I pray for all ladies and gentlemen who appear in this occasion to be healthy and wealthy. The fact I have to talk about now is Peace and Religion. Let me introduce myself before this talk. I am called DHAMMATHRA and I am Myanmar. That is all my introduction. During these days, the ones with religion and without religion are staying together. Some usually say themselves that they are the ones of free thought. I am a Buddhist monk and that is why I have to refer the condensed teachings of Buddha. That is — Don’t do any sin. Do good deed. Keep your own mind clean. And Buddha taught to also respect to other religions. There are five Precepts at least to be kept everyday by a Buddhist. They are — (1) No killing, (2) No theft, (3) No changing for the worse with any woman who stands under the guardianship, (4) No lie and (5) No drinking. There are such precepts and ethics to be kept and observed in all other religions not only in Buddhism.

Religious freedom is fairly completed in Myanmar. Anyone can take any religion he/she likes. There are gazetted holidays for the noble days concerning religious affairs. Population is 60 millions completed. There are 135 national races standing lawfully and they speak 8 main languages. Legal religion in the state is Buddhism. Therefore, Buddhism is 80% and second most is Muslim, and then Christian. There are also the ones paying worship to Nat. Muslim is 90% in some larger villages in middle Myanmar and there are still other Buddhist villages. Nothing problems there. Myanmar Buddhist like staying cool and helpful. They respect to the aged, masters and parents. They have been paying worship to their parents keeping in the same gang with Buddha. They are known as the race of charity welfare in the world. Most of national races are Christian.

To say how much religious freedom in Myanmar, Yangon is a capital in Myanmar. There are over 15 mosques in Yangon downtown. And then, there is a heavy mosque of Muslim, a pagoda titled Sule for Buddhists and a large church for Christian standing on line abreast in the centre called Heart of Yangon (downtown). There is only one Buddhist monastery. But, Buddhist monk is very narrow. Buddhist monasteries are opening 24 hours regularly as usual and therefore, not only Buddhists but also the people of other religions come to take rest there. Everyone is allowed what kind of his/her religion it is. Pagoda and monastery mean peaceful. Besides, it is a place helpful to those who lack of shelter and food. And, it is also a place teaching to the children lad< of money for their education.

Actual condense of religion is Peace. It is also called salvation. Furthermore, it is also meant giving help, care and guideline. However, sometimes, if anyone extremely believes upon his/her religion, he/she use to be radical. Here, right thought, right learning and right practice become essential in
any way. All kinds of religion have beautiful and meaningful admonitions, ethics, terms and conditions since before. So, those who will succeed as leaders in religious affairs must have intellectual power and wisdom more than ordinary people. They must think high and be patient and studious in also teaching sector. They must be able to sacrifice giving not only their lives but also their ownerships if necessary for others. They must have ability to analyze most affairs right or wrong. Some religious leaders are out of qualification, but the tasks and responsibilities they take are too much. In fact, they themselves do not know they are out of ability. They actually want to be responsible.

Nowadays, unnecessary religious conflicts happens in most countries in the world especially because of their leadership. The ugly religious conflicts and the events not worthy to be mentioned take place. For example – The religious riot happened since last 20th March at Meiktila in middle Myanmar where I lived as a consequence of tiny case between Muslim and Myanmar. Finally, happened for 3 days in a row till (20–21–22) not only religious conflict but also race conflict and killed over 40 during the period of conflict for 3 days and destroyed religious buildings, residential houses and businesses including schools. Over thirty thousands of people were homeless and found countless number of losses. Rescue camps were opened and saved people by variety of religions providing emergency assistance such as food, medicine and consumer products etc. Most of Muslim took shelter in the Buddhists houses, monasteries and Buddhist rest-houses during the said 3 days period. Buddhist monks also arranged everything what they wanted. Especially Buddhist monks, novices and Buddhism persons took care of them day and night for over 2 months for their security. Buddhists arranged and allowed them to to pray and pay worship under Muslim tradition in the monasteries and rest-houses of Buddhist while they took shelter during the period of the said 3 days.

Furthermore, religious leaders were invited and celebrated religious talks. That bad effect was because of religious affairs, but the ones actually suffered from pain was human. There might be hate, grudge and pains in both sides. Nevertheless, we hardly passed with terror, unsafe and unpeace for over 2 months. The leaders from the religions who want to have peace led all classes and discussed face to face to seek the best ways for settlement. Besides, internal/enteral donors and voluntary services kept Meiktila as assembly point and fulfilled requirements to both sides and sought answer drawing emergency plans and long term plans. No one talked about religious affairs during those days, but sought how to make peace, respect to one another, believe and stay peacefully like former period. A Multi Religious Friendship Association was founded under common agreement selecting (4) patrons of (4) Religions. Everyone felt happy and accepted. It was solved for the doubt before by coordination among them. For example – No one of other religion was formerly allowed to enter Mosque especially to Buddhist monks. But, monks
and other religious leaders were invited into mosque and donated and gifted with food, money, medicine and medical equipment since last May. It was really celebrated in dignity. As a consequence, almost every town founded multi religious friendship associations for cooperation and implementing peace. The religious ceremonies used to celebrated on noble days were held unitedly with a friendship. Now, Meiktila was deemed as the most studious town in the activities concerning religious affairs and friendship in Myanmar. Buddhist monks were invited and preached on the Sabbath day of Muslim, Muslim also respectfully accepted and that was a strange fact.

The people of other religions became take meditation long term in the practicing meditation camps conducted by Buddhist monks. We see that they go to their friends’ house and pray for them signing religious songs cooperating with Christian and Hindu. That is a sign of goodness. The people from various religions come to learn in my classes. In my classes, religious lessons are taught one time a week. It is not a lesson of Buddhism alone. I let anyone of any religion take part in discussion and decide. Religion, male or female is not divided. I founded a little group in my voluntary service with the members of various religion. They mutually respect to one another themselves. They entrust in one another. Monks are admired too much in Myanmar. People follow and comply the admonitions and teachings of monks. Nowadays, religious conflict and race conflict are unnecessarily taking place in every part of the world. Religious violence and religious radicals are appearing up almost out of control. It is into 3 years after passing for 2 years happening religious conflict, race conflict and violence at Rakhine State in Myanmar near the boundary of Myanmar – Bangladesh and it has been watched by UN. Necessary assistances are provided by internal/external.

The place lack of peace is a type of hell how they provide with which kind of assistance. And, there are national races holding arm as insurgents to fight against the state government in Myanmar as am revolution till now. That arm revolution has been starting since receiving Independence in 1948, but endless till now. It left disable persons, weird people, parentless children, the quarrelsome children who have grown in poor life, homeless people, widows and the people who feel afraid and won–y forever and ever as a bad result of it. No any aircraft carrier, submarine, or nuclear weapon in Myanmar, but there is the longest civil war of the world in Myanmar. It is also existing now. The fact to be happy is – current government and insurgents are coordinating by mutual consent to absolutely stop war. Discussion is being held in the title Peace Talk. Satisfactory answers came out and both sides have satisfactorily signed. People in the whole country also hope to have absolute peace soon. Both sides achieve to substitute schools, play grounds and religious buildings in military camps.
They are trying to substitute computers and laptops for weapons and achieving to hear religious songs, Bible reciting and sound of Dhamma instead of explosive voices. It is trying to give birth to a Peace as an inheritance to new generation. During these days, there is no colonialism enlarging territory by any country suppressing to other lands, but civil wars and religious wars are spreading out all over the world basing on unnecessary religious conflict and religious radicals in the other hand. We must try to stop these wars. Race, religion, or complexion is important nothing. It is more important to accept as human than race in case of trouble. All kinds of religion pay attention to help and rescue. Peace is appreciated by all religions. All persons who are here now are somebody in each religion. They are the one who sacrifice neglecting selfishness for voluntary services. Language, religion, complexion and tradition may be different from one another, but all of us in the world appreciate world peace and living in peace in full percent and no need to be doubtful about it.

Not only the people attending in this ceremony but also the ones concerning them shall be ready for world peace. There are also so many works we can do. When we lose physical substances, we can substitute better parts, but, we may take long time to reach original situation in case of mental pain. We must prevent our best not to appear mental pain. If anyone, or many persons become suffering from mental pain like that, other persons have to help him/them with physical assistance and religious teachings. Sometimes, it gets wrong in negative view to the helpful persons and gets insulted by word. We must be patient and must forgive them. We must change them from negative view to positive view. The problem we usually find from time to time is when other religious leader tries to help the one of different religion, he thinks of it as attracted to be converted into his religion. We find such case from time to time in Myanmar. What type of situation it is, religious leader must be payer; guide and creator to change anger of anyone into happiness. He must dare to share his portion of food with other hungry ones. He must dare to sleep in roofless place keeping victims into the safe building. Leaders are more responsible. During those days, we stayed under the military government in Myanmar. Even in such situation, I served voluntary services too much with the assistance of foreign donos. I was tailed forever and ever by military government and I got checked and inspected from time to time, but I never felt down–hearted. I was proud myself thinking I was serving to a certain extent my best. I have been opening language center since 1996 in free of charges as a voluntary service. I helped the patients of leprosy, the ones lack of sight, the ones who were in hot water and the children who were not able to go to school. I shared my portion of food and money with them. I have not collected any kind of luxury goods till now. I was pleased to see my disciples successful. I have many pupils who have graduated and who are studying in this Japan. There are the students learning for Ph–D. The strange one among my disciples is MA HAY MAR WIN now serving as a patron in Japan Myanmar Culture Centre (JMCC) and she is also a founder. She is also running NGO and NPO here. She is teaching the Japanese
and Myanmar who are interested in Myanmar language, Myanmar culture and tradition opening course at Takadanobaba in Tokyo.

I have talked fairly enough. Peace can not be implemented by mouth. We must cooperate. We must coordinate to seek answer: We must accept various views of all races and chose anything we think best. Here, let me use a Myanmar proverb. That is - "The child lack of love since his childhood does not know how to love when he has grown enough." It means a thought without sympathy. We must teach him to be sympathetic. I will stop this talk here. I am very grateful to the persons who assist with manpower; money power and advices to appear up this ceremony and the ones who invited. May all of us be the ones who create healthy and peaceful world mutually giving and taking lave among all of us. Apologize to forgive me if I make any mistake in my talk. Million thanks.