

Closing Speech by Ian Green: **Truc Lam Monastery**

NAM MO BON SU THICH CA MAU NI PHAT

Honoured Guests, Venerable Sangha...Brothers and Sisters.

It is a great pleasure for my wife Judy and I to be here at the closing ceremony at **Westlock Meditation Centre**. 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.

I am pleased to say that the showing here in **Westlock Meditation Centre** has been a great success which has exceeded our expectations.

Over the last nine days we estimate that 20,000 people came to see the Jade Buddha.

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 Edmonton.

The world tour commenced in March 2009 and so far over 4 million five hundred thousand have paid home to the Jade Buddha.

I congratulate **Reverend Thich Thien Tam** and **Reverend Thich Phap Hoa** and everyone at **Truc Lam Monastery** and **Westlock Meditation Centre** who created this magnificent and sacred presentation of the Jade Buddha in this beautiful rural setting.

The Jade Buddha now travels to **Vancouver** and then to temples in USA before leaving North America for Germany, Sweden, France and England.

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.

Rising to a height of nearly 50 metres, the Great Stupa will be the largest Buddhist Stupa outside of Asia. Its total cost is in excess of \$20 million and it is entirely funded by donation.

All funds received by the Jade Buddha project here at **Westlock Meditation Centre** will go toward the world tour of the Jade Buddha and the construction of the Great Stupa.

We will always remember **Westlock Meditation Centre** as the first showing of the Jade Buddha for universal Peace in **Alberta**.

Thanks once again to **Thich Thien Tam** and **Thich Phap Hoa**, the monks, nuns and volunteers here in Alberta. And a special thank you from Judy and I to Steve Lowe and his wife Tuyet who return to Australia after travelling with the Jade Buddha for four months. 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