

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE For UN Vesak Day 2019

On the happy occasion of the UN Vesak 16th celebration, to be held in Vietnam

hosted by the National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha since 12th-14th May 2019, and on behalf of all members of Asociación Hispana de Buddhismo in Spain, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations for the success of organizing once again in Vietnam this global meeting.

I would like to express my gratitude to Most Ven. Dr. Thich Nhat Tu, UNDV 2019 Conference Convenor, as well as all people who have participated in the organization of this event. I am sure that, as in the case of 2008 and 2014 celebrations in Vietnam, all their efforts and work will be rewarded by very positive results and the recognition of all the participants from all corners of the world.

As a disciple of the Buddha and brother in the Dhamma of all the participants in this event, I also want to express my commitment to contribute as much as possible to 1 harmony and to the best knowledge and understanding among all of us. The different

nationalities, the different languages, cultures and environments, the various visions, traditions and schools of our Buddhist practice should only enrich us and, in no way, be an excuse for distancing or confrontation. For a Buddhist, these differences are an opportunity and a challenge to overcome them.

In Western societies as I come from, more and more people are looking to the East for solutions that are different from the traditional ones of our countries. Every day a Buddhist approach to global leadership and shared responsibilities for sustainable societies becomes more necessary and that is why I congratulate the organizers for carrying out this academic initiative parallel to the Celebration. I encourage them to disseminate the conclusions

of this Conference so that the effort is useful and has a positive and unifying reflection in our different societies.

Finally, I would like to wish all the participants of UNDV a successful contribution to the Celebration. May the Triple Gem bless us all.

Yours in the Dhamma, with metta,

Ricardo Guerrero Upasaka Medhankara
Asociacion Hispana de Buddhismo in Spain