



**BUDDHADHAMMA ASSOCIATION
THERAVADA BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION IN NORWAY
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Oslo, 8th April 2011

**Congratulatory Message
On the occasion of
United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations 2011, Thailand
Buddhist Virtues in Socio-Economic Development**

On behalf of the members of the Theravada Buddhist Association in Norway (Buddhadhamma-foreningen), it is with great pleasure I take this opportunity to extend congratulations to the International Committee for the United Nations Day of Vesak, the Supreme Sangha Supreme Council, the Royal Thai Government and Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalada University for organizing and successfully celebrating the Vesak.

The day of Vesak is the most important event in Buddhist calendar. It celebrates the historical Buddha's birth, awakening and passing away. Buddhists all over the world, regardless of whether they are Theravāda, Mahāyāna, or Vajrayāna, celebrate this important event with great festivities. We gather together in Thailand to celebrate the day of Vesak, not only to show unity and cooperation among Buddhists but also find an opportunity to discuss issues that we face today and also help in resolving problems that others face around the world. In that respect, this year's conference theme "Buddhist Virtues in Socio-Economic Development" is extremely significant.

In addition, we proudly celebrate the 84th birthday anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. May the Triple Gem Bless His Majesty! *Digāyuko hotu* (May live long)!

Yours in the Dhamma

Shantana Berg

President

Theravada Buddhist Association in Norway

(Buddhadhamma-foreningen)