



Message from
Minister of Social Development and Human Security
(Mr. Santi Promphat)
on the occasion of Visakha Puja Day
the International Important Day, Year 2013

Visakha Puja Day or the 15th day of the new moon in the 6th lunar month which falls on Friday 24th, May this year marks the three important incidents in the life of Lord Buddha which are the birth, the enlightenment and the nibbana. On this sacred religious day, the Buddhists perform the ceremonies recollecting the great wisdom, purity and compassion of the Buddha to humankind. The most important factor of the day is the enlightenment of the Lord Buddha which has brought the world the priceless treasure called Dharma or the "teaching". This creates for peace, warmth, and happiness among people. The United Nations has considered the importance of the Dharma, which has spread far and wide through the world and announced the Visakha Puja Day (Visak Day) as the International Important Day in 1999. Various activities to celebrate the event have commenced at the UN headquarter and UN offices.

The Dharma teaches us that the truth of life is Suffering and Cessation of Suffering which is an ultimate goal of life. Generally, the Dharma teaches us to Do Good, Avoid Evil and Purify the mind or practically, Sila, Mediatation and Wisdom. The world's peace which can only be obtained through wisdom and liberated mind of the people. Only when people liberate themselves form suffering, bias

and selfishness, can they work hand in hand towards the development and equality of all people.

Therefore, Visakha Bucha Day is one of the most important days in Buddhism when the Buddhists recall the Buddha's Purity, Wisdom and Compassion to humankind and creatures and adopt his teachings as guidance in real life as well as spread the Dharma to bring eternal peace to the world.

On behalf of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, I would like to convey this message to celebrate the Visakha Puja Day of the year 2013 which is undoubtedly important to all Buddhists.



(Mr. Santi Promphat)

Minister of Social Development and Human Security