



# Comunità Buddhista Theravada in Italia

## *Centro Buddhista di Roma*

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03/05/2011

### **United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations & Buddhist Conference 2011/B.E 2554**

In 2011, it is with great pleasure, that we celebrate the 2600th year from the enlightenment of Buddha. At a time when the world body needs peace and harmony more than ever, we should remember that Buddhism, more than any philosophy in the world stresses on thof peace; inner peace and harmony with the surrounding elements.

In Pali, the word 'Buddha' derives from the root word 'budh' which is a reference to the highest faculty in the human brain. The word 'Buddha' literally means, 'the one who is awake' or 'the one who is fully conscious.' In Buddhist philosophy, thus we find the stress on the importance of 'being conscious of the self,'. It is important to bear within one's mind this very important message in Buddhist philosophy, when we celebrate this very special event, this year.

We are also much joyful that the whole world body is coming together to celebrate the vesak day in an international manner in Thailand. We, the Buddhists in Europe congratulate the Thai government for taking the responsibility to organize such a vast and majestic event and give our utmost blessings to the Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University (MCU) of Thailand for hosting this event and hope it would be able to carry out its duties in successfully. Furthermore, we take this opportunity to congratulate the Thai government on its celebrations for the 84th birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibhol Adulyadej.

Finally I would like to express my gratitude to the Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University (MCU) of Thailand, Supreme Sangha Council and the Royal Thai Government for inviting us for this memorable event.



*Ven.Molligoda Dheerananda Thero*

Abbot

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Buddhist Primate of Sri Lanka Theravada Buddhist Sabgha to the Italy