

Bodhi Vihara



Buddhistisches Kloster

Domberg 10 · 85354 Freising · Germany
www.bodhi-vihara.org

Freising, May 5th 2554

Words of Greeting and Gratitude on the occasion of the 8th Conference of the United Nations Day of Vesak, May 12th – 14th 2554

It is with an expression of our deep appreciation for the openhanded generosity of our hosts that we would like to acknowledge the invitation to send a delegate to this year's United Nations Vesak celebration in Bangkok.

Our gratitude is owed to the Royal Thai Family, the President of the International Council of the UN Day of Vesak and Rector of the MCU and all those who have made this conference possible through their support and untiring efforts in the preparation of this event.

We would like to also thank all participants who have travelled from distant countries here to Bangkok in order to pay respect to the Awakened One, the Teaching and the Sangha.


Even two and a half millennia after the Awakened One's Parinibbāna, we trust it is still possible for those who seek for truth and liberation in all earnestness to follow the invitation offered by the Buddha: *"The Dhamma is well-expounded by the Blessed One, to be seen here and now, timeless, inviting verification, pertinent, to be realized by the wise for themselves."*

For this reason, we cannot but feel inner joy and gratitude towards the Awakened One, his Dhamma, and the Sangha of Noble Disciples—the Three Jewels—to whom we have gone for refuge. Moreover, we dedicate our gratitude towards all those beings—whether in this world or within the heavenly realms—who, having discovered the immeasurable worth of the Buddha's words, have contributed and are still contributing to the noble cause—that of preserving the holy texts and making them accessible to humankind even unto our days and unto days to come.


As Buddhists from the German-speaking part of the world, we look back in gratitude and awe to Buddhist pioneers such as the most venerable German monks Nyānatiloka and Nyānaponika, as well as to excellent pioneering translators and lay scholars such as K.E. Neumann, Paul Debes, Fritz Schäfer and Hellmuth Hecker, to mention only a few.

As long as we find ourselves in this world, subject to the conditions of human nature and coarse form, we are bound to encounter things that do not meet our expectations or correlate to our wishes. We ought, however, not to forget that these are in the Buddha's words but mirages painted by our own hearts due to ignorance, the results of actions born of *lobha* and *dosa*. Wishing to make our world a better place, we need first and foremost to better our hearts.

Relying on the Buddha's words, let us therefore strive to integrate Buddhist Virtues in our lives as best we can, to overcome greed, hatred and delusion, and to grow fully into individuals for whom this teaching is refuge indeed and a true beacon for the enlightenment of our hearts. Walking the Noble Eightfold Path in this way we can be lights not only unto ourselves, but unto others as well, thereby demonstrating our veneration of those who have helped us comprehend the Teaching and who continue to shine their lamps of wisdom on the path that still lies before us.


Henning G. Poerschke
Secretary




Annette Poerschke
Lay Advisory Panel
Member