



Congratulatory Message from Brazil

Distinguish participants of the 2011 United Nations Day of Vesak.

Once a year we meet in this beautiful Asian land under the auspices of Sangha Supreme Council of Thailand, the Royal Thai Government, and the Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University to celebrate together the most important day for Buddhists all around the world. Our aim is to exchange information and experience, to honour the memory of the Master, and to show to the world the unity of Buddhism Above all, however, our meetings here serve to practice the teaching of friendliness. As our Lord Buddha has said to Ananda, "*This is the entire holy life, Ānanda, good friendship, good companionship, good comradeship*". So, here we are, each one of us with our weaknesses and fragilities, our effort and sincerity, with open heart to show our work, share compassion and care for one another, so we can learn how to better practice the Teaching.

Through centuries the Teachings have nurtured countless beings, through easy and rough times, in the loneliness of the meditator's cells and in the crowds that have gathered to chant, study and delight together in the words of Liberation. Does Buddhism have solutions for the socioeconomic crisis of the modern world? There is no hunger when mankind is united, nor thirst when we can feel the security of knowing that we can count with our neighbour. All crisis in the world comes from our egotistical ways, from our ignorant pursuit of profit by all means, from our divisions, discriminations and bias. Buddhism not only works with the ramifications of the suffering that sprouts all around us - something it does well through its teachings of fundamental virtues – but goes deep to the root problem: the self that has become a hungry black hole sucking all that is good and noble in the heart of societies.

We, Buddhist Educators, have a fundamental role to play here, providing insights, understandings and skillful means to ease the pain and unburden the suffering caused by a selfish life. This time we join hands with all those who have helped to bring this event so that in friendliness and kindness we add our help to spread the enlightening teachings of the Buddha.

May all beings be happy and aim for liberation,

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