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இலங்கையின் பிரதம அமைச்சர்

Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

Vesak Day Message

I feel privileged and blessed to send this message on the occasion of the 18th United Nation Day of Vesak celebrated at the Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University (MCU) in Ayutthaya and United Nations ESCAP Centre in Bangkok, Thailand.

With great reminiscence I recall that the thrice sacred fullmoon day of Vesak celebrating the Birth, Enlightenment and Passing away of the Gautama Buddha was recognized by United Nations in 1999, on a proposal initiated by late Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar from Sri Lanka, ably supported by Thailand and other Buddhist Nations.

Vesak Day is the most sacred day of all Buddhists around the world and is considered the Birthday of Buddhism. Individual discipline in the mind, actions, and words inculcated in practice of Buddhism world over has greatly influenced strengthening of international peace and religious harmony. The Buddha expounded the Dharma for the benefit, both secular and mundane, of the entire world's people.

Today, the mankind is so keen in defining Life, and there is growing interest to follow the path of Buddhism as it teaches the true philosophy of life. When people become disgruntled with the materialistic world, they naturally turn to the path of tranquillity taught in Buddhism. The time has come for us cogitate deeply about the Buddha's teachings and example in order to guide such a society through internal crises and conflicts.

Therefore, let our societies commit to practice values of Loving-kindness (Metta), Compassion (Karuna), Sympathetic Joy (Muditha) and Equanimity (Upekkha) the four states of mind which leads to true happiness shown in sublime teaching of the Buddha.

May this celebration of Day of Vesak resolve to achieve a better society by building prosperity through peace, and peace through morality, and I believe this is a time to listen ever more to the venerable Maha Sangha, who always provide meaningful guidance.

May this be an auspicious Vesak, with minds satisfied by pleasantness of the Dhamma!

May the Buddha Sanasa be resplendent!

Dinesh Gunawardena

Prime Minister Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka