



**Maitreya Foundation  
Diamond Sangha - Argentina**

19 de abril de 2011

***Congratulatory message from Argentina***

It is a great honor for us to participate in the Eighth United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations.

We feel great happiness and gratitude for this unique opportunity to join together with our brothers and sisters from around the world, the Great Sangha, to commemorate the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha, his enlightenment, and his passing away.

We give profound thanks to the organizers of this event: the Sangha Supreme Council of Thailand, the Royal Thai Government, and the Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University of Thailand, for their efforts, generosity, dedication, and devotion to the Dhamma.

Once again we will share our experiences, uncertainties, and understandings, establishing and strengthening networks of mutual support for the well being of all sentient beings.

In these times of great turbulence, we listen with deep concern to the cries of pain arising from our world and from our beloved Earth. We can see the suffering and the confusion of humanity, and sadly, we can also see that ill will, greed, and ignorance are tainting our hearts and feeding our social-economic systems, our institutions, governments, corporations, and media.

Let this great event serve to inspire compassionate actions that respond effectively to the challenges of our world in crisis. And further still, let it remind us once more of the importance to know when to stop, as the Buddha tells the assassin Angulimala in the well known story, "I have stopped Angulimala, stop yourself too."

It is our hope that in addition to the joys of sharing our diversity and points of view, we can also come together to stop. This may perhaps be one of the great virtues that the Buddhadhamma brings to the world.

We greet you with palms joined, and in the spirit of stopping, we leave you with a section of the poem "Keeping Quiet" by the South American poet Pablo Neruda:

*"If we weren't unanimous  
about keeping our lives so much in motion,  
if we could perhaps do nothing for once,  
perhaps a great silence would interrupt this sadness,  
this never understanding ourselves  
and threatening ourselves with death,  
perhaps the earth is teaching us  
when everything seems to be dead  
and everything is alive."*

Ricardo Toledo  
President of Maitreya Foundation