



# 中國佛教協會 THE BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION OF CHINA

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## Congratulatory Messages

from

**The Most Venerable Xue Cheng**

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**Vice Chairman, International Association of Buddhist Universities**

The thrice-sacred day of Vesak, celebrating the Birth, Enlightenment and Passing away of the Buddha Gautama, is the most important event for Buddhists all over the world. I am really glad to learn that the eighth United Nations Day of Vesak will be held in Thailand under the theme of "Buddhist Virtues in Socio-Economic Development"

In world today, there are so many serious global crisis to issue a warning to humankind. As western civilization has dominated the globalization process and swept every corner of the world, the current development patterns and lifestyles lead to ever increasing danger. The entire world is now facing severe challenges to sustainable development. With the crisis ever graver, and dangers increasingly imminent, human beings should wake up and realize: this series of crisis, which have occurred, are ongoing and will continue in the future, including natural disasters, epidemics, wars and financial crisis, economic crisis, and many other crises, all are rooted in spiritual crisis and mind crisis of the humans, the external manifestation of endangered minds. The minds are in crisis due to a narrow and erroneous views of the world, of life and values formed from illusion and ignorance, which triggered and enhanced such annoyances as greed, anger, ignorance, lethargy. These hindrances obscure the intrinsic true nature of humankind.

Buddhism puts much emphasis on 'mind'. Avatamsaka Sutra says, "Mind is like the painter, able to paint various worlds: the five aggregates thus originate; there is no dharma it does not create..." If people indeed wish to know the Buddhas of the three time periods, they should contemplate the nature of the dharma-realm; all is but mind's creation." (Chapter 16, 80-chapter edition) Shurangama Sutra says, "You should level your mind-ground, then everything else in the world would be level." (Chapter 5) Maha Prajnaparamita Sutra says, "All dharmas have mind as their precursor. One who knows the mind thoroughly understands all dharmas. All the worldly dharmas are created by mind. The mind does not observe its various faults and errors. Virtuous and non-virtuous (karmas) all arise from mind." (Chapter 568)





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Mūlajāta Hṛdayabhūmi Dhyāna Sūtra says, "The Pure Mind is the root of virtuous karma, and the non-virtuous mind is the root of evil karma. The world becomes pure because the mind becomes pure, and the world becomes polluted because the mind becomes polluted. In the Buddha's teaching, the mind is the primary leader, with everything following the mind." (Chapter 4) The wisdom of Buddhism is both wide and deep. Its aim is to turn our defilements into Bodhicitta. Mind is the origin of all dharmas. If every person can dispel delusion and egocentrism, wipe out the three poisons of greediness, hatred, ignorance, and have a clear mind, and adopt this attitude toward others, family, community, nation, and the world, then the world will naturally reach a state of harmony.

Inspired by Buddhists' values, vision of the world, and methodology, people are gradually awakened from the dilemma of modern civilization, and have initiated a more profound revolution than science revolution and social revolution: the spiritual revolution. This revolution needs to get nourishment from wisdom of Buddhism, which is centered on mind cultivation. A new culture, literally 'Mind Culture', is to be created through seeking insights into the current situation, and combining latent wisdom of all human beings in order to counteract egoism, greediness, and materialism which dominate the present world. Since materialism and egoism are playing a leading role in the society, we should propagate this "Mind Culture", spread the Buddhists' teachings of "cultivating precepts, mindfulness and wisdom, wiping out greediness, hatred and ignorance", and work towards the formation of the new civilization of "Mind Culture".

I really admire the Most Venerable Dr. Phra Dharmakosajarn, Rector of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University to organize the eighth United Nations Day of Vesak. The main theme of the Celebrations "Buddhist Virtues in Socio-Economic Development" is of great importance. I believe all the participants must be able to come up with a great and fruitful Buddhist solutions to the development of humankind society after discussions. Finally, I wish the Celebrations a complete success!

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