



## *Prime Minister of Sri Lanka*

### **Message from the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka**

It is with utmost pleasure that I send this message of felicitations on the occasion of the 08<sup>th</sup> International Celebrations of United Nations day of Vesak, May 2011/2554 that is organized in conjunction with the 84<sup>th</sup> Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty the King of Thailand. The gracious host of this event, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University (MCU) of Thailand and the Most Venerable Prof. Dr. Dharmakosajarn, Rector of MCU deserve our sincere congratulations for the elaborate and meticulous arrangements so painstakingly taken to make this land-mark event a great success.

The strong bonds of friendship and cooperation between Thailand and Sri Lanka nurtured over many centuries by the Buddha Dhamma, the common faith of our two nations, had further cemented and solidified our long standing cultural and religious ties. It is with profound gratitude that Sri Lanka recalls the assistance rendered by Thailand by dispatching a delegation of Maha Sanga of Thailand to revive the Higher Ordination which was in decline in Sri Lanka in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Exchange of such generous gestures between our two countries had been quite numerous over the years which testify to the special relations that exist so happily between our two countries up to the present day.

We note with great satisfaction that Thailand had taken the lead role in celebrating the U.N Day of Vesak annually in association with all the Buddhist countries in the world since the General Assembly of United Nations adopted in 1999 by resolution the Sacred Day of Vesak as a United Nations Day.

This year's celebrations of Vesak would coincide with the festivities connected with the 84<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of His Majesty the King of Thailand. It is fitting that His Majesty who is the Royal Patron of Buddhism is felicitated on this occasion.

While conveying our best wishes for the good health and long life for His Majesty the King we wish the UN Day of Vesak celebrations May 2011/2554, in Thailand grand success.

**D M. Jayaratne**

Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
07<sup>th</sup> April 2011