

**Embassy of India
Bangkok**

Press Release

Observance of the International Day of Non-Violence in Bangkok



(Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Mrs. Shobhana Radhakrishna and Deputy Executive Secretary of UNESCAP Mr. Shun-ichi Murata with Ambassadors attending the event)

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Embassy of India, Bangkok in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission of the Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) commemorated the International Day of Non-Violence on Thursday, 2 October 2014 at the UN Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok.

Mr. Shun-ichi Murata, Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNESCAP read out messages of Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the UN and Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary of the UNESCAP. Both messages reaffirmed the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence and the desire to secure a culture of peace, tolerance and understanding. Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla in his address underlined significance of Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence in today's world and urged the gathering to strive to adopt Gandhian methods to the present day challenges, with earnestness and perseverance. He expressed gratification by the offer of Thammasat University to set up a Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Peace and Non Violence in Thailand.

To mark the 8th International Day of Non-Violence this year, Mrs. Shobhana Radhakrishna of Gandhian Forum for Ethical Corporate Governance, New Delhi delivered a key note address on 'Mahatma Gandhi- Non-violence resistance is as relevant as ever'. During her remarks, Mrs. Radhakrishna highlighted the different aspects of the Gandhian philosophy and his personality as a leader as well as a common man. A short documentary titled "the Visionary Dreamer" produced by Prasar Bharti was screened. Indian Women's Club and students from Modern International School of Bangkok paid a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by performing Bhajans and songs. A display titled 'a simple man, the world calls Mahatma" produced by Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs was presented at UNCC and shall continue to be played for one week at the UNCC. The event ended with offering of floral tributes by the attendees at the bust of Mahatma Gandhi installed in UNCC.

The function was well-attended by Ambassadors and members of the Diplomatic corps, members of UN agencies, teachers and students of various Universities and schools in Thailand (Thammasat, Mahidol, Silpakorn and Assumption), representatives of various Indian Associations and media.



(Students from Modern International School of Bangkok performing at UNCC)



(Mrs. Shobhana Radhakrishna displaying Charkha to Thai students)



(Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla with Embassy Officers at the Gandhi Bust)

(Bangkok-2 October 2014)
