



Dongguk University, Gyeongju

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Dear Venerable Rector Dhammakosajarn,

Greetings of peace and compassion from Gyeongju, Korea. I believe this finds you well.

It is my great pleasure to write a congratulatory message regarding United Nations Day of Vesak Celebration & Buddhist Conference 2012/B.E 2555, which has been organized by your university.

It is remarkable that the thrice-sacred day of Vesak, celebrating the Birth, Enlightenment and Passing away of the Sakyamuni Buddha, was recognized by the United Nations in its General Assembly resolution of 1999. It is noticeable that the first event was celebrated at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, 2001. However, since 2004, the main celebrations were held in Bangkok, Thailand, with an exception of the 2008 event in Hanoi, Vietnam. I appreciate that the Royal Thai Government has been the host and Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University (MCU) the principal organizer with the blessings of the Supreme Sangha Council of Thailand. This year, the celebration of the 9th United Nations Day of Vesak will be held in Ayutthaya and Bangkok, Thailand, from 31 May - 2 June 2012. As in previous years, MCU will be the main organizer of the various events with the theme "The Buddha's Enlightenment for the Well-Being of Humanity." I think it is a timely subject for all people around world.

On behalf of Buddhists in Korea, as well as my university community, I would like to extend heartfelt congratulation for your eminent leadership and achievement to plan and manage the remarkable events. Moreover, I also like to convey the expression of congratulations from the United Religions Initiative, which has tried to be a religious UN, as a global interfaith organization since 2000. Commemorating and honoring the auspicious occasions of Sambuddha-jayanti (2600 years anniversary of Buddha's Enlightenment), I believe that this year celebration with academic conference and other events would be more meaningful and successful than the previous ones.

In addition, I would like to invite you and other friends to the General Conference of World Fellowship of Buddhists and World Buddhist University in Yeosu, Korea, 11-16 June 2012, in conjunction with the World Expo 12 May – 12 August 2012. I feel that we should get together for sharing Buddhist wisdom and experiences with other members of the global community for world peace and prosperity.

May the Wheel of Buddha-Dharma turn around the world forever! May peace prevail on Earth!

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