



**Buddhist College of Singapore**  
**88 Bright Hill Road, Singapore 574117**

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### **Congratulatory Message**

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Most Venerable Professor Dr. Phra Dharmakosajarn – Rector of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, President of the International Council of United Nations Day of Vesak and President of the International Association of Buddhist Universities – for the invitation to participate in this important and significant Buddhist celebration of Vesak. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Royal Thai Government and the Supreme Sangha Council for their blessings in this event; the main organizers – Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University and Inner Trip Reiyukai International of Japan; and to all other organizations and distinguished guests for their relentless efforts in sponsoring and organizing this annual event since the first celebrations in 2001.

This year's theme titled "Global Recovery – The Buddhist Perspective" is especially pertinent, following in the wake of global events such as the climate change conference in Copenhagen, the economic recession and most recently, the Icelandic volcanic ash plume.

The Buddha's teachings of Compassion and Interdependence still remain as practical as they did more than 2500 years ago. It is easy to see the interconnectedness and interdependence of the world, as evidenced by the grounding of flights and stranded passengers due to the ash plume; the effect of global warming on the planet; and how the recession in the US affected the rest of the world's economy.

Seeing the interconnectedness of our world, it is evident that compassion and wisdom is fundamental to the concept of global recovery. In line with the objective of cooperating to develop Buddhist solutions to the global crisis, the cultivation of compassion and wisdom by every individual will contribute towards the collective good, where the world as one will be able to live and rejoice in the collective positive karma.

I hope and wish that the United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations and Buddhist Conference 2010/B.E. 2553 a resounding success. May this celebration continue and prosper for many more years to come!

Thank you!

**Sik Kwang Sheng (Venerable)**  
**Rector, Buddhist College of Singapore**