

I have great pleasure in issuing a message on the memorable occasion of commemorating **UN Vesak Day** Celebrations in 2011 under the patronage of the king, the government and the people of the Royal kingdom of Thailand. With gratitude I should recall here the efforts taken and the dedication shown by the Royal kingdom of Thailand towards commemorating the Vesak Day in a glorious and befitting way after the UN Declaration to the effect that the Full moon Day of May should be an international holiday. It was late Hon. **Lakshman Kadiragamar**, the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Sri Lanka, with concurrence of other Buddhist countries, who initiated the UN resolution for declaring the Vesak Day an international holiday. The Buddhists of the entire world responded happily and enthusiastically to the UN recognition thus shown by transforming the Vesak Day celebrations into an international event. MCU is successful enough to unite the majority of the Buddhist world under one flag.

This year is very important for us because we are commemorating the 2600 years' anniversary of the Buddha's Enlightenment which falls in the year 2011. The Vesak Day signifies the three principle events of the life of the Enlightened One. As the Buddhists believe, it is the day on which the message of the Buddha, 'the reality of the world', was proclaimed, Therefore, as I think the Buddhist of the world should also be sensitive to the unique message of Buddhism without which the ceremonies and celebrations become meaningless. Therefore, on the Vesak Day of this year, we should resolve that the practice show the results of being Buddhist that can be experienced in this very life. Further more, we should resolve that all efforts should be made to send across the message of the Buddha to the millions of people who have not heard this self healing path of liberation.

Requesting this to be kept in mind, I wish that the blessings of the Triple Gem be with the whole humanity.

**Ven.Dr.Akuratiya Nanda Nayake Thero**

Chief Prelate of Westarn Province of Sri Lanka.