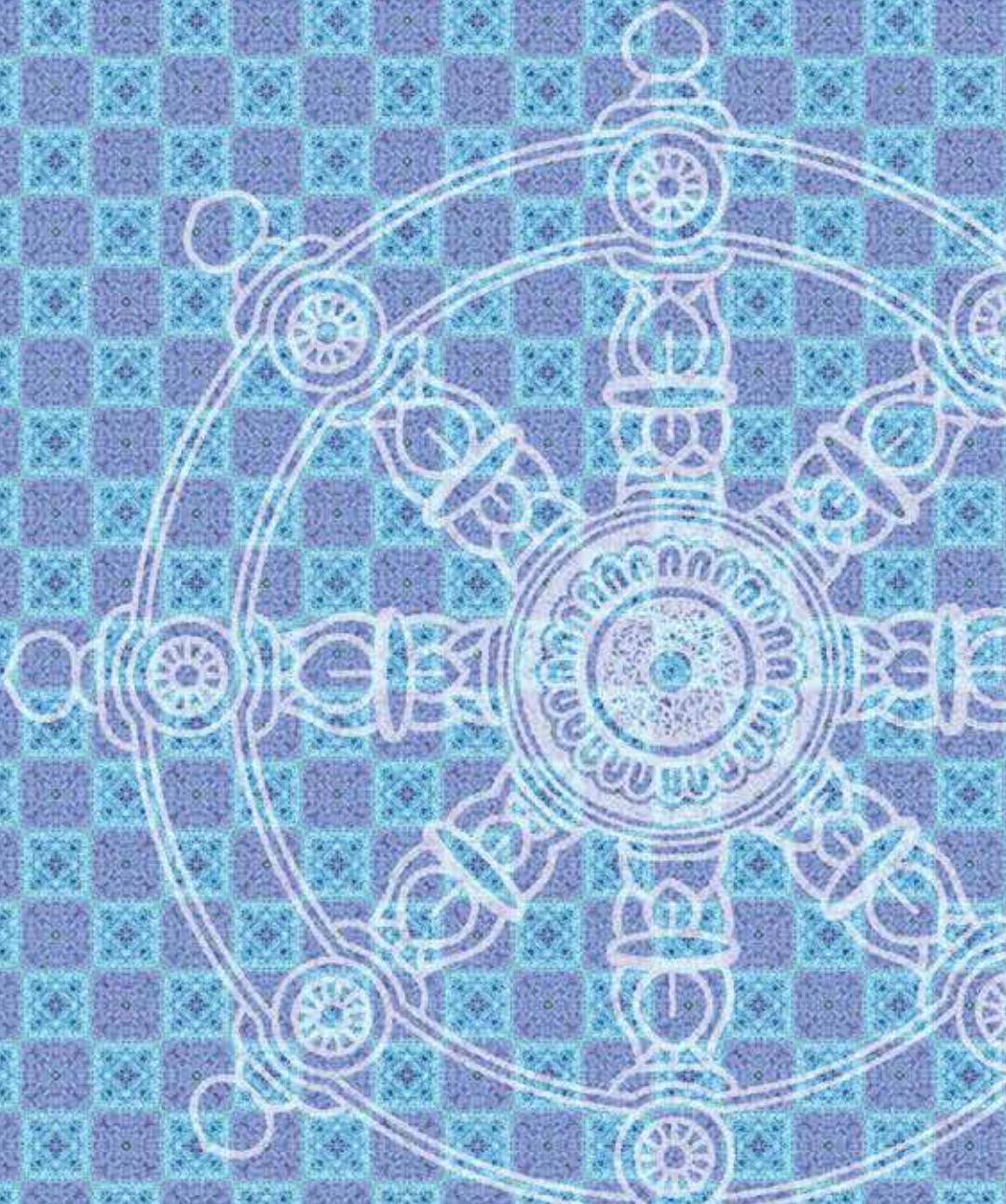


BDK Newsletter

No.05
2016

Michi - The Path -

BUKKYO DENDO KYOKAI Society for the Promotion of Buddhism



Michi

— The Path —

05

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Society for the Promotion of Buddhism

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Welcoming Another Fruitful Year After the 50th Anniversary

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2015 and we observed this milestone with a banquet ceremony, special events and some anniversary issues of BDK publications. I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who supported us in the previous fifty years.

During the last fifty years, BDK has diligently been translating and distributing “The Teaching of Buddha” with the support and cooperation of like-minded individuals and organizations. In recent years, we focused on hosting a variety of lectures, seminars, cultural classes and publishing Buddhist related books for more people to have better opportunities to experience Buddhism and its culture.

We have 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. However, wars and terrorism continue in today’s world and people are fighting over different religions, races, ideologies and so on, and they have taken away many innocent lives. It is hard to imagine the follies that we human beings can commit and I grieve over that.

We need to speak loudly about the spirit of compassion and symbiosis, which are the basics of Buddha’s wisdom. BDK must make contributions toward a more peaceful world and I truly hope that we would have the strong will to go one more step forward for another fifty and even a hundred years. I truly appreciate your generous understanding and continued support of BDK activities.

With Gassho,



Toshihide Numata,
Chairman

BDK 50th Anniversary Ceremony at Hotel New Otani, Tokyo, Japan



Wadaiko, Japanese style drum performance by "KUSU"

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) held its 50th anniversary ceremony and banquet at Hotel New Otani in Tokyo, Japan on November 27th, 2015. We welcomed about 370 guests

who have supported our activities for the last fifty years, and the ceremony was successfully completed.

Rev. Dr. Yasuaki Nara, Sotoshu Eiheiji Saito and a BDK trustee, led all the guests in chanting the Sankiemon, which expresses faith in the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha. Following the chant, BDK Chairman, Toshihide Numata,

greeted everyone with an expression of gratitude and a fresh resolve for the future.

Rev. Koshin Ohtani, Zenmon, the 24th head priest of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, and Rev. Akisato

Saito, chairperson of the Japan Buddhist Federation, gave congratulatory addresses that appraised BDK's fifty-year achievement on promoting Japanese Buddhism to the world without being biased toward any specific sect or school



Rev. Koshin Ohtani, Zenmon, the 24th head priest of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha



Rev. Akisato Saito, Chairperson of the Japanese Buddhist Federation



Rev. Dr. Kiyotaka Kimura, Emeritus professor of the University of Tokyo

of Buddhism, and on contributing to the peace of the world.

Rev. Dr. Kiyotaka Kimura, emeritus professor of the University of Tokyo and a BDK trustee, gave a toast after those speeches, and we started the banquet. The guests enjoyed friendly conversation with each other while KUSU, the Wadaiko, Japanese-style drum performing group consisting of Mie Prefecture Sotoshu youth members, celebrated this special occasion with their energetic and magnificent Wadaiko performance. KUSU began with thirteen Buddhist priests mainly in Mie Prefecture in 2006. Their Wadaiko performance incorporating chanting by the Buddhist

priests wearing sacred robes have attracted people's attention and have become popular at temples, performance halls, and special events.

Although we could spend only about two hours with our wonderful

guests from all over the world, we hope that everyone enjoyed the BDK 50th anniversary ceremony and banquet. Ultimately, we must thank everyone who has been supporting BDK and its activities for such a long time once again.



“BUDDHASPEL” Anniversary Concert – The 17th Buddhist Music Festival

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) held the “BUDDASPEL” anniversary concert, the 17th Buddhist Music Festival, at Yebisu Garden Hall in Tokyo on September 11, 2015.

More than five hundred people attended the anniversary event. We welcomed Ms. Hiromi Ohta, a singer, and Ms. Jian Xiaoyan, a Niko player, for the first half of the show, and Karyobinga-Shomyo-Kenkyukai with Ensemble KOCHI for the second half. The combination of the thousand-year-old Shingon Shomyo chants with the orchestra performance and the projection of scenes from each story created an impressive triple combination of sounds, lights and images, thus transforming the event beyond a musical performance into a total work of art.



Karyobinga-Shomyo-Kenkyukai with Ensemble KOCHI



Yebisu Garden Hall



Ms. Hiromi Ohta



Ms. Jian Xiaoyan

BDK Special Buddhist Lectures & Seminars: Listening to Fushidan, the Origin of Rakugo

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) held one of the BDK Special Buddhist Lectures & Seminars, Listening to Fushidan, the Origin of Rakugo, as a BDK 50th anniversary event. More than 150 people attended the event, and it was a first-time experience for most of the people. Rev. Yoshihiro Fukoshi, secretary general of the Fushidan-Sekkyo Association, explained the origin of Fushidan-Sekkyo and related some of his experiences.



Rev. Kenjun Hirooka

Following his lecture, Rev. Shogo Sakuraba, a Jodoshinshu priest, performed his Fushidan-Sekkyo. Rev. Kenjun Hirooka closed the event with his legendary Fushidan performance.

Fushidan-Sekkyo performed on a Rakugo stage includes big gestures, accents, and typical choices of wording. The audience got involved with the performances and the atmosphere was one in which the

performers and the audience were united as one. We were thus able to provide a good opportunity for people to learn more about the origin of Rakugo.

Mita-Rakugo-Kai:

Rakugo Fan Appreciation Day at Hamarikyū Asahi Hall

BDK's 50th anniversary event for the Mita Rakugo-kai was the Rakugo Fan Appreciation Day, which was held at Hamarikyū Asahi Hall

in Tokyo on January 30, 2016. We had night and day performances, and more than 700 people attended the event.

For the matinee, we welcomed four Rakugo masters: Mr. Hakushu Togetsuan, Mr. Shinji Tsuyuno, Mr. Ichcho Shunputei, and Mr. Sankyo Yanagiya. For the evening performance, we had another four masters: Mr. Ichinosuke Shunputei, Mr. Kyotaro Yanagiya, Mr. Kitahachi

Yanagiya, and Mr. Gontaro Yanagiya.

For more information about Mita-Rakugo-Kai, event schedules and ticket purchases, please visit the official website at <http://mita-rakugo.com/>



Rakugo master, Mr. Shinji Tsuyuno

BDK Special Programs and Photography Exhibition for the Support of the Victims of the Great Earthquake and Tsunami

– “Buddha’s Words and Views of India: Live out Your Life” in Fukushima-Prefecture



In Aizubange-cho

In Minami Soma City

Even though five years have passed since the 2011 Great Eastern Japan earthquake and tsunami struck Japan, we still need to continue a variety of support to help people recover from the traumatic effects. Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) continues to sponsor a variety of special programs each year and held

photography exhibitions in Iwate-Prefecture and Tokyo in 2014. The exhibitions were a great success, and we welcomed over 13,000 people; therefore we decided to hold an exhibition in Fukushima-Prefecture, which is still suffering from the damaging effects of the tsunami and nuclear disaster.

of Buddha,” the BDK Calendar “A Wise Teaching a Day,” and memorial picture postcards. We were able to provide opportunities for people to listen to Buddha’s words through those photographs and quietly consider how they live.

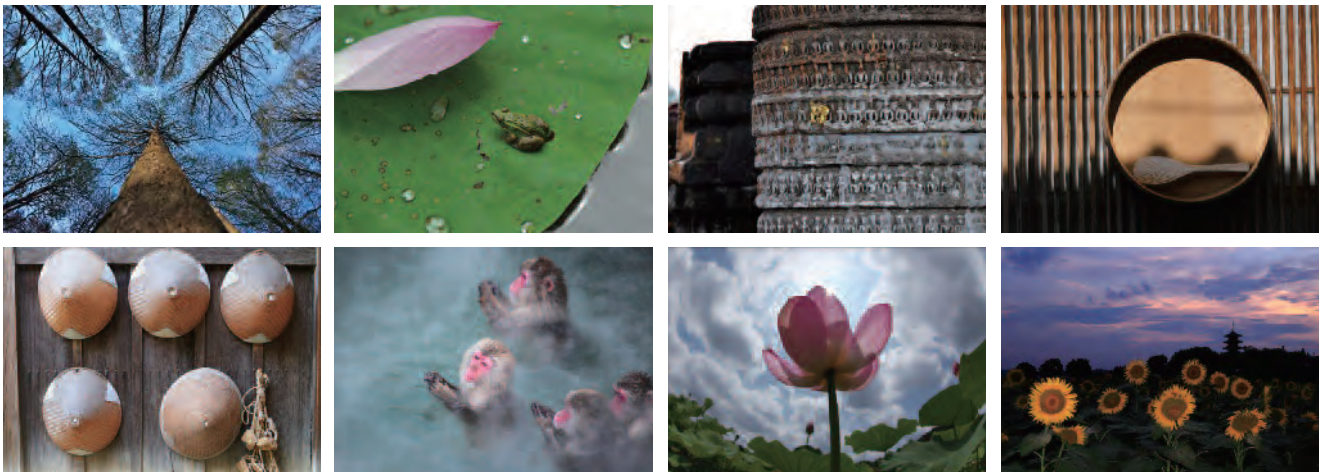


Special booth to talk to a Buddhist priest

We held an exhibition at a Michinoeki, a roadside station in Minami Soma City from September 19 to 23, 2015 and held another one in Aizubange-cho from September 25 to 30, 2015. Over 1,700 people visited the exhibition and we handed out a free copy of “The Teaching

During the exhibitions, we set up a special booth so that people could have a chance to talk about anything with Buddhist priests. One of the priests attending the booth told us, “I am pleased that I could directly listen to their thoughts, their needs and how they live.” It was a good opportunity for both the local people in Fukushima and the priests.

Photography Competition and Exhibition for BDK Calendar “A Wise Teaching A Day” at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple



We held a photography competition again and an exhibition of photos for the BDK calendar, “A Wise Teaching a Day” as one of our 50th anniversary projects. We publish this popular calendar every year, and for the 2015 version, we invited people to send in good photo-

graphs. We received about 1,500 pieces for the competition and our selection committee chose 31 of them in 2014. We decided to show all of the winning entries with each saying of “A Wise Teaching a Day” at an exhibition at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple in Tokyo.



Exhibition at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple

Since Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple is such a popular sightseeing spot in Tokyo among tourists from all over the world, many visitors were able

to enjoy those photographs and teachings. About 10,000 people visited the exhibition during two weeks and everyone enjoyed the

English translation of the captions for each photograph.

Taking photographs has become an everyday experience for many people because the technology of digital cameras and other electronic devices has improved so much in recent years. Through the photographic competition and exhibition, people could easily experience Buddhism and its culture. BDK hosted another competition for the 2015 calendar, and the newest series of “Michishirube,” an official handbook for the BDK calendar written by Rev. Ichijo Ogawa, is now on sale for everyone.

BDK Commemorative Publication for the 50th Anniversary

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) published a commemorative issue about its 50-year history and created a commemorative DVD, “The Spread of the Buddha’s Wisdom Throughout the World – The History of Bukkyo Dendo

Kyokai” that traces the story of BDK from the foundation of the organization to its present activities with images of the late Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata, BDK founder.

In addition to that 50th anniversary issue, we published “Michishirube – Meikowasen, the 50 Best Picks of All Time” in two sets of books named “Chie (Wisdom),” and “Jihi (Compassion).” Also “The Teaching of Buddha” editorial committee provided explanations so that everyone could understand TTOB more easily. We also issued a new publication, “Satori-no-Chie-wo-Yomu,” Reading the Wisdom of Enlightenment.

We express our appreciation to everyone who has supported our activities for the last fifty years, and we rededicate ourselves to a new start for the next fifty years.



Commemorative issue about BDK's 50-year history



“Satori-no-Chie-wo-Yomu, Reading the Wisdom of Enlightenment”



Commemorative DVD, “The Spread of the Buddha’s Wisdom Throughout the World-The History of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai”

The 3rd BDK Global Meeting

With our primary goal of promoting the teachings of the Buddha, Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK), and our affiliated organizations throughout the world are involved in a wide

variety of activities and programs. BDK offers diverse opportunities for introducing the spirit of Buddhism and distributing “The Teaching of Buddha” to people in the modern world.



The executive members from BDK affiliated organizations overseas at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple, Tokyo

Most of the executive members from our affiliated organizations overseas gathered in Tokyo at a meeting held on December 1 and 2, 2015. We welcomed our friends from BDK America, BDK Canada, BDK Europe, BDK Hawaii, BDK Mexico and BDK UK. BDK Japan presented its future plans and activities first, then each member from the overseas branches reported how

they manage their organizations and promote the teachings of Buddha. We discussed all the situations in each different country and considered methods appropriate for each area to meet various demands in each country.

We also discussed the present situations in which wars and terrorism continue in the world and people

are fighting over different religions. Everyone re-acknowledged that we should contribute to peace and to spread the teachings of Buddha’s compassion and spirit of cooperation. And we reconfirmed that we are all going to cooperate with each other from now on and keep an open and broad perspective as we move forward.



Mr. Yasuo Honjo from BDK Canada



Dr. George Tanabe from BDK Hawaii



|| BDK Publications

01
Activity

“The Teaching of Buddha” – Update for 2015

Distribution of “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” always has been one of the most important BDK activities to date. Since BDK celebrated its 50th anniversary this year, we decided to return to the spirit with which we started our organization 50 years ago. The late Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata, BDK founder, began distributing TTOBs to hotels in Japan and other countries in the world. Following the path of the founder, we focused on distributing them to hotels this year, and a total of 51,869 copies of TTOB have been donated to hotels in Japan just in 2015. The city of Tokyo is hosting the Olympics in 2020 and we are expecting more tourists to come to our country. Therefore, we also plan to distribute more copies of TTOB in many different languages besides the Japanese version.



*TTOBs at Zen Lotus
Flower Center in Brazil*



We started the TTOB distribution to Buddhist schools and child-rearing facilities in 2011, and we have distributed 57,851 copies to 359 educational facilities in 2015. The cumulative total over the last four years is 245,000 copies. TTOBs have been placed in 60 % of all Buddhist high schools and universities in Japan, and 25 % of all child-rearing facilities at the moment. Our value varies in today’s world and it is totally up to what choices people make about how to live better lives. We hope the essence of Buddhism can be the support for students and their parents.

inquiries from Japanese Buddhist temples, Zen centers, and other institutions from all over the world each day. BDK keeps trying to publish and distribute more copies of TTOB to spread the teachings of Buddha amongst more people in the world.

In addition to the above, we receive





“The Teaching of Buddha” in a Hospital

Special Interview with Rev. Dr. Tadahide Kuroda, Director of Sensoji Hospital and Rev. Ryojo Shioiri, Head Priest of Hozenin Temple

Interviewer: Masanori Yamamura, Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK)

Editing & Photography: Kaoru Eguchi, Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK)

Location: Sensoji Temple, Tokyo, Japan

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) has been distributing “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” for the past decades as one of its major activities, and the books have been utilized in a variety of ways in today’s modern world. TTOBs have been distributed to hotels, temples, schools, correctional facilities, etc. throughout Japan and all over the world. Today, we are wel-

coming Rev. Dr. Tadahide Kuroda, director of Sensoji Hospital and Rev. Ryojo Shioiri, head priest of Hozenin, a sub-temple of Sensoji Temple, to ask them about how they have been using our books at their hospital and how effectively we will be able to use TTOBs at hospitals and other locations in the future.

Yamamura (Y) : First of all, could you tell us the concept of Sensoji Hospital and its history?

Kuroda (K) : Sensoji Hospital was originally started in 1910. Heavy floods occurred in the Tokyo area in

that year, and the head priest of Sensoji Temple at the time wanted to help people who were suffering from the floods. He talked to representatives of Sensoji supporters, and they decided to open a small aid station in the main hall of Sensoji. We are currently open for anyone in the neigh-

borhood as a special welfare corporation approved by the Japanese government, and have been active through disasters, wars, and other difficulties until today.

Y : Oh, I thought Sensoji Hospital was an incorporated

medical corporation. I had no idea that it is a special welfare corporation.

K : Yes, we focus on community medicine, and it has always been based on our community here in Asakusa. That is why we emphasize community based health care and welfare as our hospital policy, and we take care of our patients with the great compassion of Kannon Bodhisattva and warm hearts. We put our policy into practice by always remembering the fact that we started from a small aid station in a temple at a time of disaster.

Shioiri (S) : Dr. Kuroda talked about the floods in 1910, when the banks of the Sumida River were often collapsed, and I have heard that people had to use boats to move around town. The water even reached the level of the balustrade. It was such a catastrophe.

K : The hospital was deeply related to the temple at the time. I understand that keeping up with the improvements in advanced medical treatment is important; but it can be very expensive for patients. We hope that we can be a hospital for everyone, including low income people, who can be treated without them having to worry about costs at all.

S : By the way, patients always say something like, “Dr. A at BBB Hospital is great.” And I was thinking about what makes a doctor great? What are the criteria by which patients make their evaluations?

K : I know some patients complain about their symptoms even though no problem can be found through any

medical examination such as scans, blood tests, etc. We doctors need to treat not only their physical pain but also their emotional problems. My experience is that I am able to help many patients get better just by carefully listening to them and easing their minds.



Rev. Ryojo Shioiri

S : Listening is important, and giving a sense of security to a patient can affect the immune system?

K : Yes, it does have an effect. I believe that the basics of medical care are found in the “treatment by hands.” Just to rub or pat affected areas can make a difference. Patients come to a hospital with some worries and problems, so they tend to think negatively about everything. It is our priority that doctors and nurses find out what the patients really want to tell us and to support their mental healthcare. The Chinese character, “看 (kan)” of “看護 (kango)”, which means nursing, is composed of 手 (hands) and 目 (eyes). Hands are fundamental to nursing. We touch people and listen

to them to open their hearts. Through our hands we gradually build trust between patients and doctors and nurses.

S : Speaking of Buddhism and medical care, we cannot forget about the event of “楊枝浄水加持会 - Yoji-Josui-Kajie” at Sensoji Temple. During this ceremony Sensoji supporters pray for safety of the family and perfect health over the year. Sensoji priests use willow twigs to prepare holy water in a water jar in the main hall of the temple and they touch the supporters’ heads with the twigs on June 18 of every year. Tradition has it that it will remove their sickness and enable them to live a healthy life. And speaking of willow trees, Myohoin Temple, which is also known as Sanjusangendo in Kyoto, has a famous story about that. About 850 years ago, Emperor Goshirakawa was suffering from headaches all the time. One fortune teller told him that his skull from his previous existence had been on the bottom of the river and had been pierced by a willow branch. The fortune teller suggested to the Emperor that he should find the skull, remove the willow branch, and hold a memorial service for it. He immediately visited the river that the fortune teller directed him to and he found a skull pierced by a willow branch. He used willow wood for one of the beams of Sanjusangendo Temple, and his headache was completely cured. I know this sounds strange, but I think that willow trees and headaches are related to each other from that era long before the development of western medicine.

K : Wow, I had no idea about the origin of the “willow” story. But actual-

ly, aspirin is a component derived from willow trees and it does make sense! Medical care and Buddhism were deeply related to each other before we actually learned about modern medicine. Very interesting, isn't it? Sensoji Temple is the head temple of Shokannon Shu, and our nurses are doing a fantastic job of performing the functions of Kannon Bodhisattva.

Y : It is surprising to learn that we have such a connection between medical care and Buddhism!

S : Yes. I still remember the story you told at the Kannon-e Seppo, the service in which you had to preach a sermon as the new head priest of a Shokannon Shu temple. I think, Dr. Kuroda, you talked about medical care and Buddhism at that time, didn't you?

K : Yes, I talked about that because I am a priest before being a medical doctor so that is what I had to do. It is something that I swear to in front of everyone. It expressed my determination, and it was the moment when I first met "The Teaching of Buddha."

Y : Really? How did you meet "The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)" for the first time?

K : Yes, I had been wondering about what I should talk about at the Kannon-e Seppo. And there it was, "The Teaching of Buddha." I believe that Buddhism is not something that you understand or not, but is something that gives you a chance to awaken a person spiritually. I think TTOB offers people a chance to realize something significant.

S : It might not be appropriate to say this, but TTOB contains something ordinary. It is just what it is, and there is nothing special in this book. (smiling) But I guess that is the most important thing. I know Dr. Kuroda has some great knowledge of Chinese medicine as well. I think "Ki" is the flow of energy throughout the body that keeps the body healthy. Everyone says that they want to be healthy and energetic. When you talk about sickness, Byou (Yamai)-Ki, we need to remove Ki from sickness. This means that you are going back to the original Ki, Gen-Ki without Byou (Yamai), sickness.



Rev. Dr. Tadahide Kuroda

K : I cannot say which one is better, western medicine or eastern medicine; however, I believe that you can use the advantages of both to get back your Gen-Ki (health), your original condition, as Rev. Shioiri just said. And I think that is our mission. When you talk about the body's condition before you are actually sick, we call it "Mi-Byou," and you say to a person that it is just "Ki-no-Sei," your imagi-

nation. If you apply the eastern medical ideas to this situation, you can practically use "Ki" and solve the problem.

S : When you lose your consciousness, faint, and such, you may have to get yourself back on track to the original position. That is the most important thing in medical care.

Y : I see. Then what do you think of TTOB being available in hospital rooms? Do you have any ideas about how we will be able to use the book in a medical institution in the future?

K : I think that people have fewer opportunities to experience someone's death in their household because we tend to live in nuclear families, not in extended families with many other family members living in the same house. We would like to open people's minds until they complete their lives. Offering advanced medical care is important, but I think this has to do with the affiliation between a big hospital and a small clinic. We are the hospital of the temple, so I am thinking of our cooperation with the temple. It is like we hang out at the temple and we can do the same thing at a hospital.

S : I imagine that we are moving toward an era in which we will have an increased need for more home care and home nursing. However, this will increase the responsibilities of each family, and it will be difficult for people to accept something they have never experienced before. While you are facing all kinds of problems, TTOB can give you a hint about waking up to yourself. Reading a letter makes you think deeply and more



calmly. I hope that everyone will notice what they are actually facing now.

K : Yes, it will be important for each family to accept the deaths of other family members. People do not usually have an opportunity to experience someone's death, and they have a hard time accepting it calmly. Something like the death of a member of your own family cannot be learned from someone else or something else. It is nothing like that, so I think someone like a priest can relate to people as a neutral third party.

S : There are many situations in which conversation can free your mind. For example, if you lost a member of your family and you are seriously depressed, you can turn to your "Butsudan," the family Buddhist altar. Whenever you feel sad and want to get better, you might not have a chance to talk to someone. However, you can always talk to your Butsudan and express your feelings freely. This is often witnessed at homes in Japan. I think that you might go crazy or fall into depression if you leave your sufferings inside

yourself forever. Talking to a Butsudan is the same thing as talking to someone in person. But when you are hospitalized, you cannot have a Butsudan with you, so you try to talk to your family and friends to come and see you in your hospital room for a while or you talk to doctors and nurses at the hospital. But again, you might not get enough time to have the conversations that you need. They are all busy, and unfortunately, you cannot talk with them as much as you want. In that case, reading letters and listening to TV, radio, and music can ease your feelings, but you may not be able to do this all the time in a quiet hospital room. Therefore, TTOB can be your perfect partner in a hospital room. It is always there by your side, and you can read whenever you want, and you can start anywhere within the book. "Words" can raise your awareness in a variety of ways. When you become aware of something of an awakening arising inside you, you will be free from pressure and won't feel fear anymore.

K : The image of temples is linked to death and hospitals are associated with life for most people in general,

but I hope that everyone who reads TTOB will experience a deepening of the true self. Moreover, TTOB can be the beginning of knowing the self and it should be like that.

S : The stereotypical images of hospitals and temples are contrasting, but they are related to each other at a deep level. As Dr. Kuroda said, we priests should be involved with mental care. Doctors and nurses are the professionals of medical care and priests can also play a role as counselors. TTOB can be read by anyone, and it is just wonderful.

Y : Thank you very much for all your compliments. As you have already put many copies of "The Teaching of Buddha" in each room of Sensoji Hospital, and patients can access them easily, what do you think about the future possibilities of "The Teaching of Buddha" and other BDK publications?

S : There are many socially disadvantaged people in the real world, and we would like to save them. When I visit the children's ward in the hospital, I

just cannot stand by and see them suffering. Why does someone so young have to be suffering at a hospital? I would recommend that everyone, especially pregnant women and people who are stressed with child rearing, to read TTOB. I personally think that “children” are in danger. We see lots of cases of murder and injury involving children these days. For instance, we heard the news about school bullying and child abuse everywhere. We should free children’s minds, and I hope everyone in town can see them with warm eyes as if we all belonged to one big family. Children are irresistible. It might be a great idea to have a new version of TTOB aimed especially at parents and children. I know Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai has published a manga comic, “The Wisdom of Buddhism,” in Japanese and in English for elementary school students or older. It would be nice if there could be a version of TTOB that even younger kids can read. We need books that can be read by all generations from children to older people.

K : We have placed TTOB in drawers in each hospital room for our patients so that they can reach them anytime they want. And we can see Sensoji Temple and the five-story pagoda from the windows of the rooms. We have a beautiful statue of Kannon Bodhisattva in our main lobby. Most of our patients look upon Kannon-sama as their guardian and they feel relieved. We would like to take advantage of being a hospital of a temple, and we plan to start palliative care units in our hospital in the future. We want to create an environment of preserving all aspects of health, not just curing a patient of a disease, this will be a key concern from now on.

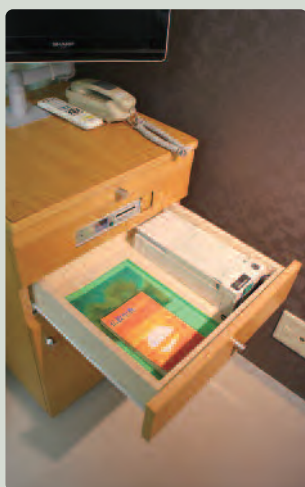
Rev. Dr. Kuroda has been a director of Sensoji Hospital for two years now, and he has a clear vision of the future. His kind and honest personality along with the friendly comments by Rev. Shioiri made the time of our interview go by quickly and made us want to hear even more! Both of them sincerely explained the long histories of Sensoji Hospital and Sensoji Temple.

Above all, we were able to learn how “Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” has been actually used in a medical institution and what we can do more for the future.

As Rev. Dr. Kuroda promised, they are going to have TTOB available in their hospital from now on. BDK will continue to distribute free copies of TTOB to hospitals throughout the world. We bear the entire cost of the book distribution, including shipping, and we also supply additional complimentary copies at any time upon request.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please feel free to contact your nearest BDK office. We will be happy to receive requests from all over the world.

For more information about Sensoji Temple, please visit the official website at <http://www.sensoji-h.or.jp/>



Rev. Dr. Tadahide Kuroda

Profile ● President of Sensoji Hospital
Head priest of the Shokannon Shu Kongoin at Sensoji Temple

Born in Tokyo in 1971. Graduated from the medical school of Kyorin University. Medical doctor. Inaugurated as the director of Sensoji Hospital in 2014.



Rev. Ryojo Shioiri

Profile ● Trustee of Sensoji Hospital
Head Priest of the Shokannon Shu Hozenin at Sensoji Temple

Born in Tokyo in 1954. Graduated from Seijo University and the graduate school of Taisho University. Completed course work without Ph.D. degree at Taisho University.



02 Activity

“BDK English Tripiṭaka” Translation Project

The “BDK English Tripiṭaka” Translation Project was productive in 2015, and the editorial team completed “THE COLLECTION FOR THE PROPAGATION AND CLARIFI-

CATION OF BUDDHISM, VOLUME I [弘明集 (1)]” in April, 2015 as the 47th publication, and “THREE ESOTERIC TEXTS [密教の三典籍]” in November, 2015 as the 48th.



Prof. Mark Blum, second from the left

The previously translated Vol. 1 of the Mahāparinirvāna sūtra from

Dharmakṣema’s 5th century Chinese version by Prof. Mark Blum from the University of California, Berkeley was selected as the Outstanding Translation for the 2015 Khyentse Foundation Prize. It is the first translation into English of this key sūtra that expounds on the concept of the “Buddha Nature” (tathagatagarbha).

Some universities have used English Tripiṭaka books as classroom teaching materials for the elementary level of Buddhist studies.

For more information about the Khyentse Foundation Prize, please visit <http://khyentsefoundation.org/>

03 Activity

Other BDK Publications and Related Events



“Wisdom of Buddhism in Japan” at the 23rd Jamboree

The 23rd Jamboree was held in Yamaguchi-Prefecture, Japan for the first time in 44 years. About 34,000 young people from 162 different countries from all over the world got together and interacted with each other



at the Achisu-Kirara beach in Yamaguchi-Prefecture from July 28th to August 8th. Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) introduced some of our BDK publications: “The Wisdom of Buddhism in Japan,” a Manga-comic

introducing Japanese Buddhism, and “The Messages of Buddha,” an elementary version of “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB). BDK distributed 5,000 copies of each to the boy/girl scouts to introduce them to Japanese Buddhism and its spirit.

For an easier approach for beginners of Buddhism, we published “Tottomo-Yasashii- Hajimete-no-Bukkyo,” Easy-to-Understand Buddhism for the First Time (available only in Japanese at the moment) and also distributed 90,000 copies to temples throughout Japan.

Financial Assistance and Honoring

01 Activity **BDK Fellowship Programs**

The 25th Anniversary Project for BDK Fellowships for Foreign Scholars Publication of “BDK Fellowships in the World”

The BDK Fellowship was established to promote international cooperation and mutual understanding in Buddhist studies, and it 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 over 65 promising scholars up to the year 2015, the 25th anniversary of the program.

In addition to two programs in Japan, the BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars and the BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars, there are three more BDK fellowship programs in Germany and Canada. Most of the previous scholarship holders are now active in the front lines of today’s Buddhist aca-

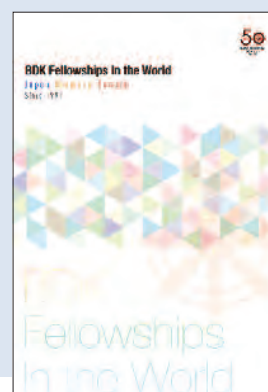
demie world. On this special occasion of the 25th anniversary, we collected the updated information about each one of them and compiled a booklet called “BDK Fellowships in the World.” We hope to continue supporting promising scholars all over the world for the development of Buddhist

studies in the future.

For more information about “BDK Fellowships in the World,” please feel free to inquire through the official BDK website at <http://www.bdk.or.jp/>

2016 BDK Fellowships for Foreign Scholars

The BDK Fellowship was established in 1991 in order to promote international cooperation and mutual understanding in Buddhist studies, and is intended to enable researchers to engage in advanced research on Buddhism while in Japan. The BDK Fellowship committee selected two scholars for the 2016 grants listed below in alphabetical order.



The BDK Fellowship committee selected two scholars for the 2016 grants listed below in alphabetical order.

Mr. Emanuele Davide Giglio

Affiliation : Doctoral Student at the Department of Indian Philosophy and Buddhist Studies, The Division of Asian Studies, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, The University of Tokyo

Theme of Research : The genesis of the 諸法実相鈔 (“On ‘The True Aspect is All Dharmas’”), an epistle attributed to Nichiren but not yet recognized in the collection of his autographical works, from a methodological, bibliographical and a philosophical viewpoint.



BDK JAPAN NEWS 2015

Ms. Katarzyna Marciniak

Affiliation : Postdoctorate researcher, Research Centre of Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Warsaw University, Poland (will be affiliated with The International Research Institute for Advanced Buddhism, Soka University in Japan)

Theme of Research : Buddhist Sanskrit as attested in the Mahāvastu of the Mahāsāṃghikas-Lokottaravādins. A comparative study of the language on the basis of the oldest extant manuscripts of the text (MS Sa, MS Na).

We hope that our newest family members of the BDK Fellowships will have successful stays in Japan for the year 2016, and it is with great pleasure that we present reports about previous scholarship holders of the year 2015.

Questions for the 2015 BDK Fellowship Holders

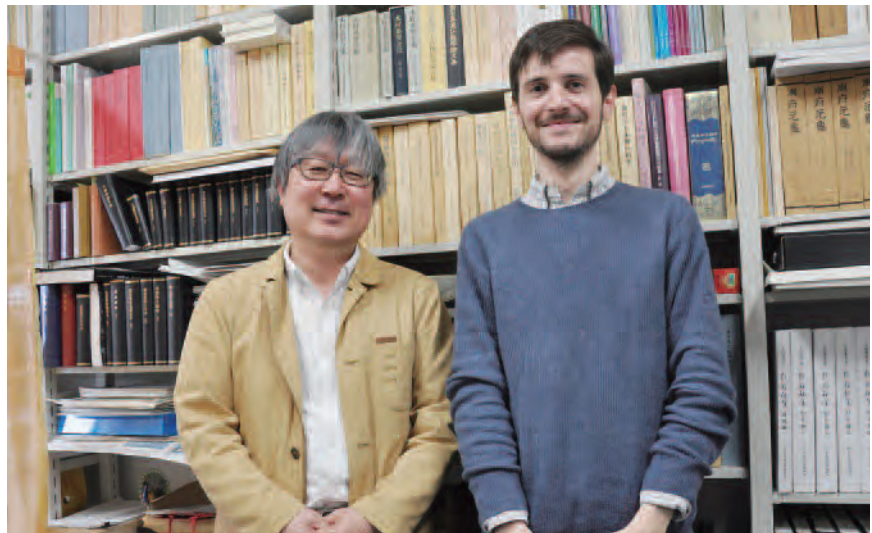
- 1) What made you apply for the 2015 BDK Fellowship?
- 2) What is/are the best thing(s) about being a BDK Fellowship holder?
- 3) What do you think about your future career?

Mr. Kevin Buckelew

Affiliation : Kyoto University, Institute for Research in the Humanities

Theme of Research : Reclusion in Chinese Chan Buddhism of the Tang, Song and Yuan periods

- 1) The BDK Fellowship is very well known in the field of Buddhist Studies. Although it is a competitive grant, my advisors and fellow students encouraged me to apply. I was thrilled to be awarded the fellowship and have the opportunity to spend a year at Kyoto University performing dissertation research under the supervision of Professor Funayama Toru. While there are many fellowships that allow graduate students to come to Japan in order to study Japanese religion and culture, the BDK Fellowship is one of very few that supports researchers in other fields of Buddhist Studies – such as my field, Chinese Buddhism – to perform research in Japan. For this reason it is an extremely important fellowship for Buddhist Studies.
- 2) As a BDK Fellowship holder, I have many unique research oppor-



Prof. Toru Funayama (left) and Mr. Kevin Buckelew (right) at Kyoto University

tunities and an excellent research environment at Kyoto University. I have been able to discover primary sources that have only been preserved in Japan, and to visit various temples and view Buddhist rituals. Not only that, I also have the opportunity to deepen my knowledge and training as a graduate student in

Buddhist Studies. Truly, a scholar of Buddhism of any nationality cannot operate without immersion in the long history and rich world of Japanese scholarship on Buddhism. It has therefore been my privilege to be a recipient of the BDK Fellowship for the 2015-16 academic year.

3) After completing dissertation research in Japan, I intend to spend one further year performing academic research at Academia Sinica in Taiwan. This research undertaken in Japan and Taiwan, as well as previous research in China, will pro-

vide a solid international foundation for the completion of my dissertation. In this way I aspire to connect the fields of Buddhist Studies across various countries. I will subsequently return to the United States to finish my dissertation and receive the

Ph.D. I will thereupon embark on a career as a professor at a college or university in North America, where I will build on the fruits of my research as a BDK fellow to introduce the next generation of students to the world of Buddhism.

Ms. Kyeongjin Choi

Affiliation : Doctoral Student at the Department of Indian Philosophy and Buddhist Studies, The Division of Asian Studies, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, The University of Tokyo

Theme of Research : Dharmakīrti on the Proof of Momentariness and Its Philosophical Development by Tibetan Thinkers

1) When I applied for the 2015 BDK Fellowship, the fellowship that I had for the previous three years from the University of Tokyo, which is awarded to selected foreign students, was about to expire. But since I was planning to write my doctoral thesis during the next several months, until the end of the 2015 scholastic year, I needed to find some other fellowship for students who continued their research beyond their fundamental course term of graduate school. I had passed through three years of the doctoral course and was supposed to complete my dissertation in the next year. The BDK Fellowship was among very few fellowships available to students of Buddhism in such a position, and so I jumped at the opportunity to apply for it.

2) Thanks to the BDK Fellowship, I could concentrate on my dissertation and complete it in this year. Writing a thesis in a year while working part-time and constantly being worried about living costs and tuition would have been impos-



Ms. Kyeongjin Choi (left) and Prof. Akira Saito (right) at the University of Tokyo

sible. Even though I am not ready to let go of my dissertation as totally complete (it seems this feeling will last for a while, probably until I can publish it as a book), I was able to submit it within the one year, because the BDK Fellowship totally freed me from stress and allowed me to focus all my energies on that difficult task.

3) I am supposed to get a doctoral degree in March 2016, but I hope that I will be able to stay in Japan longer and continue my studies of

Buddhism. In the course of writing the thesis, I encountered many themes and ideas that piqued my interest, but was not able to explore them fully. Thus I am planning to revise and expand my dissertation to prepare it for publication over the next year. I also intend to expand my field of vision to other areas of Buddhist philosophy, not just the epistemology. Ideally, I would like to continue my studies here and be able to share those results with students.



2016 BDK Fellowships for Japanese Scholars

The BDK Fellowships for Japanese Scholars program was established in 2012, and aims to promote international cooperation and mutual understanding in Buddhist studies. They are intended to enable Japanese researchers to engage in research on Buddhism while in foreign countries.

The BDK Fellowship committee selected three scholars for the 2016 grants listed below in alphabetical order.

Mr. Atsuki Nakagami

Affiliation : Department of Indian and Tibetan Studies, Asia-Africa Institute, University of Hamburg in Germany

Theme of Research : Buddhist Thought on Perception and Experience, and its Contemporary Meaning: A Study of the Works by an Eleventh Century Scholar, Rong zom Chos kyi bzang po

Ms. Hiroko Matsuoka

Affiliation : Institute for Indology and Central Asian Studies, University of Leipzig in Germany

Theme of Research : A Study of the Beginnings of the Buddhist Treatises

Mr. Toshio Horiuchi

Affiliation : Department of Indian and Tibetan Studies, Asia-Africa Institute, University of Hamburg in Germany

Theme of Research : Critical edition and philosophical study of the former part of the Lankāvatārasūtra Chapter 2

We hope these three promising scholars have a fruitful year abroad and we are pleased to introduce one of our 2015 BDK Fellowship holders at this time.

Questions for the 2015 BDK Fellowship Holders

- 1) What made you apply for the 2015 BDK Fellowship?
- 2) What is/are the best thing(s) about being a BDK Fellowship holder?
- 3) What do you think about your future career?

Mr. Suguru Ishimura

Affiliation : Department of Philosophy, The University of New Mexico in the U.S.

Theme of Research : A Conflict between the Buddhist and Brahmanical Schools about the Theory of Truth

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>1) While I was doing my research in Japan, I always wanted to study abroad to broaden my views. Fortunately, Prof. Hideyo Ogawa from Hiroshima University introduced me to the BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars. Right after that, I decided to apply for it.</p> | <p>2) I am staying in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the moment. While I was in Japan, I had a hard time to make time for research. However, I do not have to worry about time and money anymore because the BDK Fellowship supports me well now. Moreover, I have enough time to</p> | <p>study other related fields of my research and I have broadened my perspectives about my current research. My academic advisor in the U.S. offered me some opportunities to audit his classes at the university freely. Learning something in a different language about a sub-</p> |
|--|---|---|

ject I had already studied deepened my understanding.

3) My research project in the U.S. has been going well in a perfect environment for studying. I am planning to present my papers at an academic conference in the near future after I go back to Japan.

For more information about BDK Fellowship programs, please visit the official BDK website at <http://www.bdk.or.jp/>



Prof. John Taber (left) and Mr. Suguru Ishimura (right) at the University of New Mexico

Activity 02 The 49th BDK Cultural Awards

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) offers the Bunka-Sho, the Cultural Award for the Promotion of Buddhism and the Numata Shorei-Sho, the Numata Innovation & Visionary 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 at its selection meeting on July 23, 2015, and presented them with a gift and honorarium of JPY 3,000,000 for the Cultural Award for the Promotion of Buddhism and JPY 2,000,000 for the Numata Innovation & Visionary Award. The 49th ceremony and ban-

quet were held at the BDK Center Building in Tokyo on October 15, 2015.

For more information about BDK Cultural Awards and its past awardees, please visit our official website at <http://www.bdk.or.jp>



The 49th Bukkyo Dendo Bunka-Sho: Mr. Toshio Kanamitsu

● Born in Okayama Prefecture in 1927. Worked for Nihon Hoso Kyokai (NHK), the oldest broadcasting station established in 1950, as a director of “Kokoro-no-Jidai, The Times for the Spirit.” Contributed to the promotion of Buddhism and the discovery of hidden Buddhist talents from rural areas.



The Numata Shorei-Sho: Vihara Medical Foundation (Rev. Prof. Shunko Tashiro)

● Contributed to spreading the idea of Vihara and medical services with the spirit of Buddhism. Developed ways in which Buddhist philosophy can be used practically for terminal care. Promoted the exchange of ideas and the hosting of seminars.

Introducing the “Otera Oyatsu Club” Snack Delivery for Kids from Temples

Special Report from Rev. Seiro Matsushima, managing director of the Otera Oyatsu Club

Interviewer: Kaoru Eguchi, Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK)

Photography: Otera Oyatsu Club



BDK supports groups and organizations that actively promote the spirit of Buddhism and Buddhist culture through donations. We would like to introduce one of those groups, the “Otera Oyatsu Club,” which collects snacks donated by people at temples all over Japan,

and delivers them to households with a single parent and kids. The managing director of the group, Rev. Seiro Matsushima, a Jodo Shu priest at Anyoji Temple, answered questions about the group’s activities and explained how they manage to support kids.

Could you tell us how you started the “Otera Oyatsu Club” and its activities?

There are 1.4 million households with a single parent and kids in Japan at the moment, and about 60 % of those are having financial difficulties. Growing up as children in an unfortunate environment is not their fault at all but those kids usually experience hunger and do not have a chance to eat snacks. On the other hand, temples throughout Japan receive extra food and snacks called “Osonaemono” donated by their supporters. However, they usually receive more than they can eat. That is why we thought that we should share those donations with single-parent households.

The “Otera Oyatsu Club” collects those “Osonaemono” offerings from the supporters of temples as our



“Osagari,” hand-me-downs from the Buddha, and practice “Osusowake” by distributing them to single-parent households experiencing difficulties. We have over 280 temples that are supporting our activities as of February, 2016 and about 2,400 kids

are waiting for “Osusowake” every month.

There are 70,000 temples in Japan at the moment and any temple can participate and support kids. Unfortunately, we see poverty problems all over the



Rev. Seiro Matsushima, managing director of the Otera Oyatsu Club (left) and his priest supporting members

country; therefore, we would like to involve more temples with our activities as one of the welfare programs in each area.

Is there anything you must do when you actively support those households?

The “Otera Oyatsu Club” is not just a food bank. We hand out the offerings from the supporters of temples on behalf of the temples. Therefore, we must practice the compassion taught by the Buddha.

There is a word, “Obuppan.” It usually refers to freshly cooked steamed white rice that is offered on the Buddhist altar in the morning or anything else we offer to the Buddha. We Buddhist priests receive the offerings as “Osagari” from the Buddha to help

us grow.

The “Otera Oyatsu Club” practices “Osusowake,” by handing out the “Obuppan” offerings to the kids. However, we believe that by delivering the compassion of Buddha and, helping needy people, we create an important opportunity to let people know that they are not alone.

How do they actually feel about the activities of the Otera Oyatsu Club?

We often receive messages from those parents who received the snacks from us, and they tell us how much they appreciate the fact that someone actually watches over them and thinks about them. I think that our activities help them to feel that they are not alone without any help. Buddha gen-

tly watches us being foolish, and we Jodo Shu priests think that this is related to our faith belief. The messages from those parents allow us to reconfirm that what we are doing creates a great opportunity for us to deepen our faith and belief.

What do you think are the roles and effects of the “Otera Oyatsu Club” in today’s society?

We have sometimes experienced situations in which people do not expect us as priests to do good things anymore, and that made us think about how we have not done enough in previous decades. However, we truly hope the activities of the “Otera Oyatsu Club” can reach out to more people in Japan, and this encourages us a lot.

Moreover, we are creating a greater awareness of the problems of poverty in society and we are letting everyone know about them and our activities. The problem does not just exist in poor countries somewhere far away, but in our country, Japan. We should notice that this is happening right in our neighborhoods, and this, I think, is most important.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts. Could you tell us your future plans for the group?

Ultimately, we would like to build a safety net to support single-parent households experiencing financial difficulties and solve the problem of poverty in Japan. By expanding our activities throughout the nation, we hope to create friendly relationships

based on trust among temples, supporting groups, and single-parent households. In the end, we would like to make temples all over Japan to be true “Kakekomidera,” places that everyone can run into and ask for help anytime.

Do you have any thoughts about the financial assistance programs by BDK?

We truly appreciate BDK’s support given to us from the moment of our establishment. More Buddhist temples and priests have begun to participate, and we have a lot to do to manage all of our activities for supporting kids. The support from BDK certainly provides a foundation for our activities and we are thankful about that. We hope that the “Otera Oyatsu Club” will be accepted by society in general and that the understanding and support from the world will continue from now on.



Boxes of snacks, ready to be delivered

Rev. Seiro Matsushima, Managing Director of “Otera Oyatsu Club”

Head priest, Jodo Shu Anyoji Temple. Graduated from Waseda University. Worked for an internet solution company until 2010 and continued work-

ing as a Jodo Shu priest. Established the “Otera Oyatsu Club” in 2014 for the support of single-parent households in Japan.



Overview of “Otera Oyatsu Club”

We deliver packages of snacks, foods, and groceries to single-parent households in Japan every month. We receive “Osagari,” hand-me-down goods from the Buddha as “Osonaemono,” offerings from supporters of temples, and we make

packages for the needy. The “Otera Oyatsu Club” connects temples, single-parent households, and supporting groups with each other to solve the problems of poverty throughout the country.

For more information about the “Otera Oyatsu Club,” please visit the official website at <http://otera-oyatsu.club>



Buddhist Lectures and Seminars

01 Activity The 45th Jissen Fukyo Kenkyukai, BDK Buddhist Missionary Seminar at Sotoshu Daihonzan Eiheiji Temple

The first Jissen Fukyo Kenkyukai (BDK Buddhist Missionary Seminar) was held as a small discussion group organized by BDK founder, the late Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata, in 1970. Annually, this seminar is held at the headquarters of a different Japanese Buddhist sect, and each host sect enthusiastically supports this BDK event, which enables everyone to enjoy and learn a great deal each year.

BDK hosted the 45th Jissen Fukyo Kenkyukai at Sotoshu Daihonzan Eiheiji Temple from June 10 to June 12, 2015 with the theme of “Learning from Soto Zen,” and welcomed 44 priests and their family members ranging in ages from 22 to 85 from throughout Japan.

During three days of the seminar, participants tried the Zazen meditation called “Gyoten Zazen,” which starts from 3:30 in the morning. Monks at Eiheiji engage in this practice every morning.

Rev. Taiho Fukuyama, the Kanshu, head priest of Daihonzan Eiheiji Temple, greeted the participants. Rev. Yasuaki Nara, Saito of Eiheiji / BDK trustee; Rev. Kobo Maruko, Fuku-Kannin of Eiheiji; and Rev. Tozen

Nakano from Sotoshu Ryuhoji Temple / BDK comptroller, gave lectures, and participants could learn and

experience a lot about Sotoshu practice and Soto Zen.



BDK Chairman Toshihide Numata greeting the participants



02 Activity

Intellectual Buddhist Lectures “How to Learn ZEN and Enjoy Calligraphy” “ZEN and Calligraphy – Make Your Life More Interesting”



Mr. Mori Suzuki

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted its intellectual Buddhist lectures for everyone to experience Buddhism and its culture through calligraphy taught by popular calligraphy masters, and through meditation on chairs with a Zen Buddhist priest.

Buddhism and calligraphy have co-existed for such a long time, and Shakyō, the hand-copying of sutras, is getting popular for all ages at temples in Japan in these days. BDK offered its first class on calligraphy in a friendly atmosphere that welcomed everyone.

For the first lecture event on September 27, 2015, we welcomed Mr. Mori Suzuki, a Japanese calligra-

pher, and Rev. Shinju Matsubara, a Rinzaishu priest. Mr. Suzuki’s performance using a huge piece of paper on the floor surprised the participants, and the easy-to-understand speech of Rev. Matsubara gave the event a warm and calm atmosphere. Mr. Suzuki taught students one by one and everyone enjoyed the dual experience of Zen and calligraphy at the same time.

For the second event on March 21, 2015, Mr. Soun Takeda, a Japanese calligrapher who regularly appears on TV shows and a variety of media events in Japan taught a class with Rev. Matsubara. The main theme of the event was “the most important thing in life.”

For more information about future BDK lectures and seminars, please visit our official website at <http://www.bdk.or.jp/>



Mr. Soun Takeda



Rev. Shinju Matsubara

Activity 3 Buddhism Through English



BDK offers an opportunity to learn about the basics of Buddhism in both Japanese and English. We hope to create more opportunities for those with an interest in Buddhist teachings to learn more about themselves and Buddhism.

We welcomed a new lecturer, Dr. Stefan Grace, visiting researcher at Shinran Bukkyo Center, the Center for Shin Buddhist Studies, and started the class in April, 2015. The philosophy of Zen has been popular in many western countries in the world these days and he focused on “Learning Zen in English” and gave lectures about the basics of Zen Buddhism and Buddhism itself. We had many Japanese participants as well as some from foreign countries. There was also time for participants to have some ordinary conversations in English after each session and they

enjoyed that, too.

For the year 2016, Prof. Dr. Kenneth Tanaka from Musashino University will be back and we have scheduled 11 classes on the theme of “Humor, Manga and Songs.” BDK will continue to offer more chances for everyone to learn about Buddhism and its basic ideas through more modern approaches.

For more information about “Buddhism Through English,” please visit the official BDK website at <http://www.bdk.or.jp/>

Activity 4 BDK Zazen-Kai Meditation Retreat for Business People

BDK offers an opportunity for people to reflect on their way of life and to provide some calm and peace amidst today’s stressful society. We have hosted “BDK Zazen-Kai” meditation retreat for business people which started from 2013 under the guidance of Rev. Junsho Oka, head priest of Tendai Shu Enyuji Temple. The meditation sessions are held monthly with an entrance fee of JPY 500 at the BDK Center Building from 8:00 to 9:30 in the evening.

Each session has a short Buddhist sermon by Rev. Oka and a meditation after that. We welcomed more male



participants this year and most of them regularly attended. We have continued these on the 3rd Tuesday of every month and hope that these opportunities can offer relaxing and quiet moments for busy business people in today’s stressful world.

For more information about “BDK Zazen-Kai,” Meditation Retreat for Business People, please visit the official Facebook page or BDK website at <http://www.bdk.or.jp/>



05 Activity

Special Summer Program: One-day Field Trip to Chiba Studying “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” for Business and for Daily Life



Nihonji Temple



Mrs. Masako Matsubara, Butsumoji Temple

Studying “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” for Business was established in 1981 for business people who desire a background in Buddhism to help them operate and manage their companies and business ventures. And Studying TTOB for Daily Life was begun in 1982 to share the Dharma so that participants could learn how to live their daily lives with the spirit of the Buddha through reading TTOB. People gather once a month and learn some teachings from the lectures.

During the summer, those two separate study groups get together and hold a special program every year. The 2015 program was held in Chiba-

Prefecture and twenty people attended and visited Rinzaishu Butsumoji-Temple and Sotoshu Nihonji-Temple.

Participants enjoyed visiting two different temples in the southern part of the Boso Peninsula in Chiba-Prefecture. Butsumoji-Temple was originally built in 1977 and is famous for beautiful sceneries and the natural surroundings of Mt. Kano. Mrs. Masako Matsubara, the former head priest’s wife, showed the participants around the temple and offered Matcha green tea to everyone. Nihonji-Temple was built in 725 under the direction of the Emperor Temmu. This historical temple was originally opened as a Tendai-shu temple and has

extremely expansive surroundings. They have a famous Sengohyaku-Rakan-zo, 1,500 Rakan statues, and a Hyakushaku-Kannon, a Kannon statue that is 100 feet tall.

- Rinzaishu Butsumoji-Temple website: <http://www.butsumoji.com/>
- Sotoshu Nihonji-Temple website: <http://www.nihonji.jp/index.html>

For more information and schedules about Studying “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” for Business and Daily Life, please visit our official website at <http://www.bdk.or.jp/>

06 Activity 2015 BDK Symposium: “Science and Piety in Buddhism”

BDK held two lectures for the “2015 BDK Symposium” with the common theme of “Science and Piety in Buddhism.” We invited two professors, and they freely added subtitles to the main theme and gave their lec-

tures.

For the first lecture of the year, we welcomed Prof. Shizuka Sasaki from Hanazono University in Kyoto, who has been an active leader of Buddhist

studies for decades. He gave a lecture with his own subtitle, “What We Can Live For,” and explained the connection between Buddhism and science.

For the second lecture, we welcomed Prof. Carl Becker from the Kokoro Research Center at Kyoto University, who is popular as a researcher of death and terminal care in Buddhism. He talked about the “scientific basis on Amitabha” focusing on piety.

The venue was packed with people each time and we got some feedback from many of the participants, such as “I truly enjoyed the BDK lectures every time and listened to their lectures intently. I am sure that I am going to come back again.” Some people repeatedly attend the BDK Symposium, and we appreciate their support. BDK hopes to offer more opportunities for everyone to experience the essence of Buddhism from a variety of different perspectives.

BDK donated all the of entrance fees from the 8th and 9th symposiums to the Foundation for the Nepal Great Earthquake Aid of the Japan Buddhist Federation.

For more information about the “BDK Symposium” and the 2016 schedule, please visit our official website at <http://www.bdk.or.jp/>



Prof. Shizuka Sasaki



Prof. Carl Becker

Take a Break

Buddhist YOGA for People in the Modern World

Interviewer & Photography: Kaoru Eguchi, BDK

Location: Bukkyo Dendo Center Building, Tokyo, Japan

People try to eat healthy and exercise to stay in shape and there are many options to choose in today's world. Yoga is one of those choices and BDK started the monthly "Buddhist Yoga" class from April, 2015. Since the BDK Buddhist Yoga classes got so popular, we relocated the class to a bigger room, and more

than 200 people attended throughout the year. Today, we welcomed Rev. Yuuka Gazzo, the BDK Buddhist Yoga instructor as well as a Jodo Shu priest, and we talked about what "Buddhist Yoga" means to people living in the modern world.



First of all, how do you like being an instructor for the BDK Buddhist Yoga class?

I feel honored to be a part of this wonderful opportunity and I am thankful at the same time. Everyone attending our classes is so enthusiastic and tries to keep their motivation high. I assume that students are very much interested in the connection between Buddhism and Yoga, probably because the class is hosted by Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK). The experiences of the students vary, but I think we have many office workers who

work in the neighborhood, and they stop by here on the way home from the office. The Bukkyo Dendo Center building is located right in the middle of the big commercial district in Tokyo, therefore the location is a perfect one that people can easily access.

When we talk about Yoga in general, people imagine that women practice Yoga, not men. As most people can imagine, about 80 % of people who

practice Yoga are women in the real world, but more men have started Yoga these days. I believe that the BDK classes have more men than other classes I have taught. I truly appreciate the fact that people of all ages with a variety of occupations participate in our classes. The BDK Buddhist Yoga class teaches everyone about finding potential abilities in their bodies and using them efficiently in the real world. They will find out

how they do not handle their own bodies very well. Through the Yoga class, you will be able to have a proper understanding of your own body and you will amaze yourself about what you can do! That makes you even more confident and gives you a chance to have a stronger bond with your family, friends, and colleagues at

your office by keeping a positive attitude in your daily life. This is what I really tell everyone in my class. After a class, some students even tell me that they could understand the connection between Buddhism and Yoga. I believe everyone can find something in each class.

Thank you so much for sharing the stories of your experience. Now what do you think about the relationship between Buddhism and Yoga?

In the long history of Yoga, you can find possible relationships between “Buddhism and Yoga” and that is what I would like to tell everyone in class. I usually ask everyone, “Which one do you think is older, Buddhism or Yoga?” People are likely to answer that Buddhism is older. However, Buddhism started about 2,500 years ago and Yoga began about 7,000 years ago. Both of them originated in India. Some people even think that Yoga is a kind of popular exercise method that was started in the U.S., but it is not like that.

You might imagine that Yoga is gymnastics that you perform on mats, but the word, “Yoga” has so many different meanings such as harmony, connection, tie, link, join, etc. It was regarded as a training or practice in the past. History tells us that Shakyamuni even did Yoga to pause for a moment for meditation and practice. Some ancient books state that he

sat under the Bodhi tree and tried Yoga. The way he sits is like a Yoga position itself. What you know now is only a small part of Yoga. I think Yoga and Buddhism are deeply related to each other. There are many Buddhist sutras that are related to Yoga; however they are not easy for Japanese people to read because most of them are written in other languages and with a Buddhist point of view.

I am a Buddhist priest more than I am a Yoga instructor, and I always practice Yoga as I feel the connection between Yoga and Buddhism. In Jodo Shu, we regularly practice Nembutsu chanting, and I strongly believe that my Nembustu chanting improved a lot with my Yoga practice. Yoga can be “Jogo,” supporting and gently pushing from behind, and I can practice a higher quality Nembutsu. This might be going too far to say, but suppose you are watching TV with no intention for a long time while you are lazily eating



Profile Rev. Yuuka Gazzo

Jodo Shu Priest at Seiganji Temple in Yamagata-Prefecture, Japan / International Certified Yoga Instructor and Director of the online Yoga lesson website, “Yogalog.” Official Real Stone Yoga Wear Ambassador.

Practiced at Jodo Shu Daihonzan Zojoji Temple. Started teaching Yoga classes from 2006. Teaches people about having a calm and healthy life style and explains the possibilities of Yoga and Buddhism in the modern world. Also participates in the development of Yoga instructors. Frequently appears on TV commercials, magazines, etc. in Japan.

<Yuuka Gazzo Official Blog>
<http://yuuka.blogspot.jp/>

snacks. Now suppose that you are practicing Yoga, breathing deeply and refreshing your mind and body. Please imagine that you start chanting “Namuamidabutsu” after that. I think there would be a huge difference between those two situations. Yoga can support you and your piety and religious beliefs from behind, and I would like to encourage everyone to try something like this with Yoga.

What can be a positive aspect of Yoga for people living in today’s busy world?

I can list so many great points about Yoga! For example, we can relax, heal, detox, improve the abilities of our inner muscles and organs, clear our minds, shed the rubbish in life, and so

forth. Yoga gives your body and soul a significant impact. The breathing techniques of Yoga and the control of our mind are related to each other, and we can keep our emotional stability under

control. If we could easily stabilize our emotions, we can satisfy our sense of self-esteem and boost up what we already have. I believe that is one of the biggest advantages of doing Yoga.

Taking a Yoga class for one time can cost JPY 3,000 yen in general, but I am surprised at how people need to make some time just to be quiet and relax. I can tell how hard it is to see your true self in the modern world. No matter how hard you are trying to survive with such a busy life, you will need a little time to be true to yourself. Yoga can be a great method for looking at your inner self and reconfirm the connection between the world and yourself. There are too many things out there and it is hard to see the true nature of a thing. Everything looks good in this material world, but reality is filled with other good things. Yoga is perfect to shed all the rubbish and clean your mind. After we are able to

finally clean up, we definitely need to identify what we should do now and what we have to achieve.

While I am taking the subway in Tokyo, I see lots of people holding smart phones or mobile phones. After you have had a long day working and are feeling so tired, you put more information into your brain from those devices. And you finally get home and you turn on the TV and you put even more information into your brain from it. I think this cannot solve any problem and you won't relax at all. Everyone needs some time and space to look inside of the self, not outside.

You can notice the pain in your shoul-

der and find out your shoulders can be moved while you are practicing Yoga. Yoga gives you awareness about your body and this can be a big step forward. If you face your body and soul as they are, you will cultivate a better understanding of yourself.



I see there are lots of people feeling tired in the modern world. Do they request you to suggest any Yoga positions to make them feel better?

Yes, they frequently ask me to suggest some good postures for “better sleep.” On the other hand, some people ask me about the postures for a “positive attitude” to make them perform better at work.

When you wake up in the morning, you stretch your body and get motivated about going to work. Your back will be bent and your chest will be

widely opened. When you feel exhausted and like to get some rest, your shoulders will be hunched. Our bodies are smart enough to control themselves. The former leads to a sympathetic nerve that becomes predominant and gives you energy to work and eat. The latter allows the parasympathetic nerve to become predominant and it lets the body be relaxed and calm.

We can say that each Yoga position has a totally different effect, and the body, soul and breathing techniques are closely related to each other. In a class, people have a variety of purposes for doing Yoga, therefore, I try to keep a good balance between stimulating both the sympathetic nerve and the parasympathetic nerve one after the other.

Lastly, do you have any advice for prospective students interested in joining “BDK Buddhist Yoga” classes in the near future?

This is easy (with a big smile). Start it anyhow! Come to a class three times at least and experience it for yourself at first. It does not matter with Yoga or Buddhism or Nembutsu. It is important to practice. It is fantastic that you can think deeply about something in your head and do something, but this is not all. In my experience, things are getting closer to finding the

true meaning of the things themselves. Yoga is not a sport and we do not decide on a winner in the end. I totally understand how we got used to the situation in which we have to pick a winner all the time. You do Yoga for “yourself,” not for winning or losing. Just try to relax and be yourself. You do not need to be an excellent student, or to be better than your neighbor, or

to be accepted by someone else, or to be compared with someone else either. You just focus on relaxing and letting everything go to learn about yourself. Yoga only needs a little space along with your body as it is. I would recommend “BDK Buddhist Yoga” to anyone who is interested because Yoga is like a friend who can hang out with you for a life time.

The friendly personality and big smiles of Rev. Yuuka Gazzo create a peaceful atmosphere in a “BDK Buddhist Yoga” class. The location is perfect because the Bukkyo Dendo Center building is close to all the major commercial districts in Tokyo, and the classroom has a high ceiling

with a huge space unlike that of regular Yoga studios. Her quiet voice resounds gently within a spacious room and this is the place where everyone can relax and experience Yoga!

The 2016 “BDK Buddhist Yoga”

class will continue to be taught by Rev. Yuuka Gazzo. BDK hopes to offer more opportunities for everyone to feel a connection to Buddhism through Yoga and absorb the essence of Buddhism and Yoga by facing your true self.

Let's Try Some Yoga Poses!

Important Points to Try in a Yoga Pose

Try to do each step nicely and slowly and stop trying if you feel pain. Stretch your body as you relax and breathe slowly through your nose. Be stable for a moment and breathe normally five to ten times while you are in a certain position.



Pose #1 Straddling Position - Upavistakonasana

How to

Straddle your legs at a 90 degree angle and bend the upper half of your body down to your legs. Straighten your back and push your heels forward while breathing little by little.

Point

Lower your buttocks close to the floor and try not to hunch your shoulders too much.

What this is good for

Swelling of the lower half of the body
Sensitivity to cold
Backache
Sciatica
Gynopathy



Pose #2

Twisting Position - Ardha Matsyendrasana

How to

Sit on the floor and twist your whole body. Balance your body and sit on both ischial bones. Keep twisting carefully while exhaling and stretch the upper half of your body toward the ceiling.

Point

Inhale by pulling up your chest and twist from the waist and the chest to the neck.

What this is good for

Firming the muscles on your waist
Fixing and balancing the abilities of your visceral organs
Straightening your spine and back



Pose #3 Bending Position - Paschimottanasana

How to

Stretch both legs and bend forward toward your feet little by little while inhaling and stretching your spine.

Point

Loosen up your body and relax. Breathe deeply and repeat.

What this is good for

Soothing and calming nerves
Perfect preparation before going to sleep!



BDK Affiliate Organization Activities

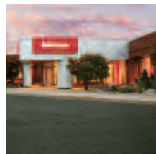
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BDK JAPAN

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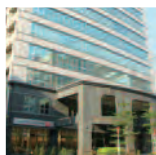
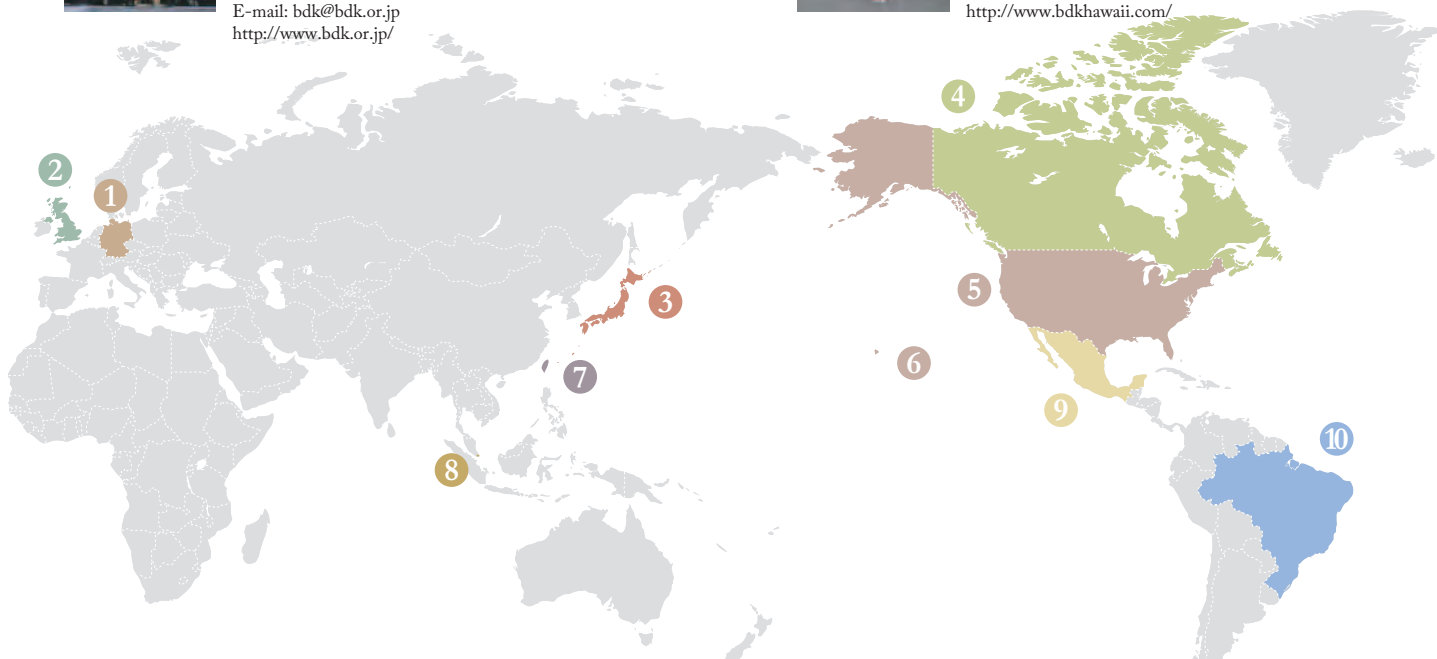
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On May 5, 2015, with BDK Chairman Numata and Executive Director Ikuta in attendance, we held the dedication ceremony of our new office in Moraga, conducted by Bishop Umezu. Our move to Moraga became necessary as we outgrew the Berkeley office space which opened in 1984 as the “Numata Research and Translation Center.” We planted a memorial tree with more than 30 Buddhist scholars and friends in attendance on that day. We enjoyed live koto and shakuhachi music while having a buffet style lunch.



BCA Bishop Kodo Umezu (4th from left) and BDK (5th from left) with guests at the dedication of the office building in Moraga, CA

Chairman Numata thanked everyone and gave a speech.

“Coincidentally today is the anniversary of our founder Yehan Numata’s passing. I feel that there are unexplained forces working to make this particular day the opening day of our new office.”

“As long as I am able, I would like to continue our work. In return, I appreciate your help and support as we move toward the future.”

We participated in the “Moraga Pear Festival” on September 26, 2015 to promote our presence in Moraga and to get to know our neighbors. We had a booth displaying Japanese embroideries and flower arrangement. The following week we hosted the exhibition “Painting with Threads” showcasing beautiful Japanese embroidery pieces crafted by local and Hawaiian embroiders at our Moraga office. We plan to continue hosting such events to promote our presence and to be a

part of the community.

The 2015 Toshi Prize was awarded to the co-authors of “Buddhist Stone Sutras in China,” Dr. Lothar Ledderose and Dr. Sun Hua. The book describes scriptures carved on rocks in China and includes photographs. They plan to complete sixteen volumes total. The award ceremony and the symposium was held at UC Berkeley with 60 people in attendance on October 30, 2015.



Moraga City Councilwoman Teresa Onada, BDK Chairman Toshihide Numata and BDK America President George Tanabe planting commemorative tree.



Front view of new office building in Moraga

Buddhist Ritual Music Symposium and Performance

<Special Report written by Prof. Mark Blum, Buddhist Studies, Shinjo Ito Distinguished Chair, Japanese Studies, U.C. Berkeley>

Thanks to the generous support of BDK and many others, the Center for Buddhist Studies at the University of California, Berkeley held a 2-day symposium and performance workshop on Buddhist Ritual Music on November 6 and 7, 2015. The idea was to bring together both scholars of Buddhist ritual music and “performers” of that music. There were eight Buddhist nations represented in the performances that took place at the Zellerbach Playhouse on campus, and there were nine speakers who gave research papers at the Alumni House.

It is important to note that Buddhist monastics in the Theravāda tradition are not permitted to perform or even listen to “music.” Discussions often centered on the distinction between singing, chanting and reciting. Monks from Sri Lanka and Laos introduced their performance as “ritual chanting,” not as musical performance, and yet their performances were quite enchanting and very musical. Today the performers from Mahāyāna traditions do not have such limitations, and we had performers from Tibet, Nepal, China, Korea, and Japan using wind instruments, drums, and even dance.

It has been a lifelong dream of mine to bring together Buddhist scholars, musicologists, monks, nuns and lay people to an event like this, and it took more than a year of planning. I particularly want to thank Trent Walker and Michaela Mross (former BDK Fellowship recipient), both of whom are young Buddhologists who are also musicians. Our ultimate aim for this event was to raise the awareness and appreciation of music as an important part of the Buddhist tradition in every sect of Buddhism throughout Asia.

BDK Hawaii



BDK Hawaii derives all of its financial support from the 15 unit apartment building we manage, and we therefore have to take good care of the building so that it will serve us long into the future. Already the building is more than 25 years old, and in 2015, we carried out major repairs and remodeling. We will continue our maintenance program in 2016 as well.

Our annual board of trustees meeting was held in February, 2015 and we were pleased that Numata Kaicho and Mr. Tadashi Ikuta were able to attend our meeting. After the meeting, we took a trip to Maui and visited the



BDK Chairman Toshihide Numata, Mr. Mikio Yamashita, and Dr. George Tanabe at the summit of Mt. Haleakala

Lahaina Jodo Mission and Lahaina Hongwanji temple. Mr. Mikio Yamashita, who is one of the BDK Hawaii trustees, joined us on this trip,

and we drove all the way to the top of Mt. Haleakala, where we had a BDK “summit meeting.” Throughout the whole time we spent on Oahu and

Maui, we discussed major issues facing not only BDK Hawaii but BDK America as well.

In April, we sponsored a public talk by Mr. Jarrod Brown from the University of Hawaii. Mr. Brown spoke on “Buddhism and Violence in Southeast Asia” with a focus on Myanmar. The lecture was organized by the Yoshiaki Fujitani-BDK Hawaii Interfaith Program based at Chaminade University, a private Catholic college in Honolulu.

In November, the Fujitani-BDK Hawaii Interfaith Program sponsored another presentation on “Healing Through Sound.” In this event, which was well attended, Ms. Leigh Ann Philips and the Hawaiian chanter A’ia’ demonstrated the ways in which

chanting from Native Hawaiian religion and Eastern traditions can have a positive effect on people.

Clyde Whitworth, the distribution manager of BDK Hawaii, taught monthly meditation classes at the Byodo-in Valley of the Temples cemetery. He also hosted meetings of an organization called Death Café, which explores end-of-life issues.

Our main mission, of course, remains the distribution of the “Teaching of the Buddha” and other BDK publications. In 2015, we distributed 3,596 copies of TFOB, 3,226 copies of “Messages of the Buddha,” 1,000 copies of the “Wisdom of Buddhism” manga, and 283 copies of TFOB in Kindle format.

The year ended with the BDK Global Meeting and the 50th Anniversary celebration held in Tokyo in December. It was a great chance to meet BDK and Mitutoyo representatives from other parts of the world, and to discuss the best ways of promoting the mission of BDK in the future



Mrs. Brown, Mr. Jared Brown and Bishop Matsumoto

BDK Canada



2015 World Buddhist Women’s Convention in Canada

BDK Canada supported the 2015 World Buddhist Women’s Convention that was held in Calgary, Alberta on May 30 & 31, 2015. About 1,800

Buddhists from Japan, Brazil, the U.S., Hawaii and Canada attended. The participants were honored by the attendance and participation of the

25th generation Sennyō Monshū or Hongwanji head priest, His Eminence Monshū Ohtani Kōjun.



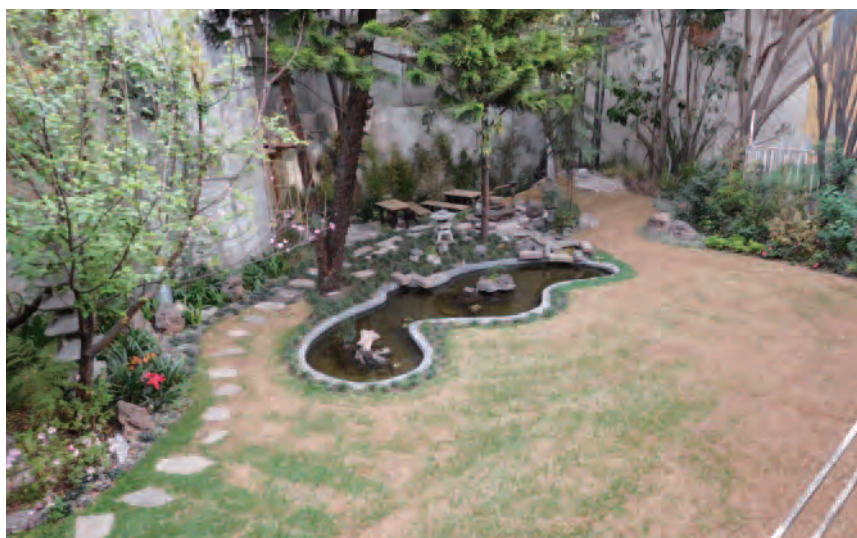
BDK Mexico and Mexico Ekoji-Temple have a variety of opportunities to promote the teachings of Buddha among local people in Mexico. We hold Buddhist weddings and funerals that get the attention of the Mexican people, and they are very much interested in those Buddhist rituals and ceremonies. The priest's chanting and talks give more opportunities for them to get to know more aspects of Japanese culture and Buddhist customs.

Mexico has over one hundred years of history for Japanese immigrants, and most of them still live here in this country. Lots of Japanese-Mexicans come to visit Ekoji for Urabon-e and the Obon ceremony in August, at which time they remember the dead, welcome the ancestral spirits, and appreciate their existence. The head priest of Ekoji, Rev. Koichi Todaka, is the only one in Mexico who is officially allowed by the Mexican government to hold Buddhist ceremonies in public.

Ekoji also hosts a "Sosensai" ceremony in which people express their appreciation to their own ancestors every evening of the third Thursday in each month. In general, Christians believe in God and Buddhists believe in Buddha, however at the "Sosensai" ceremony, it does not matter which religion people believe in or what they pray for. People just put their hands together in prayer for their ancestors, not for God, Buddha, or some other object of faith. Ancestors are important and intimate, and people thank them for giving them life.



Urabon-e and the Obon ceremony



Renewed Precinct yard of Ekoji

In 2015, BDK Mexico renewed the precinct yard of Ekoji. The yard is the area in which many people can gather and communicate with each other before and after the Ekoji events. In January, 2016, Restaurante Cha-en, a café/restaurant in the Ekoji precinct, welcomed a professional Wagashi Japanese-style confectionery chef and offered a private cooking class. The

sampling party was held under a cherry tree in full bloom that gave the event a beautiful touch. Since the cooking class was such a success, the Japan Foundation offered Cha-en another opportunity to be one of their official events at another occasion. We had a good chance to tell everyone more about Japanese Buddhism and its culture.



Vesak Day 2015

— “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” Distribution

Mrs. Ee requested 600 copies of TTOB in March 2015 to be distributed on Vesak Day on June 1, 2015. We were very thankful for her kind and sincere thoughts about propagating Buddhism.

The team was led by Mr. and Mrs. Ee from "The Buddha Tooth Relic Temple" and the "Metta Welfare Association" together with volunteers, who worked the whole day from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and successfully distributed 400 copies of the English version and 200 copies of the Simplified Chinese version to local and overseas visitors to the temple and welfare home.

The Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and Museum (BTRTM) was founded in 2002 by Venerable Shi Fazhao. It was

registered by the Registrar of Societies on February 20, 2003 as a charity under the Charities Act of 2004. The Temple is dedicated to Maitreya Buddha, The Compassionate One, who is also called 'The Future Buddha.' It has an architectural style based on the Buddhist mandala and is integrated into the arts and culture of Buddhism during the Tang Dynasty period.

The Metta Welfare Association is registered as a charitable organization and provides services covering disability care, medical care, child care, special education and alumni care. It incorporates Buddhist culture through learning and practicing the dharma, and helps to cultivate purity and loving kindness, while chanting wards off ominous influences.

Mrs. Ee informed us that she intends to continue to distribute our TTOB in 2016 on Vesak Day and seek B.D.K. Asia's support again, which we are very pleased to provide for this noble task.

Summary of TTOB distributed in June 1, 2015: 600 copies total

TTOB ENGLISH VERSION - 400 COPIES	
South-East Asia	321 copies
East-Asia	79 copies
TTOB CHINESE VERSION - 200 COPIES	
South-East Asia	144 copies
East Asia	35 copies
Others	21 copies

Quantity of TTOB distributed in 2015: 1,968 copies total

ENG/CHINESE	6 copies
ENG/JAPANESE	1210 copies
CHINESE (Simplified)	201 copies
ENGLISH	451 copies
MYANMAR	100 copies



TTOB distribution by the members of the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple



Thirty Year's Anniversary of the Eko House of Japanese Culture

Thirty years have passed, since the Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai Europe (the present “Eko House of Japanese Culture, Registered Association”) was registered in the City of Düsseldorf in 1985. In commemoration of this event, the Eko House of Japanese Culture celebrated the Thirty Year's Anniversary on June 3, 2015.

On a sweltering day with temperatures exceeding 35° C more than 100 invited guests gathered to participate in the celebration. Preceding the celebration a ceremony was held in the Eko Temple, sutras were recited and the Cologne Gagaku Ensemble played. After the ceremony, a commemorative lilac tree was planted beside the temple.

After the Thirty Year's Celebration was over, the assembly moved to the Eko Hall. After the opening speech of

Chairman Toshihide Numata, who expressed gratitude to all people who contributed during these thirty years to the activities of the center, the audience listened to the greetings from North Rhine-Westphalian governor Hannelore Kraft (read by the minister of Federal German, European and Media Affairs Schwall-Düren), Düsseldorf's mayor Thomas Geisel (read by deputy mayor Conzen), and Japanese consul general in Düsseldorf, Kaoru Shimazaki.

Between the official speeches the Koto player Makiko Gotō and the Japanese dancer Kinuyo Watanabe entertained the audience with their performances and created a very harmonious atmosphere. In the second part of the celebration the guests received a commemorative magazine about the Eko House, which was published on the occasion of the 30 year's

anniversary, and Prof. Aoyama, the director of the Eko House, presented a copy to Chairman Numata. The commemorative magazine tracks the development of the Eko House and recalls the major events of the past thirty years in many photographs.

Thanks to the commitment of the people who participated in the celebration and many others, the Eko House of Japanese Culture is now looking back on thirty years. It will continue its activities playing the role of a bridge between the Japanese and German cultures.



VIP guests for the ceremony and BDK Chairman Toshihide Numata in the middle

Celebration for the Establishment of a Permanent Chair for Japanese Buddhism at Universität Hamburg



BDK Chairman Toshihide Numata in the middle and participants of Universität Hamburg

On June 2, 2015, the establishment of a permanent chair for Japanese Buddhism within the Numata Chair Program was celebrated at the Institute of Asian and African Studies at Universität Hamburg.

After a Bach sonata for flute and cello, the vice president of the university, Prof. Susanne Rupp, welcomed the participants, and Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) Chairman Toshihide Numata expressed in a speech the wish and hope that the new professorial chair may contribute to a deepening of Buddhist research in Germany. Following Prof. Rupp, the dean of the Faculty of Literature, Prof. Oliver Huck, and the Japanese consul general in Hamburg, Takao Anzawa, gave their addresses. Finally, Prof. Shōryū Katsura lectured on “The Activities of the Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai in the Past Fifty Years and the Progress of Buddhist Studies Worldwide”.

Since its foundation by Yehan Numata in 1965, BDK has promoted Buddhist

studies and has already established ten Numata chairs in North America. In Europe, similar Numata chairs where every year visiting scholars offer research and education programs were founded at the Universities of Oxford and London, later at the Universities of Leiden, Vienna, and Hamburg. Between 1973 and 2005 Prof. Lambert Schmithausen lectured on Indian and Buddhist Studies at the Universität Hamburg, and many scholars from the “Hamburg School” found their way into research institutions all over the world.

In 2007 the Center for Buddhist Studies, in which the various research branches concerning Indian, Tibetan,



Welcoming performance of flute and harpsichord

Chinese, Japanese Buddhism, etc. are integrated, opened its doors at the Universität Hamburg. It plays an active role in creating publicity and presenting the results to citizens. Because it is supported by BDK, the name of the institute was changed to Numata Center for Buddhist Studies, and on this occasion, a ceremony similar to the present one was celebrated on 11 June 2013.

Finally, Prof. Michael Radich from Victoria University of Wellington and Prof. Michael Zimmermann, director of the Numata Center, expressed in their addresses gratitude for the establishment of the permanent professorial chair for Japanese Buddhism at the Universität Hamburg. After the formal part, the participating students and citizens had the opportunity to socialize in front of a Sushi buffet. On October 1, 2015, Prof. Steffen Döll officially started his lectureship.



Prof. Susanne Rupp, Vice President



Sushi buffet

Doryoku (Effort)

“Doryoku” means to apply oneself diligently to a task, to exert oneself strenuously, to apply oneself vigorously.

In Buddhism, the Eightfold Path is set forth as the way to enlightenment. The right way of seeing things, the right way of thinking about things, right conduct, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right concentration are the eight correct ways of the Eightfold Path. And in regard to number six, right effort, it is expounded in the Funbetsushotai-kyo: “With regard to right effort, it is to address that which is right without any hesitation.”

“That which is right” refers to that which is consistent with the concept of “dependent origination” (things coming into existence through their dependence on other things, *pratītyamutpāda*). Stated simply, the truth of dependent origination

means that everyone is able to live through dependence on everyone else, and right effort is the kind of effort that is linked to the happiness of all those people around us who enable us to live.

To work only for the good of oneself while ignoring the inconvenience we cause to those around us who are helping us live is not the right kind of effort.

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