



Message of Greeting

Council of Thai Buddhist Monks in the United Kingdom

Your Holiness, venerable members of the Sangha, dear devotees and friends in the Dhamma,

We can be proud of the fact that Buddhism has a unique character which aims to promote love, unity and peaceful living among human beings regardless of race and religion. Impressed by this characteristic, more and more westerners are becoming interested in Buddhism, and especially in Buddhist meditation. Many of them, having learned and practised the teaching, experience the results of practice themselves, develop a stronger faith in the teaching, and then work actively to spread the teaching of the Buddha, bringing great benefit to all beings.

The celebration of the United Nations' Day of Vesak is an important event for Buddhists of all schools because it marks the birth, enlightenment and passing away of the Buddha. In the United Kingdom, celebration of Vesak Day divides into two: first a religious service is normally held in each monastery, giving Buddhists an opportunity to perform such religious observances as merit making, listening to a sermon, taking part in a candlelit procession, chanting and meditation; second, international activities are usually undertaken by Buddhist communities from different traditions for the purpose of celebrating the great qualities of the Buddha's teaching.

On behalf of the Thai Dhammaduta monks and lay devotees in the UK, I would like to express our great respect and to convey our warm greetings to the leaders of the Sangha, academics, and all sectors both state and private who have come together in Thailand this year to celebrate the 84th Birthday Anniversary of King Bhumipol. I sincerely wish the 8th United Nations' Day of Vesak 2011 every success. Finally, may happiness, peace and harmony be upon all beings.

P. R. Kimol.

(Phra Rajabhavanawimol)

President of the Council of Thai Buddhist Monks in the United Kingdom

Abbot of the Buddhapadipa Temple, London