

## Buddhist Studies Review and the *Bieyi za ahan jing* project

The Dharma Drum Buddhist College (formerly Chung-hwa Institute for Buddhist Studies 中華佛學研究所) has a project to produce a Digital Comparative Edition of the *Bieyi za ahan jing* (Shorter Chinese *Samyuktāgama* (T.100)). The *Bieyi za ahan jing* 別譯雜阿含經 (BZA) in 16 fascicles consists of 364 *sūtras* and belongs to the early Chinese Buddhist texts collectively called *Ahan* (*Āgama*) *sūtras* 阿含經. This literature, which broadly parallels the Pāli *Nikāyas*, has previously received relatively little scholarly attention in terms of translations and critical editions.

Generally, all of the 364 short *sūtras* contained in the BZA have at least one parallel in Chinese and one Pāli parallel (with commentary). Often there are several parallels in Chinese and Pāli; sometimes even a fragment in Buddhist Sanskrit has survived. The aim of the project is to create a digital comparative edition of the BZA that connects these text-clusters. The edition will be freely available to the public. The text-base for the Chinese is the CBETA edition. For the Pāli data the Vipassana Research Institute has kindly granted us permission to use the text of the Chaṭṭha Saṅgāyana CD.

The project will produce a partial English translation of the BZA, and has agreed to publish the components of this initially in *Buddhist Studies Review*. These translations are done by Marcus Bingenheimer (with Shi Zhanghui 釋章慧).

The project was started in summer 2005 and will continue until winter 2008. The comparative digital edition:

- provides new punctuation for the BZA and the longer *Samyuktāgama* translation, the *Za ahan jing*;
- corrects and documents mistakes in previous editions;
- distinguishes and visualizes parallel and non-parallel passages between the BZA and other Chinese and Pāli versions, enabling the user to conveniently compare the different texts of a cluster;
- refines and expands the contents of the 364 text clusters
- provides an annotated English translation of selected sections of the BZA
- enables statistical linguistic analysis by creating aligned parallel corpora (not online)
- is extensible and allows for further material to be added
- mark-up and content management provide a basis for future digital editions of Buddhist literature

Project Directors: Marcus Bingenheimer, Tu Zhengmi. For further information on the project, see: <http://buddhistinformatcs.chibs.edu.tw/BZA/>

A parallel project is the Chinese *Madhyamāgama* 中阿含經 (T.26) Translation Project, which involves Ven. Anālayo, Marcus Bingenheimer, William Chu, Ven. Dhammadipa, Kuan Tse-fu, Shi Chunyin, Huimin Bhikkhu, Teng Wenjen, Xia Meiyu, Yue Jiandong, Zhuang Guobin, and Roderick Bucknell: <http://buddhistinformatics.chibs.edu.tw/~mb/t26/index.html>

For overall listings of parallels between *sūtras* in Pāli, Sanskrit, Chinese and Tibetan, see Sutta Central: [www.suttacentral.net/](http://www.suttacentral.net/)