



Message from the Deputy Minister of Finance

The United Nation recognises the importance of the Day of Vesak and has announced this day as an internationally important day since 1999. The Day of Vesak or the Visakha Puja Day is the thrice-sacred day that marks the three important events in the life of the Lord Buddha, which are the birth, the enlightenment, and the passing away. On this day, Buddhists all over the world are gathering to commemorate and pay worship the Lord Buddha and his Dharma which serves as a guideline for ways of living and responsibilities for other people and the society as a whole.

The Lord Buddha attained the enlightenment at the age of 35 to become the self-enlightened one, and the Arriyasacca (or the Fourfold Noble Truths) found by the Lord more than two thousand years ago, has been regarded as one of the fundamental Buddhist principles until these days. The Fourfold Noble Truths include Dukkha (the nature of suffering), Samudaya (the cause of suffering), Nirodha (the cessation of suffering), and Magga (the way leading to an end of the cause of suffering). It could serve as a guideline and be applied to manage or end suffering at the individual and the societal levels in our modern world. Buddhists who adopt and practise the Lord's Dharma will live in the Middle Way and interact with other people on the basis of appropriateness. In other words, they will be responsible for their actions and the consequences of their actions to other people and the society as a whole. Such responsibility of individuals serves as a foundation for equity and sustainable peace of the world.

For Visakha Puja Day, I, as a Buddhist, would like to take this opportunity to express my grateful appreciation and acknowledgement of the Lord Buddha's invaluable contribution to the world. I am also delightful and would like to congratulate all Thai citizens for another success that Thailand has again received an honour to host the International Celebration on the Occasion of United Nations Day of Vesak 2013 "Education and Global Citizenships: A Buddhist perspective". I sincerely hope that this year's celebration will continue and enhance our wisdom and joy.

(Mr. Tanusak Lekuthai)

The Deputy Minister of Finance