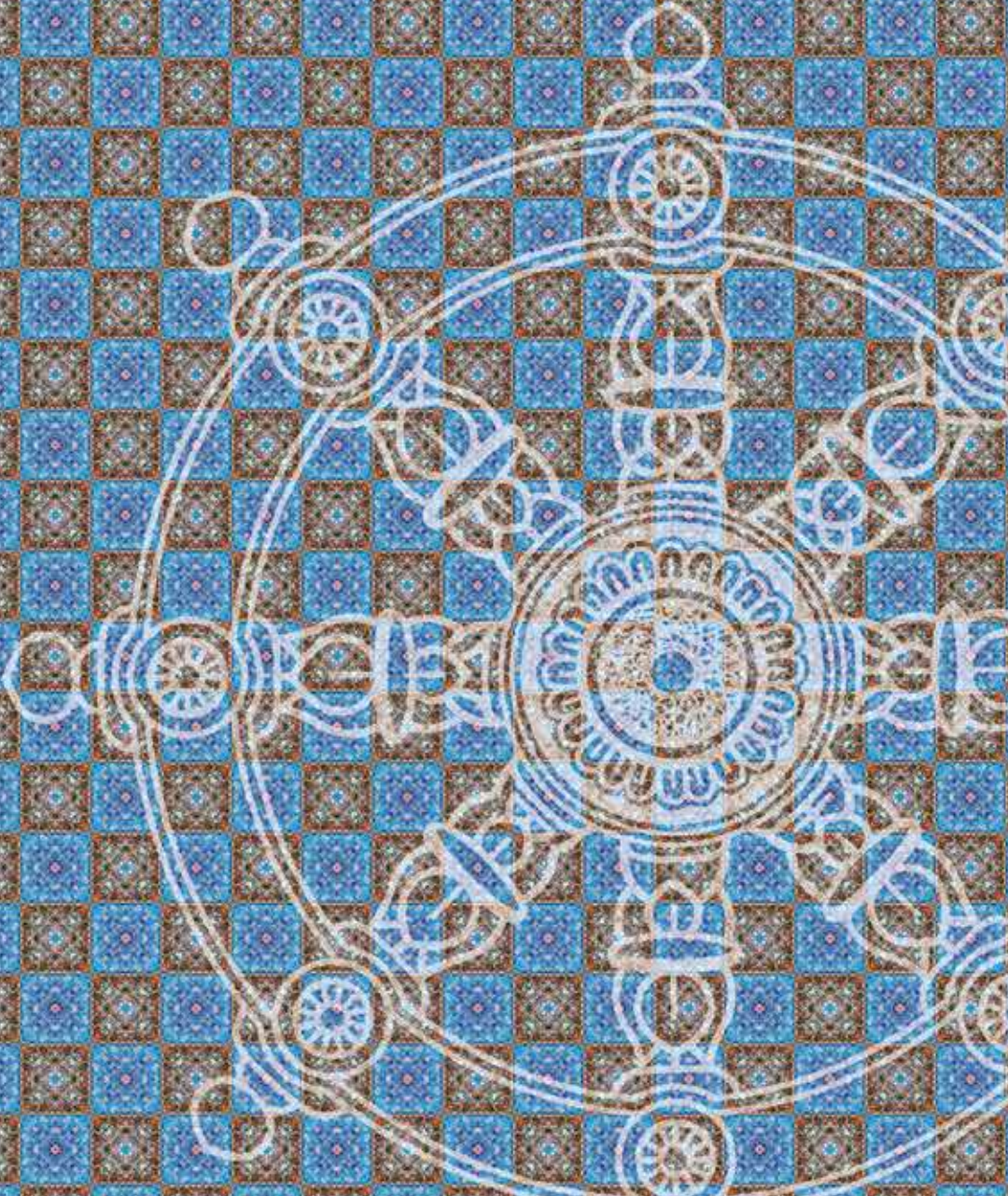


BDK Newsletter

Michi - The Path -

BUKKYO DENDO KYOKAI Society for the Promotion of Buddhism

No.03
2014



Michi

— The Path —

03

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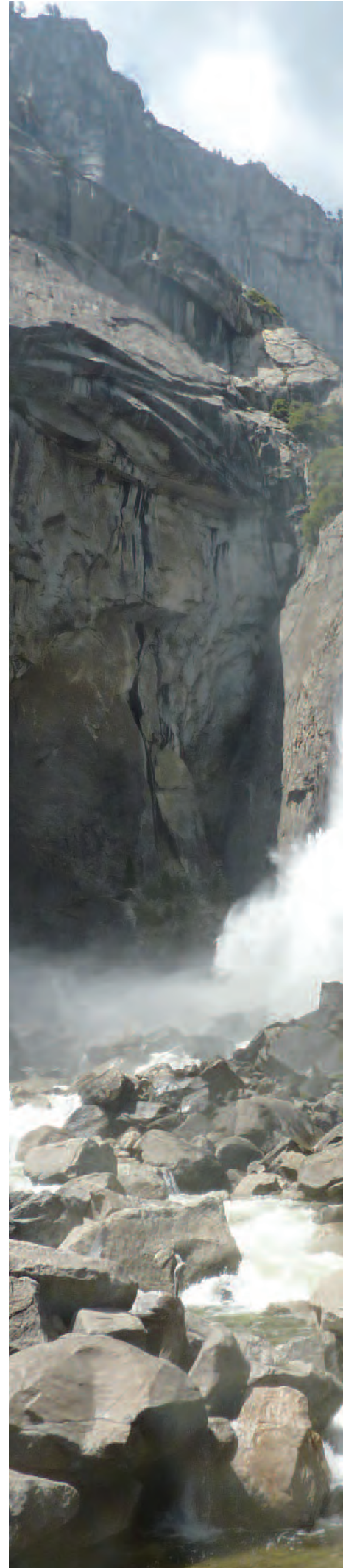
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BUKKYO DENDO KYOKAI
Society for the Promotion of Buddhism





Following the New MICHI, Path to the Next Stage

In 1965, Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) was established by the late Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata, the founder of Mitutoyo Corporation. His fervent wish was to spread the teachings of Buddha throughout the world. From that time on, BDK has diligently been translating and distributing “The Teaching of Buddha” with the support and cooperation of like-minded individuals and organizations.

According to the new Japanese law on the authorization of foundations, the Japanese government has officially approved BDK to be recognized as a “Public Interest Incorporated Foundation” and this was a fresh new start for BDK as of April 1, 2013.

Following this transition, BDK has set the ultimate goal of propagating Buddhist wisdom found in the basics of Japanese culture by sponsoring a wide range of cultural activities and academic programs. BDK is a non-sectarian organization, and does not promote any particular school of Buddhism.

As we have successfully ended our first year being a “Public Interest Incorporated Foundation,” we will now be ready to welcome our 50th anniversary year coming up in 2015. BDK will keep contributing to the overall achievement of global peace and harmony from now on.

I truly appreciate your generous understanding and continued support of BDK activities.

With Gassho,

Toshihide Numata,
Chairman of BDK





BDK Publications

01
Activity

BDK Japan Publication Updates

“The Teaching of Buddha” has been translated into 46 languages and over 8.3 million copies of the book have been distributed in various countries around the world.

BDK has already distributed “The Teaching of Buddha” to hotels and hospitals in the world for the last decades. In addition to those places, for this year, we have focused on donating copies of the book to the domestic Buddhist schools and kindergartens, etc. For ceremonies, seminars, and a variety of school activities, “The Teaching of Buddha” has been found to be useful for explaining to students and their parents the basic ideas of Buddhism and introducing traditional Japanese Buddhist cultures to people from all over the world.

In 2013, BDK donated 74,716 copies of “The Teaching of Buddha” to 318 schools such as Rakunan junior and senior high schools (Shingon school), Todaiji Gakuen (Kegon school), Uenomiya High School (Jodo school), Hieizan High School (Tendai school), and Rissho University (Nichiren school). Moreover, in overseas countries,

BDK has distributed about 86,000 copies of “The Teaching of Buddha” to BDK affiliated institutions and other organizations such as Yeedzin Guest House / Khangkhu Resort in Bhutan, The Dwarika’s Resort in Nepal, the United Nations Population

Fund of Bhutan, Chakma Raj Vhar Pali Examination Center in Bangladesh, and the head temple of the Soukei school in Seoul, South Korea, which hosts Hanamatsuri, the Buddhist event celebrating Buddha’s birthday on April 8th.



Interview

"The Teaching of Buddha" In A Classroom

Interview with Project Associate Prof. Seiji Kumagai, Kyoto University

Location: Kokoro Research Center, Kyoto University, Japan

Interviewer & Photography: Kaoru Eguchi, BDK

As BDK has mainly distributed copies of "The Teaching of Buddha" to the world, books are practically used in various occa-

sions. We have interviewed Project Associate Prof. Seiji Kumagai from Kokoro Research Center at Kyoto University

regarding "The Teaching of Buddha" in his classroom.



Q How did you encounter "The Teaching of Buddha" for the first time?

I remember hearing that the late Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata, the founder of BDK, printed and distributed copies of "The Teaching of Buddha" after learning that Christian Bibles were being placed in a hotel rooms. He accepted their ideas and tried to introduce a new version of the Buddhist scriptures to the world. That was

"innovative" at the time he started, but now his way has become "traditional" in a good way to date.

I understand that it has been almost 50 years since Dr. Yehan Numata founded this organization (the year 2015 will be the 50th Anniversary for BDK.). One of my friends who cooperates with the free newspaper called "Free-Style Monks" introduced me to "The Teaching of Buddha" for the

first time. Then I thought that it would be interesting if I could use this book in my class and it must be a great opportunity for students to touch the essence of Buddhism.

Q How did you actually use "The Teaching of Buddha" in your class?

It is not proper to teach students about one specific religion with a certain perspective at schools in modern

Japan because education has to be fair to everyone. That is why teachers try to make their syllabi very systematic and can only give an outline of the various religions. Therefore, I was a bit worried at first if “The Teaching of Buddha” could fit into this idea or not. However, everything is in chronological order and it is based on proper sources. I thought this would be wonderful and I was confident on using this book in a classroom.

Q Did you receive any feedback from your students on their reading of “The Teaching of Buddha”?

My students seemed to enjoy reading “The Teaching of Buddha.” One said, “I could learn the basic ideas of Buddhism from this book, and I’ve found something congenial in Buddha by knowing the words of Buddha.” And another one finished reading the whole book in his spare time even though we did not read most of it in class. If I did not introduce it to those students as a classroom reading, they might not have any opportunity to know about “The Teaching of Buddha.” I could have prepared a summary if I wanted to tell only the words of Buddha; however, I thought that it would be difficult for students to understand the meaning of each word in context. Papers can be easily thrown away after the class, but the great looking book of “The Teaching

of Buddha” made students treat it with care, I think. Also, the size of the book itself is nice and easy to carry around. I am simply happy to see that my students enjoyed “The Teaching of Buddha.”

Q “The Teaching of Buddha” has been already used widely at educational institutes in many countries around the world, but what do you think about the effective practical use of “The Teaching of Buddha” in the future Japanese educational world?

It was not easy to bring some religious factors into the public field of education especially after the WWII. It is not acceptable that you particularly choose a specific religion or a sutra and teach students with them because you have to remain as neutral as possible.

Students are usually spending time at a school for five to seven hours, five days a week in Japan. However, I think education needs 24 hours. For example, greeting, eating, cleaning, etc. can be a part of education, too. And students are not at school for the other 17 hours. I do not believe that we should stick to the “education at schools.” I rather think that I can do something more feasible at a school.

You know the image of religion among young Japanese people is neg-

ative in general. If you ask younger people a question like “what do you think of religion?” most of them will express a negative opinion on it. It must be because of the influence from cult groups, terrorism, etc. Once you get the proper knowledge of religion, however, I believe that people will not misunderstand it. Being religious differs from those stereotypical images on religions.

When you go abroad and communicate with people from other countries, it is very important to know and understand each others’ religion as a cultural background. Even However, we must remember that there will always be people behind everything, culture behind the people, spirits and willfulness behind the culture. Therefore, I would like to use religious education effectively at school and it will be nice to have “The Teaching of Buddha” by our sides when that becomes a reality in the future.

If I could have one wish, I would ask that BDK cooperates with professionals of teaching materials and reedit “The Teaching of Buddha” just as a school text so that more teachers can use the book at various occasions in schools.

.....
About 75,000 copies of “The Teaching of Buddha” has been distributed to 318 schools in Japan in 2013.

As Prof. Kumagai said about “Buddhist education not being a propagation of Buddhism,” this idea should be accepted more in Japan. BDK hopes that more young students will take active parts of the global world from now on with a little help from “The Teaching of Buddha.”





|| BDK Fellowship Programs

01 Activity BDK Fellowship For Japanese Scholars

BDK established a new fellowship for Japanese scholars in 2012 to enable worthy scholars to engage in research

on Buddhism in foreign countries. This is our second year to welcome new scholars to the 2014 program.

The 2014 Awardees:

Name : Sayaka Kishi

Affiliation : Graduate Student, Doctoral Program in Philosophy, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tsukuba

Theme of Research: Who are Mahāyānikabodhisattvas?

—A comparative study of commentaries on Mahāyānasūtras and Yogācāra-vijñaptivāda treatises—

Name : Toshikazu Watanabe

Affiliation : Institut für Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens

Theme of Research: Acceptance of logical thought in Mahāyāna Buddhism and its development

We had a great opportunity to receive a little report from one of our very first awardees for the year 2013, Ms. Maho Iuchi, Post-Doctoral Associate, Department of South Asian Studies at Harvard University in the U.S..

—When I attended an international conference in 2012, one of the professors who also happened to be there recommended the “BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars” to me. That was my first opportunity to know about this great program. I was already affiliated with Harvard University at the time and was thinking of staying another year at Harvard to continue my

studies and research. I immediately decided to apply for it!

Shortly after I applied for it, I got the wonderful news that I was awarded the first BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars! I could not hold back my joy and told Prof. van der Kuijp at Harvard, who is welcoming me for another year.

I will be able to stay at Harvard one more year and that will help me a lot to continue my studies and research about Rgyal ba'i dben gnas rwa sgreng gi bshad pa nyi ma'i 'od which I started since 2011, and I am publishing it very soon. Thank you BDK!



BDK Fellowship For Foreign Scholars

Interview with Prof. Katsuhiko Yoshizawa & Mr. Osvaldo Mercuri, Hanazono University

Interviewees: Mr. Osvaldo Mercuri, research staff, International Research Institute for Zen Studies, Hanazono University and Prof. Katsuhiko Yoshizawa at International Research Institute for Zen Studies, Hanazono University

Interviewer & Photography: Kaoru Eguchi, BDK

Location: International Research Institute for Zen Studies, Hanazono University in Kyoto, Japan

The Current BDK Fellowship

The BDK Fellowship was established to promote international cooperation and mutual understanding in Buddhist studies, and is intended to enable

researchers to engage in research on Buddhism while in Japan. The BDK Fellowship committee was established in 1991 and has selected 60 prom-

ising scholars up to the year 2014. Most of the recipients are active in the front lines of today's Buddhist academic world.

The BDK Fellowship committee selected three prospective scholars for the 2013 grant. It is with great pleasure that we extend our welcome to

one of them at this time. Mr. Osvaldo Mercuri, research staff, International Research Institute for Zen Studies, Hanazono University and his academ-

ic advisor, Prof. Katsuhiko Yoshizawa at International Research Institute for Zen Studies, Hanazono University were interviewed.

Q How did you two meet for the first time?

Prof. Yoshizawa: When I first met Osvaldo, he had just affiliated himself at Hanazono University. I had heard about him from several researchers, however, I was not his academic advisor at the time. I remember that I told him something to the effect that he should try to read not only a language, but also the meanings behind the language. Ritsumeikan University is one of the leading universities in Japan for sure, but I thought that it would be perfect for him and his research if he could come to Hanazono University.

Q What made you apply for the 2013 BDK Fellowship? And how did you feel when you

found out that you were officially selected?

Mr. Mercuri: Some scholars at Hanazono University explained this scholarship program and recommended it to me. I thought that it has to be a wonderful opportunity and immediately decided to apply for it.

My heart was pounding and I was extremely happy when I learned that I had been selected for the 2013 BDK Fellowship! I knew that excellent scholars from all over the world have applied for the program each year and it would be difficult for me to be selected. Soon after I heard the great news from BDK, I was absolutely delighted and expressed my feelings of gratitude to Prof. Yoshizawa and all

the people who supported my research and me.

Q Please tell us about your current studies and research at Hanazono University and why you chose to cover this theme in depth.

Mr. Mercuri: My current research theme is basically about the history and philosophy of Rinzai Zen in the Kamakura and Muromachi Eras in Japan, especially about “Daitō Kokushi (Shūhō Myōchō)’s” Zen. I have been trying to find out the particular Zen style at the time. Daitō Kokushi (Shūhō Myōchō) is one of the most important monks in Japanese Rinzai Zen history, and today's Rinzai school monks are somehow related to



him. Also, the research on “O-To-Kan”^{*} can be valuable to study and I believe that no one except myself has currently focused on him and his philosophy.

^{*}O-To-Kan : 〇応 …Daiō
Kokushi 大応国師、To燈…
Daitō Kokushi 大燈国師、Kan
関…Kanzan Egen 関山慧玄

When I was in Italy, I wrote a thesis for my bachelor’s and master’s degree about “Musō Kokushi” but I realized that “Daitō Kokushi” has been always been associated and compared with “Musō Kokushi”. And I was attracted by his philosophy and came to know that the studies of “Daitō Kokushi” have not progressed much. Therefore, I finally decided to study more about

“Daitō Kokushi.”

This theme seems to be too difficult and impossible to examine just by looking from the outside, but it is very interesting and challenging at the same time. I had some difficulties with the language and vocabulary, and I had no preliminary knowledge of Kanji. Therefore, I had to start from scratch and I learned like an elementary school student does. The dictionary does not help at all, and Prof. Yoshizawa happily showed me steps by teaching small things.

Prof. Yoshizawa: What he has been doing at the moment is like climbing a steep mountain with rocks that no one could ever climb before. You cannot see the road someone walked before or there are no tools for climbing.

Even though you could find a great tool such as the footprint of someone left before, it can disturb your way. Or if you are distracted by searching for a tool too much, you might fall from the mountain. This means that you should take each step forward with an open mind and light equipment. In a way, this could be very “Zen,” and you think thoroughly in your head by yourself on the way to reaching the top of the mountain. If you just sit and wait for tools to be ready to use, nothing will be enable you to start. (Stories about “Zen” go on…)

Anyway, it is great that he chose “A philological study of Daitō Kokushi (Shūhō Myōchō)’s Zen” as his research theme because no one ever tried before.

Mr. Mercuri: You are exactly right, but there is a competition between previous researchers.

Prof. Yoshizawa: So... IF you climb up to the top of this mountain, YOU will be the pioneer! (With a big smile)

Mr. Mercuri: I think the image of Zen is stereotypical in European countries. However, the word “Zen” is becoming so popular and most people misunderstand what it is. I truly hope that I will be the one who will be able to tell everyone what it really is for a better understanding for all.

Prof. Yoshizawa: Even in Japan, people sometimes take it wrongly. In a Zen world, people think that you cannot speak or write, but that is a total misunderstanding. The Zen school has the most literature. You cannot keep silent forever in the real world, can you?

I remember one story about Rev. Genpo Yamamoto, who is called Hakuin Zenji in the modern world, a blind Rinzai Zen master, and Yukio Mishima, who was one of the leading novelists and activists in the Showa Era was strongly influenced by him. One time, Rev. Yamamoto visited London by himself. When he arrived at the airport, it was so crowded and of course, he could not see anything and could not find the person who was supposed to pick him up. All the sudden, he shouted in a loud voice only once, “喝Katsu!” in the arrival lobby. People immediately noticed where Rev. Yamamoto was in the lobby. I think this story indicates “Zen” very well and I really like that.

However if you are a scholar, you cannot do something like this. It is

going a little too far if I say this, but it would not have any meaning and it is impossible to accept if you write 30-pages of a blank essay or only the word “喝Katsu” on a sheet of paper in your essay. For our world of researchers, language is the most important thing and you will always have to explain things with some kind of language. For a world of religionists, he/she should train him/herself so hard and come back to society and work for it. I hope Osvaldo will realize that he is doing his studies and research not only in a language, but also in a religion at the same time.

Q How would you evaluate the accomplishment that Mr. Mercuri has achieved so far at Hanazono University? And what would you look for him to further accomplish in the future?

Prof. Yoshizawa: He has a point and it is great for him to focus on his current research theme, the philosophy of “Daitō Kokushi.” This has not been done properly by anyone to date.

Most Japanese students do not try to read old references like manuscripts because it is time-consuming. However, Osvaldo has been positively trying it, and I am sure that his efforts will bear fruit in the future. I am impressed with his good sense of how he notices the problems and focuses on small things. I hope that he will complete his thesis at first and then send the results of his research out to the world.

When you try to dig a hole 100 meters in depth, you will start doing it with a diameter of several kilometers. It sounds unpractical, but if you would like to dig it deeply, you will have to do it widely. While Osvaldo is staying

in Japan, I hope that he will look widely outside of his own world. His brain is made in Italy, and it is highly efficient. Therefore, his brain is supposed to absorb more information. (Everyone laughed.) The same can be said of many matters, and it always deepens when you come to know broadly. “Zen” should be a religion in the first place, so you cannot finish it as just a subject of research. I know some people are doing it only for a living, but this should not be right because religion is a way of life. I hope the results of his research will be known among more people in the world. And he should give back to society by showing the more appealing points of religion and philosophy through his learning of other aspects of Japanese culture and customs while he is conducting his research here in Japan.

Mr. Mercuri: I am simply pleased with Prof. Yoshizawa’s great expectation.

Q Please tell us about your future research plans after this year at Hanazono University?

Mr. Mercuri: I would like to stay in Japan and continue my research. For my future, it is my dream, but I wish I will be able to continue my life as it is and eventually stand on my own feet as a professional scholar. In the end, I would like to teach everything I have learned in Japan to European people in Europe. However for now, I will take my time and do what I can do here in Japan under the supervision of Prof. Yoshizawa!

Q What is the most rewarding aspect of receiving the grant from BDK and anything you two noticed about the BDK

Fellowship program?

Mr. Mercuri: This scholarship program certainly focuses on what scholars coming from other countries need. First of all, the scholarship grant is good enough to allow the pursuit of research without any worries. BDK also pays the health insurance and this is also appreciated. Therefore, I am able to focus on what I am doing and prospectively plan my future research in a long term.

I am still young as a scholar; however, it is always very nice to be noticed by the world. And one of those leading organizations, Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai, awarded me the scholarship. This means a lot to me, and I am honored to be one of those BDK Fellowship family members, and my research will thereby be recognized as valuable to the world somewhat.

I believe that Japanese Zen studies should be carried out in Japan. Reliable professors can give me advice and I can also meet excellent scholars from all over the world in Japan. This experience is just priceless to my life.

And one more thing that I really appreciate is the provision that candidates should be “preferably advanced graduate students working toward a Ph.D. degree,” and does not have to be a Ph.D. holder. I like how BDK helps cultivating the talents of young promising scholars.

Prof. Yoshizawa: In addition to what he said, I appreciate that BDK warmly welcomed him like a family member. The application steps are very simple to follow and they do not take long to decide. It has been just wonderful.



Moreover, I truly appreciate the fact that BDK helps scholars from all over the world. It is very disappointing, but each Buddhist school does not support them enough at the moment. On the other hand, the interest in Buddhism is keenly higher these days. We must thank BDK for the “great spirits” in the form of the scholarship.

Interest in Japanese culture with a focus on Japanese Buddhism in today’s world is enormous. “Kawaii” and “Anime” are examples. In the European world, prospective students who are trying to major in Japanese studies at universities are increasing in recent years. Their interests are said to be “Pop Culture,” however, I personally believe that this trend is great. One of those students might be interested in learning Buddhism and Shintoism that are deeply related to everything in Japanese culture.

Prof. Yoshizawa: The most important thing for those who intend to apply for the BDK Fellowship in the future would be the “honesty” that Mr. Mercuri has been exemplifying. You cannot achieve big without following thousands of small and simple steps. I would like those candidates to make efforts to accomplish small tasks as your first step.

As Mr. Mercuri confidently stated, it is BDK’s desire to assist scholars from all over the world to come to Japan and pursue their studies and research with BDK support. The 2015 BDK Fellowship application will appear online at the beginning of October 2014. BDK most certainly welcomes all promising scholars to apply for consideration of the BDK Fellowship in next year’s program.

(For more information about the BDK Fellowship, please visit <http://www.bdk.or.jp>)



Please give some advice to future BDK Fellowship candidates.



BDK Financial Aids

01
Activity

BDK Financial Aid for the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Student Volunteer Program and Photograph Exhibition



Three years have passed since the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami struck Japan. Since then, BDK has been setting up a financial aid program each year, and we welcomed 34 college/university students from all over Japan to participate in the "BDK Student Volunteer Program" mainly in Kesennuma City, Miyagi prefecture from September 4th, 2013. For three nights and four days, they stayed at the Ikkeikaku Hotel in Kesennuma City, which was the only

hotel that survived in the area. Students worked hard under the guidance of the Kesennuma Reconstruction Association (<http://kra-fucco.com/>).

They cleaned along the coastline and built a flower garden for the memorial monument site, which used to be a designated shelter for many people who had been evacuated when the tsunami struck. Unfortunately the tsunami was larger than expected and more than a hundred people died

there.

Students also helped by organizing a free concert featuring Minohime and JPSA at Jifukuji Temple (Rev. Shuko Katayama) in the area. Jifukuji was also hit by the tsunami and was almost destroyed, but the local people helped to rebuild the temple. After the concert, students had an opportunity to talk to the locals and heard about lots of sad and terrible experiences directly from them.

The students also visited Kofukuji Temple (Rev. Genpo Suda and Mrs. Yuko Suda) and listened to their experiences of accepting many evacuees including about 80 elementary school students for days after the earthquake. It was an absolutely hard time for everyone, but the experiences of spending nights with the students affected them deeply. Mrs. Suda told the student volunteers about their experiences and showed them gripping photos of the children.

After the visit at Kofukuji, students attended a lecture given by Rev. Taio Kaneda, who is operating "Café de Monk," a wagon café in his car serving a cup of coffee and a piece of cake for evacuees and listening to their everyday stories. He visited each shelter house in Miyagi and Iwate prefectures several tens of times. Students listened intently to his lecture and learned how difficult listening with care is, especially to someone who really suffered from an unexpected natural disaster like the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

Although the program lasted for such a short time, BDK hopes that students will share what they experienced there and spread them more to the world. Since students gathered from all over the world, they held photo exhibitions at each area after they completed the program.

Three students, Ms. Gi, Ms. En, and Mr. Mori have participated in the program from Kyoto prefecture. Kyoto is one of the world's famous sightseeing



spots, and those students planned to hold the exhibition at some popular temple in Kyoto so that many tourists can see it and know more about what is still happening in the disaster areas. Fortunately, Ninnaji Temple, one of the most famous and prestigious temples in Japan (<http://ninnaji.jp/>), cooperated and offered a space for their exhibition. It was held as part of the Volunteers for the Earthquake

Recovery project, and although it snowed in January, many tourists stopped by and gazed at the photos and read the explanations.

It is BDK's wish that this financial aid will help revive the well-being and happiness of the people in the stricken area and will be a little boost to support them in the future ahead.



02 Activity

The 47th BDK Cultural Awards



The Cultural Awards for the Promotion of Buddhism: BUNKA-SHO / NUMATA SHOREI-SHO

Starting from the year 2012, BDK established a new award besides the BUNKA-SHO to be called “Numata Shorei-Sho” (Numata Encouragement Award), which is given to individuals who are already exhibiting dedicated service to Buddhism, and in time will become an up-and-coming contributor to the promotion of Buddhism.

The BDK Cultural Award Committee selected the following awardees and presented them with a gift and honorarium. The 47th ceremony and banquet was held at the BDK Center Building in Tokyo on October 2, 2013.



The 47th Bukkyo Dendo Bunka-sho: Tayama Hoon Kai (the late Mr. Kojiro Tayama, Founder of Tayama Hoon Kai)

Contributed to the development of social welfare and activities and continues to lead the Buddhist lecture series at the Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital and the Atomic Bomb Survivors Hospital.

Numata Shorei-Sho: Rev. Norihiro Nagakura

Enlarged the scope of "Vihara" activities, based on the teaching of the Buddha, through direct dialogue with terminal patients in the hospital.

Buddhist Lectures and Seminars

01 Activity The 43rd Jissen Fukyo Kenkyukai, BDK Buddhist Missionary Seminar at Minobusan Kuonji

BDK hosted the 43rd Jissen Fukyo Kenkyukai at Minobusan Kuonji from June 4th to June 6th and welcomed about 60 priests and their temple family members from throughout Japan.

During three nights of the seminar from May 29th, 2013 participants experienced Suigyo, intensive water

training to purify the body and soul at once in a Nichiren-shu way; listened to lectures including Shodaigyo; practiced Nichiren-shu style meditation; and chanted “Nanmyohorengekyo” in one combination. Moreover, all the participants gathered together and had proactive discussions with the theme, “The Future of Japanese Buddhism,” and other solid programs.



02 Activity Mita-Rakugo-Kai

Rakugo is one of the oldest forms of Japanese verbal entertainments. It is said that the origins of Rakugo came from Fushidansekyo, which is a style used by Buddhist priests to tell the teachings of the Buddha with gestures and melodic rhythm. BDK offers opportunities for the general public to experience the essence of Buddhist culture and spirituality through the event.

We hold “Mita-Rakugo-Kai” six times a year; in February, April, June, August, October and December. February includes the day of Buddha's death, February 15th. April has the day of Buddha's birthday, April 8th. August has Obon, observed around August 15th, the homecoming time for the souls of ancestors. December includes the day for celebrating

Shakyamuni's enlightenment. We have both daytime and night performances in a day.

For the performance schedule for 2014 and ticket purchases, please visit the Mita-Rakugo-Kai official website. (<http://mita-rakugo.com/>)



03 Activity The 16th Buddhist Music Festival -Buddhaspel ~Light of Hope~

One of BDK's major activities is the "modernization of Buddhist music and its popularization." This was our 16th Buddhist music festival since 1977. We had this event at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple with the theme of "Light of Hope" and introduced the new idea of "Buddhaspel" on March 12th, 2014. The ticket sales and contributions from the audiences of the concert were donated to "Iwate-no-Manabi-Kibou-Kikin," the Funds for Disaster Orphans operated by Iwate-prefecture.

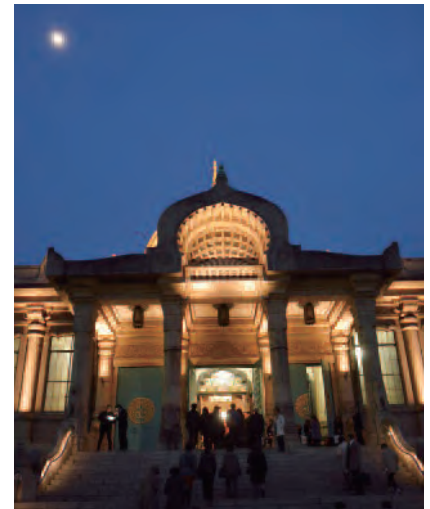
We welcomed more than 500 people, who filled the main hall of the temple. The audience included Mrs. Yoko Tasso, the wife of the governor of Iwate-prefecture. Tsukiji Gakuyu-kai,

the Buddhist chorus group with the pipe-organ performance; JPSA, a pop singer group that won the 14th Buddhist Music Festival; and Kiroro, one of the most popular pop singer duos in Japan offered their beautiful voices to the crowd.

BDK invited the brass band club students from Otsuchi High School in Iwate to the event. Most of those students lost loved ones from the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011, but the songs of Kiroro encouraged them a lot. They seemed to enjoy the relaxing time with the great music.

The audience empathized with the earthquake and tsunami victims and

survivors through the warm touch of the music that filled the magnificent atmosphere of the temple. Moreover, the crowd was introduced to a new word, "Buddhaspel," with its great connection to Buddhist music.



Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple

04 Activity Buddhist Lectures and Seminars

One of BDK's missions is to "support education programs that advance the Buddhist spirit, culture and its study." Seminars and lectures geared toward specific and general interests are sponsored throughout the year.

Buddhism Through English

BDK provides an opportunity to learn about the basics of Buddhism in both Japanese and English. Through this means, we hope to create opportunities for those with an interest in the

teachings of Buddha to learn more about themselves and Buddhism in English. The lectures are provided by Prof. Kenneth Tanaka from Musashino University and started in 2012.

The lectures for 2012 were mainly based on the book, "The Teaching of Buddha" published by BDK, and we added "Japanese Buddhist Schools" as a text from 2013. Starting from 2014, we will use the BDK TV pro-

grams on Buddhist preaching, which includes interviews with leading priests and scholars in Buddhist Studies. BDK will continue to provide more chances for everyone to commune with Buddhism and its basic ideas.

For more information about "Buddhism Through English," please visit the official BDK website and you may browse those BDK TV reviews online for free.

05 Activity Studying of "The Teaching of Buddha" for Business

This lecture series was established in 1981 for business people who desire a background in Buddhism to help them operate and manage their companies and business ventures.

This lecture takes place once a month usually on the third Wednesday of

each month and is open to all interested business people. BDK has two experienced lecturers: Rev. Dr. Kiyotaka Kimura, professor emeritus at Tokyo University and Rev. Michio Henmi, the head priest at Jodoji Temple, who used to be a TV director at TV Japan. The lectures are based on

"The Teaching of Buddha," and there is a convivial gathering after each lecture. About 40 business people, who are mostly company executives, attend this monthly event and they listen carefully to and take notes about what the instructors explain.

06 Activity Studying of "The Teaching of Buddha" for Daily Life

This monthly lecture series was started in 1982 to share the Dharma so that attendees could learn how to live their daily lives with the spirit of the Buddha through reading "The Teaching of Buddha." People gather on the fourth Thursday of each month.

BDK welcomes two friendly lecturers with a sense of humor: Rev. Shoshin Ichishima, Tendai-shu Kangaku, who used to teach at the University of Hawaii, and Rev. Kenneth Tanaka, a professor at Musashino University, who is a third generation Japanese American. About 30 people attend

each lecture and they always learn something small but important for their daily lives.

For more information about Studying "The Teaching of Buddha" for Business and for Daily Life, please visit our official website.



07 Activity 2013 BDK Symposium "What is Japanese Buddhism?"

BDK held two lectures and a symposium for the 2013 BDK Symposium with the common theme of "What is Japanese Buddhism?"

For the first one, we welcomed Dr. Takeshi Yoro, professor emeritus of Tokyo University, and author of a best-selling-book, "Baka-no-Kabe." His lecture was about "The Revival of the Spirit of Japanese Buddhism: The





BDK JAPAN NEWS 2013

Role of a Temple in Japan,” and he explained the basic ideas about Buddhist values and ways of thinking that can survive in the modern world.

The second one was a symposium with three popular foreign Buddhist priests living in Japan. We welcomed Rev. Alubomulle Sumanasara from Sri Lanka, Rev. Kenneth Tanaka from the U.S., and Rev. Muho Nölke from Germany, and they discussed the significance of Japanese perspectives of Buddhism and religion. Their points of views made Japanese audiences

reconsider the virtues in which the traditions and old Japanese Buddhist spirit are still alive.

The third lecture was about “The Role of Temples” presented by Prof. Dr. Noriyuki Ueda from the Tokyo Institute of Technology. In his publications, “Gambare Bukkyo” and “Ikiruchikara-toshiteno-Bukkyo,” he focused on “The Renaissance of Temples” and insisted on the potential for today’s Japanese Buddhist temples.

After those lectures and symposium, there was a lot of feedback from many of the participants. BDK would like to continue to challenge people and further develop the positive meaning and purpose of Japanese Buddhism in present society through these types of events from now on.

For the 2014 BDK symposium schedule and further information, please visit the official BDK website. (You may also browse those symposium reviews online for free.)

08 Activity BDK Meditation Seminar

BDK provides an opportunity for people to reflect on their way of life and to provide some calm and peace amidst today’s stressful society. For 2013, we held meditation seminars especially for busy women under the

guidance of Rev. Junsho Oka (Head priest, Tendai-shu Enyuji Temple). The admission charge is JPY500 and participants can pay at each time. A total of 104 women participated in the seminar throughout the year.

We invited Rev. Oka and two of those participants to ask them some questions about the “BDK Meditation Seminar” for the year 2013.

It was the first year of having a “meditation” seminar as one of the BDK hosted programs and it was only for women. How was it?

Rev. Oka: Yes, I am having meditation seminars regularly at my temple, but it was my first experience in having ONLY female participants. Before the first session, I thought that it would be interesting but difficult at the same time. However, we had women around their 30s to 40s and almost all of them had jobs, so they shared similar kinds of feelings and it

was smoother than I expected.

Well, they are full of great spirit and I was impressed. I am glad to have been able to help them have this kind of opportunity here through the assistance of BDK. At first, I thought that men would be more suited for meditation in general, but I threw away my assumptions after the first session. I learned that women are brave and not afraid of driving into a new world. If there is anything they think might be good for them, they will try them out. I noticed that women have a natural

aptitude for meditating.

What is the advantage of “meditation”?

Rev. Oka: Everyone in this world has her/his own anxiety and they do not know sometimes what is exactly right or wrong. People always judge each other and look back and regret about the past. Those feelings are natural, and I think that meditation is a great way to accept all kinds of feelings inside themselves. After each session, we have time to chat with some tea. Some participants talk about worries

in their daily lives, but their faces turn bright after the session and having this kind of relaxing time refreshes them a lot, I guess. They can get themselves

back on track and focus on “now,” not the past by being “zero” and reconsidering the inner self. You know, it is important to have a moment in which

you believe in yourself 100% and relax. This gives you confidence for sure.



Ms. YK (Therapist: Thirties: Shibuya-ku)

Ms. EH (Government Employee: Forties: Aoba-ku, Yokohama-city)

How did you know about “BDK Meditation Seminar”?

YK : I have been interested in “meditation” for a long time, but I had no chance to try. But Rev. Oka recommended that I join the group this time.

EH : I had an opportunity to go to a Japanese Buddhist festival called “Kogen” and some people recommended the BDK seminar to me. I liked the idea of it being “only for women” and it gave me a great relief for trying a new thing.

Why did you choose to participate the seminar?

YK : Yoga is very popular these days,

but I thought it would be difficult to start something like it for a beginner like me. I wanted to take a look at myself quietly once in a while because I am busy working every day. So “meditation” sounded attractive to me.

EH : I had an impression about meditation that I had to think of nothing and relax in a dark quiet place. While I am busy with everything in my life like bringing up my children and working at my office, I have almost no time to spend for myself every day. I wished I could have this kind of quiet time and relax...

How did you feel about the actual meditation session?

YK : It was very relaxing and easy because the participants were all women, and almost all of them were

first-timers. And you can pay at each time and there was no commitment for participating. Rev. Oka gently taught us how to take time to meditate. That gave me a good clue to try it at home by myself as well.

EH : I have been extremely busy every day, but this opportunity gave me precious time to get myself back to the real me. I do not have to care how I look because there are only women. I could relax and have a chance to think about what I really am.

.....
The 2013 seminar was quite popular and we started new “BDK Meditation Seminar” for 2014 which welcomes all working people. For more information about it, please visit the BDK website or log on to Facebook and type “BDK坐禅会.”

BDK Affiliate Organization Activities

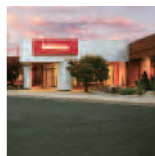
World Map & Contact Info.



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BDK JAPAN

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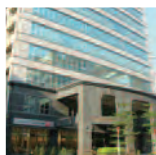
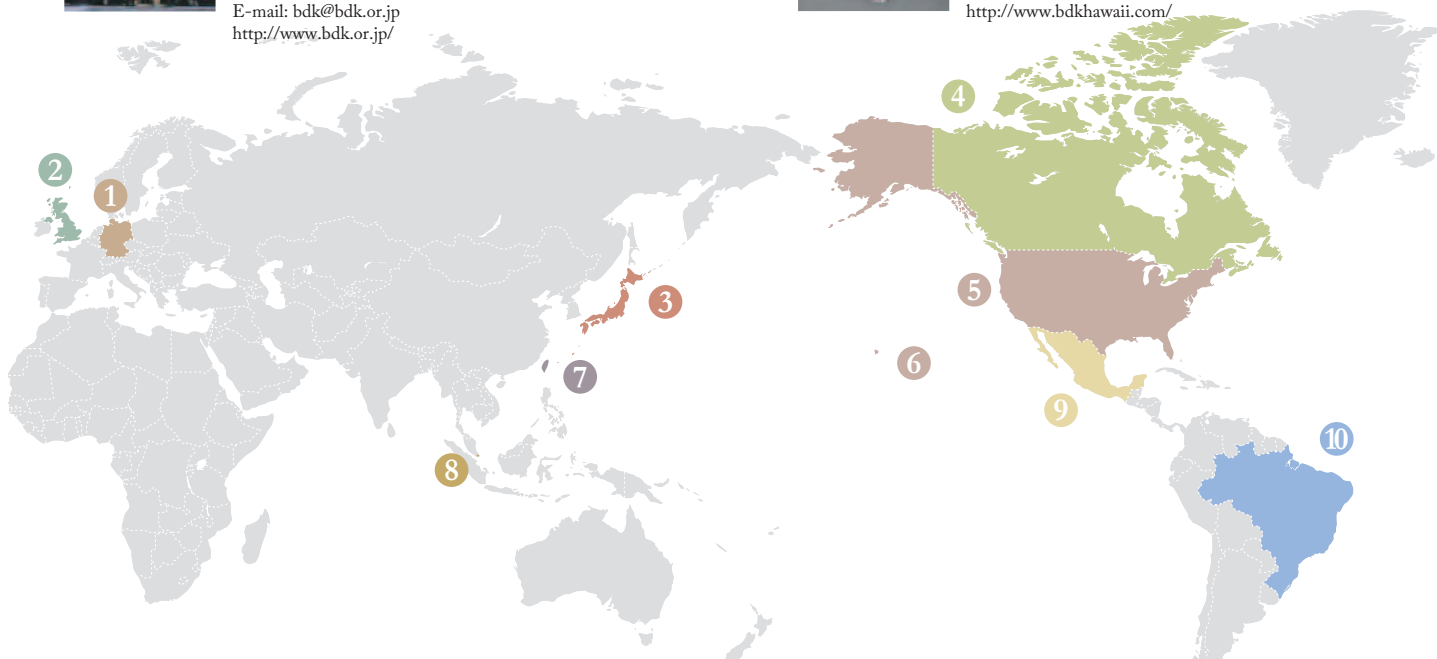
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The BDK English Tripiṭaka Series – Update for 2013

The following three volumes were completed in 2013 and comprise the 15th set of the BDK Taishō Tripiṭaka Series.

Tiantai Lotus Texts

ISBN: 978-1886439-45-0 • 251 pp. • \$50.00

This volume includes four texts considered to be essential for studying the doctrine of the Tiantai Lotus (Jp. Tendai Lotus) school.

Two texts translated by Tsugunari Kubo and Joseph M. Logan: *The Infinite Meanings Sutra* (Taishō 276) has traditionally been regarded as an introduction to the Lotus Sutra and extols bodhisattva practice; Tiantai Zhiyi claimed that the *The Sutra Expounded by the Buddha on Practice of the Way through Contemplation of the Bodhisattva All-embracing Goodness* (Taishō 277), in its detailed exposition of practical applications, is the consummation of the teachings of the Lotus Sutra.

The *Commentary on the Lotus Sutra* (Taishō 1519), translated by Terry Abbot, emphasizes the ekayāna, the single buddha vehicle to enlightenment, and the tathāgatagarbha.

A Guide to the Tiantai Fourfold Teachings (Taishō 1931), translated by Masao Ichishima and David W. Chappell, was written by the Korean monk Chegwan in the late tenth century as an introduction to the teachings of Tiantai Zhiyi, and is composed as an outline of the Tiantai fourfold

teachings central to Zhiyi's thought.

The Nirvana Sutra, Volume I

ISBN: 978-1886439-46-7 • 434 pp. • \$80.00

Translated by Mark Blum, this is the first volume of a four-volume translation of one of the most influential texts in East Asian Buddhism, the Mahāyāna Mahāparinirvāṇa-sūtra (Taishō 374), more commonly known by its abbreviated title, Nirvana Sutra. Of the three Chinese translations of the text, the most influential is the forty-fascicle effort by Dharmakṣema produced between 420–431 C.E., the first ten fascicles of which are translated in this volume.

The Madhyama Āgama (Middle-length Discourses), Volume I

ISBN: 978-1886439-47-4 • 599 pp. • \$80.00

Marcus Bingenheimer, Editor in Chief; Bhikkhu Anālayo and Roderick S. Bucknell, Co-Editors. The Madhyama Āgama (Taishō 26), or Middle-length Discourses, belong to the earliest stratum of Buddhist sutra literature. The dialogues between Śākyamuni Buddha and his disciples and followers present the teachings of early Buddhism on

karma, death and rebirth, and the training of the mind in order to reach nirvana. The speakers often make use of parables and tales to illustrate the correct understanding of early doctrine. The Madhyama Āgama corresponds mainly to the Majjhima Nikāya of the Pāli canon, although many of its sutras have parallels in other sections of the Pāli canon. Volume I contains the translation of divisions 1–6 (of 18) and sutras 1–71 (of 222). Translations of the remaining divisions and sutras will be published in two subsequent volumes.

These English Tripiṭaka volumes can be purchased from the Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai office in Tokyo, BDK America, University of Hawaii Press or from Amazon.com.

1. TENDAI LOTUS TEXTS

(無量義經 Muryōgikyō, Taishō 276)
Translated by KUBO Tsugunari and Joseph M. Logan
(觀普賢菩薩行法經 Kanfugenbosatsugyōbōkyō, Taishō 277)

Translated by KUBO Tsugunari and Joseph M. Logan
(妙法蓮華經憂波提舍 Myōhōrengyō-upadaisha, Taishō



1519)

Translated by Terry R. Abbott-Yamada

(天台四教儀 Tendaishikyōgi, Taisho 1931)

Translated by David W. Chappell & ICHISHIMA Masao

2. THE MADHYAMA ĀGAMA (MIDDLE-LENGTH DISCOURSES)

2013 Toshi Prize

In 2009, Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai and the University of California, Berkeley Center for Buddhist Studies established the “Toshihide Numata Book Prize in Buddhism” to annually recognize what is felt to be the best English-language book in Buddhism. Previous awardees have included Dr. James Robson, Dr. Todd Lewis and Subarna Man Tuladhar.

In 2013, the independent and anonymous Selection Committee awarded the 2013 Prize to Dr. Dan Arnold from the University of Chicago Divinity School for his intriguing title “Brains, Buddhas, and Believing: The Problem of Intentionality in Classical Buddhist and Cognitive-Scientific Philosophy of Mind,” published by Columbia University Press, 2012.

Quoting from the Columbia University Press release, “Premodern Buddhists are sometimes characterized as veritable “mind scientists” whose insights anticipate modern research on the brain and mind. Aiming to complicate this story, Dan Arnold confronts a significant obstacle to popular attempts at harmonizing classical Buddhist and modern scientific thought: since most Indian

Volume I

(中阿含經 卷一～十六 Chūagongyō, Taisho 26, Divisions 1-6 = fasc. 1-16)

Translated by

Bhikkhu Anālayo (Division 1)

Kin-Tung Yit (Division 2)

William Chu (Division 3)

Teng Weijen (Division 4)

Marcus Bingenheimer (Division 5)

Shi Chunyin (Division 6, fasc. 11-13)

Kuan Tse-fu (Division 6, fasc. 14-16)

Edited by

Marcus Bingenheimer, Bhikkhu Anālayo, and Roderick S. Bucknell

3. THE NIRVANA SUTRA

Volume I

(大般涅槃經 卷一～十

Daihatsunehangyō, Taisho 374, fasc. 1 - 10)

Translated by Mark L. Blum

Buddhists held that the mental continuum is uninterrupted by death (its continuity is what Buddhist mean by “rebirth”), they would have no truck with the idea that everything about the mental can be explained in terms of brain events. Nevertheless, a predominant stream of Indian Buddhist thought, associated with the seventh century thinker Dharmakirti, turns out to be vulnerable to arguments modern philosophers have leveled against physicalism....Arnold shows that seemingly arcane arguments among first-millennium Indian thinkers can illuminate matters still very much at the heart of contemporary philosophy.”

The 2013 Prize Presentation Ceremony, Reception and Symposium on the topic of Professor Arnold’s book was held on November 15, 2013 at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. Participating in the symposium “Taking Buddhist Philosophy of Mind Seriously” along with Dan Arnold were Professors John Taber of the University of New Mexico, Evan Thompson of the University of British Columbia and Parimal Patil of Harvard University.

Dan Arnold is an associate professor of philosophy of religions at the University of Chicago Divinity



School. His first book, "Buddhists, Brahmins and Belief: Epistemology in South Asian Philosophy of Religion" won an American Academy of Religious Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion.

At the special invitation of BDK, Dr. Arnold gave presentations on his topic to the academic communities in Tokyo and Kyoto.

BDK extends its congratulations to Professor Dan Arnold on the recogni-

tion of his work in this timely subject and extends its deepest appreciation to the University of California, Berkeley Center for Buddhist Studies, its director Dr. Robert Sharf and Vice Chair Dr. Sanjyot Mehendale for annually coordinating the Prize.

BDK Hawaii



Dr. George Tanabe's Imperial Award



On January 24, 2014, Consul General Toyoei Shigeeda (right) presented the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon to Dr.

George Tanabe (left) for his contributions to a better understanding between Japan and America. The award ceremony took place at the

Japanese Consulate in Honolulu and was attended by thirty guests.

The Imperial award recognizes his work in the study of Japanese religions, especially Buddhism. Dr. Tanabe was a faculty member in the Department of Religion for 27 years before his retirement from the University in 2006. In 2007, Dr. Tanabe received the Foreign Minister's Award in recognition of his work as a consultant to the U. S. Navy in the recovery of the Ehime Maru, a Japanese training ship that had been sunk accidentally by an American nuclear submarine in 2001.

Currently, Dr. Tanabe is Professor Emeritus of Religion at the University of Hawaii, and also serves as President of BDK Hawaii.

2013 BDK Hawaii Board Meeting

The BDK Hawaii Board of Trustees and Advisors met on February 14 in the meeting room of the BDK Hawaii building. We were pleased to have as our special guests from Japan Mr. Toshihide Numata, Chairman of the BDK organization, and Mr. Tadashi Ikuta, the Managing Director of BDK

Japan. Board members who attended were Brian Nagata (BDK America), Mikio Yamashita (Mitsutoyo), Donna Higashi (Moiliili Hongwanji), and Bishop Eric Matsumoto (Honpa Hongwanji).

Advisors who attended were Rev.

Irene Matsumoto (Palolo Kwannon Temple), Rev. Chikai Yosemite (past Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji), and Rev. Thomas Okano (past Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji). Rev. Clyde Whitworth, Distribution Manager of BDK Hawai'i, was also present.

After the meeting, other guests joined us for lunch: Prof. Michel Mohr (University of Hawaii), Dr. Elisabetta Porcu (Numata Visiting Professor at

UH), Dr. Ugo Dessi (University of Leipzig), and Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki (Buddhist Study Center).

After lunch, George Tanabe conducted a tour of the exhibition of Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawai'i at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i.

Exhibition of Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawaii

In conjunction with the publication of their book, *Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawaii: An Illustrated Guide* (University of Hawaii Press), George and Willa Tanabe organized an exhibition at the Japanese Cultural

Center of Hawaii. The exhibition opened in December, 2012 and ended in February, 2013 shortly after the BDK Hawaii board meeting. It was well received by the public, and even the Governor of the State of Hawaii

toured the exhibition. The Governor was attracted to a tall and thin wooden carving of Kannon, and the Tendai Mission of Hawaii later presented it to the Governor, who now has it in his office at the State Capitol.

Rev. Takemi Takase Visits BDK Hawaii

It was a great pleasure to meet Rev. Takemi Takase, and his wife Katsuko for tea at the BDK Hawaii offices on June 21st, 2013. Rev. Takase was one of the earliest editors and translators of the *Teaching of the Buddha*, and he gave us a good sense of the long history of the Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai. Rev. Takase was happy to know that the book is still bearing fruit, even now in eBook format as a Kindle edition.



BDK Hawaii Preaching Workshop

It is not easy to watch yourself on a video giving a talk, and then to have others critique your performance, but on August 5, 12 and 19, five brave ministers participated in the first BDK Preaching Workshop organized by George Tanabe and Clyde Whitworth of BDK Hawaii. The free workshop was offered as a continuing education service to Buddhist ministers of all denominations. Limited to five people, the participants were Rev. Hiroko Maeda (Higashi Hongwanji), Rev. Makoto Honda (Higashi), Rev. Earl Ikeda (Honpa Hongwanji), Rev. David Nakamoto (Honpa), and Rev. Koji Ezaki (Jodo).



(Left to right) Makoto Honda, David Nakamoto, George Tanabe, Hiroko Maeda, Clyde Whitworth, Earl Ikeda, and Koji Ezaki. Note photo of Rev. Yehan Numata on wall.

Ministers had to give short talks that were videotaped and viewed by

everyone, who made comments about the strengths and weaknesses of the

presentations. During the first session, we concentrated on how people

spoke (fast, slow, body movement, eye contact, etc.), and in the last two sessions, we paid attention to what the ministers said. Everyone had their own style of speaking, and each was encouraged to develop their own styles and ideas.

The ministers worked hard each week in preparing their sermons, and were nervous about their presentations. The interaction between everyone,

however, was relaxed and informal, and we all laughed a lot, especially when we had lunch, which was provided by BDK Hawaii. The discussions were very helpful, and everyone felt that they had learned a lot about how to become better speakers. We had such a good time that we are planning a reunion meeting in six months. The participants also said it was a wonderful opportunity to get to know ministers from other denominations.

Many others have expressed an interest in participating, and we are planning to hold more workshops on Oahu as well as on the neighbor islands, not only for ministers but lay members as well. BDK Hawaii is working with the Buddhist Churches of America to hold a preaching workshop in Berkeley, California next year. We are also planning to hold workshops on counseling and new music.

90th Birthday Celebration of Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani

BDK Hawaii co-sponsored the 90th Birthday Celebration for Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani with the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists (HAIB) on August 10, 2013 at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin. Rev. Fujitani is a former Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, and is a former President of BDK Hawaii. Approximately 150 people attended the event.



“Hear My Concerns As I Enter The Twilight Of My Life...”

Clyde Whitworth of BDK Hawaii worked in cooperation with the End-of-Life committee of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii to design and implement “An Intergenerational Retreat.” The retreat was held on Saturday, September 28th, 2013 at the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission.

Participants at the retreat heard from caregivers and those who work with caregivers about their experiences in caring for the elderly. People were able to ask questions and share their concerns about entering the twilight years of their lives. Discussion topics included care giving, durable power of attorney, wills, advanced health care directives, living trusts, spiritual/religious issues, and proce-



Intergenerational Retreat at Wahiawa Hongwanji

dures/etiquette at Buddhist funerals.

The retreat was very well received.

There were approximately 100 people in attendance.



Buddhist Wedding at Mexico Ekoji Temple

Since BDK Mexico was established in 1985, over 1,000 hotels in Mexico have placed the book in their rooms, and more than 150,000 copies have been distributed as of 2013. BDK Mexico also operates a non-sectarian Buddhist temple called “Mexico Ekoji” in Mexico City, which currently has a population of about 20 million people.

In Mexico City, we can see changes in many customs. One of those is how people feel about weddings. Even in Japan, how young couples think about weddings varies. Some hold big fancy weddings and some others do nothing. In Mexico, almost all the people believe in Catholicism, and the wedding has always been supposed to be held at Catholic churches. However, young Mexican couples cannot always afford to hold wedding ceremonies and they simply start their new life with their partners without having wedding ceremonies. Because of this trend of simplifying ideas

about weddings, the Japanese way of “Buddhist weddings” has attracted some young Mexican people.

Mexico Ekoji has been popular among locals, and 144 people are officially affiliated with Ekoji as of 2013. There were four wedding ceremonies at Ekoji in 2013, and three of those couples were Buddhists. Another couple thought that the Buddhist wedding looked cool and they wanted to try something new.

The stereotypical image of Mexico is that of a nation of Catholicism, and most local people believe in the Holy Mother/Blessed Virgin. However, people open their minds to something new like Buddhism through learning something about Japanese culture such as literature and martial arts. Some of those people start believing in Buddhism and choose “Buddhist weddings” as one of their biggest life events. Ekoji has been welcomed to the local world as a center of Japanese



culture and Buddhism.

Mexico Ekoji has been preparing various programs for more people to get to know Buddhism and Japanese culture. BDK Mexico aims at being accepted by local people who might choose to hold more “Buddhist weddings” as a part of their life events.

For more information about BDK Mexico, please contact them directly.



The Annual Garden Festival

BDK Europe hosted a garden festival on July 13, 2013. It is an annual Japanese cultural event, which the EKO Center of Japanese Culture holds usually in the summer. For this year, we welcomed more than 800

people under a blue sky.

At the beginning of the event, BDK Chairman, Rev. Toshihide Numata gave an opening address. Immediately after his message, a popular German

drum ensemble gave a taiko drum performance of “Wadōkyō” on a stage.” They hold concerts in various cities throughout the country. Every year, most of the people in the neighbourhood notice our festival because

they hear the beautiful sounds of taiko.

Following the drum performance, Japanese traditional dance master Hanayagi and her students took the stage and fascinated the audiences. During their dance performance, master Hanayagi welcomed everyone in the audiences to join the Bon dancing. The scene of the Bon dancing with the circle of people looked exactly like a summer festival in Japan and everyone shared the feeling of the beauty of a Japanese summer day.

Besides those outdoor performances, master Kuramoto from the Urasenke school hosted a tea ceremony, and master Watanabe and her Ikebana students prepared an exhibition in the main building as well.



The EKO Center is located in Düsseldorf, a city which has one of the largest Japanese communities in Germany and therefore maintains a great friendship with Japan. Every year in May, the city of Düsseldorf becomes a venue for a so-called “Japanese day,” the biggest Japanese cultural event in Europe. The EKO

Center makes it possible for both Japanese and German people to have opportunities to enjoy a Japanese atmosphere and come to know more about Japanese culture at the same time. The EKO Center of Japanese Culture will continue its efforts to build a bridge between Europe and Japan by organizing such events.

Numata Center for Buddhist Studies at the University of Hamburg

The Numata Center for Buddhist Studies at the University of Hamburg was formally inaugurated in July 11, 2013. BDK Chairman, Rev. Toshihide Numata and Prof. Shōryū Katsura from Ryūkoku University travelled all the way from Japan to attend the ceremony.

The ceremony started with a beautiful cembalo and flute performance, and Prof. Katsura, Prof. Schmidhausen

and other scholars gave some short presentations on Buddhist studies in the world and their present state in America, Japan and Germany.

After those presentations, Rev. Numata gave the following address:

“The Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai supports the Numata chairs for Buddhist Studies, the BDK scholarship for exchange students and other projects

in Buddhist research. We are very proud that many outstanding scholars and researchers, talented people who are leaders in contemporary Buddhist research, work together in the different fields. On

this occasion, I am delighted that on the initiative of university president Lenzen and Prof. Zimmermann, this Numata Center for Buddhist Studies, by which Buddhist research here in Hamburg and Germany, but also generally in Europe will be promoted, could be established. The Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai will as far as possible support the development of this center, so that it can contribute to the advance of Buddhist studies in Europe.”

Finally, the vice president of the university and Rev. Numata unveiled the name plate of the “Numata Center at the University Hamburg” together. President Lenzen once again emphasized the significance of the Numata Center at the university.



Kansha (Gratitude)

To the people who are close to us, we grumble and complain, but we cannot express our heartfelt appreciation.

Because we cannot appreciate people who are close to us, we cannot lower our head and say “Thank you.”

Because we have the tendency to depend too readily or expect too much from those close to us, we simply accept whatever favors or kindness we receive as a matter of course. The causes and conditions behind their favors and kindnesses have been forgotten; therefore, we do not feel any gratitude for things done for us.

If we could truly see ourselves, we will naturally feel grateful when we realize that the person who is close to us is always kind and considerate to us despite the fact that we are so self-centered. But, as we are so conceited and think so highly of ourselves, we cannot lower our heads in gratitude for favors received.

Gratitude is a word known by a person who is aware of the self and it reflects the person’s actions. The most important thing is to know one’s self.

(Taken from “Sasaeatte” authored by Toshihide Numata, Chairman of BDK)