



Dharmagiri

DPO Box 270 Underberg 3257 KZN South Africa

www.dharmagiri.org / www.khuphuka.org +27 (0) 33 7011138 office@dharmagiri.org

May 31st - June 2nd 2012

Congratulatory Message on the Occasion of the 9th United Nations Day of Wesak Celebrations (2012/ B.E 2555)

On behalf of Dharmagiri and the Buddhist Community of South Africa, we most sincerely congratulate the Supreme Sangha Council and The Royal Thai Government for hosting the International Council of United Nations Day of Vesak.

Message

The Buddha's Enlightenment for the Well-Being of Humanity

The Buddha Sakyamuni realised enlightenment more than two and a half thousand years ago. That we are here today celebrating the thrice sacred occasion of his birth, enlightenment and death is testimony to the preciousness of the realisation he made and the teaching he gave humanity. To settle and still the heart in meditation, with all the many tools the Lord Buddha has given us, is a doorway to opening the heart and mind beyond our human conditioning and beyond our delusions. Practicing this, we can invite wisdom into our hearts and compassion into our actions, and a ground of true ethics into our lives. This is, indeed, for the well being of all humanity. When just one human being begins to see more clearly through the inner practice of meditation, the effects they can bring around them in their lives can be tremendous - learning to live more skilfully with themselves, with others and with our environment. This is very much needed in current times.

At Dharmagiri we sincerely value the link between inner meditation, a practice of silence and contemplation, and the effects that can bring to those around. Indeed this link is crucial. The Buddha taught us about interdependence. Through working with others we can continually expand the heart beyond known boundaries, seeing through the delusion of separate self, and seeing through this delusion we naturally act more ethically. This brings blessings into the world. So at Dharmagiri we hold silent retreats, the effects of which people take back and practice with in their daily lives. Our Outreach projects also consciously strive to help others in our local area - working to break down barriers between human beings including those of race, poverty, gender, education - and resultant difficulties, especially AIDS. All this has come from a heart of recognising interconnection - a realisation that comes through meditation and carries its effects into the world.

Ajahn Chah said *'Buddhism is a religion of the Heart, only this. One who practices to develop the Heart is one who practices Buddhism'*

May each of us strive to bring to its full fruition the beautiful opportunity the Lord Buddha realised and shared with the world - that of awakening the heart and bringing the wisdom and compassion thus realised into how we live our lives, each moment, in the world.

With deep appreciation for this opportunity to honour the Buddhas teaching, and to represent my community

Marlene Matheson - Director of Dharmagiri

Dharmagiri & Dharmagiri Outreach

Non Profit Organisation 028 378 ~ Public Benefit Organisation 18/11/13/1926

Association Incorporated Under Section 21 Non Profit Organisation & Public Benefit Organisation within South Africa.

Promoting Buddhist Teaching & Practice & Rural Outreach

Directors: H.R Weinberg - Marlene Matheson - L.M. Weinberg - JP Meyer

