



Nava Nalanda Mahavihara,
(Deemed University)
Nalanda – 803111, Bihar, India

Date : 09.04.2011

Congratulatory Message

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my Congratulatory message on the auspicious occasion of the 8th International celebration of UN Day of 'Vesak' and the 84th Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty the King in Ayutthaya and Bangkok, Thailand from 12th – 14th May, 2011. I congratulate the organizers for celebrating this historic and eventful day which is related to Lord Buddha and makes us aware and mindful of His meaningful life, teachings and contribution not only to entire human civilization but also to others as well.

The theme for the 2011 Vesak celebrations is **Buddhist Virtues in Socio-Economic Development**, and for this I am reminded of the first sermon of the Lord Buddha popularly known today as '*Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta*'. In the *Sutta* the Master conveys the essence of his teachings and called it the '*dhamma*'. It was in this discourse that he set out the Four Noble Truths and the Eight Fold Path, popularly known as the 'Middle Path' which can be summed up as *Sila*, *Samādhi* and *Paññā*.

In true sense Socio-Economic Development can take place in complete harmony if we follow the Buddhist virtues. While working for Socio-Economic Development we tend to get caught in the worldly illusions which generally result in expectations. The minute what we expected to achieve does not happen, will makes us feel disturbed. And if the same situation turns in our favor, it excites our senses. However, joy and sorrow are never permanent. They have tendencies to change in accordance to the situation. So whatever is bound to change is not real and what is not real cannot be true.

What, then, is truth? Changing situations are always the reason for our happiness or unhappiness. But neither the changing situations are real nor the joys and sorrows. They are just relative terms. These are creations of our *aviveka* or lack of discrimination that makes us float on the surface, preventing us from knowing our true nature.

Therefore, following the Middle Path induces insight and mental calm and ultimately leads to peace, happiness and harmony. With such good intention if any type of developmental work whether it is Socio - Economic or else is done it will bring the desired results. This fact is self proven and experienced by many of us.

I am happy that the organizers of the 'Vesak Day' have been able to create awareness and harmony much needed for peace within and peace through Socio-Economic Development throughout the world very much needed in the present day Society. I on behalf of Nava Nalanda Mahavihara (Deemed University), Nalanda and on behalf of the followers of the *Dhamma* send my good wishes for the success of the event and once again congratulate the organizers of the Vesak Day.

May all beings be happy, be peaceful and contented.

R. Panth

Dr. Ravindra Panth
Director/ Vice- Chancellor

9/04/2011