



ARMENIAN BUDDHIST CENTER

Date: 31 March, 2011

Congratulatory message on the occasion of celebrating the thrice-sacred day of Vesak from the Buddhists of the Republic of Armenia.

Your Holiness, all Venerable Sangha, Distinguished Delegates, and Dhamma Friends!

It is a great honour for me to convey best wishes and warmest greetings from all the Buddhist people of the Republic of Armenia to the Supreme Sangha, to the people of Thailand and to all Buddhists as well as to all the people of good will worldwide with the thrice-sacred day of Vesak.

I would like to sincerely express deep gratitude to Thai Sangha and Mahachulalongkorn University for the opportunity to present the Republic of Armenia here and to celebrate this grand festive occasion among so many Venerable Buddhist Monks and Nuns and high scholars from all over the world.

The topic of this Conference is "Buddhist Virtues in Socio-Economic Development" and the goal is to answer to the one, but very important question: what can we offer to this dynamically developing World from a Buddhist perspective so that this Development will not just be Economical?

The development of a technology was hastened by the belief that applied science could eliminate all human wants. Having utilized technology to subdue the Nature and make it to serve human desire, the human race doubtlessly succeeded in making life more comfortable in many respects than it had been in an earlier era. However, our smog covered cities, polluted waterways, increasing number of anthropogenic disasters and dramatic growth of psychological problems in the society remind us painfully that our material triumphs have been gained at a terrible price. Under these circumstances the alternative world-views can be proposed by Buddha Dhamma. With its philosophic insight into the interconnectedness and interdependence of all conditioned things, with its thesis that happiness is to be found through the restraint of desire rather than through the proliferation of desire, with its goal of enlightenment through renunciation and contemplation and its ethic of non-injury and boundless loving kindness toward all beings can enable us to live in peace and harmony with nature, with our fellow beings and definitely can help to solve at least certain serious problems that mankind is faced with now.

From this perspective such conferences play a significant role in delivering the Buddhists point of view to those who want and are able to hear, I wish this conference to proceed with the utmost success and fulfillment of all aims.

May all beings be well and Happy!

Armenian Buddhist Center,

**Dr. Artashes K. Ghazaryan
President**