



# OXFORD BUDDHA VIHARA

Charity Registration No. 1099361

Head of the Vihara: Ven. Dhammasami

Wednesday, April 06, 2011

## Some great achievements to celebrate!

The United Nations Day of Vesak, UNDV, has been able to reach and expand outside the New York United Nations HQs due mainly to three crucial factors: the cooperation between different Buddhist schools and nations; the extraordinary generosity of the government and people of the Kingdom of Thailand; and the energy of its Buddhist higher learning institution, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University and its competent leader in the Most Venerable Rector Prof. Dr. Phra Dharmakosajarn.

It has been an enormous privilege to have been part of it for the last seven years, three of which serving as its Secretary General. I have witnessed numerous progresses made at the UNDV. Most notable are (a) the ever closer relationship among different Buddhist traditions, countries, individuals and universities since 2004; (b) the birth of the International Association of Buddhist Universities (IABU) in 2007, which is celebrating its 2nd summit and conference in December this year; (c) the birth of the Association of Theravada Buddhist Universities (ATBU) in 2007, which is holding its 3rd conference in November this year; (d) the birth of the Mekhong River Basin Buddhist Universities Group in 2008 (e) the project to create a Buddhist electronic catalogue, called Union Catalogue of Buddhist Texts (UCBT), for all Buddhist texts in Sanskrit, Pali, Chinese and Tibetan/ Mongolian, drawing expertise from 23 universities across USA, Europe and Asia; (f) the project to compile a book, called Common Buddhist Text (CBT), that includes essential, common as well as unique teachings from the Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana schools, which is on-going.

This year the UN Day of Vesak celebrations coincide with the 2,600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Buddha's enlightenment. Besides, the UNDV which was very fortunate to have been able to celebrate its 2006 events in honour of His Majesty the King of Thailand's 60th Anniversary of Ascending to the Throne, yet again this year, the UNDV and the worldwide Buddhist communities are privileged to hold the 8th UNDV conference in honour of His Majesty the King's auspicious 84th Royal Birthday.

May His Majesty be blessed with the Triple Jewels of the Buddha, the Dhamma and the Sangha for His long life, good health, happiness and success in anything that His Majesty undertakes.

May the UNDV also live long for the Buddha's dharma and world peace.

Venerable Dr. Khammai Dhammasami  
DPhil (Oxford), Hon PhD (MCU)

Member of the ICUNDV, Executive Secretary of the IABU & the ATBU,  
Co-Convenor of the UCBT and Chairman of the Compilation Committee for the CBT