

Date: 1st May 2012

Congratulatory Message

I am deeply honoured to extend my congratulatory message on this auspicious occasion of 9th United Nations Day of Vesak. I would like to convey my best wishes and warmest greetings to The Royal Thai Government and Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University (MCU), the host and the principal organizer of this conference respectively.

I would also like to sincerely express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to participate and to celebrate this grand occasion with so many Buddhist monks, nuns and high scholars from all over the world.

2600 years ago, a man overcame his demons to attain ultimate liberation. It was compassion that led him to renounce his worldly comforts, and his compassion that led him to push on in the path to enlightenment. He is our highly revered Buddha Shakyamuni. If not for him, we would never have heard the word 'Dharma'. The veil of darkness in our minds would not have been lifted and in fact, this celebration would not have taken place at all!

To me, Vesak Day is the celebration of Buddha's perseverance and compassion. His perseverance in a time when Dharma was absent set into motion a chain of events that would bring similar happiness to countless others. Now, nearly three millennia later, in a world where conflict prevails, Buddha's message would be lost if not for monasteries that uphold Shakyamuni's tradition, and events like this that educate the world on the meaning of peace and right living.

The universality of Buddha Shakyamuni, and the impact his journey has had on billions of people all over the world truly was for the well-being of humanity, and his image has become synonymous with peace and compassion, transcending backgrounds and cultures.

So I congratulate the UNDV Committee on their successful peace directive, and their commitment to upholding Buddha's traditions. They are a beacon of harmony and understanding, just as Buddha Shakyamuni was in his own time 2600 years ago. It is my fondest wish that this conference grows, to bring Dharma where it has been lost, and to strengthen the Dharma where it has taken root.

An event of such magnitude would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of many volunteers who played an instrumental role in overseeing this entire event with great care, devotion, dedication, and perseverance. Thank you all.

We are all here together to celebrate the 9th International Celebration on the Occasion of United Nations Day of Vesak 2012/2555, and to join in the noble motive of spreading Lord Buddha's teaching to all the ten directions. May the Buddha Dharma flourish and benefit all who hear it.

I extend my respectful greetings and best wishes to Her Majesty The Queen in conjunction of Her Majesty's 80th birthday anniversary and to His Royal Highness The Crown Prince on the occasion of HRH 60th birthday.

The next few days of this conference marks another great milestone and stands testimony to supreme achievements and I hope we will experience many more moments of celebration such as this.

With blessings of the Buddha Dharma, I wish this conference utmost success.



Dato' Ruby Khong
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