

*Closing Speech by Ian Green: **Chicago***

NAMO BUDDHAYA
NAMO SHAKYAMUNI BUDDHA
NAM MO BON SU THICH CA MAU NI PHAT

Most Venerable Thich Hanh Tuan, Venerable Sangha from USA, Germany and Australia, Honoured Guests, Brothers and Sisters. I am very happy to be here at the beautiful Truc Lam temple in Chicago.

The Jade Buddha for Universal Peace is being taken on a tour of the world in the wish that it will inspire everyone who sees it to follow the path of peace.

Today is the closing of the second last temple in the Jade Buddha first tour of USA. So far we have visited 22 cities and the Jade Buddha has been seen by over 1 million people in USA. This brings the total who have seen the Jade Buddha around the world to 5 million.

My Master Lama Zopa Rinpoche called the Buddha the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace and he said that this Buddha would “illuminate the world with the light of peace”. I am so happy to see the light of peace shining so brightly here in Chicago.

We congratulate Thich Hanh Tuan, Truc Lam temple and all the volunteers who have worked so hard to create this magnificent and sacred presentation of the Jade Buddha.

The Jade Buddha now travels to Philadelphia for its last showing in USA before leaving for Europe.

After the world tour concludes in 5 or more years the Jade Buddha will come to its final home at the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion in Bendigo, Australia.

Some of you may have heard that my Master Lama Zopa Rinpoche has recently suffered a severe stroke. He is now recovering in hospital in Bendigo. Please join me in praying for his speedy recovery. I also pray that the lasting legacy of the Jade Buddha in Chicago will be the spread of peace throughout this community.

Thanks once again to organizing committee and thank you all.

May the Buddhadharma flourish. May peace break out around our world.

NAM MO HOAN HY TANG BO TAT MA HA TAT

I have the honour of presenting to Thich Hanh Tuan a photo of His Holiness the Dalai Lama consecrating the Jade Buddha in Sydney.