



ÖSTERREICHISCHE BUDDHISTISCHE RELIGIONSGESELLSCHAFT

Austrian Buddhist Society
Fleischmarkt 16
A-1010 Vienna
Austria / Europe

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Congratulatory Message UNDV Celebrations B.E. 2554 from Austria

Venerables
Excellences
Honoured fellow participants

I am very honoured to be part of this important conference and I am very grateful to Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya - University of Thailand as the principal organizer - also to the Royal Thai Government as the host.

My home country Austria is in the wonderful situation that the Buddhadhamma has been known there since about more than 100 years and Buddhism has been officially recognized by the Austrian Government in 1983 as religion like Christianity for instance is.

We have more than 20.000 followers of the Buddhadhamma in Austria and all the big buddhist traditions from Theravada to Mahayana are practiced in our country.

It is the third time for me to participate in this conference of the United Nations Day of Vesakh - and it was a great and valuable experience to follow the interesting lectures with important topics the last two years in Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University here in Thailand. I am also very grateful for the books I received afterwards. I took them back with me to my country - to Austria in Europa. They were a great help for me till now to consult for answers to important questions in relation to the Dhamma and the on-going world situation. I am sure, I will get the same important and helpful inputs this year during the 8th conference.

To develop the Dhamma in Austria and Europe with success, we need the support and help of Asian Nuns, Monks und Dhammateachers. We got this support in the past and also in the present and hopefully in the future. This is another important reason to say Thank you very much to all Buddhist countries in Asia - especially to Thailand for this event and the possibility for participation. May this conference bring wisdom and peace to participant countries and finally to the whole world.

The Austrian Buddhist Society would like to express their deeply felt wishes on this outstanding occasion. May the united prayers of all here assembled praise the thrice-sacred day and thank the Royal Thai Government for the generous invitation to make it possible for so many Buddhists to meet.

May we also include a congratulation to the 84th Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty the King and pray for his well-being!

Yours sincerely in the Dharma,
Gerhard Weissgrab
President of the Austrian Buddhist Society