

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FOR UNDV 2019

by

Deputy Prime Minister-Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
H.E.Mr.Pham Binh Minh

On the occasion of the 2019 United Nations Day of Vesak to be organized at the International Buddhist Conference Center Tam Chúc, Hà Nam, Việt Nam from 12-14 May 2019, I respectfully send to all officials, monastics, lay Buddhists and distinguished guests my best congratulations in friendship and cooperation.

I believe that the Vietnamese people, who value the religious life and have a tradition of tolerance among religions, will be very happy to greet the UN Day of Vesak to be organized for the third time in Vietnam. The UN Day of Vesak is not only an important event in religious life with many religions in Vietnam but also a source of pride for all Buddhists and the Vietnamese people to have organized an important event of Buddhism, a religion that always accompanies the Vietnamese people through several millennia.

The Day of Vesak, an important event recognized by the United Nations, celebrates the birth, enlightenment and passing of the Buddha and is an occasion for us to think and expound the sublime and humanistic ideas of Buddhism, especially the spirit of tolerance, altruism, harmony and peace. Through several thousands of years, these ideas still retain their values, enriching the cultural and ethical values of peoples throughout the world, including the Vietnamese people.

The main theme of the Vesak this year “Buddhist Approach to Global Leadership and Shared Responsibilities for a Sustainable

Society” is very meaningful, realizing the expectations of Buddhism today and spreading the fundamental values of Buddhism in contributing to the solution of grand challenges facing us – from conflict, inequality, strong technological revolution to climate change.

The Day of Vesak is a place connecting the spiritualism and progressive ideas, and enriching the peace culture for the entire humanity. I hope the discussions within the confines of the Celebration will have good results, solidifying the friendship and cooperation among different peoples and cultures and together bringing the good values of Buddhism into daily life. I also wish all Buddhists and the Vietnamese people will continue to develop further the superior ideas of Buddhism, enriching the traditional culture of Vietnam and contributing to the building of a beautiful, peaceful and sustainable Vietnam.

May the 2019 Day of Vesak be a great success and I wish all monastics, lay Buddhists and distinguished guests attending the Celebration good health and at peace.

Pham Binh Minh

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