



Theravada Group in Minsk, Republic of Belarus

Date: 05. 05. 2012

Congratulatory message

Dear Venerable monks and Dhamma Friends

On the behalf of Theravada Buddhists in Belarus let me express my joy of being here with all of you and extend congratulations on the thrice-sacred day of Vesak celebrating the Birth, Enlightenment and Passing away of the Shakyamuni Buddha. As we know the theme of the celebration this year is the Buddha's Enlightenment for the Well-Being of Humanity.

In my country there are a few unofficial Buddhist groups of different traditions like Tibetan Vajrayana and Theravada. Still Buddha Dhamma is perceived as something exotic and mysterious by most of people. Nevertheless, some people get in touch with Buddhism though different channels like yoga, martial arts and travelling in Buddhist countries.

Well-being includes not only economic but psychological aspect as well. A person cannot be happy with his or her mind full of fear, uncertainty, envy, anger, etc. even if the material life is stable and promising. Buddhism deals with mind. Without happy, joyful and peaceful mind happiness is not possible. Indeed, the essence of Buddha's teaching is search for happiness and well-being of those who practice Buddhists methods.

With time Buddhist nations added something their own to the external or ritualistic aspect of Buddhism. However, the essence of the Dhamma is universal, it not limited to a particular region, culture or time period and this makes Dhamma become popular in the world because it touches upon suffering and happiness issue.

No wonder that today Buddha's teaching reaches almost all corners of the world not owing to aggressive missionary policy adopted by some monotheistic cults but because it appeals to a human being's search for the peace of mind and freedom from fear of the death.

May all beings be happy and well and may Buddha Dhamma prevail in the world!

Andrei Dzmitryieu

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