyen Tang, two Vietnamese-Australian Buddhist monks, at the Eleventh General Assembly in 2024**, marked more than the addition of two new members to the Council.

It also symbolised the meaningful continuation of several generations of Vietnamese Buddhist monks who have devoted themselves to contributing to and serving the international Buddhist community.

From Most Venerable Thich Tam Chau of the founding generation, through the distinguished senior Buddhist elders of subsequent generations, to the two new members admitted at the Auckland General Assembly in 2024, the presence of Vietnamese Buddhist monks within the WBSC has continued across successive generations.

Although they have lived and served during different historical periods and under different circumstances, they have all shared the same fundamental aspiration:

To propagate the True Dharma, strengthen unity within the Sangha, promote international Buddhist exchanges, and serve the cause of peace and well-being for humanity.

The Auckland event of 2024 may therefore be regarded as **a bridge connecting the pioneering generation with its successors.**

It also confirms that the presence and contributions of Vietnamese Buddhism within the WBSC continue to develop, expand, and be passed on from one generation to the next.

9/ LIST OF VIETNAMESE BUDDHIST MONKS RECORDED AS HAVING SERVED THE WBSC

According to the available historical records, **a total of 16 Vietnamese Buddhist monks have served the WBSC from 1966 to the present.**

They are:

1. Most Venerable Thich Tam Chau

Vice President of the WBSC; Member, Vice President, and subsequently President of the Council of Elders; organiser of the Second General Assembly in Saigon.

2. Most Venerable Thich Huyen Vy

Vice President.

3. Most Venerable Thich Man Giac

Vice President.

4. Most Venerable Thich Thien Dinh

Member of the Sangha Liaison Committee; subsequently Vice President.

5. Most Venerable Thich Tinh Hanh

Member of the Education Committee.

6. Most Venerable Thich Minh Le

Member of the Ceremonial Committee.

7. Most Venerable Thich Phuoc Hue

Member of the Council of Elders.

8. Most Venerable Thich Bao Lac

Member of the Council of Elders.

9. Most Venerable Thich Minh Tam

Member of the Cultural Committee; subsequently Vice President.

10. Most Venerable Thich Tri Tue (USA)

Vice President.

11. Most Venerable Thich Nhu Dien

Member of the Buddhist Youth Committee; Member of the Research and Development Committee; subsequently Vice President.

12. Most Venerable Thich Phuoc An

Member of the Buddhist Youth Committee; subsequently Vice President.

13. Senior Venerable Thich Phuoc Tan

Vice President.

14. Senior Venerable Thich Nguyen Tang

Member of the Dharma Propagation Committee.

15. Senior Venerable Thich Quang Dao

Member of the Liaison Committee.

16. Senior Venerable Thich Hanh Bao

Member of the Monastic Liaison Committee / Liaison Committee.

10/MAJOR AREAS OF CONTRIBUTION BY VIETNAMESE BUDDHIST MONKS

A/ ORGANISING GENERAL ASSEMBLIES AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

One of the most outstanding areas of contribution by Vietnamese Buddhist monks over their sixty years of participation in the World Buddhist Sangha Council has been **the organisation of major international Buddhist gatherings and the strengthening of international connections.**

A particularly important historical fact is that Vietnamese Buddhism has undertaken the responsibility of organising **two WBSC General Assemblies and two Executive Committee Meetings.**

These four significant events took place in four different countries: Vietnam, Germany, Australia, and New Zealand.

This demonstrates that the contributions of Vietnamese Buddhist monks have not been confined merely to membership or leadership positions.

They have also actively participated in creating and organising important international forums for the Buddhist Sangha.

The Second WBSC General Assembly – Saigon, 1969

The first of these major events was the **Second General Assembly of the WBSC, organised by Most Venerable Thich Tam Chau in Saigon in 1969.**

This was one of the earliest and most remarkable contributions of Vietnamese Buddhism in the history of the World Buddhist Sangha Council.

Only a few years after the establishment of the WBSC, Vietnam became a gathering place for Buddhist monks and international Buddhist representatives. Through this event, Vietnamese Buddhism demonstrated its active role in promoting international Sangha solidarity during the Council's formative years.

The First Executive Committee Meeting of the Fifth Term – Hannover, Germany, 1991

Continuing this tradition, Most Venerable Thich Nhu Dien organised **the First Executive Committee Meeting of the Fifth Term (1989–1995)**.

The meeting was held from **13 to 17 April 1991**, at **Vien Giac Pagoda in Hannover, Germany**.

The willingness of a Vietnamese Buddhist temple in distant Europe, far beyond the traditional geographical centres of Asian Buddhism, to undertake responsibility for organising a WBSA Executive Committee Meeting was a particularly significant achievement.

This event demonstrated that overseas Vietnamese Buddhist communities, although still relatively young at that time, had already developed substantial organisational capacity.

They had also established the ability to maintain international connections and had gained sufficient confidence and respect to undertake Buddhist activities of global importance.

The First Executive Committee Meeting of the Seventh Term – Sydney, Australia, 2001

Another important historical milestone occurred in Australia when **Most Venerable Thich Phuoc Hue** undertook the responsibility of organising **the First Executive Committee Meeting of the Seventh Term (2000–2001)**.

The meeting was held from **9 to 13 November 2001**, at **Phuoc Hue Pagoda in Sydney, Australia**.

This event further demonstrated that Vietnamese Buddhist monasteries overseas were not merely places for maintaining the spiritual lives and cultural traditions of Vietnamese communities.

They were also gradually becoming **important centres for international Sangha connections and cooperation**.

The Eleventh WBSA General Assembly – Auckland, New Zealand, 2024

Of particular significance was the event held in 2024.

Most Venerable Thich Phuoc An, a disciple of the late Most Venerable Thich Phuoc Hue, undertook the major responsibility of organising **the Eleventh General Assembly of the World Buddhist Sangha Council**.

The General Assembly was held from **2 to 6 March 2024**, at **Quan Am Son Buddhist Centre in Auckland, New Zealand**.

The Eleventh General Assembly was significant in several respects.

It was the first time that a WBSA General Assembly had been held in New Zealand.

The gathering brought together approximately **497 delegates from 28 countries and territories**, representing various Buddhist traditions, including Theravāda, Mahāyāna, and Tibetan Buddhism.

The General Assembly elected **Most Venerable Thich Hue Hung**, a Buddhist leader associated with Singapore and Indonesia, as **President of the WBSC for the 2024–2029 term**.

The Assembly also elected **27 Vice Presidents** and established its affiliated specialised committees.

The selection of **a Buddhist monastery established by an overseas Vietnamese Buddhist community as the venue for a General Assembly of the World Buddhist Sangha Council** represented an achievement of profound significance.

This not only reflected the organisational capabilities of overseas Vietnamese Buddhism but also demonstrated the increasingly recognised standing and reputation of Vietnamese Buddhist monks and communities in the international Buddhist world.

A Historical Continuity Across Four Countries

Looking back over this historical development, a clear pattern of continuity can be observed:

Two WBSC General Assemblies organised by Vietnamese Buddhist monks:

- Saigon, Vietnam – 1969.
- Auckland, New Zealand – 2024.

Two WBSC Executive Committee Meetings organised by Vietnamese Buddhist monks:

- Hannover, Germany – 1991.
- Sydney, Australia – 2001.

Thus, during six decades of participation in the WBSC, Vietnamese Buddhism has not only contributed personnel to leadership positions and specialised committees but has also **directly organised four major activities of the World Buddhist Sangha Council**.

From Saigon to Hannover, and from Sydney to Auckland, the contributions of Vietnamese Buddhist monks have extended across several continents.

Through these activities, they have helped establish bridges of communication and cooperation among different Buddhist traditions and monastic communities from various countries.

Even more remarkable is the fact that **the two General Assemblies organised by Vietnamese Buddhist monks were separated by 55 years: Saigon in 1969 and Auckland in 2024**.

This interval of more than half a century demonstrates that these contributions were not isolated or temporary achievements.

Rather, they represent a continuing tradition of dedication and service passed down through successive generations.

From Most Venerable Thich Tam Chau of the pioneering generation to Most Venerable Thich Nhu Dien in Europe, and from Most Venerable Thich Phuoc

Hue to Most Venerable Thich Phuoc An in Australia and New Zealand, successive generations of Vietnamese Buddhist monks have continued to pursue a shared aspiration:

To connect Buddhist Sangha communities, cultivate international spiritual friendship, and contribute to bringing the voice of Vietnamese Buddhism into the wider development of Buddhism throughout the world.

It may therefore be said that **the two General Assemblies and two Executive Committee Meetings organised by Vietnamese Buddhist monks** constitute some of the most concrete and convincing evidence of Vietnamese Buddhism's sustained contributions to the WBSC over the past sixty years.

B/ OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF VIETNAMESE BUDDHIST MONKS

In addition to their outstanding contributions in organising General Assemblies and Executive Committee Meetings, as discussed above, Vietnamese Buddhist monks have also made important contributions in numerous other areas of the World Buddhist Sangha Council.

These include leadership, education, culture, research, Sangha communications, and Dharma propagation.

First: Contributions to Leadership

Over successive terms of office, many Vietnamese Buddhist monks have been entrusted with important responsibilities within the WBSC.

These responsibilities have ranged from Vice-Presidential positions to membership and leadership roles within the Council of Elders and other administrative bodies.

Beginning with Most Venerable Thich Tam Chau of the pioneering generation, and continuing with Most Venerable Thich Nhu Dien, Most Venerable Thich Minh Tam, Most Venerable Thich Thien Dinh, Most Venerable Thich Huyen Vy, Most Venerable Thich Man Giac, Most Venerable Thich Phuoc An, Senior Venerable Thich Phuoc Tan, and many others, this sustained participation demonstrates that Vietnamese Buddhist monks have not merely attended WBSC activities as ordinary members.

They have also earned the confidence and trust of the international Buddhist Sangha community and have been entrusted with significant leadership responsibilities.

Of particular importance is the fact that these contributions have continued across successive generations and numerous continents.

From Vietnam to Europe, North America, Australia, and New Zealand, Vietnamese Buddhist monks have gradually become more deeply involved in the organisational and spiritual life of the WBSC.

This reflects **the reputation, capabilities, and sense of responsibility of Vietnamese Buddhist monks within the international Buddhist community.**

Second: Contributions to Education, Culture, Research, and Development

Vietnamese Buddhist monks have also contributed significantly to **education, culture, research, and organisational development.**

Distinguished monks such as Most Venerable Thich Tinh Hanh, Most Venerable Thich Minh Tam, and Most Venerable Thich Nhu Dien have participated directly in specialised committees responsible for these areas. These fields are of long-term importance to an international Buddhist organisation.

Cooperation among different Buddhist traditions cannot depend solely upon meetings and conferences.

It must also be supported by exchanges of Buddhist teachings, scriptural research, the preservation of Buddhist cultural traditions, and the education and training of future generations.

In these areas, Vietnamese Buddhist monks have contributed to introducing **the Vietnamese Mahāyāna Buddhist tradition** to international Buddhist communities.

At the same time, they have received and learned from the valuable teachings and practices of the Theravāda, Mahāyāna, and Vajrayāna traditions.

Through such exchanges, the participation of Vietnamese Buddhist monks has helped enrich **the diversity within the harmony of the international Buddhist Sangha.**

Third: Contributions to Sangha Communications and International Connections

Another important area has been **the development of communication networks and connections among Buddhist Sangha communities.**

Monks such as Most Venerable Thich Thien Dinh, Senior Venerable Thich Hanh Bao, and Senior Venerable Thich Quang Dao have served on the WBSC committees responsible for liaison and communications.

Although this work is sometimes less publicly recognised, it is essential to an international organisation bringing together Buddhist monastic communities from many different countries, languages, and traditions.

Sangha communications involve far more than simply transmitting information.

They require the creation of bridges between monastic communities, the maintenance of relationships among members, and the establishment of favourable conditions for long-term cooperation.

Through their responsibilities in these areas, Vietnamese Buddhist monks have contributed to **strengthening spiritual friendship, mutual understanding, and unity among Buddhist communities throughout the world.**

Fourth: Contributions to Dharma Propagation and Buddhist Communications in the Modern Era

A further important contribution concerns **Dharma propagation and Buddhist communications in the modern age.**

As Buddhism enters the digital era, the propagation of the Dharma is no longer limited to monastery lecture halls or traditional Buddhist institutions.

It has expanded into journalism, publishing, the Internet, multimedia communications, and various online platforms.

Within this context, the appointment of **Senior Venerable Thich Nguyen Tang**, Abbot of Quang Duc Monastery and Chief Editor of the Quang Duc Buddhist Website in Melbourne, to the **Dharma Propagation Committee of the WBSC at the Eleventh General Assembly in 2024** carries particular significance as a continuation of earlier contributions.

This appointment reflects a new stage in the development of Dharma propagation by Vietnamese Buddhist monks within the WBSC.

It represents an approach that combines traditional methods of sharing the Buddha's teachings with modern forms of communication and technology.

If the generation of Most Venerable Thich Tam Chau helped establish the initial presence of Vietnamese Buddhism within the WBSC during its early years, subsequent generations have continued to expand these contributions into many new fields.

From leadership to education, from research to communications, and from culture to Dharma propagation, each generation has added its own contribution to the continuing development of the World Buddhist Sangha Council.

Looking back over the past six decades, it is evident that the contributions of Vietnamese Buddhist monks to the WBSC have been both continuous and multidimensional.

They have not only assumed responsibilities within the Council's organisational structure but have also contributed to the development of its activities, the expansion of its international networks, the dissemination of the Buddha's teachings, and the cultivation of mutual understanding among Buddhist traditions.

This is also the most distinctive characteristic of the sixty-year journey of Vietnamese Buddhist monks within the WBSC:

Each generation continues the work of its predecessors. Each monk undertakes different responsibilities, yet all share the same noble aspiration of propagating the True Dharma, fostering harmony within the Sangha, and serving the worldwide Buddhist community.

CONCLUSION

The sixty years of establishment and development of the World Buddhist Sangha Council also represent nearly sixty years marked by the presence, dedication, and service of successive generations of Vietnamese Buddhist monks.

From Most Venerable Thich Tam Chau during the earliest years of the WBSC to the distinguished Buddhist elders and succeeding generations of today, Vietnamese Buddhist monks have contributed in numerous fields.

These include leadership, organisational development, education, culture, research, Sangha communications, and Dharma propagation.

Although they have undertaken different roles and responsibilities, they have all been guided by a common ideal:

To propagate the True Dharma, cultivate harmony within the Sangha, strengthen international spiritual friendship, and serve the cause of peace and well-being for humanity.

From Saigon in 1969 to Auckland in 2024, and looking ahead to the **60th Anniversary Celebration of the WBSC in Sri Lanka in 2026**, this historical journey demonstrates a sustained continuity between generations.

Those who came before opened the way, and those who followed continued the journey. Each generation has contributed another brick toward building the common home of the worldwide Buddhist Sangha.

In a world still marked by division, conflict, and uncertainty, the mission of strengthening Sangha unity and conveying the Buddha's message of compassion, wisdom, and nonviolence has become increasingly important.

The future of Buddhism throughout the world therefore depends not only upon preserving its traditional heritage but also upon the ability of Buddhist communities to engage in dialogue, cooperate, and serve humanity beyond the boundaries of nations, cultures, and Buddhist schools.

With a tradition of more than two thousand years of accompanying the Vietnamese people through their history, together with the experience of integration and development in many countries around the world, **Vietnamese Buddhist monks are well positioned to continue making meaningful and active contributions to this shared mission.**

Such contributions represent not merely the continuation of the legacy left by previous generations but also the responsibility of the present generation toward the future.

It is our sincere hope that, in the decades to come, through the collective efforts of Sangha communities representing Buddhist traditions throughout the world, including the increasingly active participation and contributions of Vietnamese Buddhist monks, the WBSC will continue to become:

A bridge of harmony, a forum for spiritual friendship, and a source of compassion, wisdom, and peace for all humanity.

The past represents continuity, the present calls for service, and the future is the shared responsibility of all disciples of the Buddha.

May this noble aspiration be fulfilled.

Namo Shakyamuni Buddha

*Written at Quang Duc Monastery
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