

राजदूत  
Ambassador & Permanent  
Representative to ESCAP



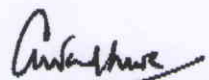
भारत का राजदूतावास, बैंकाक  
Embassy of India, Bangkok

### UN Vesak Day Celebrations 2013

On the auspicious occasion of the Vesak Day, I express my best wishes to all followers of Lord Buddha's teachings. I also compliment the Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University and the Royal Thai Government for organizing the commemorative ceremonies. The University's efforts in organizing the 10<sup>th</sup> United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations are indeed praiseworthy.

2. Vesak, which is known as Buddha Purnima in India, commemorates the three significant events in the life of Lord Buddha - Birth, Enlightenment and Passing Away. Vesak is the most important of all the Buddhist festivals, and is considered the most sacred of all the days in the year. Vesak offers to all of us an opportunity to reflect on the life and teachings of Lord Buddha. The profound message of Lord Buddha has inspired generations of monks, scholars and pilgrims in our countries. His message is a common heritage of India, Thailand and some other Asian countries. The Dhamma Chakra is a visible symbol in our lands of His teachings on righteousness. It is apt that it is also reflected in India's national emblem.

3. The theme for the 2013 celebrations - "Education and Global Citizenship: A Buddhist Perspective" is of great significance. The principal objective of education has been the development of the whole individual. Education prepares the individual to connect and live in harmony with the environment. In the current borderless information society, education needs to be able to respond to additional demands of a rapidly globalizing world by raising awareness about peace, environment, cultural and social diversity and the concept of global village. Vesak inspires us to attain the potential for inner peace and happiness that lies within us. Lord Buddha's teachings provide us an opportunity to commit to living a moral and compassionate life. May His teachings continue to enlighten our common path.

  
(Anil Wadhwa)