



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
CANBERRA

Reference: MS10/136

Mr Graeme Lyall  
Amitabha Buddhist Association of New South Wales Inc  
PO Box 509  
BURWOOD NSW 1805

Dear Mr Lyall

Thank you for your letter of 23 March 2010 to the Prime Minister requesting a message to read at the United Nations Day of Vesak in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Prime Minister is pleased to provide the enclosed message and sends you his best wishes.

Please note that the Prime Minister's message should not be used for any other purpose or altered in any way without his approval.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. Fookes', followed by a period.

Nicola Fookes  
Departmental Liaison Officer



PRIME MINISTER  
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## **UNITED NATIONS DAY OF VESAK IN BANGKOK, THAILAND.**

Buddhist communities have celebrated the festival of Vesak for thousands of years. Marking the birth, enlightenment and passing away of the Buddha Gautama, it is an opportunity to celebrate and to reflect on the major contribution Buddhist thought has made to human culture and society. I am pleased Australians will have the opportunity to celebrate with their peers from across the world at the United Nations Day of Vesak in Bangkok.

This year's conference theme of global recovery demonstrates how relevant Buddhism is today. As we emerge from economic strife, the values of cooperation, diligence and care – central tenets of Buddhism – have a great deal to teach us about building a more peaceful and fairer world. Through adherence to these values we can ensure not only that past mistakes are not repeated, but also strive for a brighter future.

I send my best wishes to the International Buddhist Conference and to everyone celebrating Vesak around the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Rudd'.

The Honourable Kevin Rudd MP  
Prime Minister of Australia