



## Education and Global Citizenship : A Buddhist Perspective

It is obvious that in the Era of Globalization, the vision of 'Education' has changed according to the change of the world. Education aims at developing human resource rather than developing human beings themselves. This vision has turned education to be as a tool for producing well-educated manpower capable of living up to the challenges of an ever-changing world or in other word, education is for increasing products in response to social need. Today each country needs to develop her own economic prosperity and the need to be able to compete with other countries in the world arena.

In addition, the tremendous advancement in telecommunications, computer technology and information technology have affected human civilization greatly. The world has become borderless. Human beings contact, communicate and move to visit one another more speedily, conveniently, and seamlessly. More people work internationally all over the world. Many countries are allied and become one regional community. Citizens of each country in the community can move to work in another member country according to the agreement of recognition they have made for the community.

With the globalization movement thus comes the notion of 'Global Citizens'. Therefore, the urgent need of different races of people living and working together is 'Peace'. The case, then inevitably necessitates the different view of education. In a Buddhist Perspective, a good 'World Citizen' must not only be a man of highest standards in academic ability, but he must also be equipped with the quality of being absolute integrity or with the highest moral standards. According to Buddhism, education should be a tool to help develop a man in all aspects to make him a whole 'Global Citizen'. He needs to develop his body to be healthy with hygienic

conditions. Simultaneously, a good 'Global Citizen' should develop his own mind by practicing being conscious and lead his life with consciousness. Consciousness helps a good 'Global Citizen' making decision and solving problems more effectively. In addition, a good 'Global Citizen' must develop his conduct by having high standards of morality and ethics as ground rules of life. A man whose life is based on Buddhist five precepts certainly does not trouble, hurt or destroy other people but loves and cares. According to Buddhism, a good 'Global Citizen' must learn 'Three Common Features' of the world ; uncertainty of all things, all things cause suffering and nothingness of all things.

People who learn and understand those three common characteristics of the world are considered to learn reality of human life, thus they live well with other people. People should have more sympathy for one another; they should respect one another for their good traits and help one another in their difficulties. Lastly, people of the world must develop their intelligence and their wisdom with high thinking order and contemplative thinking skill. They learn and understand things by being able to analyze, synthesize and research. They know the law of cause and effect and they understand that they must be repaid with the same deed they have done.

According to a Buddhist perspective, education today must emphasize more on general education which creates human beings to be of highest virtue. In this world of fierce economic competition, where people race to obtain power and benefit in term of material and quantity and the rise of morality crisis, it is vital that we have education for peace; education to create peace makers. Our world needs pristine and beautiful environment which is full of 'Good , Intelligent and Happy Global Citizens' and the slogan of education