



Message from Rector of Thammasat University

It is my deepest delight to observe the commemoration of the auspicious United Nations Day of Vesak in 2013. For 2,600 years, the Lord Buddha's Teachings are truly the Gems that He kindly expounded for the benefits of all human-beings.

The Teachings that lay foundation on the ultimate Noble Truths can actually be applied to the education of all disciplines. Having thorough understanding of the law of nature will allow one to realise the existence of causal relationship -- past cause produces present effects and, definitely, present causes will generate future results. Should one wish to avoid any unwholesome consequences, he or she is guided to act according to wholesome directions. Likewise, the global communities can only be maintained in sustainable manner provided that every citizenship understands the Truth, penetrating and fully realising the beneficial values of the Teachings.

It is therefore the vital role of all educational institutions to plant and transmit this right view into every individuals who are a member of global citizenship. I wish to take this opportunity to extend my sincere Congratulations to the International Association of Buddhist Universities (IABU) with special appreciation to Maha Chulalongkorn Rajavidyalaya University (MCU) for every best effort in making the conference on "Education and Global Citizenship: A Buddhist Perspective" into reality and applicability.

I hope that this conference will provide a platform for Buddhists and non-Buddhists to be able to realise and utilise the Lord Buddha's Teachings toward cultivation of own characteristics and creation of desirable values for establishing society in pursuit of well-being, peace and happiness, which all in all will ensure general equilibrium of relationship among individuals, while maintaining balanced utilisation of the environment and natural resources.

I wish you all the greatest success, the fruitful conference, and the holiest moment while you are gathering here in *Thailand*.

Let's express gratitude to the Lord Buddha with deepest respects.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Somkit Lertpaithoon'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Prof. Dr. Somkit Lertpaithoon
Rector
Thammasat University