



## **UNIONE BUDDHISTA ITALIANA**

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UNITED NATION VESAK CELEBRATION 2555/2012

The Buddha's Enlightenment for the Well-Being of Humanity

Rome 9 th May 2012

On behalf of the Italian Buddhist Union I express to the Supreme Sangha Council of Thailand , to the King of Thailand H.M. Bhumibol Adulyadej , to the Royal Thai Government , to the organizers, the Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University my deepest gratitude for their contribution to hosting the United Nation Vesak Day 2012 in Bangkok.

Two and a half thousand years after his death, humanity is still drawing inspiration and hope from the ancient teachings of the Blessed Sakyamuni Buddha.

In its essence the Buddhadharma has never been something to preserve as an untouchable relic, but live teachings always open to the stimulus coming from different cultures of the countries where they are widely spread. Suffering, the state of dissatisfaction tied to existence is common to all; it does not make a difference and the teachings that are useful to overcome these are valid and applicable for all, Orientals and Westerners.

During the time Dharma is spreading in different ways. On the whole, Italy and Europe do not have their own Dharma tradition and are a very good laboratory for an "inter-Buddhist" encounter. There is no background of disputes and diatribe among the various schools and so we can propose the Buddhadharma connected to tradition but free from traditionalisms. Perhaps this is the task Europe has. It is young from the Buddhist point of view but an "old" culture. It can create a new environment where the universal message of the Buddha can find unity and fullness in diversity and richness in its manifold traditions.

The Dharma is a very tall mountain, and we are mountain climbers still in the foothills with a long way to go to reach the top. What we need is the faith that the Dharma path will lead us to the top of the mountain, the patience to persist day after day in climbing that path, and the diligence not to give up until we reach the peak.

Work on one's own mind, that is, changing attitude toward that which happens inside or outside of us, an effort common to those who approach the teachings of the Buddha, is one of the aspects that denotes the implanting of the Dharma in a new country. Spiritual work as the work of a good artisan requires attention, perseverance, love and care for whatever one does. It has nothing to do with superficial external changes, for it is an internal change. Openness and willingness take the place of old habits of attachment and possessiveness to overcome mental unrest and egoistic isolation and to confront oneself with daily life in a serene way. This confrontation shows us clearly the real level of our work with the mind and on its thought process. May all our prayers and action spread the teachings of Sakyamuni Buddha and may they result in a blossoming of compassion and loving kindness which alone will bring peace, love and happiness all over our troubled world.

Prof. dr. Maria Angela Falà  
Vice President

