



華梵大學

Huafan University

## **Congratulatory Messages**

**From**

**Dr. Jien-ming Jue**

**President, Huafan University**

**Taipei, Taiwan**

**April 20, 2011**

The thrice-sacred day of Vesak, celebrating the Birth, Enlightenment and Passing away of the Sakyamuni Buddha, is the most important event for Buddhists all over the world. On behalf of our most venerable founder the Ven. Hiu Wan and Huafan University, I am more than delighted to learn that the 84th Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty the King & 8th International Celebration on the Occasion of United Nations Day of Vesak 2011 again would be held in Thailand and organized by Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University.

The theme of "Buddhist Virtues in Socio-Economic Development" this year addresses the major impact that Buddhist virtues has in our globalized world. As it is widely acknowledged that internationalization has always been a challenge and an opportunity for technology-based businesses, one may reasonably argue that Taiwan's greatest asset has been its people's esteem for education, their talent for innovations, and, above all, their understanding that Taiwan belongs to a truly global network that connects them to the world. However, Taiwan's miracles in socio-economic development can never thrive on a small island where everyone faces natural disasters and daily calamities with little faith.

Two thousand years ago, Sakyamuni Buddha lived in an austere life and so did his disciples. Sakyamuni Buddha's model teaches us that the highest harmony comes from keeping a balance within ourselves and with Nature. Although in today's high-tech era it is impossible to live a life as simple as that of Sakyamuni Buddha, we could still practice the spirit. The venerable Ven Hiu Wan, founder of Huafan, advocated "Education of Enlightenment" as our ideal. She also proposed "Integration of Humanities and Technology with Equal Emphasis on Mutual Enrichment of Compassion and Wisdom" as our educational guidelines. These ideals involve self-awakening, self-development and rational thinking based on Chinese ethics and Buddhist compassion. Foster deeper understandings of Buddhist virtues, I believe, will ultimately cultivate a society with individuals who will dedicate

themselves to progressive life-changing experiences—people who will be seeking not only a high-quality life with the development of high-tech as well as greatest socio-economic benefit but also less exploitation and more ecological conservation of the natural resource on earth.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank the invitation from Ven. Assist. Prof. Phramaha Hansa Dhammaso, and Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University for organizing the 8<sup>th</sup> International celebration of United Nations Day of Vesak. By participating in this celebration, Sanghas will directly benefit from an involvement in quality discussions as well as from their long-lasting spiritual connections. I believe that your time in Thailand this May will be as agreeable and memorable as it will be as rewarding. With the greatest pleasure, I wish you all the best success in Ayutthaya and Bangkok for the 2011 celebration!

Your sincerely in the Dhamma,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jien-ming Jue'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'J' being particularly large and stylized.

Jien-ming Jue

President, Huafan University

Taipei, Taiwan