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Goodwill Message for the 21st United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations 2026 Bangkok, Thailand – 29 May 2026

I would like to express my deepest gratitude and sincere felicitations to the International Council for the Day of Vesak (ICDV), Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University (MCU), Mahamakut Buddhist University (MBU), the Department of Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Culture of Thailand, and the National Office of Buddhism for organizing the 21st United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations 2026 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok under the timely and inspiring theme: *“Buddhist Wisdom in Promoting Global Sustainable Development and Building a Shared Future for Humanity.”*

At this critical moment in human history, marked by growing conflict, inequality, environmental crisis, and social suffering, the teachings of the Buddha are more relevant than ever. Buddhist wisdom offers humanity not only spiritual guidance, but also a profound social and ethical framework for understanding the causes of suffering and cultivating peaceful, compassionate, and harmonious societies.

The Buddhist vision of interdependence reminds us that no being exists in isolation. Our lives, actions, and futures are deeply interconnected. The principle of Dependent Origination teaches that all phenomena arise through causes and conditions, and therefore social suffering also has social and structural causes. Equally, solutions can and must emerge through collective responsibility, cooperation, and compassionate action.

In today’s globalized world, where humanity faces shared challenges, the Buddhist understanding of interconnectedness carries extraordinary significance. Our happiness is inseparable from the well-being of others and from the health of the planet itself. Acts of loving-kindness, compassion, empathetic joy, and equanimity — the Four Immeasurable — are not merely personal virtues; they are social principles capable of guiding humanity toward peace, justice, and sustainable development.

Buddhist philosophy emphasizes harmony over conflict, compassion over hatred, and wisdom over ignorance. It encourages us to cultivate responsibility and care for all living beings.

The Buddha’s message was deeply transformative and, in many ways, revolutionary. It affirmed the dignity and equality of all beings and called for the liberation of all from suffering.

Buddhism is not a blind belief system; it is a practical and rational path aimed at understanding the causes of suffering and creating the conditions for human flourishing. Its timeless insights into causality, interdependence, and collective well-being resonate strongly with contemporary social and scientific understandings of our interconnected world.

The Sangha — the community — also reminds us of the importance of solidarity, collective action, and mutual support. Building a peaceful and sustainable future for humanity requires not only individual transformation, but also social transformation grounded in compassion, ethical responsibility, and shared humanity.

May this Vesak celebration serve as an opportunity for reflection on the universal values of compassion, tolerance, wisdom, and loving-kindness. May it inspire renewed commitment to building societies free from violence, hatred, and suffering, and contribute to a future of peace, harmony, dignity, and well-being for all beings and for our planet.

With my highest respect and warmest wishes for the success of the 21st United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations 2026.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by 'AR' and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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