



AMBASSADOR OF HUNGARY

It is a honour to convey my most sincere felicitations on the occasion of the the thrice sacred United Nations Day of Vesak, celebrating the Birth, Enlightenment and Passing away of the Sakyamuni Buddha, organized by the prestigious Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University of Thailand.

The celebration of the UN Day of Vesak reflects the important role played by Buddhism in all over the world in the spiritual life of the society as well as the strengthening of the relationship among different Buddhist traditions, countries, individuals and universities. In our rapidly changing world, Buddhism offers core and deep rooted moral values for people aspiring for inner peace and stability.

While celebrating Vesak Day, tribute should be paid to the hospitality of the people and Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and to the Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University of Thailand which have made possible the celebration of the Day of Vesak this year, too. I think that the subject selected for this year – Education and Global Citizenship: a Buddhist Perspective – demonstrates the wisdom and forward looking way of thinking of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, as well as the Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University. As an institution for higher education of Buddhist monks, novices and laypeople, the Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University under the competent leadership of the Most Venerable Rector Prof. Dr. Phra Dharmakosajarn will be in a position to make the proper conclusions from the deliberations of the celebrations and to update its curriculum in order to keep up with emerging new ideas.

Hungary attaches a great importance to the freedom of religion, and that basic principle is enshrined in its Fundamental Law and particularly in the „Law on the Right to Freedom of Conscience and Religion and on the Status of Churches, Religions and Religious Communities“ adopted by the Hungarian Parliament recognizing and confirming among others the official status of five Buddhist communities in Hungary.

The popularity and influence of the Buddhism has been growing in Hungary for the last decades. Just to name as an example, the main mission of the Budapest based Dharma Gate Buddhist College that offers the metaphorical gate to the Dharma for the Hungarian public and to help preserve and propagate the living tradition in Europe. The Dharma Gate Buddhist College is an affiliated institute of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University and in October 2011 an agreement was signed about setting up the European Buddhist Training Centre in Budapest to enable the MCU to run its international doctoral programme in Buddhist Studies.

I am confident that this kind of relations between the higher education institutions of our two countries will certainly contribute to the mutual respect and better understanding between our peoples. The UN Day of Vesak has the same mission, and I wish a successful accomplishment of this mission to all distinguished participants of this year celebration.

Dénes Tomaj
Ambassador of Hungary