



Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism

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Congratulatory Remarks

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My dear fellow Buddhists from around world, I offer my sincerest congratulations for this Vesak Day event in Thailand to celebrate the Birth, Enlightenment, and Parinirvana of Lord Buddha Sakyamuni.

There is great unrest in the world due to environmental devastation, proliferation of destructive weapons, racial conflicts, religious wars, and economic distress in the midst of enormous scientific advancement.. This unhappy situation is the common result of ignoring the teachings of Buddha.

Lord Buddha taught the law of interdependence and the oneness of all things in the universe. Self and other are not separate, but rather part of a whole. Thus, we must cherish and respect all of life.

We are all followers of Lord Buddha, no matter what tradition or denomination one belongs to. We are brothers and sisters, sharing a close communal connection. We should come together in strength and wisdom to overcome the problems of the world.

My dear fellow Buddhists, I pray that this 7th UN Vesak Day Celebration will be a cause for goodness and peace to prevail in the world, and to overcome the calamities of the earth.

In addition, let us pledge today in the presence of Lord Buddha that we will help our neighbors in need with compassion and sharing.

Lastly, I would like to thank all those who have worked so hard in preparation of this event, especially Thai people and Japanese co-sponsors.

The Most Ven. Jaseung

President, Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism

President, Korean Buddhist Orders Association