

Congratulatory Message
on the Occasion of
The United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations & Buddhist Conference
2010/B.E2553

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I would like to offer my congratulations to the convention of the 7th United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations & Buddhist Conference 2010/B.E2553 in May in Bangkok, Thailand.

In the countries of Theravada Buddhism, the first night of the full moon in February (or the fifth month in the lunar calendar) is recognized as the day of Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and passing away, and it had been celebrated as the day of Vesak from long before.

In 1999, the United Nations' general assembly decided to set up and to celebrate the sacred day of Vesak globally, and the first memorial ceremony convened splendidly in 2001 in the United Nations Head Office in New York. It is the most gratifying that the main event of it has been held mostly in Bangkok since then.

I consider the 7th United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations & Buddhist Conference 2010/B.E2553 as such a significant event with world's Buddhists and their wisdom all gathered to discuss along the theme of "Global recovery – The Buddhist Perspective."

The world now wanders in the depth of chaos because of terrorism and conflicts, but I believe the day of world peace will come, according to the compassion of Buddha and the teaching of Saichô (Dengyô-Daishi, the founder of the Tendai Buddhist Denomination, Mt. Hiei, Japan), "Forgetting the self, devoting the self to the needs of others, is the ultimate compassion."

Last, I wish in this congratulatory message that the 7th United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations & Buddhist Conference will create a world where people can walk hand in hand.