Hope for the Lotus
— *A Technical Perspective on Digital Buddhist Systems*

Ching Chun Hsieh

Chair Professor, Ming-Chuan University

Last decade is definitely a remarkable and productive period for developing various electronic buddhist texts. Huge volumes of buddhist scripts in Sanskrit, Pali, Tibetan, Burmese, Korean, Japanese, Chinese and some other languages have been digitized, then organized as various digital buddhist resources by the respectable authors of this conference and other pioneers. In addition, many up-to-dated techniques have been used to develop tools for utilizing those digital buddhist resources. The program of this conference surely has provided remarkable evidences of the achievements of the last decade.

As Professor Lancaster addressed in the opening keynote: "One of the themes of this conference will be to discuss ways in which we can join forces for the sake of mutual support as well as action for interoperability of data sets." I believe we all share these points of view. But, what should the next-generation digital buddhist systems look like? When shall we start? by which way? and, how? These are open problems for us at this moment.

With the hope for all the existing electronic buddhist systems, this remark will firstly elaborate the concept "interoperability" (by Professor Lancaster), a little further from technical perspectives, since interoperability has the indispensable characteristic of any next-generation digital systems. Secondly, the topic of representation of the meanings of the buddhist text will be discussed, I believe the semantic processing capability is the keynote for the next-generation digital buddhist systems. And then, a prototype of "representing the ambiguity of meanings" will be illustrated before the end.