



Asociación Casa Zen de Costa Rica
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April 28, 2011

With Deep Gratitude

These next three days will be very encouraging, meaningful and, above all, full of hope. Approximately 5000 people from different countries, continents and cultures have been brought together by the teachings of Buddha and have looked for ways to relieve suffering and make a better world,.

These three days of celebration are going to be full of respect, tolerance, good intentions and solidarity. We all will see how the teachings of Buddha are a perfect tool to mend the problems and difficult times the whole mankind is going through. We will be reminded that violence and injustice can be confronted by loving kindness and compassion. That ignorance can be neutralized by understanding and wisdom. We know that receiving is good but giving is better. We see impermanence and respect material goods. But to us, it is more important to know who and what we are. Transforming ourselves we transform the world. Each one of us can and does make a big difference in order to make a better world.

I come from a non-Buddhist country, where the seed of the Dharma has only recently been planted. How wonderful to have found the Dharma and what a great responsibility to help it grow. How important is for us to come to a land where Buddhist tradition is so strong and we can see everywhere images of Buddha and reminders of his teachings. To see how a society lives Buddhism in a collective way is for us a great inspiration. I am amazed to have the chance to see the beginners mind at work, the fresh approach, the respect and devotion to the teachings.

Through all these years this Buddhist country has been capable to keep and respect the Three Treasures. How much wisdom and compassion has been created. How much teaching and experience you have given us beginners.

These three days will be a close encounter, you have created conditions so, Latin-American countries can see each other and realize that we have a lot of good things to share, that we can help each other, that Buddhism can and it actually is changing us, the west, the same way it changed you, the east. This meeting has encouraged all the Sanghas invited here from South and Central America, to strengthen their relationships with the creation, last year, of a Latin-American Association of Buddhist organization and through it, join efforts. Thank you for creating the opportunity for this to happen.

I want to express in the name of our Casa Zen Association in Costa Rica, our deep gratitude to: the organizers of this event. To the host country for its hospitality and generosity. For the beauty of its people and culture. Our gratitude also goes to all the participants for their honest great heart and their commitment to make this world, a better world.

! May all beings attain Buddhahood !

Margoth Vargas Pacheco, Casa Zen de Costa Rica. Board of Directors Member, member of the Sangha for 32 years. Head Cooker.