

## **A Message from the President of Phranakhon Rajabhat University**

### **As part of contributions to the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual United Nations Day of Vesak 2011**

It is an honor and a privilege for Thailand to host the 7th Annual United Nations Day of Vesak from 12-14 May 2011. The event is supported by the International Association of Buddhist Universities (IABU) and the International Council of United Nations Day of Vesak (ICUNDV). This year, the conference has taken on the important topic of “Buddhist Virtues for Social and Economic Development”, as part of the celebration of King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 84th birthday anniversary. The 7th Annual United Nations Day of Vesak 2011 has attracted approximately 5,000 people from 84 countries including leading scholars and Buddhist leaders from all over the world. This event represents a highly auspicious opportunity for all participants to affirm the commitment of Buddhists around the world to apply Buddhist Dharma to social and economic development of all regions of the globe. Moreover, this is an occasion to honor His Majesty the King, who has been the Supreme Patron of Thai Cultural Heritage, in recognition of his achievements in ruling the country in accordance with the essence of Dharma and bringing about peaceful and happy life to the Thai people. In addition, the Sufficient Economy, graciously bestowed by His Majesty the King to his subjects is a model of appropriate conduct, based on a philosophy conforming to “the Middle Path” of Buddha Dharma. It has been an ultimate noble practice for all Buddhists to purify their minds with clarification and luminosity, to live together with love and compassion, and to lessen or stop greed, hate, and ignorance which are the causes of oppression, harm, and destruction. Therefore, the United Nations Day of Vesak is a significant day for Buddhists to pay tribute to the Buddha as recognition of his ultimate virtues: wisdom, purity, and compassion as well as the eternal Dharma given to all mankind.

On behalf of Phranakhon Rajabhat University, I would like to humbly express my appreciation to the Most Venerable Professor Doctor Phra Dharmakosacharn for the honor graciously given to Phranakhon Rajabhat University to participate in the United Nations Day of Vesak every year. I do believe that the power of virtues displayed by all involved parties will certainly result in the attainment of all the expected goals, in particular, ensuring that that Buddhism endures and thrives, spiritually binding Buddhists all over the world forever.



(Preang Kitratporn, Ph.D.)