

Remarks by
Mr. Maythong Thammavongsa
Deputy Representative, Charge d'Affaires a.i of the Lao People's Democratic
Republic to the United Nations on the Occasion of the Celebration of the
International Day of Vesak at the United Nations

5 June 2015, New York

Co-chairs,
Venerable Monks,
Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On the auspicious occasion of the commemoration of the International Day of Vesak at the United Nations, on behalf of the delegation of the Lao PDR, I have the great pleasure to convey our heartfelt greetings to all Buddhist followers worldwide.

Let me also take this opportunity to share our condolences and sympathy to the People and Government of Nepal on their sufferings from the recent earthquake.

I would like to thank H.E Mr. Virachai Plasai, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations and H.E. Mr. Amrith Rohan Perera, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, and their teams for taking lead in co-organizing this meaningful event.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Vesak Day is unique and most important day for all Buddhists, since it marks three significant events in the life of our Lord Buddha which happened on the same date, namely– the Birth, the Enlightenment and the Passing away. This uniqueness has become part of the teaching of the Lord Buddha on how to lead a noble live, particularly the middle path, the compassion and care for each other that guide us to cope with challenges and overcome the sufferings that we may face in our lives.

The Recognition and Observance of the International Day of Vesak at the United Nations is relevant and important as it not only recognizes the diversity in religions and cultures of all faiths, but it also helps to promote peace, compassion, tolerance and mutual understanding that enshrined in the Buddhist teaching which in line with the purposes and principles of the United Nations in the quest for peace and prosperity for the world community.

Today, the world is facing with various challenges, such as peace and security, poverty, hunger, environment degradation and so on. The root causes of these challenges are partly from our human greed, lack of compassion, tolerance and mutual understanding. Hence, it is the responsibility of everyone of us to jointly tackle and overcome such challenges by promoting mutual understanding and mutual respect, tolerance and compassion so that the world could be rid of conflicts and tensions and the world community could live happily in peace.

Excellencies,

Since the advent of Buddhism in Laos many centuries ago, it has become the main religion that is being followed and practiced by most of the Lao people. Buddhism also becomes important part in our daily life as it plays a significant role in promoting understanding, harmony, mutual assistance and peace-loving of the Lao people. Buddhism also peacefully co-exists with other religions in the country. These also reflect the policy and practice of the Government of the Lao PDR in pursuit of national development and foreign relations with the world community.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, I wish the International Day of Vesak will inspire all of us to use the opportunity to reiterate our determination to lead noble lives, to develop our minds, to practice loving-kindness and to bring peace and harmony to humanity.

I wish everyone happiness in this International Day of Vesak.

I thank you.
