



Congratulatory Message of H.E. Mrs. Christine Schraner Burgener,
Ambassador of Switzerland to Thailand

on the occasion of the United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations 2013

Bangkok, 8th May 2013

It is my great pleasure to congratulate you on the occasion of the UN Day of "Vesak", celebrating the Birth, Enlightenment and Passing away of the Buddha. The international community is thus reconfirming the place of Buddhism among the world religions. Religions, and especially Buddhism with the Dharma given by its great Founder, have great potential in fostering peace among the peoples.

Among the many riches and beauties of Thai culture, the local expression of the Buddhist religion is one of the features that most appeal to the Western visitor. The festival of "Visakha Puja" is one of its most beautiful expressions. It is thanks to the present Chakri Dynasty, and its fourth Monarch, King Mongkut (Rama IV), that this religious festival was reinstated in its full glory in Thailand.

My special thanks go to the Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University (MCU) for being our most graceful host on this memorable day.

Christine Schraner Burgener
Ambassador of Switzerland to Thailand