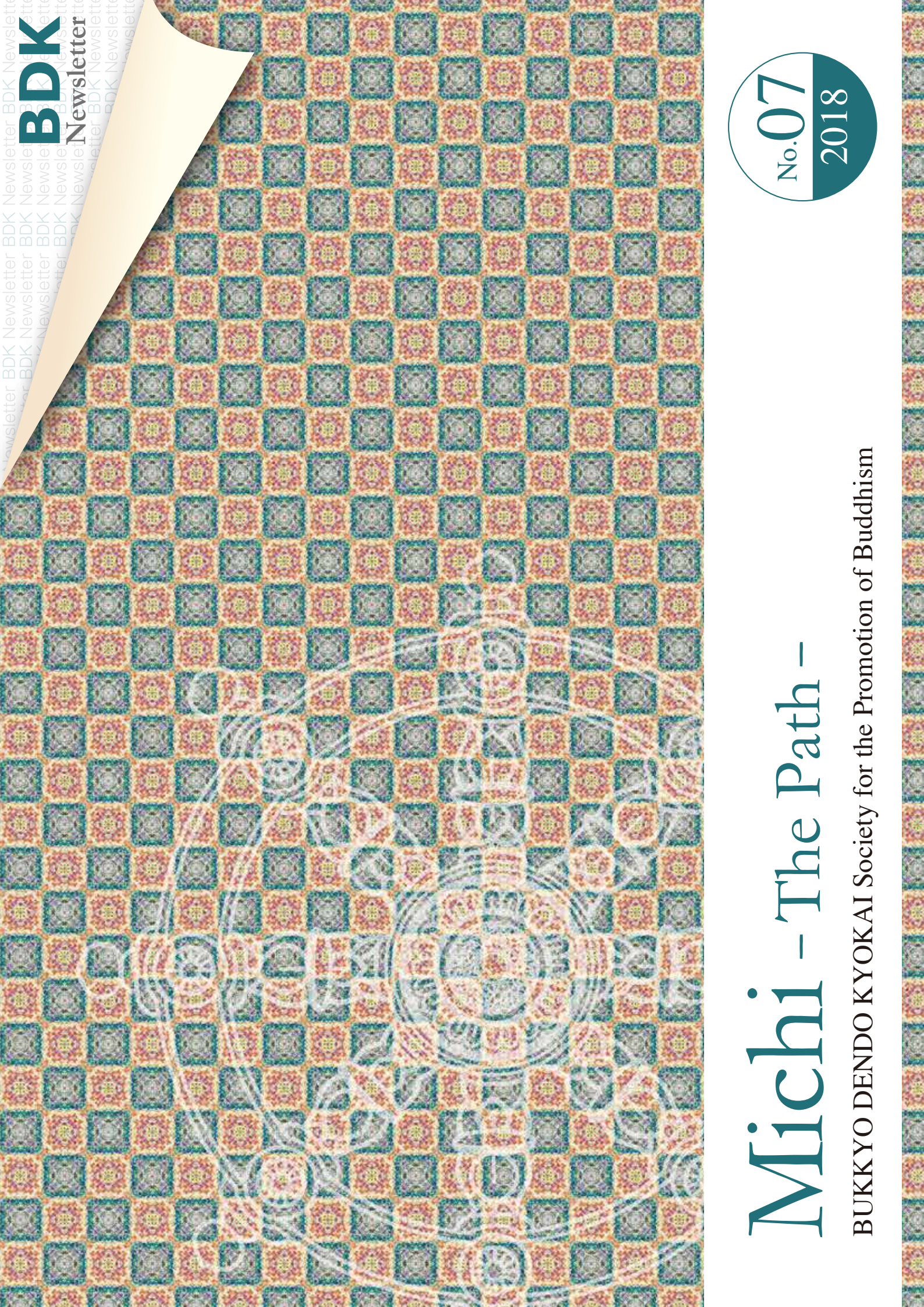


Michi - The Path -

BUKKYO DENDO KYOKAI Society for the Promotion of Buddhism



Michi

— The Path —

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"Sasaeatte - Heiwa (Peace)"



BUKKYO DENDO KYOKAI
Society for the Promotion of Buddhism

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New Path - Aiming for a Spiritually Enriched World

We truly appreciate your generous understanding and continued support for all of BDK's activities.

Since Rev. Toshihide Numata, former Chairman of BDK, passed away in February, 2017, I took on the heavy responsibility of replacing him as Chairman.

Rev. Toshihide Numata followed his father's will and contributed to a more peaceful world and the happiness of mankind by spreading the teaching of Śakyamuni Buddha. He engaged in a variety of activities to promote the teachings to the world by distributing "The Teaching of Buddha" as his primary focus for decades.

However, we are facing new challenges such as the reduction of the birth rate, the growth of an aging population, the centralization of population, and the depopulation in suburban areas.

In the light of these difficult situations, we must take the opportunity to reconfirm our belief that the "attainment of a peaceful society will be completed only upon the perfection of the human mind," and we must reconsider the ways in which we search for new directions appropriate to our changing times as well as to the continuation of our previous activities.

We hope to enrich everyone's minds so that the world will be more peaceful. We should keep moving on our path forward to the future with the help of all Buddhist schools, organizations, and our friends everywhere in the world.

With Gassho,



Seikoh-Kiyotaka Kimura
Chairman,
Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK)
Society for the Promotion of Buddhism

Introducing the New Organizational Structure of BDK

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) experienced a great loss when Rev. Toshihide Numata, former BDK Chairman, passed away in February, 2017. We revised our organizational structure in order to best pursue his goal of promoting Buddhism to the rest of the world.

We changed our articles of organization in June, 2017 and selected Seikoh-Kiyotaka Kimura as Chairman, Shoryu Katsura as President, Tadashi Ikuta as Executive Director, and we strengthened our commitment to our activities.

At the end of December, 2017, Tadashi Ikuta

retired, and Harumi Aoki replaced him as Executive Director.

We, the BDK board of directors and staff members, will work together as a team to spread Buddhist teachings, culture, and studies throughout the world from now and into the future.

New board members of BDK are listed as follows as of April, 2018.

Title	Name	Profile Information
Chairman	Seikoh-Kiyotaka Kimura	Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo
President	Shoryu Katsura	Professor Emeritus of Hiroshima University
Executive Director	Harumi Aoki (full-time)	Former Managing Director of Mitutoyo Corporation
Director	Daishun Ueyama	Professor Emeritus of Ryukoku University
Director	Kunihiko Kadowaki	Honorary Chairman of Japan Airport Terminal Co., Ltd.
Director	Kunitake Nomura	Former Managing Director of Fuji Bank
Director	Yoshiaki Numata	President of Mitutoyo Corporation
Director	Tadashi Ikuta	Former Director of Mitutoyo Corporation
Auditor	Tozen Nakano	Head Priest of Ryuhoji Temple
Auditor	Tomoji Matsumura	Former Director of Daiichi Kangyo Bank
Trustee	Isshin Yamada	Head Priest of Kongoin Temple
Trustee	Tadataka Koide	Chancellor of Aichi Gakuin University
Trustee	Chikou Ichikawa	Schoolmaster of Ikegami Honmonji Temple
Trustee	Ryojo Shioiri	Head priest of Sensoji-Hozenin Temple
Trustee	Shiro Hirata	Principal of Konodai Joshi Gakuin
Trustee	Junko Oka	Honorary Head Priest of Enyuji Temple
Trustee	Teruma Nishimoto	Chancellor of Musashino University
Trustee	Tadao Nakaya	Former Managing Director of Mitutoyo Corporation
Trustee	Toru Nakagawa	Chairman of Mitutoyo Corporation
Trustee	Takafumi Nakagawa	Senior Director of Mitutoyo Corporation



*From left to right :
Seikoh-Kiyotaka Kimura, Chairman
Shoryu Katsura, President
Harumi Aoki, Executive Director*



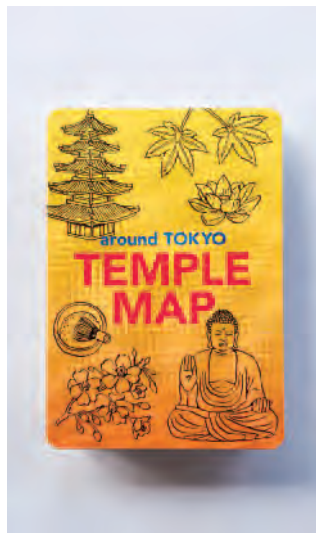
|| BDK Publications

01
Activity

Free Downloads of E-Books Available! "Tottemo Yasashii Hajimete no Bukkyo (Very Easy First Step to Buddhism)" and "GUIDE TO BUDDHISM IN JAPAN" New Publication, "around TOKYO TEMPLE MAP"

We have released new tools for the younger generation of people who frequently use digital devices and for tourists from all over the world in

order for them to understand Japanese Buddhist culture and the spirit of Buddhism.



We are living in an era in which people can easily get necessary information online as much as they like. Younger people do not read books that are printed on paper anymore. Therefore, we are considering other ways in which they can become familiar with the teachings of Buddha and Buddhist culture. We started publishing an e-book version of "Tottemo Yasashii Hajimete no Bukkyo (Very Easy First Step to Buddhism)" as a free download from our official website (<http://www.bdk.or.jp/>). The booklet explains things you think

you know but really do not know, and deals with basic questions such as "What is Buddhism?" "Who is Shakyamuni?" There are also some easy-to-understand illustrations and pictures. The booklet can be browsed on portable devices and you can carry it wherever you go. Moreover, we released the e-book version as well as the printed version of "GUIDE TO BUDDHISM IN JAPAN" for the growing numbers of tourists from all over the world. Most tourists visit temples and shrines in Japan, however, there are not enough

Japanese people who can speak English or other languages to take care of them when they ask questions. It would be fantastic if they were able to know more about the cultural background and etiquette at Japanese temples and shrines. The booklet deals with those questions about Buddhism in a very compact format that is easy-to-read and carry. We have donated and placed them at major temples, concierge desks at hotels, and tourist information centers.

In addition to the guidebook, we have published "around TOKYO TEMPLE MAP" to introduce temples and shrines that are able to welcome tourists from foreign countries. It is also available at major hotels and tourist information centers. At the moment, "Tottemo Yasashii Hajimete no Bukkyo (Very Easy First Step to Buddhism)" is downloadable for Japanese speaking readers in our official website (<http://www.bdk.or.jp/>), and BDK is working on making it available in the future for English speakers as well.



BDK JAPAN NEWS 2017

02 Activity BDK Sponsors "Japan Hotel Management Seminar"

BDK has distributed "The Teaching of Buddha" throughout the world as one of our main activities. As of 2018, we have donated and placed copies of

the book in 1.5 million rooms in 13,700 hotels in 62 countries in the world.

The number of copies of "The Teaching of Buddha" placed in hotels has been declining year by year, and it has become more difficult for us to place copies in new hotels. We sponsored a "Japan Hotel Management Seminar" to try to explain BDK activities to people in the hotel industry, to express our gratitude for their support, and to ask for their help to place more copies in hotel rooms with the backing of Ohta Publications Co., Ltd.

We organized the seminar around the theme of "OMOTENASHI, Japanese Hospitality in the Global Age" by sponsoring a talk and having a panel session with a Buddhist priest and notable people in the industry. It was a great opportunity for them to learn the methods of taking care of tourists from all over the world.



Seminar at the Shinagawa Prince Hotel in Tokyo

For the fiscal year of 2017, we had the first seminar at the Sapporo Grand Hotel in Hokkaido on May 29, 2017, a second one at the Shinagawa Prince Hotel in Tokyo on August 28, 2017, a third one at the Hotel Okura in Fukuoka on October 24, 2017, and the

last one at the Hotel Granvia in Kyoto on February 13, 2018. We welcomed 50 to 80 participants at each seminar and provided a good opportunity for participants to learn more about the spirit of Buddhism and BDK activities.

03 Activity "The Teaching of Buddha" Update for 2017

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) distributed more copies of "The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)" to hotels in Japan for 2017. Since Japan is expecting large numbers of tourists from all over the world to

attend the Olympic Games in 2020, more hotels have been built in Tokyo. BDK plans to approach those new hotels to distribute more copies of TTOB.



For hotels outside of Japan, we have distributed a large number of copies

this year. The hotel association in Myanmar offered us an opportunity to

distribute a 100,000 copies of TTOB to about 1,100 hotels throughout the

nation. Moreover, 20,000 copies have been donated to Tibetan schools in India. It was our great pleasure to provide this service to people who have already been familiar with Buddhism from ancient times.

We are encouraged by the fact that since 2011, we have distributed 38,535 copies to 241 Buddhist schools and kindergartens in Japan. The total of donated copies comes to 327,000 as of 2017. We are willing to distribute more copies of TTOB to hotels, hospitals, schools, etc. from now on.



TTOBs donated to a Tibetan monastery school in India

04 Activity **BDK Tour for "The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)" Donation and Visits of Buddhist Sites in Myanmar**

BDK donated 100,000 copies of TTOB in English and Burmese to 1,100 hotels in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (Myanmar) with the support of

Mr. H.E. U Ohn Manung, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.



Donation from BDK to the temple in Bagan

We had donated those books in Myanmar and organized a tour with BDK Chairman, Seikoh-Kiyotaka

Kimura as the group leader. The tour lasted from March 28 to April 2, 2018 and 20 people participated

in the tour.

The group attended a children's ordination ceremony, which BDK supported, visited the cemetery for Japanese in Yangon and travelled to some Buddhist sites in major cities such as Bagan and Mandalay. Also one of the highlights of the tour was the ceremony of delivering copies of TTOB at the hotel association.

Participants felt the difference of how Buddhism is integrated into life of the two countries, Myanmar and Japan. The group experienced everyday life in Myanmar with a strong influence of the spirit of Buddhism.

Interview



Entrance of Hoshi with a festival Noren curtain

“The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” in Hoshi Ryokan, a Long-Established Inn with 1,300 Years of History

Interview with Mr. Zengoro Hoshi, the 46th Generation Owner of Hoshi-Ryokan

Location: Hoshi-Ryokan, Komatsu-shi, Ishikawa-ken, Japan

Interviewer: Masanori Yamamura, Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK)

Editor/ Photographer: Kaoru Eguchi, Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK)

Special Thanks to Mr. Zengoro Hoshi and Hoshi-Ryokan

Interviewed in February, 2018.



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, medical facilities as well as educational institutions.

We visited Hoshi-Ryokan in the Awazu-hot spring town of Komatsu-shi, Ishikawa prefecture, and had an opportunity to talk with Mr. Zengoro Hoshi, the 46th generation owner of Hoshi-Ryokan.

Hoshi-Ryokan (Hoshi) officially opened in 718, and 2018 is their 1,300th anniversary year. Hoshi once appeared in “The Guinness Book of Records” as the “world’s oldest inn.” Why is TTOB used at such a his-

torical inn? What is the connection between “Hoshi” and Buddhism? We posed these questions to Mr. Zengoro Hoshi.

First of all, could you tell us the founding philosophy of Hoshi? Do you have any special connection between Buddhism and the name of “Hoshi”?

To follow our long history back to our origins, Taicho-Daishi, a Buddhist priest, founded an Onsen (hot spring) in Awazu in 718. We got the name “Hoshi” (one of designations for a Buddhist priest) after him, and we welcomed our 1,300th anniversary year in 2018. Our ancestor, Gengoro Sasagiri, was the second son of a lumberjack who was a guide in Hakusan-mountain when Taicho-Daishi first went there. Gengoro was ordained by Taicho-Daishi and became a Buddhist priest. That is why we received the name “Hoshi” from Taicho-Daishi for our last name as well as for our inn. Hoshi was opened to give everyone happiness and peace from this rich land of water, which comes from Hakusan-mountain. We use the character “和 Wa” of “平和 *Heiwa* (Peace)” in various ways, and we often say “和える *aeru* (to mix).” When you cook, you make “和え物 *aemono* (mixture).” When you mix something sweet and sour, you create a totally different and new flavor, and the result is a single good flavor from two different ingredients.” The ingredients do not fight each other, and they draw on each other’s power with a synergy. You know the famous Japanese proverb,

“和をもって貴しとなす *wa wo motte toutoshi to nasu* (harmony is to be valued).” The spirit of this proverb has been part of our local history. People in Awazu have spent a long time understanding each other with the cultural mixture of God and Buddha.

Buddhism is blended well into your everyday life. How did you encounter TTOB for the first time?

I remember that when I first encountered TTOB, it was before the first Olympic Games in Tokyo. I was working in Tokyo at that time. The Christian Bible was the most popular book in the drawers in hotel rooms at the time, but I also received some copies of TTOB from BDK for our inn (with a smile). We just placed both of them in the rooms at Hoshi without any special thoughts.

However, I encountered TTOB again shortly after that when I stayed at a hotel in Osaka. I happened to know that someone had died in the room I was staying in, and I could not fall asleep at all. I even had a nightmare. There it was again. I remembered that TTOB was right by my side and I started to read it for the first time. I was into reading TTOB and noticed something about myself. Whatever I feel or think is what I am. After I read some pages of TTOB, I felt that my mind was stable. Until that moment, I was just living my

everyday life being a Buddhist, but not believing in any school of Buddhism. BDK does not belong to a certain Buddhist school, and this was also the case with the late Rev. Taido Matsubara, an active Buddhist priest who did not care about schools and such.

That is totally true. BDK has a connection to the late Rev. Matsubara as well. He was one of the greatest Buddhist priests of all time, especially in the Showa and Heisei eras. I have heard that he frequently stayed at Hoshi. Is that true? Could you tell us your communication and exchanges with him?

Rev. Matsubara was the same age as my deceased father, so he was like my father. Moreover, his wife



Mr. Zengoro Hoshi (left) and his daughter, Ms. Hisae Hoshi (right)

was also the same age as my deceased mother, and we had frequent communication, especially with her. His wife taught our executive chef how to cook Yubeshi and Takuan that are very important in the Zen world. She tested them many times and taught him with patience. Rev. Matsubara had such a big heart. Once while he was staying at our inn, some of our distributors asked him to autograph his books. He took a long time to take care of each one of them.

Oh, that sounds totally like him! How did you meet Rev. Matsubara for the first time?

I had some of his books for a long time and was very much interested in him and his activities. I had a connection with an art director, who knew Rev. Matsubara. He gave him a call right in front of me, and I got a chance to talk to him on the phone. Since then, we have welcomed Rev. Matsubara for a Rotary Club lecture and he gave a dharma talk to our employees. Rev. and Mrs. Matsubara stayed at our inn and they loved our onsen, hot spring. They repeatedly visited us and even their son, the late Rev. Tetsumyo Matsubara, and his wife often came. We had a friendly relationship with the Matsubaras as if we were relatives.

You had such a good relationship with him and his family. How do you use TTOBs at Hoshi? And why do you like to use them in your inn?

We are living up to our name, “Hoshi,” and are handing Buddhism down at our inn to the next genera-

tion. That is why we can be here after 1,300 years. We place TTOBs in each room, and are happy to hand TTOBs to guests who prefer to take them back home. We do not force TTOB on our guests because we want people to take TTOB and Buddhism seriously. Therefore, we do not distribute copies of TTOB to everyone. One time, a large tour group from Taiwan stayed at Hoshi, and their tour-guide tried to distribute copies of TTOB and other related booklets to all of them. But I asked the guide to hand them only to those who really wanted to take them back home. We like to give it to people who will take care of it and read it seriously. On the other hand, we provide them with as many copies as they need. We are happy to help people by giving them good opportunities.

Thank you very much for taking great care of TTOBs. By the way, we walked around the inn and saw the explanation that Hoshi is a member of Les Hénokiens, which was founded in 1981 in France and accepts only companies that have over 200 years of history. Hoshi is a very popular Japanese inn for tourists from all over the world, too. Do you make any special attempts as a long established inn to understand different cultures from around the world?

99 % of our guests in the 1990s were Japanese, but now people from various countries have visited us in recent years. (Families from Singapore and a big tour group from Malaysia checked in while we were

talking.) The Japanese/English version of TTOB means a lot to us. People from other countries can understand what the book says. You can see Japanese side-by-side with English, so they can be interested in Japanese as well as their own language. When you are curious about Japanese and our culture, I believe that it can be a wonderful opportunity for them to learn Japanese and about Japan.

I repeatedly have to say this, but we must offer Buddhism to the world in return for Buddhism having made it possible for us to run our business for the last 1,300 years. When I lost my son and could not do anything for some years, I remembered this feeling and tried to come back here and do what I could. I am still trying to explain the attractiveness of Awazu and Buddhism to people coming from all over the world.

I know you tried a variety of “OMOTENASHI,” Japanese hospitality, and I have heard that you started talking to your guests every morning after the East Japan Great Earthquake and Tsunami happened. What made you do this? Could you tell us about that?

It was when the Hanshin Awaji Great Earthquake happened that I saw people screaming on the TV news, “I want to take a bath!” I drove a small bus to Kobe and picked them up to bring them to Awazu and stay at Hoshi. We tried to treat them like they were kings and queens because we just wanted them to enjoy our hot spring and to ease the pains of their bodies and



Traditional Hina dolls for Girl's festival in March



Hoshi lobby area

souls from the life at emergency shelters. They tried to pay us, but we did not accept anything because they were already suffering from the disaster. I said to them, "Please try to get over this terrible situation with a big smile" and saw them off. Seven or eight years after that, I think it was in November, a group of four people visited us and said, "We are the four with big smiles who enjoyed seeing the sun come up." I was so happy to see them again with their big smiles and I talked with them for a long time together with my son and employees, who welcomed them back. A few months later, on March 11, 2011, the East Japan Great Earthquake and tsunami occurred and everything changed forever. On that day, everything, including houses and even people, was swept away by the Tsunami. Even if you disliked someone, you will never be able to see him or her again. It can happen to anyone. Yet you might

want to see that person so badly after a while. We have life only for one time, so we must live our lives very carefully and meaningfully. That is what I thought after the disaster. I believe that no one wants to die in an earthquake or tsunami, but I lost my son and even my grandson after that. One of our long-time customers once told me, "I lost my son when he was in his 40s, but he had hope and left with happiness." I could not agree with his idea and argued, "It cannot be true! My son wanted to live longer." However, this conflict between us gave us a special opportunity to discuss "death" and to understand each other. This chance was given to me by my son and Buddhism. I was suffering from the fact that I lost my son and grandson after I turned 70. I have no idea how many more years I can live, but I am certain that I have to live the rest of my life with my strong

belief. It feels like I was controlled by something I could not see. I decided to live according to what my son and grandson wanted. I learned a lot from the death of my son. I feel that I am just living my life now. It gave me a chance to rethink "life and death." Before the death of my son, he would give one order to about 100 employees at their morning meeting every day. After his death, 100 employees tell me one by one what my son told them each and every day. Our grand chef told me a story about my son, who said, "I am sure that Washoku, Japanese traditional cuisine, will be huge like French and Chinese food after some years. So, we must keep providing attractive dishes on Wajima or Kutani plates with safe Japanese ingredients. That would be our OMOTENASHI for a long time." You cannot fully explain something at an everyday meeting, and I just had no idea how my son tried to tell a simple thing to

each of our 100 employees. I noticed his efforts and learned how to live now.

You cannot turn the clock back. Even a moment cannot be taken back. (Pauses for a long breath.) I really want a moment to have a conversation with my son. I know that I should not think about this all the time, but I do have conversations with him in my heart.

One of my favorite phrases (looking at the scroll of calligraphy donated by a Buddhist temple in Osaka hanging in the lobby) is “無事是貴人 buji kore kijin” I first thought “無事 buji” meant “no accident,” and that “貴人 kijin” meant “aristocrats.” However, I learned later that “buji” means that you do not wish to get any returns and “kijin” means Buddha.

Therefore, Buddha does not wish to get any returns from everyday life. If you do not have any desires and are satisfied with what you have, that is Buddha. If you have a few appropriate desires, you may impart strength and vitality to society. It develops the world in a good way. But you just cannot do this. I think that we should learn something from the spirit of the Mitutoyo Corporation. They are trying to give things they earned back to society through 50-years of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) activities. It is the perfect idea of spreading the great teachings of the Buddha to the world. I, myself would like to be someone who can be trusted and counted on. I keep thinking about that and try to talk to our guests every morning.

Your stories sound like dharma talks! Could you now tell us some stories in terms of



TTOB and other BDK books placed in each room

business and management?

It was way before the Olympic Games in Tokyo were held. My mother always told me, “You must be very careful with fire. You will lose everything in a fire.” However, in 1961, we had a fire at our inn and six of our old rooms built of wood and some old trees in the garden burned. Fortunately, there was no injury or no other damage to neighboring properties. My mother kept saying and apologizing, “I cannot tell this to our ancestors. I did a terrible thing...” But I thought it was a good opportunity to build some brand new facilities and to attract even more customers, and I actually built twenty-one new steel-framed concrete rooms over the ruins of the fire. It was in the middle of the period of rapid economic growth in Japan at that time. Our business went smoothly without any problems. The more we built, the more customers came. When I think back on it now, my father, the 45th Zengoro, let me do what I wanted

to try. I just did not think about anything else besides removing those traditional wooden constructed rooms and replace them with steel-framed concrete rooms instead. After a while, we started to have a hard time attracting people to our inn. What had I done? It was just my great regret that I destroyed the precious wooden buildings, which were long-established from the time of our ancestors. I thought that my business was succeeding at that time, but I did not even notice that failure would approach so soon. My mother always thought that she was failing, and learned something from everyday failures. But I had tried a shortcut to success in the end. On the other hand, avoiding calm self-examination makes you fail big, and you won’t even notice it is coming right next to you.

You are right. (Everyone nodded and agreed.) Success and failure, life and death, they are two sides of the same coin!

Lastly, what do you think about the future of BDK activities? What is your expectation?

I truly appreciate what BDK has done for us for such a long time. Buddhism and Hoshi cannot be separated. BDK has donated TTOBs and other useful materials to us at no cost, and we are really thankful for your continued efforts.

I would say that it would be very nice if BDK could provide something for the people who read TTOB to move forward one more step farther. I think that TTOB in Japanese and in other languages is useful for people coming from all over the world. It would be good for them to study Japanese. Also, it would be great if you could publish something easy to understand for everyone, something from which you can learn the basics of

Buddhism.

TTOB gave us a fantastic opportunity to visit Hoshi, one of the longest-established inns in Japan and to talk with Mr. Zengoro Hoshi, the 46th generation owner of Hoshi, in person. I was a bit nervous when I first visited Hoshi, however, Mr. Hoshi welcomed us with a big smile and his gentle kindness helped us to enjoy our time at Hoshi. We had a chance to listen to his morning talk and learned that life has meaning, and nothing should be wasted. His energetic yet generous talk warmly enveloped us and all the guests. TTOBs have been gently placed in a traditional Japanese-style letter box in the rooms. I was simply touched with this gesture of treating TTOBs so nicely. I realized that Mr. Zengoro Hoshi is able to welcome many guests from all over the world with his big smile because he expe-

rienced a variety of ups and downs of life for himself over a long period of time.

BDK will continue to distribute free copies of TTOB to hotels in the world. At the same time, we aim to publish a book that will allow readers to become familiar with different religions and nationalities.

For your reservation or any inquiries about Hoshi, please check the official website of Hoshi at <http://www.ho-shi.co.jp/>



For more information about “The Teaching of Buddha” and other BDK publications, please visit the official BDK website at <http://www.bdk.or.jp/>



Hoshi-Ryokan (Hoshi)

The history of the inn began in 718 when Awazu Onsen town was established. They continued maintaining the business for the last 1,300 years since then. The first son of the Hoshi family was named “Zengoro,” and now the 46th Zengoro runs the business. They have different types of hot spring facilities such as a large public bath, an open air bath, and a private hot spring bath. The quality of the hot spring water is very precious and famous, and Hoshi guests can drink for free hot spring water as well. There are about 60 rooms in four buildings, and a traditional Japanese style garden has aged trees planted by Japanese royal family members a long time ago.



Zengoro Hoshi

Born in Komatsu-shi, Ishikawa-ken in 1938. Graduated from Keio University. Worked at Japan Ryokan & Hotel Association. At the age 42, succeeded to the position of the 46th Zengoro. Held the chairmanship of the Awazu Onsen Sightseeing Association, chairman of Komatsu-shi Sight-seeing Association, and director of the International Ryokan Association, etc. He is still engaged in efforts to further the development of the local community.



05 Activity The 2nd BDK Buddhist Picture Book Prize "Kokoro-no-Ehon-Taisho (Picture Book for Your Heart and Mind)"

In 2016, BDK started "Kokoro-no-Ehon-Taisho (Picture Book for Your Heart and Mind)" co-sponsored by Suzuki Publications, and supported by the Mainichi Newspaper, the Japan Buddhist Nursing Association and the National Youth Indoctrination Council, with the aim of promoting the development of the hearts and minds of children through reading.

We welcomed Mr. Keisuke Nishimoto, Professor Emeritus of Showa Women's University, as a judge along with Mr. Tomohiko Fujimoto and other judges. We received 80 submissions and selected one for First Prize, three for Outstanding Performance Awards, and five for Fine Works. The First Prize of the 2nd BDK Buddhist Picture Book Prize competition went to "Hashiru Ojizo-san (Running Jizo, the Guardian Deity of Travelers, Children, and Pregnant

Women)" written by Mr. Jun Saito. It is a heart-warming story about Jizo, who tries to help an old lady standing in a street. Mr. Saito, the author of the book, usually works as an illustrator and published a variety of works in the past. He received JPY500,000 and the book was published in March 2018.

BDK has started accepting submissions for the 3rd BDK Buddhist Picture Book Prize in April 2018. For more information about the picture



"Hashiru Ojizo-san"

book prize, please visit our official website at <http://www.bdk.or.jp/kokoro-noehon/>

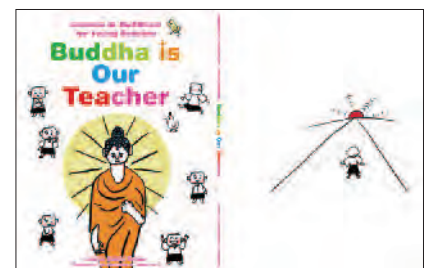
06 Activity New Book Arrival! "Buddha is Our Teacher" in English

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) published "Buddha is Our Teacher" as an English version of "Buddha-ga-Sensei" to help children develop "kind, right and strong" minds for living in today's world.

"Buddha-ga-Sensei" is one of our best sellers, which has already sold 220,000 copies since 2017. With charming illustrations, the book relates the "really important words of the Buddha" that children should know. It touches upon not only children's feelings but the sensibilities of

adults as well.

BDK received many requests from people overseas who want to introduce this book to children in their countries, and so we published it in English. The book can be used by people who would like to learn about Buddhism for the first time. It also



describes how people can make use of the teachings of the Buddha in their everyday lives no matter what country they live in or what generation they belong to.

07

Activity

The 2017 Competition and Exhibition for the BDK Calendar "A Wise Teaching A Day" at Tsukiji Hongwanji and Byodoin

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted the fourth competition and exhibition for the BDK calendar "A Wise Teaching A Day" that originally started in 2014. We organized an exhibition of selected works at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple in Tokyo and Byodoin Temple in Kyoto. We received 1,740 submissions sent from 525 people for the competition, and this was the largest number ever since 2014.

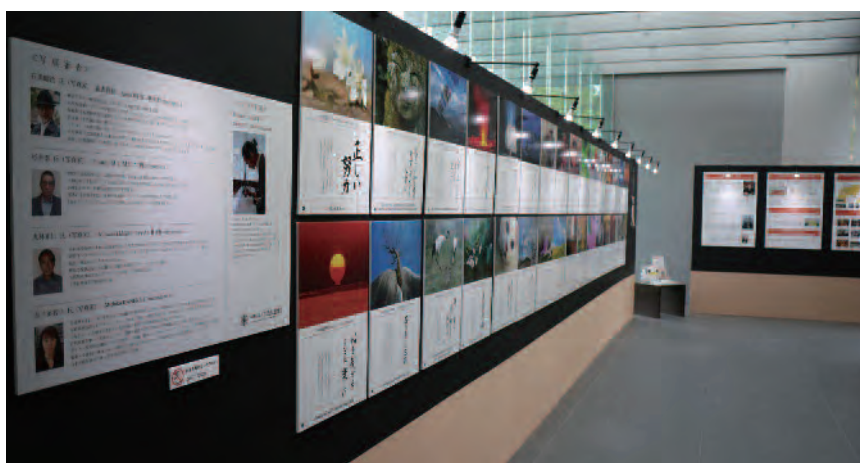
Our selection committee chose 32 of them on September 4, 2017, and awarded them cash prizes and certificates. All of the selected photos were also published in "Japan Camera," one of the leading Japanese magazines for photography. Those works can be viewed on our official website as well. The BDK Calendar "A Wise Teaching A Day" for 2019 with those selected photos will be published in June 2018.

BDK hosted an exhibition for the 3rd competition of the BDK Calendar "A Wise Teaching A Day" at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple from July 15 to 30, 2017. Following the showing at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple, we held the exhibition at the Hoshokan museum of Byodoin Temple in Kyoto from August 4 to 27. We had an opening ceremony at Byodoin, which was attended by some award winners living in the neighborhood; Mr. Kenji Ishiguro, chairman of our selection committee; Mr. Mori Suzuki, a Japanese calligrapher who wrote the sayings for the calendar; and Rev. Bunsho Kamii, the head priest of Byodoin Temple.

Rev. Kamii said, "As people advance along the paths they cultivate for their lives, all kinds of scenarios spread out around them, and what this exhibition does so well is to slice out single moments from those scenarios as photographs and match them with the words of the Buddha." He was also impressed

with the quality of the photography and said, "The exhibition itself is an expression of the Buddha that

embodies the prospects of the many people who supported the exhibition." At the ceremony, Mr. Mori



Exhibition at the Hoshokan museum of Byodoin



Calligraphy performance by Mr. Mori Suzuki



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Suzuki demonstrated his calligraphy and many people came in to see his performance. Approximately 10,000

people visited Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple and 120,000 people visited Byodoin Temple, and they all had a

wonderful opportunity to become familiar with the Buddha's words in association with the photographs.

08 Activity

“BDK English Tripiṭaka” Translation Project



“BDK English Tripiṭaka”



The BDK English Tripiṭaka Editorial Committee

The BDK English Tripiṭaka Editorial Committee is exploring ways to speed up the translation and publication of Buddhist texts selected for the first series. Towards this end, Chairman Kenneth Tanaka visited

translators overseas to confirm the progress of each work. He aspires to move things forward with greater speed and efficiency.

In order to introduce the English Tripiṭaka to scholars, BDK set up special booths at the meeting of the International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies at Musashino University, and the Book Publishing Symposium for the English translation of “Denkoroku” held at the

Sotoshu headquarters. The new publication in 2017 is “The Collection for the Propagation

and Clarification of Buddhism, Volume II.”

For more information about the “BDK English Tripiṭaka” project, “The Teaching of Buddha” and other BDK publications, please visit the BDK official website at <http://www.bdk.or.jp/>

Financial Assistance and Honoring Recipients

01 Activity BDK Fellowship Programs 2017 BDK Fellowships for Foreign Scholars

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.

For the 28th year in 2018, we have selected three promising scholars below.

Mr. Vladimir Angirov

Nationality : Germany/Russia

Affiliation in Japan : Kyushu University

Academic Advisor in Japan : Associate Prof. Kei Kataoka

Theme of Research in Japan : Preparation of a critical edition of Jñānaśrīmitra's Īśvaravāda

Ms. Meghan Howard

Nationality : U.S.A.

Affiliation in Japan : Waseda University

Academic Advisor in Japan : Prof. Nobuyoshi Yamabe

Theme of Research in Japan : 『The *Yogācārabhūmi-śāstra and sermon notes (Yuqie lun shouji 瑜伽論手記 and Yuqie lun fenmen ji 瑜伽論分門記) commentary by by Facheng 法成/Chos grub found among the Dunhuang manuscripts

Mr. Gilsan Lee

Nationality : South Korea

Affiliation in Japan : The University of Tokyo

Academic Advisor in Japan : Prof. Koichi Takahashi

Theme of Research in Japan : On the history of the concept of the afflicted mind in the early Yogacara tradition



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We hope our newest three members of the BDK Fellowship family will have successful stays in Japan for the year 2018, and it is with great pleasure that we present reports about previous scholarship holders of the year 2017.

Questions for the 2017 BDK Fellowship holders

- 1) What made you apply for the 2017 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?

Name : Ms. Katarzyna Marciniak

Nationality : Poland

Affiliation in Japan : The International Research Institute for Advanced Buddhology, Soka University

Academic Advisor in Japan : Prof. Seishi Karashima

Theme of Research in Japan : A new edition of the Mahāvastu on the basis of the oldest extant Manuscripts Sa and Na

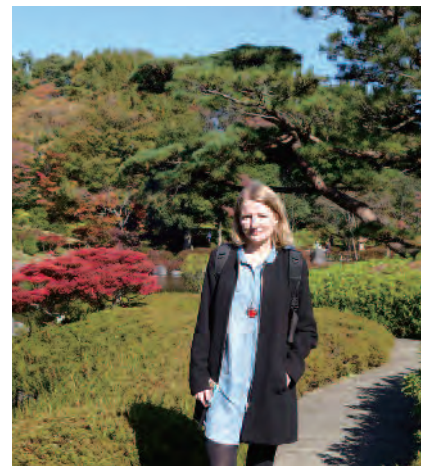
1) I have been engaged in the study of the Buddhist Sanskrit text entitled Mahāvastu for many years now. It had been my dream to be able to come to Japan and carry out research under the supervision of Prof. Seishi Karashima, an outstanding scholar in the field of Buddhist Studies. Therefore, I decided to apply for the BDK Fellowship, hoping to be given a chance to come here and carry out advanced research as well as meeting Japanese scholars whose interests are the same as mine.



Prof. Karashima (left) and Ms. Marciniak (right)

2) The best thing about being a BDK Fellowship holder is being able to carry out advanced research at a great academic institution in Japan as well as getting to know the culture and the people of this country. The Fellowship enables me to carry out my academic projects and at the same time enjoy many different aspects of everyday life in Japan, such as participating in cultural events, as well as learning the Japanese language.

3) I wish to continue my research on Buddhist Sanskrit literature and, at the same time, to encourage and support students who are interested in Buddhist philology in Poland. I am hoping to be able to employ the skills I am learning now in my future research projects and academic career.



Name : Rev. Juti Rakkit Shraman

Nationality : Bangladesh

Affiliation in Japan : The Department of Indian Philosophy and Buddhist Studies, The Division of Asian Studies, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, The University of Tokyo

Academic Advisor in Japan : Prof. Dr. Minowa Kenryo

Theme of Research in Japan : Textual Analysis of 'Tathāgata' in the Context of Itivuttaka

1) I am a Theravada Buddhist monk and have been involved with studying as well as training and practicing Buddhism for the past 15 years with a focus on Pali texts. Since my childhood, I had learned from my religious teacher (Guru), that Japan is a Buddhist country, that Japanese culture is well known all over the world, and that Japan has had a huge influence of the interpretation of Buddha's teaching. So, in order to further my studies of Buddhism and to be able to become directly familiar with Japanese culture, I searched for an opportunity to come to Japan. Finally, I learned about BDK's activities and decided to apply for a BDK Fellowship. Now, my expectation is going to be fulfilled.

2) The best thing about being a BDK Fellowship holder is continuing my study in my dream country of Japan and being able to take part in



Prof. Minowa (left) and Rev. Shraman (right)

advanced research on Buddhism and Japanese culture with an eminent Japanese scholar at the world-famous University of Tokyo. Moreover, the Fellowship provides assistance and support to continue my research.

3) I sincerely aim to dedicate myself to do advanced research on the

Buddha's teachings so that I can promote Buddhism. After finishing my academic studies, I hope to enter the teaching profession in order to promote mutual national and international understandings, and to create a more compassionate, harmonious and prosperous society based on the Buddha's teachings.

Name : Ms. Dörte Kamarid

Nationality : German

Affiliation in Japan : International College for Postgraduate Buddhist Studies (ICPBS)

Academic Advisor in Japan : Prof. Akira Saito

Theme of Research in Japan : Cultural Transfer between India and Tibet and its implication for the development of Prāsaṅgika Madhyamaka in Tibet: The Commentary on Mūlamadhyamakakārikā by Pa tshab Nyi ma grags

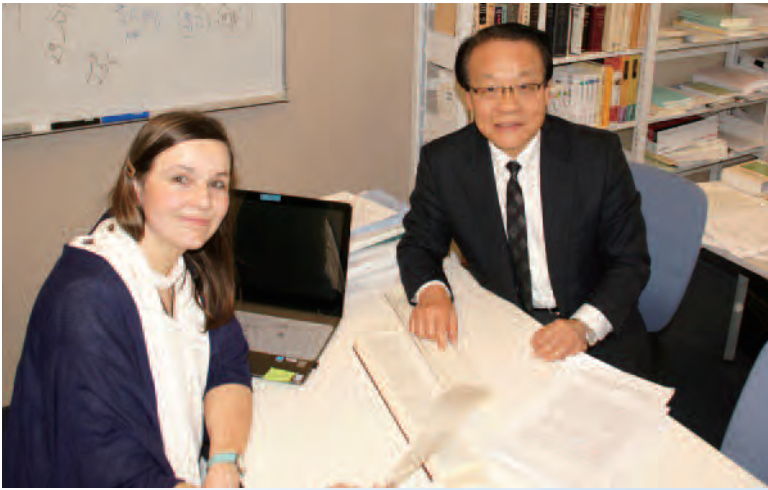
1) In general, Japan has made great contributions to the research and aca-

demical work in the field of Madhyamaka in the Tibetan tradi-

tion. I am working on the manuscript of Pa tshab Nyi ma grags' commen-



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Prof. Saito (right) and Ms. Kamarid (left)



tary on Mūlamadhyamakakārikā and am researching the Cultural Transfer between India and Tibet and its implication for the development of Prāsaṅgika Madhyamaka in Tibet, which is a suitable topic for working under the guidance of Prof. Akira Saito. After being accepted to work under Prof. Akira Saito's guidance and to study at the International College for Postgraduate Buddhist Studies (ICPBS) in Tokyo, I applied for the BDK Fellowship. This fellowship offers me a great opportunity to meet and cooperate with various scholars in the field of Buddhist Studies in Japan itself. I took notice of this program and applied for a fellowship because BDK showed a genuine interest in making it possible for students or researchers of Buddhist Studies to study in Japan for one year with the aim of promoting international engagement of research in Buddhist studies.

2) Being in Japan has provided a great opportunity for deepening my

knowledge of Japanese Buddhism as well as for being inspired by the philological research work carried out by Japanese and international scholars about Buddhism in general and about the specialized research in the field of Madhyamaka philosophy. Being a BDK Fellowship holder has given me the chance to get to know BDK activities more in detail. BDK has many different activities and being a part of the BDK family with support for one year provides a very unique opportunity and shows the concern of BDK to develop the next generation of researchers in Buddhist studies as well. It has been wonderful to be able to participate in different activities and to join different events and experience the activities of BDK at first hand.

3) My goal for the future is to be active in the academic field of Buddhist Studies in general and in Buddhist philosophy and Tibetan Buddhism in particular while engaging in and advancing the

research and translation work of textual sources in Classical Buddhist languages. My aim is to make these sources accessible in English and other European Languages as well as South Asian languages. With a critical approach as well as with an understanding of Buddhist sources not only from an external perspective but also from within, I aim to contribute to the academic field of Buddhist Studies in order to preserve the rich heritage of Buddhism in the modern world with a practical approach in the academic field as such. My aims are to contribute to this field with publications in the near future, and to inspire a great exchange between the East and West regarding academic and philological studies in the field of Buddhism itself. Regarding my study and research time in Japan, I am aiming to complete the PhD course within three years. I am very grateful to BDK for supporting my stay in Japan with the BDK Fellowship 2017.

02

Activity

2017 BDK Fellowships for Japanese Scholars

The BDK Fellowship 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 2018 grants listed below.

<For 12 months>

Name : Ms. Kazuho Yamazaki

Affiliation : McMaster University, Canada

<For 6 months>

Name : Mr. Nobuyuki Suzuki

Affiliation : Leiden University, The Netherlands

Name : Mr. Takao Hatano

Affiliation : The Academy of Sciences in Austria, Austria

We are pleased to introduce two of the 2017 BDK Fellowship holders with their comments.

Questions for the 2017 BDK Fellowship Holders

- 1) What made you apply for the 2017 BDK Fellowship?
- 2) What is/are the best thing(s) about being a BDK Fellowship holder and what do you think about your future career?
- 3) What did you like the most about life in a foreign country?

Name : Mr. Ryo Nishiyama

Affiliation : Department of Religion, Boston University

Academic Advisor : Prof. David Ekel

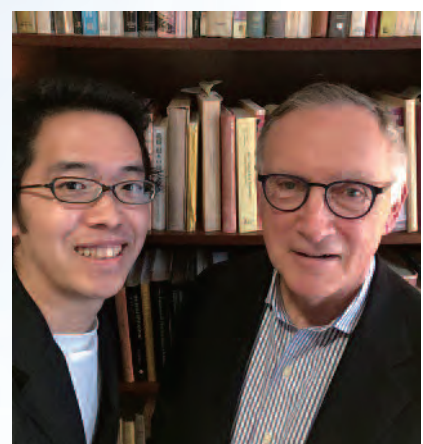
Theme of Research : A Study of Theory of Bhāviveka and Avalokitavrata

1) I met Prof. David Ekel, my academic advisor, in the U.S. and was inspired by him when I saw him in Kyoto in 2014.

2) When you come to understand Buddhism in Japan, you use traditional Chinese translations like Nirvana. However, you cannot do the same thing in English. Therefore, I tried to understand the meanings of each word. I hope that

I will be able to express my ideas in simple yet precise words.

3) I met people who are good at enjoying research, everyday life, and life as a whole. And, I am often surprised by seeing wild turkeys on the street!



Prof. Ekel (right) and Mr. Nishiyama (left)



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Name : Hiroko Matsuoka

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

Academic Advisor : Prof. Eli Franco

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

1) I have been doing my research on Kamalasila's "Dharmakirti's Proof of Self-Awareness" in 8th century India. I would like to apply for another round of the BDK Fellowship with the advice of Prof. Franco and other professors.

2) It was such a great experience of spending two years in Germany and Austria doing research about Buddhism in

India. I would like to engage in further educational research activities, and to carry out an "annotation" project for the next three years.

3) I really like being in a location where I can move around to other EU countries. At the moment, I am participating in a research group on "Chinese materials for Indian pramāṇa traditions" organized by Prof. Toru Funayama.



Ms. Matsuoka

BDK has established a new program for Japanese scholars that allows them to stay in a foreign country for a shorter period of time. For more information about BDK Fellowship programs, please visit the official BDK website at <http://www.bdk.or.jp/>

03

Activity

The 51st BDK Cultural Awards

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) offers the Bunka-Sho, the Cultural Award for the Promotion of Buddhism, which was started in 1967, and the Numata Shorei-Sho, the Numata Innovation & Visionary Award, which

was started in 2012 and is given to individuals who are already exhibiting dedicated service to Buddhism, and in time will become up-and-coming contributors to the promotion of Buddhism.

The BDK Cultural Award Committee selected the following awardees at its selection meeting in July 2017.



The 51st Bukkyo Dendo Bunka-sho, BDK Cultural Award for the Promotion of Buddhism
Ms. Michiko Ishimure

● Born in Kumamoto in 1927. Published “Kukai Jodo,” which raises questions to society about the Minamata-disease (a type of poisoning caused by industrial mercury pollution) from a Buddhist point of view. Also published various religious and highly artistic literary works.



The Numata Shorei-Sho, the Numata Innovation & Visionary Award
Rev. Tesshu Shaku

● Born in Osaka in 1961. Contributed to missionary works and activities involving many Buddhist schools. Also manages a welfare NPO.

The 51st Cultural Award Ceremony

Ms. Michiko Ishimure was not present at the ceremony and banquet, but her son, Mr. Michio

Ishimure, attended and delivered Michiko’s comments on her award.



Ms. Ishimure left a heartwarming message for us. However, she passed away on February 10, 2018. We would like to commend her for all of her achievements once again, and we humbly publish her kind message here in our newsletter, Michi. Also, Rev. Shaku told us how happy he was. “I am so proud and honored that I have received this award from

— First of all, I must thank Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) and the selection committee members, who gave me such an honor for “Kukai Jodo.” This book internalizes the modernism of Japan with the help of people throughout Japan.

Some vulgar words can be heard in many places, and they weaken the meanings and characters of words. You can say the same for relationships among people in general, I guess.

An old lady patted the head of a child who was playing on the street near some fields.

“Darling, you have such a deep soul.”

These words came from the mouth of an old lady who had no connection to any authorities whatsoever, and the girl would never forget her words. She thought that the words were so precious, coming from a person who treated her like Buddha. Here I am. I still live my life as it was.

I hope for your great success in the future from the bottom of my heart.

January 1, 2018

Michiko Ishimure



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the respected BDK. When I was in my master's degree program, I was treated so nicely by Mitutoyo employees in Germany, where I was as an international student. 30 years have passed by and now I have received an award with the name of the late Rev.

Numata! I feel nervous when I take a look at the list of previous awardees. They are all legends. It is an opportu-

nity for me to look back at what I have done and I will keep trying my best with each step I take.

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

04 Activity BDK Financial Assistance Programs - Update for 2017

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) started an open system that allows all groups and organizations to submit applications for high quality public programs to promote Buddhism and its culture in 2016. For 2017, we

received 28 entries and the BDK Financial Assistance Committee selected 21 groups/organizations at a meeting and granted them financial assistance as listed below.

Name of Individual / Group	Name of Project
The Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies	International academic exchanges and promotion of cultural contributions, etc.
HIGANJI	Online Temple, website for Higanji Temple
General Incorporated Association KOGEN	Temple Festival, KOGEN
General Incorporated Association SHINJIN-KAI	Invites children who survived the East Japan Great Earthquake and Tsunami in Fukushima
General Incorporated Association Dainihon Bukkyo Jizenkai Zaidan (Japan Buddhist Charity Association)	Educates Buddhist priests to cooperate with the medical industry
Kokoro no Sodanshitsu (Counseling Room for Hearts)	Counseling on the phone
Public Interest Incorporated Foundation Zenkoku Kyokaishi Renmei (Japan Buddhist Chaplain Union)	Train and educate Buddhist chaplains
Religious Organization Rinzaishu Myoshinji Sect Butsumoji Temple	Japanese Buddhist studies and courses
General Incorporated Association The University of Tokyo Buddhist Youth Association	Establishment of a council
Tohoku University Graduate School Practical Religious Studies Course	Programs for educating Buddhist chaplains/counselors
NPO Meijirushi Koryu wo Moriageru Kai	Promotes learning more about the Brahmin monk Bodhisena
General Incorporated Association Japan Composers Council	"Prayer" special event for the Asian Music Festival 2017
"Juya Fes" Executive Committee	Manages "Juya Festival"
"Teracho" Conference Executive Committee	Activates temples in Kitakyushu
All Japan Young Buddhist Association	Mindfulness Retreats of Thich Nhat Hanh
Ryukoku University Museum	Fall special exhibition 2017 "Jigokue (Drawings of Hell) Wonderland"
Public Interest Incorporated Foundation The Nakamura Hajime Eastern Institute	Reports for 2017 research activities
Public Interest Incorporated Foundation Shanti Volunteer Association	Book improvement project for children in Myanmar 2017
University of California, Berkeley The Center for Buddhist Studies	Numata Program in Buddhist Studies
The University of Chicago Divinity School	Numata Program in Buddhist Studies
Leiden University	Special Conference In Honor of the 60th Anniversary of Leiden University

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

Buddhist Lectures and Seminars

01 Activity The 47th Jissen Fukyo Kenkyukai, BDK Buddhist Missionary Seminar, at Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Head Temple (Nishi Hongwanji)

The Buddhist Missionary Seminar (BDK) study groups encourage participants to experience and practice the path of the founders of various Japanese

Buddhist schools. BDK hopes participants will deepen their understanding of Buddha's teachings by listening, thinking and sharing with everyone.



Nishi Hongwanji Temple



The lecture by Prof. Becker



Ryukoku Museum

BDK hosted the 47th BMS with the theme of “Learning from Master Shinran” for two nights and three days at Nishi Hongwanji Temple in Kyoto. We welcomed 52 priests and their family members from different schools.

On the first day, Monshu Kojun Ohtani, Head Priest of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji school, greeted the BMS group, which then toured the main sanctuary, study hall, Hiunkaku Pavilion, etc. On the fol-

lowing days, participants listened to Prof. Carl Becker from Kyoto University and Rev. Prof. Sencho Fukagawa from Ryukoku University, and also visited Ryukoku Museum. Participants were divided into five groups and discussed “How to talk about the afterlife to modern people” at the Bunka-kai, one of the most popular events of BMS, in which all of the participants discussed this one topic and later presented the results of their discus-

sions to the whole group. Everyone enjoyed the three days and were impressed with the morning chanting at Hongwanji Temple and the discussion and communication between people from other Buddhist schools.

For more information about BMS, and its history, please visit our official website at <http://www.bdk.or.jp>



02 Activity Special Zazen Retreat at Sotoshu Daihonzan Sojiji Temple

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) held a special event combining Zazen, Yoga and Shojin Ryori (Buddhist vegetarian food) at Sotoshu Daihonzan Sojiji Temple

to provide more opportunities for people to experience Buddhist culture and its spirit.

BDK held the second annual Zazen event at Sojiji Temple. More than 100 people attended the event, which began from the early morning of October 1, 2017. Participants started Yoga practice at the large auditorium of Sanshokaku. Mr. Go Sato, professional Yoga instructor, directed the workshop. As Mr. Sato usually organizes some Yoga classes only for men, there were more male participants this year. After the one-hour session of Yoga, Rev. Komyo Hanawa and Mr. Sato had a discussion session in which they explained the connection between Buddhism and Yoga and the difference between Zazen and Yoga.

After that, everyone moved to the Zazendo Hall and practiced Zazen. Participants tried Zazen at their own pace in the quiet atmosphere of the Zazendo. Moreover, those who were



Yoga practice at the large auditorium

interested in experiencing the Buddhist way of vegetarian food enjoyed the authentic Sojiji style of a Shojin Ryori lunch and visited some halls in Sojiji after the special zazen session.

Participants were satisfied with the event. One person said, “This was such a great opportunity for me because I am very busy on weekdays for work. It was just an amazing

experience.” Another person said, “I would like to come back again for next year’s event”



Mr. Sato (left) and Rev. Hanawa (right)

03 Activity “Things You Want To Know About Zen and Food” at Sotoshu Headquarter’s Training Facility

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) held an event for people to learn about the relationship between Buddhism and food on October 21, 2017.

About 50 people attended the event at one of the Sotoshu Headquarter’s train-

ing facilities in Tokyo. Participants practiced Zazen under the instruction and assistance of Sotoshu priests, and then listened to a lecture about the history and ways of thinking about food in Sotoshu. We had Rev. Shoyo Yoshimura from

Sotoshu Fumonji Temple, who appears frequently in a TV program and publishes some books about food. “What is Shojin Ryori (Buddhist vegetarian food)?” “What is the etiquette of Tenzo (one of the six administrators

of a Zen temple, mainly in charge of food)?” “How is the meat diet defined in Buddhism?” His easy-to-understand explanations to those questions were helpful for participants who just started learning about Buddhism.

After the lecture, everyone enjoyed the food cooked by Ms. Komaki Fujii, a chef/owner of a Shojin Ryori café in Tokyo. The menu for the event was ginger steamed rice, deep fried Kurumafu, stewed Chinese cabbage, Kokushojiru soup, and braised dried daikon radish. The food was served on Oryoki dishes (Sotoshu style dishes especially for monks) and participants experienced traditional table manners under the instruction of Rev. Yoshimura. Everyone said, “The

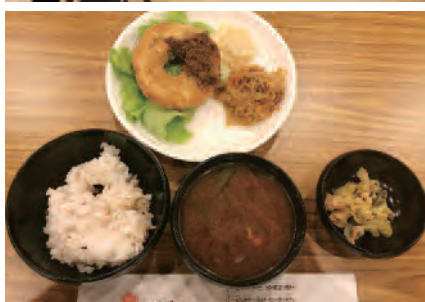


table manners were difficult to manage.” “I had a lot to learn for the first time about Shojin Ryori.” “The event gave me a moment just to focus on eating and it was fantastic.” Shojin

Ryori is considered to be one part of Buddhist training. Participants had a chance for learning something new about how to eat in their everyday lives through this event.

04 Activity The 18th "Buddhist Music Festival – BUDDHASPEL- Peaceful Light " at Kioi Hall in Tokyo

One of BDK’s major activities is the “modernization of Buddhist music and its popularization.” This was our 18th “Buddhist Music Festival –Buddhaspel-

Peaceful Light” on November 8, 2017 at Kioi Hall in Tokyo.

We welcomed eight Baikaryu school masters of Goeika (traditional songs in praise of the Buddha) and introduced a new song called “Kuge (an imaginary flower in the air)” with the accompaniment of an orchestra.

The theme of the 18th festival was “Peaceful Song,” and we had Mr. Baku Yumemakura, a song lyricist, Mr. Isao Matsushita, a composer, and Rev. Michio Henmi, chairman of the BDK Music Popularization Committee, talk about how they cre-



Baikaryu school masters of Goeika and an orchestra



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ate songs about hopes for Buddhist peace. Following their presentations Ms. Sara Kobayashi, a soprano, sang three songs, and Mr. Andreas Blau, a flute player, played “JODO” as a prayer for the late Rev. Toshihide Numata, former BDK Chairman. Moreover, Mr. Kazuki Sawa, Chancellor of Tokyo University of the Arts, and Mr. Kota Nagahara, a vio-

linist, played a violin concerto. For the very last program of the festival, we welcomed Mr. Eitetsu Hayashi, who played the Wadaiko (Japanese traditional drums) powerfully together with the orchestra.

It has been about 30 years since we have had an orchestra consisting of 50 players, and we introduced a new song for the first time in 17 years.

More than 600 people came to the event and enjoyed the solemn atmosphere of live Buddhist music in the historical Kioi Hall.

BDK distributed the sheet music to all members of the audience, and mailed it to chorus clubs of Buddhist schools in Japan as well as to members of the “Bukkyo Gassho Koryukai (Buddhist Chorus Organization).”

05 Activity Other BDK Related Lectures, Classes, and Events - Update for 2017

One of BDK’s missions is to “support education programs that advance the Buddhist spirit, culture and its study.” Seminars and lectures geared

toward specific and general interests are sponsored throughout the year.

Studying “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” for Business



The lecture by Rev. Nakano

This lecture series was established mainly for business people who desire a background in Buddhism to help them operate and manage their businesses with opportunities to learn

about the spirit of compassion and the wisdom of Buddhism. For 2017, we welcomed Rev. Tozen Nakano, head priest of Sotoshu Ryusenji Temple, and Rev. Gishun Yamada, head priest of Jodo Shinshu Rinkoji Temple, and hosted a monthly lecture on every third Wednesday.

Studying “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” for Daily Life

This monthly lecture shares the Dharma with participants who learn how to live their daily lives with the spirit of the Buddha through reading “The Teaching of Buddha.” The lec-



The lecture by Rev. Ichishima

tures are held in a relaxed atmosphere during the day and are delivered by Rev. Shoshin Ichishima, head priest of Tendaishu Senzoji Temple, and Rev. Dr. Kenneth Tanaka, Musashino University/Jodo Shinshu priest. People gather on every fourth Thursday.

Special Fall Program: One-day Field Trip in Tokyo Studying TTOB for Business and for Daily Life

The two separate study groups above get together and hold a special program once every year in Tokyo. For 2017, 38 people participated in a tour

of the most famous representations of Fudonon, Acala, the God of Fire, each rendered in five different colors. Participants visited Eikyujji Temple

and Saishoji Temple, both of which have a yellow Fudo, Kyogakuin Temple with its blue Fudo, Gohyakurakanji Temple, and

Ryusenji Temple, both of which have a black Fudo, Nankokuji Temple with its red Fudo, and Konjoin Temple, with its white Fudo. We also visited Rakantei restaurant inside Gohyakurakanji Temple and had Shojin Ryori (Buddhist vegetarian food) for lunch.

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 heard from many people that they cannot have a relaxed time to rest their minds in everyday life. We welcomed Rev. Junsho Oka, the instructor who led the retreat last year and held a monthly



One-day Field Trip (Ryusenji Temple)

gathering on every third Tuesday

Mita Rakugo-Kai

Some of the traditional Japanese arts are said to be related to the Buddhist Fushidan Sekkyo, which is the origin

of Rakugo. Mita Rakugo-Kai introduced the traditional stories and provided opportunities to experience the spirit of Buddhism. The 2017 events were held in February, April, June, August, October and December.

06 Activity Buddhist Yoga Buddhist Approaches to Yoga: “Let’s Begin Buddhist Yoga!”

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) holds monthly Yoga classes on every first Wednesday. In addition to the regular class, we focused more on Buddhist

aspects and held a derivative Yoga event on August 27, 2017.

We welcomed Rev. Yuuka Gazzo, who is a regular instructor for monthly classes, and Rev. Kosho Nishikawa, a Sotoshu priest, for this special occasion.

Rev. Gazzo taught “Nembutsu (chanting)” and “Yoga,” and Rev. Nishikawa taught techniques of “stretching,” “breathing,” and “Chair Zazen.” 40 participants learned the common points between Buddhism and Yoga. After those experiences, participants

had a lunch box of Shojin Ryori (Buddhist vegetarian food) with the two instructors. Everyone relaxed and spent quality time. Participants commented, “It was an unusual experience of beating a Mokugyo, a Buddhist wood block.” “I learned how to focus.” BDK hopes to offer more opportunities for everyone to



feel a connection to Buddhism through Yoga.



07 Activity

“Tokyo Shugyo Taiken (Tokyo Buddhist Training Experience)” Experience of Buddhist Training in the Center of Tokyo

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) has held a variety of lectures and seminars in recent years. Some people are interested in the experience of authentic Buddhist training and practice that goes beyond the “stereotypical image” of Buddhist “Shugyo, or training.”

We welcomed Rev. Shinsuke Hosokawa, head priest of Ryuunji Temple for instruction in Zazen, and Rev. Tatsuo Yoshida, assistant head priest of Banryuji Temple, for Nembutsu chanting. Participants tried these two different types of Buddhist trainings.

Everyone learned and experienced the teachings of Buddhism by themselves. We heard from participants, “I noticed my worldly thoughts.” “I beat a Mokugyo for the first time.”



“It was refreshing yet comfortable to listen to Nembutsu voices throughout the room.” “I experienced two trainings from two different schools at the same time and really enjoyed them.” It is usually difficult to experience

two different types of Buddhist schools in a single event. However, it was a perfect opportunity for BDK to be able to provide precious time for people to experience the difference between two Buddhist schools.

08 Activity

Elementary Course of Buddhist Lectures “Japanese Buddhism – Learning from Scratch”

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) started a new series of monthly lectures, “Japanese Buddhism – Learning from Scratch.” The 2016 lectures attracted more people than we expected. Therefore, we

decided to hold another year of lectures welcoming new lecturers for people who hope to learn about Buddhism through various perspectives.



April (Rev. Oka)



May (Rev. Matsushima)



June (Rev. Inoue)



July (Rev. Maeda)



September (Rev. Hosokawa)



October (Rev. Sakai)



November (Rev. Chiba)

The first half of each lecture is about the basics of each school in terms of its principles, history and the life of each founder, while the second half consists of Dharma talks about each lecturer's own experience and beliefs. This was our second year to hold those lectures, so we left it as an

“introduction for learning about Japanese Buddhism” and added new information for those who would be taking the course for a second time.

The course was held at our BDK Center in Minato-ku, Tokyo for 2016 and 2017, however, we are offering the third year course in Shibuya-ku,

Tokyo for 2018 to give more opportunities for people who live in different areas.

For more information about BMS, and its history, please visit our official website at <http://www.bdk.or.jp/>

Lectures in 2017

Month	Theme	Lecturer
April	Tendai Shu Master Saicho	Rev. Junsho Oka, Enyuji Temple
May	Shingon Shu Master Kukai	Rev. Ryukai Matsushima, Kudokuin Temple
June	Jodo Shu Master Honen	Rev. Kobo Inoue, Korinji Temple
July	Jodo Shin Shu Master Shinran	Rev. Hisao Maeda, Musashino University
September	Rinzai Shu Master Eisai	Rev. Shinsuke Hosokawa, Ryuunji Temple
October	Nichiren Shu Master Nichiren	Rev. Naho Sakai, Kooji Temple
November	Soto Shu Master Dogen	Rev. Koji Chiba, Horinji Temple and Komazawa Women's University

08 Activity Buddhism Through English – Update for 2017 “Buddhist English Guide Program”

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) offers the Buddhism Through English course which was started in 2011, and many attendees have learned Buddhist ideas through English.

From 2016, BDK renewed the content of the course and started the “Buddhist English Guide Program” as a part of the Buddhism Through English course to educate more

people so that they can be able to explain Buddhism in English to tourists from all over the world. Moreover, the new program for 2017 offered Level 3 for first-time

learners, and Level 2 for those who already completed Level 3 and passed the final exam.

The 2017 Level 3 course was filled to its maximum of 80 people and



BDK JAPAN NEWS 2017

the Level 2 course was taken by 38 people who passed Level 3 last year. BDK has issued a certificate and recommendation letters for a volunteer English guide for the

World Fellowship of Buddhists conference, which will be held in November 2018.

BDK hopes that more people who finished Level 2 will succeed in the

future, and we interviewed one of those successful participants who passed the final exam. Ms. Yumi Yoshimura works as a professional interpreter and resides in Tokyo.

First of all, please tell us how you decided to take this course “Buddhist English Guide Program”?

Yes, that was just a coincidence. My parents’ house needed to be sold, because my father had passed away years before and my mother was moving to a residence for elderly people in my neighborhood. So, everyone in my family now resides in Tokyo and we thought that it got difficult to visit our family grave and we needed to relocate it near us so that we could visit it often. One day, I visited Tsukiji Hongwanji Wadabori Byosho Mausoleum and noticed a flyer about the “Buddhist English Guide Program” placed in the office. I could not take my eyes off it and

when I read it. Immediately after that, I decided to take this course and called the BDK office to book my seat. It was right before the new course started and that was the perfect timing for me to start learning about Buddhism.

Wow, what a coincidence! Then, what was your purpose for taking this course?

I had two purposes. One was simply to “learn about Buddhism.” Being an interpreter, I thought that being able to learn Buddhism in English would be great. The other was to “get certified as a Buddhist English Guide.” I have occasionally visited temples to guide my clients. But looking back, I now think the explanations I provided

were not sufficient at all. “The Buddhist English Guide Program” sounded so unique and I thought it would be fantastic if I could study and get the certificate for that, in addition to “Government Licensed Tour Guide” certificate which I already had.

You definitely had several purposes for taking this course for sure! You finished Level 3 last year and now, you completed Level 2 as well. Have you changed your motivation for a higher-level course?

I have always kept thinking of studying Buddhism somewhere in my mind for a long time, but I just did not have a chance to learn it. The Level 3 course was fun and useful so I was able to keep my motivation for Level 2 high with no problem at all. But by moving forward to the higher level, my interests broadened and deepened, I guess. For Level 3, I learned from scratch the beginning of Buddhism in India and its overall perspective in the world. For Level 2, I studied how each Japanese Buddhist school was established and so on. While I was taking the Level 3 course, I often visited Kyoto and Shiga where there are so many temples. When I



started the Level 2 course, I had more opportunities to visit temples in my neighborhood, preferred visiting museums and attended some Buddhist related lectures, etc. I even chose TV shows and books that contained Buddhist related matters. The more I learned, the more I noticed something in my everyday life. I can now realize things that I had not even noticed before.

That makes sense! Your world is getting broader with what you learned, and it is amazing. You studied for a year to finish each course. What do you think about the duration of the program?

To receive the certificate, I don't consider it as being too long. Studying continuously for one year was good for me. Since we, adult students are usually very busy, one class per month is a very good pace. And we had a lot of homework between classes!

I liked that we can learn about Buddhism in general, not just about a specific Buddhist school, and studying in both languages was quite effective. Japanese as a language sometimes is fuzzy, especially for Buddhist terms, which I found very difficult to understand fully. However, reading in English clarifies the vagueness of each word and I can understand better. Thinking and comparing in both languages made my study a lot easier and more logical.

Moreover, learning from a superb instructor, Prof. Kenneth Tanaka, with the help of the trusted organization, BDK, is the best part of this course. Prof. Tanaka knows Buddhism both in Japan and the U.S. and he helped us a lot in a friendly and polite manner. I am extremely grateful that I came across this rare opportunity.

Thank you very much for saying that. By the way, you passed the Level 2 final exam. Congratulations! Any special thoughts on using what you learned for the last two years?

Yes, it was very precious that I learned about Shishotai, The Four Noble Truths of Buddhism, which are the basics of the Buddha's first sermon, and Hasshodo, The Noble Eightfold Path, which represents each of the eight spokes of the Wheel of Dharma. So I would like to make use of those ideas in various situations in my life. Those are also the basic ideas of Buddhism, but I have never had a chance to learn about them even though I have lived in Japan which has Buddhist culture within it. I'm sure that I will be able to think more objectively about my condition or maybe others' too, and overcome my worries in difficult situations. As an interpreter, I have a lot of opportunities to explain about Japan to my clients. It took me two years to complete those courses, however, it was worthwhile, because I can now explain things with a deeper



Ms. Yumi Yoshimura

understanding. Now I've got more interested in temples/shrines, Buddhist statues, fine arts than before. Moreover, I am interested in old temples/shrines, Buddhist statues, fine arts, etc. with no special intention. I've begun my study about national treasures so as to pass the exam and get a license for that. But more than anything, Buddhism is an always will be at the center of my mind and an anchorage in my life.

I enjoyed talking and listening to Ms. Yoshimura, who broadened the world of her learning. The Buddhism Through English course has been taken by people who have interests in taking care of guests from overseas, or want to learn about Buddhism from different perspectives, but have not had a chance to learn about Buddhism in English before. BDK is offering the "Buddhist English Guide Program" again for 2018. For more information about the program, please visit our official website at <http://www.bdk.or.jp/>

Activity 2017 BDK Symposium

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) sponsored a lecture and a panel discussion for the 2017 BDK Symposium listed below.

The 13th BDK Symposium on July 11, 2017

Theme : “Buddhists Facing Society: Living Today As If It Were Your Last Day.”

Lecturer : Mr. Hidemori Gen, President of Public Interest Incorporated Foundation, Nihon Kakekomi Dera (Japan Buddhist Temple Shelter)



The 13th BDK Symposium on July 11, 2017

Mr. Gen talked about his background and childhood in terms of Buddhism. As president of Nihon Kakekomi Dera, he tries to be by the side of people who are suffering from various problems. He gave us an opportunity to think about what role Buddhism can play in modern Japan.

14th BDK Symposium on February 27, 2018

Theme : “Let’s Talk About the Future of Religion”

Panelists : Rev. Masahide Haresaku, Asakusa Catholic Church
Rev. Daiko Matsuyama, Rinzaishu Taizoin Temple
Rev. Koji Yano, Asakusa Shrine
Mr. Nasser Nagano, Japanese Muslim

People’s attitudes have been changing significantly for the last



14th BDK Symposium on February 27, 2018

decades, and we are facing a world in which we must think about ourselves and make choices. The panelists answered questions such as, “Can a religion be a guide for making choices in today’s world?” “What can a religion do to meet the needs of people who want to believe in something that can deal with their fears?” “What is the future of religion?” etc.

Over 120 people attended each of these events. BDK will continue to offer more opportunities for people to establish a closer relationship with Buddhism.

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

10

Activity

First Year Memorial Service for the late Rev. Toshihide Numata, the Former BDK Chairman

It has been a year since the late Rev. Toshihide Numata, the former Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) Chairman, passed away in February 2016. BDK

and Mitutoyo Corporation (Mitutoyo) held the 1st anniversary memorial service at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple in Tokyo on February 7, 2017.



Rev. Seishu Yamamoto from Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple led the ceremony. Rev. Takao Honda, also from Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple; Mr. Yoshiaki Numata, the late Rev. Numata's son and President of Mitutoyo; Mr. Toru Nakagawa, Chairman of Mitutoyo; Rev. Seikoh-Kiyotaka Kimura, Chairman of BDK; Rev. Shoryu Katsura, President of BDK; Rev. Shotoku Tanaka, Kansu, head priest of Shokannon Shu Sensoji Temple; Rev. Taiin Murakami, Kanshu, head priest of Hossoshu Daihonzan Yakushiji Temple; and many other attendees offered incense and prayers in front of a picture of a smiling late Rev. Numata.

After the Dharma talk by Rev. Michio Henmi, head priest of Jodo Shin Shu Jodoji Temple, Mr. Yoshiaki Numata



related some of his memories of his father, and said to everyone, "I have a lot to live up to, and I believe that I must try my best to fulfill my duty as president of Mitutoyo and contribute to society as well. This can lead us to our founding spirit of supporting BDK activities to make people happy."

The dinner after the ceremony started

off with greetings from Rev. Seikoh-Kiyotaka Kimura and Mr. Toru Nakagawa. After Ms. Xiaoyan Jian played the Erhu, a two-stringed Chinese instrument, Rev. Shoryu Katsura also spoke about his memories of the late Rev. Toshihide Numata, and everyone recalled their own memories about him during the ceremony and dinner.

Take a Break: Buddhist Vegetarian Recipe Let's Try "SHOJIN LIFE" Once A Month with the Recipes from Rev. Yuken Kihara Soy Milk Pudding with the Sauces of Four Seasons

Recipe: Rev. Yuken Kihara

Report & Photography: Kaoru Eguchi, BDK

Visiting a temple and eating authentic Shojin Ryori (Buddhist vegetarian food) with traditional etiquette, and eating vegetarian dishes at cafés and restaurants in your neighborhood are some "SHOJIN" eating choices for today. However, in the

modern world, most people do not have time to think about and choose this cuisine for every single meal, and it is very difficult to carry this out in practice.

Therefore, we suggest that you consider the "SHOJIN LIFE" once a month with healthy and easy-to-cook recipes that use ingredients with an appreciation of the things we have. Shojin Buddhist vegetarian dishes can purify your body and mind, and Rev. Yuken Kihara, priest of Jodo Shin Shu Komyoji Temple and manager of "Kamiya-cho Open Terrace," introduces recipes exclusively for our newsletter.

Soy food products are popular examples of food with high nutritional value from ancient times in Japan, and there is a variety of soy food out there in today's world. "Soy milk" is one of those products that we can purchase at most grocery stores in Japan. "Soy milk" can be consumed as a drink and cooked for desserts, and there are many other ways of using it as can be seen everywhere in Japan. For our newsletter, Rev. Kihara tried to create a dessert that children and even elderly people can enjoy. He introduces an easy-to-cook "Soy milk Pudding" and sauces which can add the touches of the four seasons.



"SHOJIN Dessert," which does not contain any animal ingredients, will surely satisfy your body and soul. We would like to introduce the benefits of "soy milk," not only for drinking but also for making a dessert.

Rev. Kihara, who provided the "Shojin Dessert" recipes for us, works as a manager of "Kamiya-cho Open Terrace," a so-called "temple café," which is located inside Jodo Shin Shu Komyoji Temple in Minato-ku,

Tokyo. He offers handmade desserts and tea for visitors (reservations necessary) and listens to the problems, troubles, and any other concerns of his visitors.

Komyoji Temple opens their terrace for everyone in the neighborhood, so people working near the temple often visit there during lunch time with their lunch boxes and drinks. The temple as well as the terrace are familiar to people in this neighborhood, and you can see flowers and greenery and even the

Tokyo Tower from the temple. Komyoji also holds “Otera-no-Yoga-kyoshitsu (Temple Yoga)” and “Otera-no-Ongakukai, TASOGARE (Temple concerts)” and other activities.

For more information about Komyoji

Temple, please visit their official website at <http://www.komyo.net/web/kamiy-acho.html>

For reservations for “Kamiya-cho Open Terrace,” please check the blog at <http://www.komyo.net/kot/english/>



“Kamiya-cho Open Terrace”

◆ Soy Milk Pudding

Recipe: Rev. Yuken Kihara

<Ingredients for 4 servings>

● Soy milk 300ml ● Water 50ml ● Powdered Kanten agar 4g ● Sugar (white refined sugar is preferred) 40g

- (1) Put water and powdered Kanten agar into a pot. Boil and mix completely. Keep stirring until the surface simmers, and keep stirring for another two minutes.
- (2) Add sugar to (1) and melt sugar completely.
- (3) Add soymilk to (2) and mix.

***When you add soymilk all at once, it will curdle. So please add it little by little.

- (4) Turn off the heat and pour (3) into heat-proof containers or molds. Leave for an hour or so until it becomes firm enough.

***You may cool it in a refrigerator. It also tastes good, too!

◆ The Sauces of Four Seasons

Recipe: Rev. Yuken Kihara

● SPRING

<Ingredients>

● Salted cherry flower 4 flowers ● Water 60cc
● Sugar 60g

- (1) Remove salt from flowers and soak in water for twenty minutes.
- (2) Drain (1)
- (3) Boil water and add sugar to it. Boil down to 2/3 of its volume.
- (4) Turn off the heat. Put flowers into (3) after it cools and mix.

● FALL

<Ingredients>

(A) ● Apple (medium size) 1/4 ● Honey 10g
● Lemon juice 5cc
(B) ● Apple (medium size) 1/2 ● Honey 15g
● Sugar 15g ● Lemon juice 15cc

- (1) Dice apple (A) into 3mm-5mm pieces. Add honey and lemon juice, and mix well.
- (2) Grate apple (B). Add honey and sugar. Mix it over medium heat.
- (3) Cool down (2), add lemon juice and mix.

● SUMMER

<Ingredients>

● Powdered green tea 3g ● Hot water 15cc
● Water 60cc ● Sugar 60g

- (1) Add hot water to powdered green tea and mix completely.
- (2) Boil water and add sugar. Boil down to 2/3 of its volume.
- (3) Turn off the heat. Add (2) and mix completely.

● WINTER

<Ingredients>

● Yuzu citron (medium size) 200g ● Honey 40g
● Water 80cc

- (1) Cut Yuzu citron in half. Squeeze the juice out of it. Remove seeds and skin.
- (2) Cut skin into small thin pieces and boil.
- (3) Boil skin, honey and water together and reduce to half over low heat.
- (4) Cool down (3). Add Yuzu citron juice and mix.



Rev. Yuken Kihara

Born in Kanagawa-prefecture in 1978. Jodo Shin Shu priest belonging to Komyoji Temple. Manager of the café called “Kamiya-cho Open Terrace.”

Actively visits other temples and welfare facilities in order to listen to people who need to talk. Co-authored “小さな心から抜け出す 1日1分説法 (Getting Away from Your Small Mind – A Minute Teaching A Day)” (Nagaoka Shoten) and “おてらの癒やし甘味プログラム (Temple Dessert Recipes for Relaxing)” (Fellissimo) Available only in Japanese at the moment.

BDK Affiliate Organization Activities

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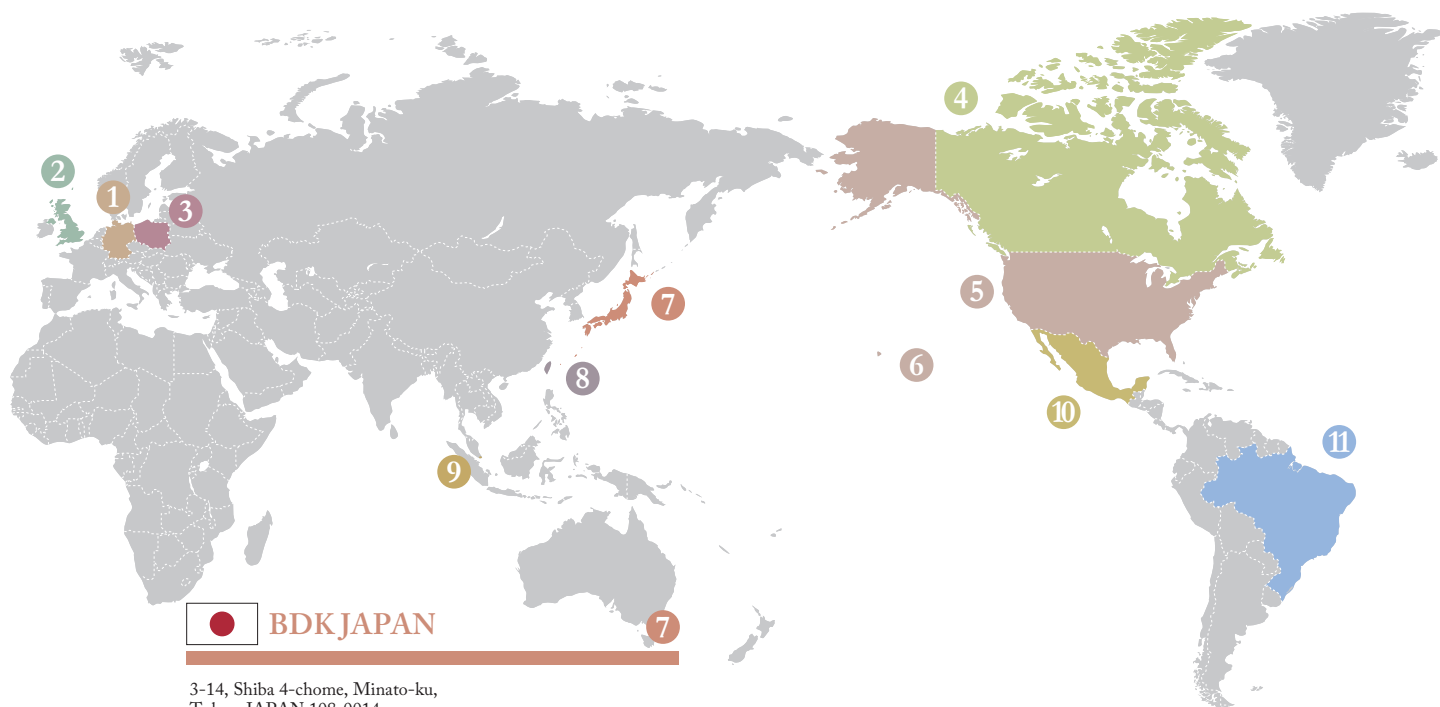
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The 4th BDK Global Meeting

There are ten BDK offices in nine countries outside of Japan at the moment. These affiliated offices overseas have cooperated with BDK and its activi-

ties with our primary goal of promoting Buddhism by distributing “The Teaching of Buddha.”



BDK executive members

Thirty-two executive members from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Germany, U.K., Brazil, Singapore, and Taiwan gathered in Tokyo at a meeting held on October 31 and November 1, 2017.

On Day 1, BDK Japan presented a report about its overall activities, and each administrative section explained their activities and their future plans after that. Overseas offices explained how they distribute “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” according to the traditions of their respective countries and their local cultures. The branch offices’ reports about how they sponsor activities and use methods appropriate for each country inspired everyone and gave a fresh sense of the different ways of achieving our common goals.

BDK Asia in Singapore reported

about their activities in Thailand. People in Thailand are familiar with Buddhism, and they have Buddhist monuments placed in public commercial complexes. This helps BDK to have a friendly relationship with local communities, and to distribute TTOBs as well.

We also noticed reports about how the numbers of Buddhists are growing in the modern world even in countries and areas where Buddhist philosophy and culture have not been historically foundational.

BDK has been making efforts to distribute TTOB to hotel rooms ever since it was established. However, we are having increasing difficulties in distributing copies to hotels in Japan because hotel policies have changed, and hotel rooms are becoming more simplified with a stricter focus on

purely business needs. The situation differs within each country and area, but everyone is experiencing difficulties with hotel distribution.

On Day 2, we considered our discussions from the first day, and exchanged ideas about how we manage each BDK office, distribute TTOBs in the modern world, use websites, cooperate with each other, and so on. We decided on basic policies regarding English publications, sharing and enriching our respective websites, and communicating about current conditions of each affiliated office.

We reconfirmed that we are all going to cooperate with each other from now on, to keep an open and broad perspective within our traditions, and to innovate as we move forward in this global society.



Tripitaka Translation Project

BDK America continues its project of working with the Tokyo Editorial Committee to translate Buddhist texts from Chinese into English. In 2017, three new translations were published, bringing the total number of volumes to fifty-four. The BDK translations are recognized as the best compilation of the Buddhist canon in English. BDK America is now publishing the

newer Tripitaka translations using print-on-demand (POD) technology. Anyone interested in obtaining print copies of the books can purchase them through Amazon.com, the University of Hawaii Press website, and the BDK America website.

In February, 2017 BDK America made pdf versions of the Tripitaka translations available as free pdf

downloads from our website. By the end of 2017, there were 50,000 downloads! Obviously, there is a tremendous demand for Buddhist texts.



"The Buddha's Words in the Landscape of India"

BDK Japan produced this photo exhibition of photographs of India paired with sayings of the Buddha. BDK America translated the brochure and labels into English. The exhibition was presented at the Jodo Shinshu

Center in Berkeley, California, the New York Buddhist Temple, Ekoji in Washington D.C. and the Los Angeles Honpa Hongwanji Betsuin. The exhibition has been well received, especially because the sayings of the

Buddha are easy to understand and is still relevant today. It will continue to circulate to any temple or organization requesting it.



"The Buddha's Words in the Landscape of India" at Jodo Shinshu Center

Toshihide Numata Award in Buddhist Literature



Prof. Stone (left) and Dr. Tanabe (right)

Established in 2009, the Toshi Award (as it is commonly known) has become the premier program for honoring the best book published on any aspect of Buddhism in a given year. The Center for Buddhist Studies at UC Berkeley administers the program, and in 2017 the award was given to Professor Jacqueline Stone of Princeton University for her book, *Right Thoughts at the Last*

Moment: Buddhism and Deathbed Practices in Early Medieval Japan, published by the University of Hawaii Press.

In December, 2017, the Center for Buddhist Studies sponsored an award ceremony that also included a symposium featuring presentations by three scholars followed by a lively discussion among the many guests who attended the event.

Ekoji Temple in Washington D.C.

Established in 1981 by Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata, the founder of BDK, Ekoji is a member of the Buddhist Churches of America and is partially endowed by BDK America. Its membership is ethnically diverse and has been growing. It sponsors a Dharma School, meditation classes, and a variety of other activities, such

as the popular Bon Dance, which drew over a thousand people from the Washington D.C. area. Ekoji's minister is Rev. Nariaki Hayashi, who was born in Hawaii and raised in Japan. Ekoji is his first temple assignment, and under his leadership, the temple faces a promising future.



Ekoji Temple in Washington D.C.

BDK Hawaii



Workshop on Peace in the Workplace

The BDK Hawaii-Fujitani Interfaith Program sponsored a workshop on the importance of creating good relationships with people we work with. The keynote speech was given by Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng of the University of Hawaii. Dr. Soetoro-Ng is the half-sister of former President Obama. Representatives from the Buddhist, Catholic and Hindu communities responded to the keynote speaker. The event was held at Chaminade University in Honolulu, and was attended by over 70 people.



The Keynote speech by Dr. Soetoro-Ng

Hawaii Book and Music Festival

BDK Hawaii participated again at the Hawaii Book and Music Festival, an annual event held in May on the grounds of the City Hall of Honolulu. Volunteers helped to distribute copies of the Teaching of Buddha to some of the 20,000 people who attended the two-day event.

BDK Hawaii also sponsored Haemin Sunim to be the keynote speaker at the Festival. Haemin Sunim is a Korean Zen monk who wrote a book titled “The Things You Can See Only When You Slow Down”, which has sold over 3 million copies.



BDK Hawaii booth

New Building Dedication at the Pacific Buddhist Academy

The Pacific Buddhist Academy is the only Shin Buddhist high school in America, and its new building was dedicated in September, 2017. The building is located on the grounds of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. His Eminence Monshu Otani Kojun, the spiritual head of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, participated in the dedication ceremony.

Mr. Pieper Toyama, the past head of the Academy, gave a presentation about the unique Onaijin (main altar), and acknowledged the important support received from the late Numata Kaicho. Rev. Masahiro Furusawa from BDK Japan, Mr. Mikio Yamashita from BDK America, and George Tanabe from BDK Hawaii also attended the celebration activities.



His Eminence Monshu Ohtani Kojun, the spiritual head of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha



From left, Dr. Tanabe (BDK Hawaii), Rev. Furusawa (BDK) and Mr. Yamashita (BDK America)

Report on the "Japanese Temple Tour 2017"



Ekoji kindergarten (Utsunomiya)



Hiroshima atomic bomb dome (Hiroshima)



Naritasan Shinshoji Temple (Narita)



Ekoji Temple (Utsunomiya)

BDK Mexico hosted the “Japanese Temple Tour,” which started from November 6, 2017 and lasted for 20 days. Twelve people participated in the tour. It was the best season for the changing colors of the leaves everywhere in Japan. The tour group was accepted to stay at seven training facilities of the “Ningen Zen Dojo,” of which BDK Mexico president, Rev. Koichi Todaka, is a member. The group has facilities in Ichikawa, Nippori, Atami, Kyoto, Okayama, Hiroshima, and Kitakyushu. Moreover, one of Rev. Todaka’s good friends, Rev. Taiun Araki, a Sotoshu priest, agreed to guide the group throughout Japan.

The first day of the tour started off from Narita Airport, and the group visited Naritasan Shinshoji Temple in Narita, Chiba, which is not far from the

airport. After the visit to Shinshoji Temple, we stayed at the Ichikawa training facility for a night. On the following day, Rev. Todaka led the group to the headquarters office of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) in the BDK Center, Minato-ku, Tokyo. Mr. Tadashi Ikuta, Mr. Harumi Aoki and BDK members welcomed everyone. Rev. Todaka gave some souvenirs from Mexico to them, and the group visited the BDK Museum, which is also located in the BDK Center. After the luncheon hosted by BDK, the tour group moved to the Nippori training facility, which is also in Tokyo. The group visited the Ekoji Temple in Utsunomiya, and Rev. Shuichi Sozaki, the head priest of Ekoji Temple, guided them. Everyone chanted together and stepped into the main hall and precincts of the temple. The group also visited the

kindergarten that is in the neighborhood, and Rev. Todaka handed out some souvenirs and explained the activities of BDK Mexico.

After the visit to Ekoji Temple and the kindergarten, Rev. Sozaki led the group to Ekoji Temple in Tsukuba, Ibaragi. The group enjoyed lunch and visited the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Tsukuba Space Center. At night, the group was invited to Kioi Hall for the “18th Buddhist Music Festival –BUDHASPEL” hosted by BDK. The harmony of Japanese drums and orchestra was powerful and dynamic and everyone was deeply impressed. After that, the tour group kept a well-regulated schedule at each training facility in Japan and experienced a variety of temple activities and traditional Japanese culture before safely

returning back to Mexico. Everyone could feel the real kindness of Japanese people and the beauty of Japanese/Buddhist culture in each and every place they visited in Japan.

We are happy to introduce some of the feedback submitted by the tour participants below.

● Mrs. Maria Gloria Granados Guzman (Age: 57)

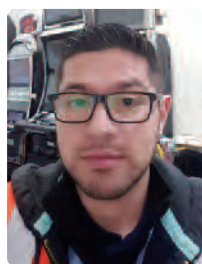


We were deeply impressed with the hospitality of BDK! The chanting experience at Ekoji Temple in Utsunomiya and

the Buddhist Music Festival were the highlights of my stay. Moreover, we truly enjoyed meeting the kindergarten kids and were fascinated with the combination of Wadaiko, traditional Japanese drums, with the chanting of Japanese Buddhist priests. The first three-days gave me a lot of great experiences in Japan!!!

● Mr. Ricardo Sanchez Camboa (Age: 32)

It was just amazing how punctual the



Shin Kan Sen super express trains, the local trains/subways, and the buses cruising around the big cities

could be. Rev. Todaka always tells us, “Time is a small unit of life, so you must follow it strictly.” I realized that everyone in Japan pays attention to time and this naturally makes society harmonious. I have learned that training our spirit instead of depending on material things is more important.

● Mr. Angel Martinez (Age: 36)



The visit to the BDK headquarters on Day 2 was the greatest experience of the tour. I have been visiting Ekoji

Temple in Mexico and it reminded me of those days. We could spend quality time because all the Japanese people warmly welcomed us everywhere in Japan. I tried to practice Zazen meditation every day, however, this was my first experience of receiving Keisaku, the Zen stick. It struck my

body and soul and I learned a lot from that. All the training facilities we visited were very well organized even in the restrooms and the public bath! I thought it all came from the spirit of Japanese Buddhism.

● Mr. Pablo Estrada (Age: 36)



As a BDK Mexico member who is working full-time at Ekoji Temple in Mexico, I was eager to visit the head-

quarters in Tokyo. It was my dream come true and I was so grateful. It was my first experience of sleeping with Japanese Futon, beddings on Tatami mats, and straw matted floors. You can practice Zazen, dine, and sleep in the same room. This is “life” and daily life itself. People clean the room, put things back to where they were, and pull things out again when it is necessary. They do that every single time when they use the room. In Mexico, this world would be just unbelievable. I hope that I will make use of those experiences and that the tour will be held again for a second time in the near future.

BDK Asia



“The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” Distribution at the Koma Competition 2018

Mitutoyo Thailand Co., Ltd. (MTC) promoted “The Teaching of Buddha” through a Japanese traditional event called “Koma, the Spinning Top Competition,” which was held at the Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology (TNI), Bangkok Thailand on the 24th

of January in 2018. 16 teams, 8 comprised of TNI students and 8 comprised of external Vocational College students, attended the event.

100 copies of “The Teaching of Buddha” were distributed to guests, students and Mitutoyo customers.

They recognized us as a good community supporter for being not only a company known for high quality measuring instruments but also an organization sponsoring social activities.



"Koma Competition"



Koma (spining top)

Recent Changes in BDK-Asia

Mr. Yuichi Yamaguchi was appointed as a director of BDK-Asia Ltd. effective from February, 2018. He will be the second director along with Mr.

Naotatsu Fujiwara. Mr. Rick Lim will be the primary contact person in charge of the BDK-Asia activities from January 2018. Ms. Correen

Leow, will assist him with the BDK-Asia activities as well.

BDK Europe



Recent Changes in BDK Europe

Message from Rev. Dr. Matsumaru
 My first encounter with Prof. Aoyama took place when I was called to the office of BDK Japan for the purpose of meeting Prof. Aoyama, who was at that time the director of EKO-Haus. That was just after I had been approved to succeed him as chair. It was at the beginning of autumn in the year before last, as I recall. Talking to him, I noticed that he had a marvelous memory and could remember exactly the month and the year of events or happenings. In those days he was 75 or 76 years old, but he had an amazingly retentive memory. Even now, I can still clearly remember him as such when I directly made contact with him in Duesseldorf.

Message from Rev. Shoji
 Staying at EKO-Haus for my master's



Rev. Matsumaru (left), Rev. Aoyama (middle) and Rev. Shoji (right)

thesis research 4 years ago, I met Rev. Eda for the first time and learned a lot from him and his experience, particularly with Buddhism in Europe. He not only organized Buddhist services but also many events regarding Japanese traditional culture and concerts by Japanese musicians who live in Germany. Thanks to him, these relationships are still continuing. So I think that he has really contributed to the development of EKO-Haus in var-

ious fields.

.....
 We carry on the relationships that many predecessors have built, and we do our best to further develop EKO-Haus as the place from which Buddhism and Japanese culture can spread in Europe. With that in mind, we will try to create an atmosphere in which everyone feels free to come here and attend Buddhist services and cultural events.

Enman (Perfection)

When we talk about “enman” today, as we use it in phrases such as a “harmonious” person, or that the matter was settled “amicably”; it connotes “unabrasiveness and gentility,” or an “amiable” face. It also connotes “plumpness and good health.”

In Buddhism the condition that is fulfilled with nothing missing is described as being “enman,” or perfect. The Shakyamuni Buddha stated that since attaining enlightenment at the age of 35, and until he entered parinirvana at the age of 80, he “lived with the single purpose of seeking to do good” for 45 years. What Shakyamuni Buddha meant by “good” was performing deeds which benefited the self as well as others.

Self-benefit (jiri) is that which truly benefits the self, while “rita” is that which truly benefit others. When one fulfills both aspects at the same time, then that state is the perfect fulfillment or “enman.” The true benefit is to eliminate suffering and bring about happiness. “Suffering” in Buddhism is limitation, and “happiness” is freedom. To live one’s own life 100% is said to represent freedom. When this condition is realized, and everyone can live fully, then this represents fulfillment or “enman.”

Taken from “Sasaeatte” authored by the late Rev. Toshihide Numata, former Chairman of BDK