



Message from King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi
On the Occasion of International Visakha Day of the Year 2013

Friday, the 24th of May, 2013, the full-moon day of the 6th lunar month, is the very important international day known as "Visakha Day". On that day, all Buddhists around the world will be simultaneously worshipping the Lord Buddha in order to recall three highly auspicious corresponding events which are the birth, the enlightenment, and the death of the Lord Buddha. Our Lord Buddha deeply understood the core causes of problems and chaos in societies and formulated a set of essential truths which are enshrined forever as the founding pillars of Buddhism. He outlined the understanding of four noble truths as the correct way to solve societies' problems which include (1) dukkha – the existence of suffering, anxiety, and dissatisfaction which we need to understand in depth; (2) the origin of dukkha which we need to discover; (3) the cessation of dukkha through which we trust that all problems can be solved; and (4) the path to the cessation of dukkha which means living with consciousness leads to the solution to all problems and dukkha. These truths could help humanity to achieve lasting peace and happiness. The Lord Buddha kindly led us to this enlightened approach which could be regarded as the best way to solve problems and eliminate dukkha.

The International Association of Buddhist Universities (IABU) and the International Council for the Day of Vesak (ICDV) resolved to organize activities on the International Visakha Day of the Year 2013 under the topic "Education and Global Citizenship: A Buddhist Perspective" at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok between the 21st and 23rd of May, 2013. This aims to be aligned with 'The Celebration of the 100th Birthday Anniversary of His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand 3rd October, 2013'. There are many activities scheduled on these days, e.g. delivering speeches; reading speeches from eminent persons and Buddhist leaders; international academic seminars; attending conferences by Buddhist leaders, academic scholars, and eminent persons; the announcement of Bangkok Declaration; the ceremony of Dharma Yatra and circling a temple with lighted candles, incense, and flowers; prayers and meditation in particular for a salute to the 100th Birthday Anniversary of His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand, etc. All of these activities enhancing knowledge and understanding between Buddhist communities and organizations at both

national and international levels could lead to the application of Buddhist dharma for the sake of mankind. In addition, this is a good opportunity to announce the principles of Buddhism, which is the important civilization of the world, through academic activities, religious ceremonies, and community life, to the global stage.

On behalf of King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, I would like to express appreciation to see the continuous and sustainable development of these activities, and sincerely hope that all of the activities organized in the program of the 10th International Visakha Day of the Year 2013 could enhance better knowledge and understanding of the Dharma of the Lord Buddha which induces Buddhists around the world to live their lives according to moral conduct, meditation and wisdom, to have good behavior, to practice the principles of Buddhism physically, verbally and mentally, and to refrain from injuring each other. All of these would bring peace and happiness to all mankind forever.



(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sakarindr Bhumiratana)

President of King Mongkut's University
of Technology Thonburi