



**The Rattanapadipa Thai Buddhist Centre
Baan Phra| 108 Old Finglas Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 11, Ireland**

12 April 2011

Vesak Celebration 2011

Vesak Day is regarded as the most important day in Buddhism as the Buddha is the founder of Buddhism and this day celebrates his birth and awakening from ignorance and his enlightening the dark world. Traditionally his birth, enlightenment and death are believed to have all taken place on the same date, the full moon day of the month of Visakha, spread out over his 80 year life. Every year when Vesak Day comes, the world can commemorate these three remarkable events in the life of the Buddha and take the time to learn from his life and teachings. In Dublin Buddhist people have held Vesak celebrations at Baan Phra, 108 Old Finglas Road in Glasnevin for six years. This celebration provides people with the opportunity to come together as Buddhists and commemorate the life of the Buddha.

This year, to my great honour, I have been invited to join the United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations & Buddhist Conference hosted by the Royal Thai Government and organized by Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University (MCU) in Bangkok. The theme for the 2011 celebrations is Buddhist Virtues in Socio-Economic Development. This will be a great opportunity to learn and share the teachings of the Buddha. This is also a great time to pay our respects to the Buddha, the Dhamma and the Sangha. Another great part of this celebration is the 84th Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty the King of Thailand. On behalf of the Thai people in Ireland, I wish to personally extend my humble birthday wishes, "Long Live the King."

Finally, I would like to express my homage to the working committee who works very hard to make these great celebrations happen and make them available for the world to join in. Once again I would like to offer my congratulations for the organisation of the Vesak celebration. I hope that this will help disseminate the peaceful teachings of the Buddha and help people understand their meaning.

May Buddhism last long and be a refuge for the world

Phramaha Sangthong Dhammacaro

The Head Monk of Rattanapadipa Buddhist Centre