



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Remarks by  
Mr. Kham-Inh Khitchadeth,  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations  
on the occasion of the Commemoration of the Day of Vesak  
New York, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

Venerable Monks,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, on behalf of the Lao delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Palitha Kohona, Permanent Representative of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations and his Mission for taking the lead again this year in organizing such an important event for Buddhism. Moreover, I would also like to thank all member countries and participants who have made this observance possible and meaningful tonight.

Venerable Monks,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Vesak Day is a commemorative day for all Buddhists as it marks the birth, enlightenment and nirvana of the Lord Gautama Buddha. Today, millions of Buddhist followers around the world including the Lao people inspired by the Buddha's life and teaching have already celebrated Vesak Day by paying their respects to and reflecting on the long lasting life and percepts of the Lord Gautama Buddha. It is also to embrace the meaning and guidance of Lord Gautama Buddha in order to enlighten us in carrying out our lives.

Venerable Monks  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

More than a decade now, the United Nations has acknowledged the contribution made by Buddhism to the spirituality of humanity. Therefore, the Annual Observance of the International Recognition of the Vesak Day at the United Nations is relevant and imperative. This is a recognition of full diversity of religions, faith, ideas, beliefs and cultures of all mankind. It is also a true reflection of the international community to promote peace, prosperity and co-existence through mutual understanding, respects and tolerance. In the face of current global challenge and difficulties, it is the responsibility of everyone to take action in solidarity and unity to overcome those challenges by following the timeless philosophy and practice of Lord Gautama Buddha with mutual indulgence, open-mindedness and sympathy.

Venerable Monks  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Although Laos is a predominantly Buddhist nation with more than 60% of the population as adherents of the faith, Lao people are fully free to believe and practice any religion. In addition, Buddhism is one of many religions practicing in Laos which was introduced almost 1000 years ago and, however, the precious messages, value, lessons and insightful percepts of Lord Buddha are still respectfully practiced throughout the country. For that reason, Buddhism is significant for the Lao people as it plays a crucial role in promoting peace and mutual understanding of its people and contributing to the development and prosperity of the country.

Venerable Monks  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, I wish the Vesak Day will inspire all of us to follow the path of Lord Buddha in promoting peace, compassion and tolerance to end the racial discrimination, intolerance, violence, misunderstanding and human suffering, so this world would be more peaceful and a better place for the entire human race.

Once more, I wish everyone happiness and success as we observe Vesak Day. I thank you.