

世界禅仏教徒連盟 (WZBA)

World Zen Buddhist Association

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**Congratulatory Message : 2,600 years of the Buddha's Enlightenment and
The United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations**

Dear all of Buddhist people in the world

First of all, I would like offer His Majesty the King of Thailand, The Royal Thai Government, The people work United Nations and Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University of Thailand my congratulations on 2,600 years of the Buddha's Enlightenment and the United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations. It is a great honor to be here and make a speech at this auspicious occasion.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude towards the royal Thai government of Thailand, all parties and organizations, and all the people of Thailand and other country in the world for kindly helping us during the difficulties we experienced when the massive earthquake and tsunami hit East Japan last year on March 11th.

We are very sorry about the serious damage caused by the flood in Thailand and other country last fall. We, Japanese people would like express our sincere sympathy to you.

In old Japanese proverb say "Turn a misfortune into a blessing."
This meaning is that if we face a misfortune, it means we are given a chance to overcome that misfortune and make a recover and a chance to make a better; therefore it is a blessing situation.

This year is memorial year with the celebration of 2,600 years of the Buddha's enlightenment. We should regard this extremely big disaster as a hardship given to Buddhists and should respect the spirit of Buddha. The precepts of Buddhist laws showing the spirit of Buddha is "neutral way", in another words, "The law of nature and the value of life."
Thank you very much.

Rev. Noriaki Kunitomo
President
World Zen Buddhist Association