

Remarks by Ms. Boosara Kanchanalai, Chargé d'affaires
4th International Tipitaka Chanting Ceremony at the US Zen Institute
June 14, 2019
Germantown, Maryland

Venerable Dr. Thanat Inthisan, Chairman of the Board of Wat Thai Washington, DC and Chairman of the Board of the International Buddhist Association of America (IBAA),
Venerable Dr. Dhammadipa, Abbot of US Zen Institute in Germantown,
Mahasanghas from monasteries across Washington Metropolitan area and overseas,
IBAA's Board of Directors and members,
Venerables, Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here today for the annual International Tipitaka Chanting Ceremony at this US Zen Institute which is the 4th consecutive year of the Royal Thai Embassy's continuous participation. We are honored to be a part of this meaningful occasion contributing to the preservation of the Tipitaka or the Pali Canon, the crucial element of the Buddhist traditions. This is highly auspicious and important that all the sanghas, beyond the barriers of nationality, culture and language, have come together to revive this legacy and display the unity of Buddhist community to the world.

Buddhism in the United States today is on the rise and gaining greater attentions reflected in several millions of adherents and increasing number of monasteries and sanghas spreading across the US. This phenomenon reflects people's appreciation and emphasis on mental development, self-regulation and living their lives according to the Buddhism's paths to liberation, seeking for inner peace and wellness with an attitude of openness, compassion and tolerance which are the key elements of a harmonious, peaceful and loving society.

I'd like to take this opportunity to present my appreciation for the IBAA for serving the Buddhist communities in the United States, advocating for diversity and pluralism of religions in this country and most importantly, for arranging this beautiful and spiritual gathering that brings the message of Buddha's teachings to the world. Not only does the IBAA serve as a platform for cooperation among many of Buddhist organization but also as an open-door for people of all nations to get to know more about the Mahasangha Dhamma teachings and

philosophy of Lord Buddha. This event has proven to be a huge success thanks to the hard works of monks and nuns, all the lay followers from all the three Yanas: Theravada, Mahayana and Tantrayana, and the Asian American Buddhist Communities in the Washington Metropolitan area and from the overseas. It is such an honor for Thailand to become a part of something so significant and valuable to Buddhism.

With this opportunity, may I wish in return all venerables a rejoice in all the great Dhamma activities that benefit so many beings, all the lay followers of the Triple Gem. May your health be strong and may your shining wisdom be brighter for all the devotees.

I wish to thank the US Zen Institute for hosting this event and I wish you all every success with this fourth Tipitaka chanting ceremony.

Thank you.