



**Message
from
His Excellency Mr Woravat Auapinyakul
Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office**

The Vesak day is one of the most important days in the Buddhist tradition. It is regarded as thrice-sacred, celebrating the birth, enlightenment and passing away of the Buddha. It is also a chance for people to reflect on the wisdom enshrined in the message of the Great Teacher. This holiest day for Buddhists around the world has also been recognized by the international community through the United Nations General Assembly resolution in 1999, underlining the fact that the teachings of the Buddha on peace, compassion and understanding about two and a half millennia ago remain relevant to all of us today.

As Minister taking charge of National Office of Buddhism, I am pleased to learn that the 9th celebration of United Nations Day of Vesak is held in Thailand on 31 May – 2 June 2012, under the theme “The Buddha’s Enlightenment for the Well-being of Humanity” and its main purpose is to commemorate the 2600th anniversary of Sambuddha Jayanti, the 80th anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen’s birthday and the 60th anniversary of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince’s birthday. I sincerely thank the United Nations and the organisers of this significant event, particularly Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, for providing us with the auspicious opportunity to pay homage to the Lord Buddha as well as his teachings. Apart from its ceremonial aspect, I hope that this event will result in the widening of understanding and appreciation of Buddhism for Buddhists and non-Buddhists alike, thereby further contributing to the continuous peace in this world, and making it a better place to live in.

Lastly, I wish the organizers every success in their endeavors and all participants in this event happiness, prosperity and continued good health.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

(Woravat Auapinyakul)
Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office