

A Welcome Message
by Professor Dr. Sujin Jinahyon
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At the outset, I would like to convey my best wishes to Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, which has taken a leading role in bringing in colleges of monks and religious leaders from 85 countries to this important event of the 10th Vesak Day. I would also like to congratulate the International Association of Buddhist Universities (IABU) and International Council for the Day of Vesak (ICDV) for convening this special gathering for which the theme is dedicated to "Education and Global Citizenship: A Buddhist Perspective" on May 21-22, 2013, graciously presided over by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok. This also marks the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Supreme Patriarch of Thailand: His Holiness Somdet Phranyanasamvara Suvaddhana Mahathera.

Buddhism, as one of the most widely practiced religions, teaches its followers by instilling a respectful conduct of life, enlightened by the Lord Buddha, comprising nature-oriented moralities and ethics for a peaceful society. This event serves as a venue of a Buddhism perspective exchange among distinguished participants, specifically focusing on how education is deemed a tool to develop people's state of mind. It is expected that this will correspond well with a rapidly changing world, where economics, politics, education, cultures, technologies, and conflicts share equal responsibility in a more competitive world.

The supreme goal of every religion is to guide its followers on how to behave and to live with other people in harmony; however, we, in practice, have never actually reached the true form of the written scripture, for we take for granted that what we have practiced is well done despite the fact that it is only the crust of enlightenment. Greed, wrath, and lust have gotten the best of us and consumed our souls so much that we are selfish and try to seek every possible way to do things for our own benefit instead of for society, country, and the world.

The 10th Vesak Day is held to draw the attention of Buddhists worldwide in order to study deeper into Buddhism's applications towards a better education and harmonized communities. Drawn by participants' experiences, it is hoped that recommendations and suggestions emerging from the event will be integrated into educational development in each country and that we will be able to shape healthier Buddhists who are capable of problem solving skills, based on Buddhism, to tackle efficiently increasing societal issues.

Last but by no means least, I am grateful to acknowledge the dedication contributed by Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, International Association of Buddhist Universities, and International Council for the Day of Vesak in hosting this remarkable event and wish the seminar be productive and successful as the words of the Lord Buddha tell us 'Those who behave well will live well.'

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