

**Message from Professor Pirom Kamolratanakul M.D.
President, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok**

Buddhism teaches the law of cause and effect. The two co-exist, and effect naturally follows cause.

The causes and effects emphasized in Buddhism are deeds, both good and bad -- and their results -- performed by individuals in the course of their contact with others and through their interaction with nature and their environment.

With insight into the cause and effect of our deeds, we can begin to live lives of wisdom and compassion.

Education is the foundation of life and society.

Education based on Buddhist principles will create world citizens with the wisdom and compassion needed to live together in harmony and peace.

By contrast, education not grounded in the wisdom of cause and effect will produce people with no moral compass, people who become ignorant, selfish, greedy citizens, whose way of life is a threat to peace, security, and sustainable living.

It is my hope that the conference on “Education and Global Citizenship: A Buddhist Perspective” hosted by Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University on the occasion of Visakha Puja Day 2013 will motivate educational institutes around the world to recognize the urgent need to develop a global citizenry whose wisdom and compassion will maintain peace in both hemispheres and spare us the suffering caused by ignorance, greed and hatred.