

Michi - The Path -

BUKKYO DENDO KYOKAI Society for the Promotion of Buddhism

Michi

— The Path —

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Society for the Promotion of Buddhism

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The Beginning of a New Era with the Spirit of Compassion and Symbiosis

We truly appreciate your generous understanding and continued support for all of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK)'s activities.

As the Japanese era name changes from 平成 (Heisei) to 令和 (Reiwa), we celebrate the beginning of a new era. We would like to report our 2018 activities in this issue of "Michi." One of our primary activities for years, the distribution of "The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)" in the world, has always been the top priority of our activities, however in 2018, we started a variety of new activities such as radio and web-related programs, lectures and seminars in provincial cities outside of Tokyo, collaboration with other institutes, photo exhibitions, etc. Those activities are planned and carried out on the basic idea of promoting world peace and contributing to the public order as well.

The World has changed considerably since the birth of Buddhism to date, but the Buddhist teachings of wisdom and mercy have been transmitted steadily.

It is essential that we must promote our educational/welfare related activities with a deep love for people and nature, and continue to tell the "true dharma" that transcends secular desires. To open the door to a new era, we dedicate ourselves to progressing 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



|| BDK Publications

01 Activity Report on “The Teaching of Buddha” Distribution in Southern India

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) distributed “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” in the Tibetan exile settlement in Karnataka state, Southern India.



Tashi Lhumpo School

BDK donated 10,000 copies of TTOB in Tibetan to 53 places like schools, hospitals, monasteries/nunneries, libraries, etc., in the settlements in Mundgod, Bylakuppe and Hunsur.

We truly appreciate the help of Rev. Myosei Midorikawa, director of Super Sanga (Tendai School, Jindaiji Temple), who hosted a seminar to explain about TTOB in Tibetan. Her efforts made TTOB to

be recognized as a bridge between Tibetan Buddhism and Japanese Buddhism, and people in each place received copies of TTOB with great respect and appreciation.

For the two-week program of distributing TTOB in Karanataka state, BDK is indebted to the following people: Rev.



Namdroling School

Myosei Midorikawa; Rev. Kunchok Sithar, Vice-President of the Tibetan

Buddhist Center “POTALA COLLEGE;” Rev. Ngawang Woseung; Mr. Lungtok, Representative of the Liaison Office of His Holiness The Dalai Lama for Japan & East-Asia; Rev. Geshe Lobsang Gelek, Chief Administrator of Depung Gomang Monastery; Rev. Dr. Geshe Dhargyal Phuntsok, Director of Library of

Buddhism; Rev. Kunchok Tenzin, General Secretary, Tashi Lhunpo Monastery Bylakuppe Mysore Karnataka State Kachen; Rev. Dr. Hishe Danduv Kachen/ Geshe; Ms. Yayoi Tsuruoka, Managing Director of Rumi Impex Private Ltd.; and Mr. Neeraj Puri.



Sambhota School

Activity 02 “The Teaching of Buddha” Update for 2018

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) distributed a total of 12,511 copies of “Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” to hotels in 2018. Tourists from all over the world numbered 3,119,000 in 2018, and we are expecting more tourists to visit Japan in 2019 for the World Cup for Rugby. We would like to keep distributing TTOB as an expression of “Omotenashi,” Japanese hospitality of the highest quality.



In 2018, we distributed many copies to “Shukubo,” which are lodgings at temples in the Kansai area of Japan. TTOB seemed to be popular among tourists from foreign countries, and temples also encouraged them to experience the essence of Buddhism through TTOB within the atmosphere of a temple.

Also, BDK distributed 36,428 copies of TTOB to Buddhist schools and kindergartens in 2018. More schools requested TTOB for distribution at important school events such as enrollment ceremonies and commencements.

As we distribute large numbers of TTOB copies to many places, BDK holds a TTOB Editorial Committee



TTOB distribution to Lumbini Hotel Association

meeting every year in Japan and carefully re-examines the content of TTOB. We are going to continue

our efforts to make TTOB even better and update it for the modern world.

Interview



Musashino University in Ariake, Tokyo

“The Teaching of Buddha” in Educational Institutions Encounter with a Book of a Lifetime

Interview with Prof. Dr. Teruma Nishimoto, President of Musashino University

Location: Musashino University, Ariake Campus, Tokyo, Japan

Interviewer: Emi Kanemaki, Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK)

Editor/Photographer: Kaoru Eguchi, BDK

Special Thanks to Prof. Dr. Teruma Nishimoto and Musashino University



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 the campus of Musashino University in Ariake, Tokyo, where its modern architecturally styled buildings face the gulf of Tokyo, and we had an opportunity to talk with Prof. Dr. Teruma Nishimoto about how he uses TTOB at Musashino University.

First of all, could you tell us about Musashino University and the philosophy of your school?

Musashino University was established by an international Buddhist scholar, Dr. Junjiro Takakusu, with the ideal of “developing student characters based on the Buddhist spirit,” and he founded Musashino Joshi Gakuin (Musashino Girl’s School) at the time. A year after the Great Kanto Earthquake happened in the Tokyo area, he opened a school on the site of an aid station inside the precincts of Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple in Tokyo. He hoped that this school could be a beam of hope for those who suffered so much after the disaster.

The most important educational purpose of our school is based on the basic Buddhist spirit of 四弘誓願 Shiguzeigan, the Four Extensive Vows. Prof. Ryujo Yamada, the third chancellor of the university, translated the first vow, “衆生無辺誓願度 Shujou Muhen Seigando,” as “happiness for everyone and everything in this world,” and he hoped that our students would create a peaceful world with lots of joy and good reasons to live as our school philosophy.

Therefore, we are trying to express our founding spirit in easy-to-understand and modern ways for everyone and we officially announced “Creating Peace & Happiness for the World” as our brand new motto, which we adopted in 2016. I truly hope that all of our students and staff members of the university will be “happiness creators.”

I see. Is there special significance about writing “カタチ (Katachi, shape)” in Katakana for the motto of your school?

We cannot create a true movement for everyone if we settle upon only one shape of happiness, so we dare to use Katakana to express “カタチ Katachi.” We believe that the shape of happiness varies, and being happy mentally and physically suffices as long as people are satisfied with whatever shape they wanted. Maybe happiness can be visually seen or maybe not. The most important thing is that happiness should not be just yours or mine, but should be for everyone and everything.

We would like to create a school where everyone’s life shines in the end. Students can spend their time to create harmony with other students in a variety of shapes, and make a good pattern of enhancing synergies. The United Nations recently focused on “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” to overcome the stereotypical ideas and “wisdoms” with different perspectives on each task. We truly

hope that we can develop our students’ ability to “shape the happiness of the world” by blending with and enhancing each other. There are 11 departments and 19 courses at Musashino University at the moment, and each one of them have just started to give shape to each one of the 17 SDGs.

(After the first question, the campus chimes rang. The chime was the melody of the Four Extensive Vows, so everyone laughed.)

Well, there we heard the chime! Now we would like to know how Musashino University and BDK have been related to each other.

We have a deep connection with BDK. First of all, the late Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata, the founder of BDK and Mitutoyo Corporation, and the late Rev. Toshihide Numata, the second chairman of BDK, used to be on our board of trustees. BDK donated 100,000 stock shares of Mitutoyo Corporation to us in 1978, and we were able to establish a scholarship program based on the



profits. BDK also sponsored the building of our kindergarten in 1967. Moreover, our pipe organ, which is made by Bosch, a famous German organ company and is located in the No. 6 building on the Musashino campus, was donated by BDK for our 60th anniversary in 1988. We truly appreciate how BDK has supported the Buddhist education of our school.

We must thank Musashino University for giving us such a variety of great opportunities. What do you think about “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” published by BDK?

I remember that I saw TTOB at some hotel for the first time. The cover of the book impacted me with the picture of the bright morning sun. However, I did not have enough time to read everything at that time.

It was when I started my career at Musashino University in 1997 that I first read it carefully. I got my position here because Prof. Shoyu Hanayama, who had taught at Musashino and contributed to the publication of TTOB, passed away. Students loved Prof. Hanayama and he was such a popular instructor. I still remember one student’s comment at the end of my first year of teaching at Musashino. The comment said that the best part of my lectures was the video of Prof. Hanayama’s lecture, so I was kind of disappointed and ashamed (smiles). He was just exceptional.

Oh, what an experience you had regarding Prof. Hanayama! How did you use TTOB in your class?

I frequently used TTOB in my class, “Outlines of Buddhism,” which all the students must take, until I was inaugurated as President of Musashino University in 2016. The Supporter’s Association allows us to distribute TTOB to all the new students during the entrance ceremony. In my class, everyone chants 三帰依文 Sankiemon, the Three Statements of Devotion, together, then they silently ruminate at first, and then they read four to five pages of TTOB and we listen to each others’ comments and reviews.

Students read TTOB little by little during each class! What made you use TTOB for your class?

TTOB contains a lot of easy-to-understand examples for students, so it was very useful for me to explain difficult expressions of Buddhism. I even made my students explain their selection of the best phrase from TTOB in exams.

TTOB enabled them to understand Buddhism easily and made my classes interesting. My students seemed to enjoy those classes, too. “You are the strangest professor in my entire college life.” My student’s comment like this was a great encouragement for me (laughs). They told me that they could learn something they cannot learn from an “ordinary” class and they found that learning Buddhism this way was “fun”!

“Blossoms come about because of a series of conditions that lead up to their blooming. Leaves are blown away because a series of conditions lead up to it.” (“The Teaching of Buddha” 『和英対照仏教聖典』 Causation II Causation No. 2 on

P.82) “I have loved this body with no thought of throwing it away, but now I make it an offering to this tigress so that I may gain Enlightenment.” (“The Teaching of Buddha” 『和英対照仏教聖典』 The Way of Practical Attainment II The Ways of Practice on P. 338) Those two phrases had the strongest impact on students. One time, we role-played the story of the two demons that devoured the dead body of a man as an example of how “all worldly things are impermanent.” (“The Teaching of Buddha” 『和英対照仏教聖典』 The Way of Purification III Teaching of Ancient Fables No. 10 on P. 282)

I also gave students an example of how they can face life through the saying that “In this world there are three wrong viewpoints.” (“The Teaching of Buddha” 『和英対照仏教聖典』 Causation III Dependent Origination No. 3 on P. 86) I did not tell them these are wrong viewpoints at first, and I let them discuss each of those viewpoints. At any rate, I must thank “The Teaching of Buddha” for showing my students great examples of life.

Sounds like students absorbed the teachings of Buddhism little by little through four years of college.

Yes, but some new students do not even know that Musashino University is one of those Buddhist universities. At our entrance ceremony, we place a Buddhist altar in front of the main hall and chant the Three Statements of Devotion and the Four Extensive Vows. Some of them think that it looks like a funeral (laughs). I guess that students gradually come to understand the



Prof. Nishimoto talks about his memories of TTOB

Buddhist perspectives, ways of thinking, and how you live, and realize the greatness of those matters through the Buddhist study classes and school services and events.

Speaking of that, it was about twenty years ago when I started my teaching career at Musashino that I found my students gathered by the window of a classroom at the time we were supposed to start a class. Therefore, I asked them what was wrong. One of them answered that a poor little wandering sparrow had hit the window of a classroom and had just died in her hands. The sudden incident surprised everyone in the class and it was not the right mood for starting a class anymore. I suggested that we should conduct a funeral for the sparrow, and we chanted sutras and buried the sparrow in our garden. I received many comments from my students about

the funeral at the last class session of that year.

Students may experience something they do not expect during their four years of college. I hope that they would experience a variety of things, learn how to live their lives and leave the nest of Musashino with something other than just learning about their academic interests.

Thank you for using TTOB in various ways for decades! As TTOB has been used in many different countries in the world, what do you think of how TTOB can be used at educational institutions?

We can see some recent trends in which hotels do not place religion-related publications like TTOB in hotel rooms anymore, but I believe that we can de-sterilize them at edu-

cational institutions. I have heard that hundreds of students take classes about Buddhism at universities abroad, so TTOB can be used efficiently as a text for survey classes of Buddhism.

And I think that the new era of “Africa” will be around the corner. Of course, Asian countries are important, but BDK can look at African countries and other areas where most of the people do not even know about Buddhism yet.

I encountered TTOB in Braille at the time I was taking care of a Braille study group in 1981. I knew that TTOB had been translated into various languages, but I had no idea that BDK had prepared a Braille version of the book too! I strongly recommend TTOB for those who do not have a chance to learn the teachings of Buddhism or who have interests in Buddhism and hope to have easy-to-understand publica-

tions about Buddhism in the world.

I totally agree. Anyway, I heard that Musashino University has welcomed more international students since everything tends to be more international and diverse. As one of the major Japanese Buddhist universities, is Musashino doing anything about understanding other religions and diversity?

Our school developed the “100 Visions for the Globalization of Musashino University” as we move towards our 100th anniversary in 2024, and we have been trying to be a university where students can spread their wings and go out in the world, and we welcome the whole world at the same time. About 600 international students are enrolled in 2019, so we would like to welcome 1,500 by 2024 and 3,000 by 2034. Therefore, we will have to have more dormitories for international students, and advertise more widely about our unique departments and courses like our Global Business course in which all students must take classes in English and Data Science, and study AI, Artificial Intelligence. Although Musashino is a Buddhist university, we have a prayer room for Muslims because we guarantee the freedom of religion for everyone.

Well, speaking of globalization, we started the “Global Communication Course” in 2019, and all sophomore students will study at one of twelve affiliated universities in the U.S. for six months. We eventually will add more educational programs to provide more opportunities so that all Musashino students can study



Cherry blossom of Ariake campus

abroad at least once in their college years.

With the idea of globalization, Dr. Junjiro Takakusu, the founder of Musashino University, established the school for “women’s education” at that time. As the university is now a co-educational school, what do you think of women’s education and the opportunities for women in the modern world?

Dr. Takakusu once said, “Only women can remove the curtain of darkness.” He aimed to establish a women’s university at that time. However, it was not accepted, so he started Musashino Women’s High School then. He thought that women should receive a proper education and develop their abilities to create a new world, and this was at a time when women had fewer opportunities. I believe that he had a clear vision to see into the future

of the “gender-equal society” that we currently have today. We started co-educational programs 15 years ago in 2004. We would like to continue the founder’s will and create a school in which both women and men can work hard together and grow with each other.

Speaking of about globalization, you studied at a university in the U.S.? Did you feel the differences between Japanese education and foreign education based on your experiences?

Yes, I experienced the differences between the U.S. and Japan towards the attitude of learning. Students in the U.S. frequently ask questions of their instructors in class, and I saw lots of students who were struggling to finish their homework every day at a library or elsewhere on campus. They even sat on the floor in a line and typed on their laptops before class, like sparrows

perched on electrical wires. We would like to create the mood of such an atmosphere at our University as well.

Thank you for giving us strong messages. Lastly, could you tell us what you expect in the way of BDK activities in the future? And please give us your message to prospective students, who are about to start their Buddhist studies.

As I told you earlier, we started a new course called Data Science, in which we try to develop the human resources for leadership of the AI generation. AI can store data, process it and make decisions. AI is about to take over most of our jobs and work. I wonder if AI can feel the meanings of life like we humans do. Buddha teaches the meanings of life and speaks of the preciousness of appreciating others. I believe that Buddhist perspectives and practices will be necessary for survival in an uncertain world. Therefore, I hope that BDK would

provide even more opportunities in different “カタチ,” shapes for everyone to learn Buddhism.

BDK established the fellowship program for foreign scholars in 1991 (see the pages of “BDK Fellowship”). It is a great support for those promising scholars, and BDK has really contributed to the exchange of international students for such a long time. Therefore, I hope that BDK will continue these programs from now on.

I think any learning is rewarding. It broadens our perspectives infinitely if you seriously push forward to try to learn. If you engage in Buddhist studies, you will be highlighting things and places where people practiced those lessons of Buddhism throughout its long history. It doubles the fun if you take it as a challenge to find unlimited treasures everywhere. Moreover, the joy of finding truths that open up new worlds while you are engaged in deep research will resonate with your life. That eventually connects to the echo of everyone’s happiness. I truly hope that more Buddhist scholars will emerge

and grow with the great help of BDK.

TTOB gave us a fantastic opportunity to visit Musashino University, a leading Buddhist university in Japan. We reconfirmed our strong relationship with the help of President Nishimoto’s kind and cheerful tone and personality. Furthermore, we realized how TTOB can be used at a university, where people learn various things about life.

BDK will continue to distribute free copies of TTOB to schools anywhere in the world, and we aim to publish books that will allow readers to become familiar with different religions and nationalities.

For more information about Musashino University, please visit their official website at <https://www.musashino-u.ac.jp/>

For more information about “The Teaching of Buddha” and BDK, please visit our official website at www.bdk.or.jp



Rev. Dr. Teruma Nishimoto

Born in Hiroshima, Japan in 1962. Ph. D. in Buddhist Studies from the University of Tokyo in 1996. Studied at Harvard University, National Taiwan Normal University, University of California, Berkeley, and the Chinese Academy of Social Science. Inaugurated as President of Musashino University in April 2016 after being Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences and Dean of Graduate school of Buddhist Studies. Also served as a Director of the International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies, Principal of Musashino University Kindergarten.

His published works include: 『三階教の研究』(春秋社) “A study of the Sanjiejiao” (Shunjusha Publishing Company) and 『「華嚴経」を読む』(角川学芸出版) “Reading the Avatamsaka Sutra” (KADOKAWA), etc.



03 Activity

The 3rd BDK Buddhist Picture Book Prize Competition “Kokoro-no-Ehon-Taisho (Picture Book for Your Heart and Mind)”

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted the 3rd BDK Buddhist Picture Book Prize Competition co-sponsored by Suzuki Publications and supported by 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.

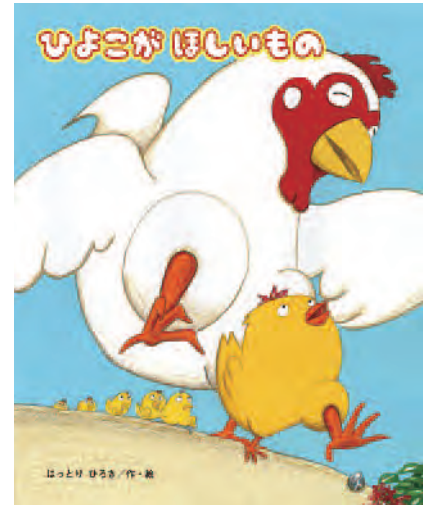


Mr. Hiroki Hattori

We received 75 submissions for the 3rd Competition, and the judges commented that the quality of the submissions was higher than in the

past. Mr. Keisuke Nishimoto, a writer of children’s literature, Mr. Tomohiko Fujimoto, a picture book artist, and Mr. Minoru Haga, chief editor from Suzuki Publications, carefully selected one work for the grand prize, three for outstanding awards, and five for fine works.

The grand prize went to “Rippana Hiyoko Rippana Niwatori (*Magnificent Chick, Magnificent Chicken*)” written and drawn by Mr. Hiroki Hattori. The story describes a heart-warming relationship between a chick who wants everything he



“Hiyoko-ga-Hoshiimono”

thinks is cool and his mother who keeps going easy on what he does with her warm eyes.

Mr. Hattori’s work has been edited as “Hiyoko-ga-Hoshiimono (*What a Chick Wants*)” and was published in March 2019.

04 Activity

“Let it Shine!” Temple Bulletin Board Project 2018

This project invites SNS posts of slogans on bulletin boards at temples throughout Japan and selects a grand prize by reviews and comments.

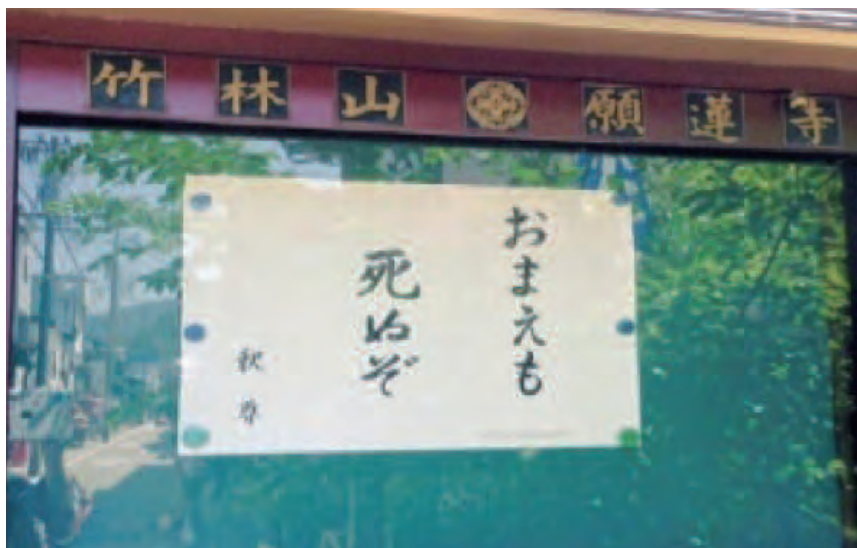
It started on July 1, 2018 with the support of Chugai Nippo and Bukkyo Times. It was broadly reported on major websites as the

first Buddhist SNS project, and websites even in China and Taiwan took notice of this. We received 296 posts on Twitter and 396 posts

on Instagram for four months ending on October 31, 2018.

The grand prize, “You will die someday. Said by Shakyamuni,”

was chosen from about 700 posts, and it was posted at Ganrenji Temple of the Shinshu Ohtani school in Gifu Prefecture. The post shocked many people, and it was re-tweeted more than 40,000 times on Twitter. The Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai special prize went to one from Honzan Bukkoji Temple of the Shinshu Bukkoji school in Kyoto. We had a variety of unique and impressive selections and noticed how Japanese temples concentrate on bulletin board posts as a part of their missionary work.



The grand prize, "You will die someday. Said by Shakyamurri."

For more information about the project and future plans, please visit the official page at www.bdk.or.jp/kagayake2019/

05 Activity National Hotel Management Seminar

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) has supported and participated in the National Hotel Management Seminar hosted by Ohta Publications Co., Ltd. since 2017. In 2018, seminars were held in cities in Aichi, Okinawa, Osaka, Hiroshima and Ishikawa prefectures. BDK members presented our activities for 20 minutes at each seminar and introduced how we operate and how we can contribute to other participants in the hotel industry.

BDK started distributing email magazines to those who work in the hotel industry in 2018. The magazine features a "Counseling Corner by Buddhist Priests." Priests

respond to problems and questions asked by people who work in the hotel industry, and this service has been quite popular.

Date	Prefecture	Place	No. of participants
Apr. 26	Aichi	The Strings Hotel Nagoya	61
Jun. 18	Okinawa	Loisir Hotel Naha	63
Jul. 20	Osaka	Rihga Royal Hotel Osaka	90
Nov. 19	Hiroshima	Rihga Royal Hotel Hiroshima	40
Mar. 27	Ishikawa	Kanazawa Tokyu Hotel	36



March 27 in Ishikawa



06 Activity The 5th Competition and the 4th Exhibition for the BDK Calendar “A Wise Teaching A Day”

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted the fifth competition and the 4th exhibition for the BDK calendar “A Wise Teaching A Day” that originally started in 2014. We received 2,147 submissions sent from 640 people and it was the highest number since 2014. We held a selection meeting on September 6, 2018 and committee members selected 32 out of 2,147 entries. The committee presented certificates and prize money to those who were selected. They are available for view on our official website.

The fourth exhibition was held in three places in Japan: the Information Center at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple in Tokyo from April 28 to May 27, Hoshokan at Byodoin Temple Museum in Kyoto from June 30 to September 17, and the main hall at Zuiganji Temple in Miyagi from October 19 to November 25. It was the first exhibition of the BDK Calendar “A Wise Teaching A Day” to be held in Tohoku, the northeastern area in Japan, and many visited the Zuiganji exhibition.

About 80,000 people visited the exhibition at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple, 263,000 people at Byodoin Temple,



Committee members select photographs

and 80,000 people at Zuiganji Temple. Visitors all had a wonderful opportunity to become familiar with the

Buddha’s words in association with photographs.

07 Activity Exhibition of the “Picture Story of Shakyamuni”

Seven original pieces of the “Picture Story of Shakyamuni” painted by the Japanese artist, Mr. Kosetsu Nosu, were exhibited with old references and photographs at Hoshokan of Byodoin Temple Museum in Kyoto from June 30, 2018 to September 14, 2018.

On the first day of the exhibition, Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) held a press conference and Rev. Shoryu Katsura, BDK President, explained how Mr. Nosu started painting those pieces. Rev. Bunsho Kamii, head

priest of Byodoin Temple, commented that “each body is differently drawn with each age, and Mr. Nosu carefully examined not only the stories, but also human bodies.” His evaluation was received with great appreciation.

Many visitors enjoyed the history of Mr. Nosu and the references such as his handwritten letters. BDK is grateful to have held this event with his original pieces at a historical place like Byodoin Temple.



Exhibition at Hoshokan of Byodoin Temple

Activity 08 “BDK English Tripiṭaka” Translation Project

The BDK English Tripiṭaka Editorial Committee welcomed a new member, Prof. Dr. Kenryo Minowa, and aims to explore ways to speed up the translation and publication of the Buddhist texts selected for the first series and to cooperate with scholars of Buddhist studies all over the world.

The committee started a new project with the University of Tokyo to translate Yogacarabhūmi-sāstra (Yugashi mantra) into English in 2018. This is an important example of industry-university collaboration in Buddhist studies, and the committee aspires to move things forward with greater speed and efficiency.

BDK published 3 volumes as follows in 2018: THE BRAHMĀ'S NET SUTRA (梵網經), THREE SHORT TREATISES BY VASUBANDHU, SEN-GZHAO, AND ZONGMI (世親・僧

肇・宗密による三つの小論) and THE CANONICAL BOOK OF THE

BUDDHA'S LENGTHY DISCOURSES VOLUME III [長阿含經 (3)]



Committee meeting in the U. S.



Financial Assistance and Honoring Recipients

01 Activity BDK Fellowship Programs 2018 BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) has two scholarship programs in Japan: “BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars” and “BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars” to support scholars who would like to study Buddhism.

The BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars 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 29th year in 2019, we have selected three promising scholars at the committee meeting held in February 2019.

The 29th Annual Awardees for BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars

Ms. Lu Lu

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

Academic Advisor in Japan : Prof. Seishi Karashima

Theme of Research : Critical editions and a glossary of the Chinese non-Mahāyāna Buddhist translations of the Later Han Dynasty

Mr. Maxwell Brandstadt

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

Academic Advisor in Japan : Prof. Masahiro Shimoda

Theme of Research : The Concept of the Icchantika in Jingying Huiyuan's Notes on the Meaning of the Great Parinirvana Sutra

Mr. Anthony Scott

Affiliation in Japan : Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, The University of Tokyo

Academic Advisor in Japan : Associate Prof. Norihisa Baba and Associate Prof. Ryusuke Kuramoto

Theme of Research : Milindapañha-aṭṭhakathā, a modern and extraordinary Pali commentary on the Questions of King Milinda, composed by a pioneer of early twentieth-century Burmese vipassanā meditation, the Mula Mingun Jetavana Sayadaw (1868-1954)

The 28th Annual Awardees for BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars

Question:

- 1) What made you apply for the 2018 BDK Fellowship?
- 2) What is/are the best thing(s) about being a BDK Fellowship holder?
- 3) What do you think about your future career?

Mr. Vladimir Angirov

Nationality : Russia

Affiliation in Japan : Faculty of Humanities, Kyushu University

Academic Advisor in Japan : Associate Prof. Kei Kataoka

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

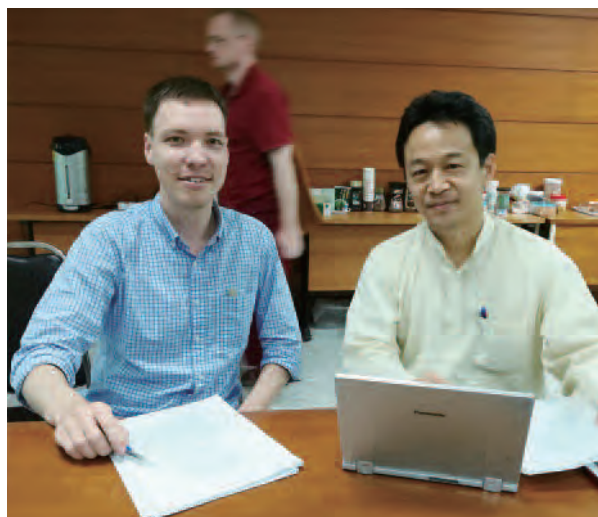
1) I am working on the debate between Buddhism and Hindu religions about the creator deity. This research requires not only an understanding of Buddhism, but also a good knowledge of multiple Hindu schools (e.g. Nyāya, Mīmāṃsā). This is why I had wished to study for some time under the guidance of Prof. Kei Kataoka from Kyushu university, who has very profound knowledge of both Buddhist logical schools and non-Buddhist Indian philosophies.

2) The best thing about being a BDK Fellowship holder is having very flexible conditions and the absence of complicated formalities. My aca-

ademic advisor and I can fully determine the content and methods of my research. I am very thankful to BDK for the generous support.

3) The motivation of my studies is my wish to make a contribution to preserving Buddhist teachings. I hope to

be able to do academic work at a university, both by teaching and doing research. But I would also be glad to be in a non-academic envi-



Mr. Angirov (left) and Associate Prof. Katayama (right)

ronment working on translation projects, educating Buddhist practitioners, etc.

Ms. Meghan Howard

Nationality : USA

Affiliation in Japan : Waseda University

Academic Advisor in Japan : Prof. Nobuyoshi Yamabe

Theme of Research : 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) commenting on it by Facheng 法成 /Chos grub found among the Dunhuang manuscripts

1) My dissertation is focused on Facheng 法成 /Chödrup (Chos

grub), a monk who translated Buddhist texts from Chinese to

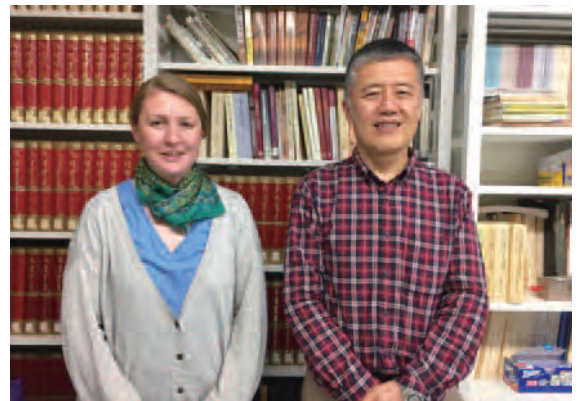
Tibetan and Tibetan to Chinese in Dunhuang during the ninth century.



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Facheng devoted the last part of his life to lecturing on the *Yogācārabhūmi*, and these lectures were preserved in notes taken by his students. Because the study of *Yogācāra* (both in India and in East Asia) is very developed in Japan, BDK presented a wonderful opportunity to study with some of the foremost *Yogācāra* scholars in the world.

such an environment, it is easy to make progress on my dissertation. Since my research focuses on Buddhist traditions from long ago, I am also grateful for the chance to experience Buddhism as a living tradition in the modern world.



Ms. Howard (left) and Prof. Yamabe (right)

2) The best part of receiving a BDK Fellowship has been the opportunity to spend a year in Japan, which is really the international center of Buddhist Studies scholarship. During my time here, I have been able to meet exceptional scholars and make use of superb libraries. In

3) After completing my PhD, I hope to find a job teaching Buddhist history in a US university. In particular, I hope to share the riches of the Buddhist tradition with the American public by researching, translating, and teaching about the

history of Buddhism on the Silk Road. The academic job market in the US is very competitive these days, but the BDK Fellowship and the experiences and insights I have gained through spending a year in Japan will certainly be a strong positive influence on my prospects.

Mr. Gilsan Lee

Nationality : Korea

Affiliation in Japan : The University of Tokyo

Academic Advisor in Japan : Associate Prof. Koichi Takahashi

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

1) I was strongly recommended by Prof. Ahn, my advisor in Korea to apply for it. In fact, before his suggestion I had already been aware of this Fellowship through several talks with Prof. Park, who often pleasantly reminisced about his stay in Kyoto. Many others also advised me to benefit from BDK.



Fall scenery on the University of Tokyo campus (photo taken by Mr. Lee)

2) Of course, I have had several benefits thanks to BDK, but it is the best thing for me to have a chance to benefit from the profundity of the Japanese academic tradition in Buddhist studies.

3) After my stay in Tokyo, I'll finish my doctoral thesis. If possible, I also hope to stay in Taiwan before I finish my thesis. Along with my

experience in Tokyo, it would help me enhance my local academic network for Buddhist studies in the future, if I have a chance.

02 Activity

2018 BDK Fellowship 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.

For the 7th year in 2019, we have selected three promising scholars at the committee meeting held in December 2018.

The 7th Annual Awardees for BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars

<For 12 months>

Mr. Yosuke Fujimoto

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

Academic Advisor in Germany : Prof. Michael Zimmermann

Theme of Research : The origins and development of the Sarvāstivādin theory of defilements: with a special focus on anuśaya

<For 6 months>

Mr. Daisei Michimoto

Affiliation : Institut für Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens

Academic Advisor in Austria : Prof. Birgit Kellner

Theme of Research : A Study of Non-Cognition(anupalabdhi)

<For 4 months>

Mr. Chōjun Yazaki

Affiliation : Department of Indology and Tibetology, Faculty of Foreign Languages, University of Marburg

Academic Advisor in Germany : Prof. Michael Zimmermann

Theme of Research : A Study of the Cāndravyākaraṇapañjikā of Ratnamati



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The 6th Annual Awardees for BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars

Question:

- 1) What made you apply for the 2018 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?

Mr. Kazuho Yamasaki

Affiliation : Department of Religious Studies, McMaster University

Academic Advisor in Canada : Prof. Shayne Clarke

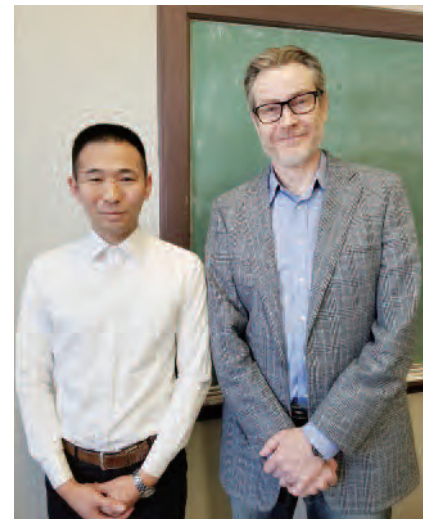
Theme of Research : A Study on Buddhist Narratives in the Kṣudrakavastu of the Mūlasarvāstivādinaya

1) I have focused on the research of Buddhist tales written after the 5th century in India. They are based on the literature of disciplines/laws and make references to scriptures. I had to solve the problem of how each tale was historically expanded from the source of each tale. Therefore, I decided to apply for the 2018 BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars because I believed that I could continue my research under the supervision of Prof. Clarke, who has already presented excellent research results about the literature of disciplines.

2) The best part about studying at a

foreign research institute is that I can participate in any type of workshop and discuss issues. It does not matter if you are an undergraduate student, a graduate student, or a researcher. Participants differ in their interests or research fields, however, everyone speaks freely so that I could understand a variety of literary interpretations and develop my ability to have diverse perspectives.

3) Toronto University is near McMaster University, where I was affiliated, so I could attend some workshops there, too. We often collaborated and I could deepen my



Mr. Yamasaki (left) and Prof. Clarke (right)

research on Buddhism while I was attending presentations held at Toronto University as well.

Mr. Nobuyuki Suzuki

Affiliation : Leiden University Institute for Area Studies (LIAS)

Academic Advisor in the Netherlands : Prof. Jonathan Silk

Theme of Research : A Study on the first chapter Dānapāramitā in the Śikṣāsamucaya

1) Fortunately, I was able to study at Leiden University in the Netherlands. The BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars was interesting to me because I was looking for some scholarships that would enable me to study at Leiden University. The

grant is sufficient, and even provided my airfare, too.

2) With the great support of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK), I was able to focus on my studies and researches without worrying about my finan-

cial situation. I am also a Buddhist priest in Tochigi prefecture, Japan. One of my temple followers is working for Mitutoyo. Mitutoyo sponsors all the BDK activities and their efforts made my study/research possible. I truly appreciate it and

will do my best to complete my Ph. D. thesis at Leiden University.

- 1) The city of Leiden is beautiful with historical buildings and canals. It is the oldest university city in the Netherlands so the entire atmosphere is academic, and it is a wonderful gift from the people who continue living there for past decades and make efforts to support it. I love Leiden and sincerely appreciate the opportunity to have been there for six months.



Mr. Suzuki (middle) and his friends

Mr. Kisho Hatano

Affiliation : Institut für Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens

Academic Advisor in Austria : Prof. Birgit Kellner

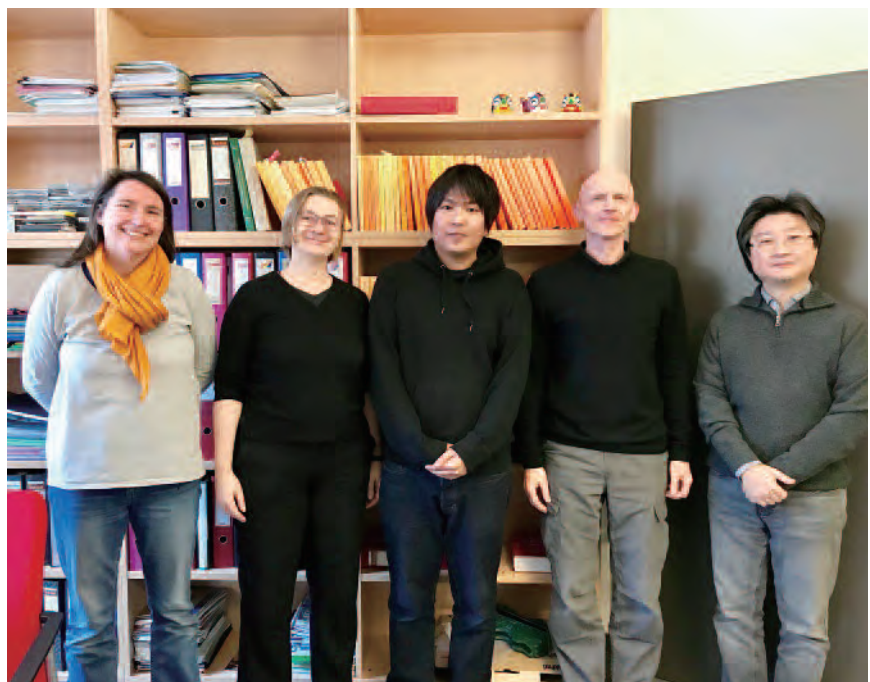
Theme of Research : Dharmakīrti's Structure of Apoha Theory according to Tibetan Commentaries

- 1) I wanted to experience the best possible place that would allow me to do research in my field of study. However, I have never been to a foreign country before, so I was curious about living in a foreign country. I also hoped that I would be able to develop my ability in languages such as English and German.

Europe on weekends on my spare time. European people speak English very well, and it was

impressive that they even speak several languages.

- 2) I am thankful that I was able to see objectively what I had done in Japan, and could learn how to expand my research. I would like to continue my research and have it be available to foreign researchers.



Mr. Hatano (middle) and Prof. Kellner (second from the left)

- 3) It was very convenient to go to other countries by plane or train from Vienna. I was able to travel to neighboring countries in



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03 Activity

BDK Fellowship “Gathering for Scholarship Holders” on June 14, 2018 at Bukkyo Dendo Center Building

The BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars program welcomed its 29th year, and the BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars also turned in its 7th year in 2018.

Previous awardees have actively continued their researches and studies for years on the front lines in the field of Buddhist studies, and most of them are now teaching at educational institutes all over the world. BDK encourages smoother communication between each other and provides more opportunities to connect students with their professors. We invited foreign scholars who are now staying in Japan and Japanese scholars who are going to start studying abroad.

Eight scholars from the BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars program and two of their professors attended the gathering and introduced themselves and their studies and



Presentation given by Ms. Kamarid (2017 Awardee)

researches to everyone. The BDK Fellowship selection committee members were also invited and they shared

ideas about how we should continue supporting young promising scholars who wish to study Buddhism in Japan and in other countries as well. We intend to continue the long history of our scholarship programs.

After their presentations, participants toured the Bukkyo Dendo Center Building and had a Buddhist vegetarian dinner together. Everyone enjoyed this opportunity and reconfirmed their commitment to study Buddhism in the future as well.



Dr. Watanabe (2014 Awardee)



Dr. Marciniak (2017-2018 Awardee)



Mr. Nishiyama (2017 Awardee)



Rev. Shraman (2017 Awardee)

For more information about BDK Fellowships, please visit our official website at www.bdk.or.jp

04

Activity

The 52nd BDK Cultural Awards Ceremony on October 14, 2018 at the Bukkyo Dendo Center Building

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 52nd BDK Cultural Awards ceremony and banquet were held with many guests to celebrate Rev. Eshin Nishimura, the Bunka-Sho winner, and Mr. Jun Miura, the Numata Shorei-Sho winner.

Rev. Dr. Nishimura is a former chancellor of Hanazono University and he said, “Here I am with many relationships, chances that I was given by many people. I just could not imagine that I am able to be an awardee for such an honor as the BDK Cultural

Award. I truly appreciate all the help and various opportunities others have given to me in my life.”

Mr. Miura is a professional manga artist and an illustrator. He still remembers his younger days and how he encountered a Buddhist statue for the first time. He ended his speech saying, “I will continue doing my best for the future.”



Rev. Nishimura (second from the left) and Mr. Miura (second from the right)

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



BDK Cultural Award for the Promotion of Buddhism

Rev. Eshin Nishimura

- Contributed to the research of Zen ideology and its prevalence in and out of Japan for decades.



Numata Shorei-Sho, the Numata Innovation & Visionary Award

Mr. Jun Miura

- Leads the boom of creating Buddhist statues and sends strong messages about the Buddhist spirit to younger generations

BDK Received “Jun Miura Awards”

Mr. Jun Miura, who is a Numata Shorei awardee hosts the “Jun Miura Awards” for honoring people or thing(s) that were symbolized for each year.

2018 was the 21st year for this

award and BDK was selected for the prize. The scene of BDK accepting the award was networked

on the online video streaming service, “GYAO!” on December 25, 2018.

For more information about BDK Cultural Awards, please visit our official website at www.bdk.or.jp



05 Activity BDK Financial Assistance Programs – Update for 2018 Workshop for “Buddhist Priests in Modern Society” hosted by the All Japan Young Buddhist Association

For one of the 2018 BDK Financial Assistance Programs, BDK supported the workshop for “Buddhist Priests in Modern Society” hosted by the All Japan Young Buddhist Association that sponsors seminars and workshops for young priests throughout Japan.

The participants discussed the future of their missions based on their local circumstances and social environment and established new relationships with other colleagues from other parts of Japan.

BDK staff members also attended each workshop and introduced BDK activities and exchanged information that supports the younger generation. The relationship that we were able to build through these workshops will be a big step for our future activities.



Hodenji in Shizuoka prefecture on September 6

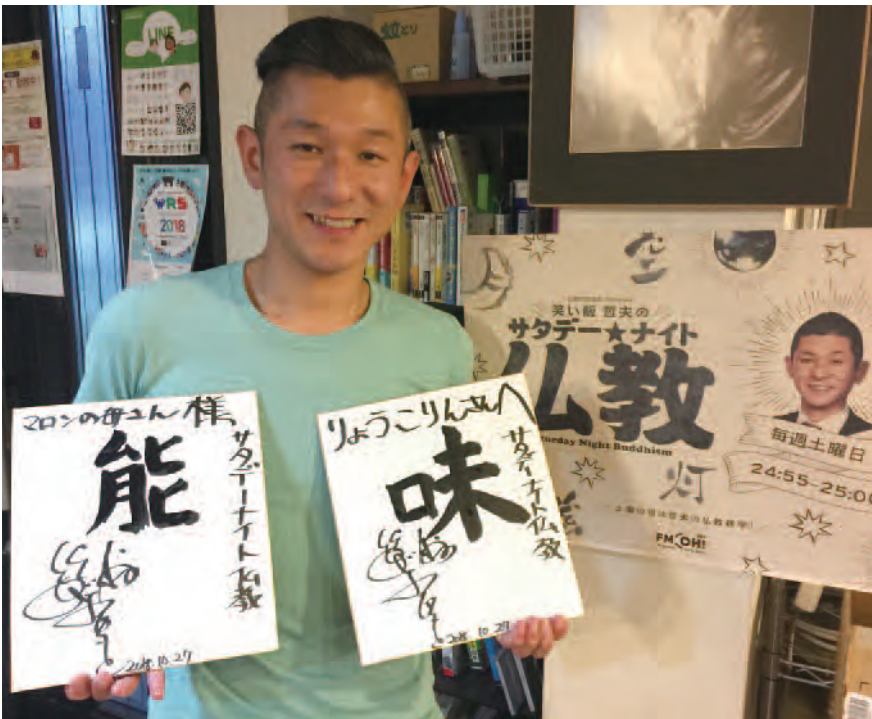
Date	Name of Temple	Prefecture	No. of Participants
Apr. 3	Jonenji	Miyagi	12
Apr. 11	Myokeiin	Hirosihma	11
Apr. 17	Ganoji	Aichi	15
Apr. 27	Jodoshin Shu Hongwanji School Nara Kyomusho	Nara	5
May 16	Young Buddhist Association Kobe office	Hyogo	13
May 30	Chokokuji	Nagano	12
Jun. 16	Shin Shu Ohtani School Kanazawa Kyomusho	Ishikawa	12
Jun. 19	Rinshoji	Niigata	5
Jun. 25	Jodoin	Yamagata	20
Jul. 2	Jobutsuji	Kanagawa	8
Jul. 31	Shoeiji	Yamaguchi	11
Sep. 6	Hodenji	Shizuoka	7
Sep. 7	Seianji	Gifu	16
Sep. 12	Soto Shu Shimane No.2 Shumusho	Shimane	15
Sep. 13	Enryuin	Tottori	12
Oct. 19	Korinji	Tochigi	8
Oct. 31	Tsukiji Hongwanji	Tokyo	28

For more information about the BDK financial assistance programs, please visit our official website at www.bdk.or.jp

Buddhist Lectures and Seminars

01 Activity The Weekly Radio Program on FM Osaka “WARAIMESHI TETSUO’s Saturday★Night Buddhism”

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) started a weekly radio program for those who do not have many opportunities to know about Buddhism in their ordinary life. The program presents fun and easy-to-understand talks.



Tetsuo with his autographed message boards for the listeners

Tetsuo from Warimeshi, a Japanese stand-up comedy duo, is one of the well-known comedians who adores Buddhism. BDK collaborated with him and started a weekly radio program from June 1, 2018. We have a main theme for each program such as Obon (Festival of the Dead), Ohigan (Equinoctial week), Goshuin (a red stamp given at a temple or shrine to show that you have visited there), but most of the time, Tetsuo

freely talks about tips about Buddhism. He is famous for being a “Buddhism Geek,” and his talks for this radio program mix his rich knowledge of Buddhism with his sense of humor. The program lasts only for five minutes, but it has been popular among the younger generation of those in their teens and twenties.

The official website for the program welcomes various questions



Tetsuo with “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)”

and comments. For instance, “Hi Tetsuo-san! I became interested in Sanskrit after I started listening to your program.” “I listen to the program before I go to bed. Buddhism sounds like fun!” We received so many comments from listeners who used to have no idea about Buddhism. We have heard from listeners that five-minutes are too short, therefore, we regularly post it as a “Podcast,” which is available in Japanese with no charge. The number of counts has always been in the top 20 and the program is now getting more popular outside of the Osaka area as well. The program has been continuing through 2019. Please tune in!

For more information, please visit our official website at www.bdk.or.jp



02 Activity Learning from ZEN and Yoga: Releasing and Receiving on April 14, 2018 at Soto Shu Seishoji Temple

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) held a Zazen and Yoga event in the middle of the skyscrapers in Tokyo.

Established in 1476, Seishoji Temple is one of three of the oldest Soto Shu temples, and people in the neighborhood of the Atago-area in Minato-ku, Tokyo have been familiar with the temple for such a long time. 50 people participated in the Zazen, Dharma talk and Yoga event. Participants gathered in the main hall and first listened to a dharma talk given by Rev. Mukan Kamata from Seishoji Temple, and then moved to the Zazen Hall and experienced real Zazen with instructions on how to sit. Most of them had never experienced Zazen before, and they all enjoyed the solemn atmosphere of the historical temple in what was a memorable experience. After Zazen, everyone moved to the Kannon Hall and attended a Yoga



Zazen lecture by Rev. Kamata

workshop.

Mr. Akira Watamoto is one of the leading Yoga instructors in Japan, and “the world of Watamoto” creates a special atmosphere. The Yoga session lasted for an hour and a half.

In the discussion between Rev.

Kamata and Mr. Watamoto after Yoga, they talked about “releasing and receiving.” They are in two different worlds, but participants could find similarities and differences between Yoga and Buddhism that aroused their interest and curiosity.

03 Activity The 48th Jissen Fukyo Kenkyukai, BDK Buddhist Missionary Seminar at the Jodo Shu Head Temple of Chion-in

The Buddhist Missionary Seminar (BMS) encourages participants to experience and practice the path of the founders of various Japanese Buddhist schools. Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hopes participants will deepen their understanding of Buddha’s teachings by listening, thinking and sharing with everyone.

Starting from 2018, BDK began to provide more opportunities for participants to discuss and communicate with others on the day before the actual seminar dates. On June 5, 2018 at Avanti Kyoto Hall of Ryukoku University, we had a

small Bunka-kai, in which participants discussed one specific topic and later presented the results of their discussions to the whole group. 13 priests attended the study group and participated in enthusiastic discussions.

BDK hosted the 48th BMS with the theme of “Learning from Master Honen” for two nights and three days at Jodo Shu Sohonzan Chion-in in Kyoto. We welcomed 43 priests and their family members from different sects, and they practiced Nembutsu chanting and learned from lots of discussions among participants.

Rev. Yuishin Ito, the 88th Monshu head of Jodo Shu Sohonzan Chion-in Monzeki, greeted the BMS participants at the opening ceremony on the first day. On the following days, participants attended the lectures given by Rev. Tengen Tanaka, Rev. Kowa Nakamura,

and Mr. Sachiya Hiro and practiced Nembutsu chanting, etc. They also practiced Nembutsu under the bell of the temple, and completed their three-day training with calm feelings.

For more information, please visit our official website at www.bdk.or.jp



Welcome Speech given by Rev. Yuishin Ito, 88th Jodo Monshu

04 Activity Tsurumi University and BDK Co-Sponsors Seminars at Tsurumi University Hall

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) co-sponsored two seminars on the theme of thanatology, and one in English for foreign people in 2018.

“When You Are Too Tired to Think about Being Alive or Dead”

Lecturers: Rev. Tesshu Shaku and Dr. Yasufumi Nakoshi

Date: June 23, 2018

“How to Face Death”

Lecturer: Rev. Jikisai Minami

Date: September 1, 2018

“ZEN in Japanese Culture”

Lecturer: Rev. Issho Fujita

Date: October 23, 2018



Dr. Nakoshi (middle) and Rev. Shaku (right) on the stage

Tsurumi University is one of the largest Soto Shu schools in Japan and is located next to Sojiji, the Soto Zen Head Monastery in Tsurumi-ku, Yokohama-shi. The university has conducted continuing education programs and seminars for the past twenty years, and peo-

ple from the neighborhood have enjoyed a variety of lectures and seminars. With the great help of Tsurumi University, BDK hosted three seminars at Tsurumi University Hall.

For the June seminar, we invited Rev. Tesshu Shaku, who is a profes-



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sor at Soai University and is the chief priest of the Jodoshin Shu Hongwanji school Nyoraiji Temple, and Dr. Yasufumi Nakoshi, who is a psychiatrist and critic. The theme of the June seminar was “When you are too tired to think about being alive or dead.” Dr. Nobuko Maeda, vice-chancellor of Tsurumi University, facilitated the seminar and the discussion between Dr. Maeda, Rev. Shaku and Dr. Nakoshi. Their witty comments created a friendly atmosphere. For the September seminar, Rev.

Jikisai Minami, who is the chief priest of Soto Shu Reisenji Temple and Osorezan Bodaiji Temple and a winner of the Kobayashi Hideo prize for his book “*超越と実存 (Choetsu to Jitsuzon—Transcendence and Existence)*,” talked about “How to face to death.” His humorous comments made the audience laugh all the time during the seminar, but each participant had a chance to think seriously about his or her own perspectives of “death.”

The October seminar was held in

English and welcomed many foreign participants as well as Japanese who study Buddhism in English. Rev. Issho Fujita is a Soto Shu International evangelist and interpreter who has extensive experience abroad. The seminar started off with high-fives of each other. After the lecture about Zen, all participants experienced Zazen with chairs. It provided a great opportunity to learn Zen and Japanese Buddhism with different points of view for everyone.

05 Activity **Feel Buddhism: Experiencing SHIBA in Minato-ku, Tokyo on October 13, 2018**

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) is located in the Shiba area of Minato-ku, Tokyo, and Shiba has historical temples of various schools. Under the co-sponsorship of temples in the Shiba area, the Minato Travel and Tourism Association and the Japan Buddhist Federation, BDK hosted a one-day field trip visiting the temples located in Shiba, Minato-ku with the theme of feeling the teachings of each Buddhist school.

“Feel Buddhism” consisted of a morning tour and an afternoon tour. The morning tour was based on “feeling the atmosphere of temples and experiencing Zazen.” The one in the afternoon was “experiencing Buddhist chanting, dharma talks, Ajikan meditation and communication.”

For the morning group, participants first visited Zojoji Temple, the chief temple of the Jodo Buddhist Sect, located in Shiba-Koen, Minato-ku, and toured the precincts of the temple. After the visit to Zojoji, everyone moved to Seishoji Temple in Atago, Minato-ku. Seishoji is one of the most historical Soto Shu tem-

ples in Tokyo, and people enjoyed Zazen in the solemn atmosphere of the temple.

For the afternoon group, everyone visited Komyoji, a Jodoshin Shu Hongwanji school temple in Toranomon, Minato-ku, and chanted a Buddhist sutra together and listened to dharma talks. After the visit to Komyoji, participants moved to Shinpukuji Temple, a Shingon Shu Chizan School temple in Atago, Minato-ku, and experienced Ajikan meditation. About 30 people gathered at Shinpukuji after



Gathering at Shinpukuji

all those visits and had tea while talking to each other along with priests.

For more information, please visit our official website at www.bdk.or.jp

06

Activity

An Experiential Tour of Death with the Tastes of Buddhist Desserts at Bukkyo Dendo Center Building on November 10, 2018

This special event welcomed Rev. Tetsuya Urakami, chief priest of Jodoshin Shu Nagomian temple, as the facilitator of the “experiential tour of death,” and Rev. Yuken Kihara from Komyoji Temple of Jodoshin Shu Hongwanji School, who provided “Buddhist desserts.”



Rev. Urakami (left) and Rev. Kihara (right) with “Buddhist desserts”



Participants wrote down important things for life



Participants shared stories after the workshop

The “Experiential Tour of Death” was originally created for those who work at hospices in Europe and the U.S. to help them understand the feelings of loss and suffering of dying patients. It is said that you can face your real self and the families of patients by simulating the experience of fear and sorrow. Rev. Urakami adjusted the workshop in his own way to make people think about “what is life and death to you?” “what is the most important thing for your life?” by

telling stories of what some people have gone through. He usually invites a small number of people in a regular workshop, however, this special opportunity welcomed more than 40 people.

After the workshop, participants enjoyed seven different kinds of “Buddhist desserts” at a buffet table (*Zenzai*, sweet red bean soup; *Sudachi* citrus jelly; *Yuba* chips, which are deep-fried soymilk skin; Milk jelly with cranberry jam; *SO*, a milk curd

with Bodhi-tree honey and sliced lemon; dried apples; and mixed organic nuts) with decaffeinated drinks prepared by Rev. Yuken Kihara. Rev. Kihara served each participant *Zenzai* one by one with friendly comments. We all need to eat something every day to stay alive. This event provided an opportunity for participants to rethink about “eating” in their daily lives in a comfortable setting.



07 Activity

Special Zazen Retreat at Soto Zen Sojiji Head Monastery on November 18, 2018

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) held a special event combining Zazen, Yoga and Shojin Ryori (Buddhist vegetarian food) at Sojiji to provide more opportunities for people to experience Buddhist culture and its spirit as we had in 2016 and 2017.

2018 was our third year of holding a special Zazen event at Sojiji, and we again welcomed Mr. Go Sato, a Yoga instructor. About 100 people, including seven elementary school children, participated in the event.

For the previous times in 2016 and 2017, we started the Yoga workshop first. This time, however, we started with a dharma talk by Rev. Komyo Hanawa from Sojiji. He explained the history of Sojiji and the teachings of Soto Zen as well as Shojin Ryori (Buddhist vegetarian food). After his talk, participants learned how to sit, experienced Zazen at the Zazen hall and came back to the main hall to practice Yoga. After Yoga, those who were interested in experiencing the Buddhist way of vegetarian food enjoyed the authentic Sojiji style of a Shojin Ryori lunch and visited some



Lecture about Zazen by Rev. Hanawa

halls in Sojiji. The children seemed to be having fun at a big temple for a day. BDK will continue to improve the content of each event so that more people including kids can easily access and learn about Buddhism.

For more information, please visit our official website at www.bdk.or.jp



Yoga instruction by Mr. Sato

08 Activity

Other BDK Related Lectures, Classes, and Events – Update for 2018

One of the missions of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) 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

This lecture series was established mainly for business people who desire

a background in Buddhism to help them operate and manage their busi-

nesses with opportunities to learn about the spirit of compassion and the wisdom of Buddhism. For 2018, we welcomed Rev. Tozen Nakano, head priest of Soto Shu Ryuhoji Temple, and Rev. Gishun Yamada, head priest of Jodoshin Shu Rinkoji Temple, and hosted a monthly lecture on every third Wednesday at 6pm.

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 TTOB. The lectures were held in a relaxed atmosphere during the day and were delivered by Rev. Ryojo Shioiri, head priest of Shokannon Shu Sensoji Hozenin Temple, and Prof. Rev. Ichigyo Oyama of Musashino University. We hosted a monthly lecture

on every fourth Tuesday at 1:30pm.

Buddhist Yoga

The two aspects of Buddhism and Yoga can help in developing a calm and healthy life. BDK hopes that more people can easily connect to Buddhism through Yoga, and has held monthly Yoga classes since 2015. For 2018, we invited Rev. Yuuka Gazzo, vice head priest of Jodo Shu Seiganji Temple as our instructor again. She combines her dharma talks and Yoga along with a monthly theme.

For more information about Buddhist Yoga, please refer to P. 35 to P. 37, “Take a Break – Buddhist Yoga for people in the Modern World.”



Lecture by Rev. Shioiri



Lecture by Rev. Yamada

Activity 09 Elementary Course of Buddhist Lectures on “Japanese Buddhism – Learning from Scratch” in Shibuya!

2018 is our third year of holding this series of lectures, and we changed the venue to Shibuya for the year 2018.

The lectures are about the basics of each school in terms of its principles, history and the life of each founder with dharma talks about each lecturer’s own experience and

beliefs. As we held the seminar in Shibuya, where we had not had activities before, more new people attended and had more chances to come into contact with Buddhism.

For 2019, we are in Ikebukuro (TKP Garden City PREMIUM Ikebukuro) and continue providing a precious opportunity for more people.

From Beginner to Intermediate level – Special Lecture About Nara Buddhism and Heian Buddhism

BDK received many requests from previous participants that they

would like to learn more deeply about Japanese Buddhism, and we

therefore held a special lecture about “Nara Buddhism and Heian



BDK JAPAN NEWS 2018

Buddhism” at the Bukkyo Dendo Center Building on January 29, 2018.

The first part of the lecture was about Hosso Shu delivered by Rev. Tetsujo Ohtani from Yakushiji Temple in Nara. He prepared a detailed resume and booklet for each participant and explained about the various schools of Nara Buddhism and their histories as well as vijñapti-mātratā.

The second part of the lecture was a discussion by three Buddhist priests; Rev. Tetsujo Ohtani, Rev. Ryojo Shioiri from Shokannon Shu Sensoji Hozenin Temple and Rev. Ryukai Matsushima from Koyasan Shingon Shu Kudokuin Temple.



Rev. Ohtani, Rev. Shioiri and Rev. Matsushima (from the left)

They discussed the differences between Nara Buddhism and Heian Buddhism, the relationship with Shinto, and the future of Japanese

Buddhism. 70 people participated in the event and enjoyed the detailed lectures.

Lectures in 2018

Month	Theme	Lecturer
Apr.	Tendai Shu Founder Saicho	Rev. Ryojo Shioiri, Sensoji Hozenin Temple
May	Shingon Shu Founder Kukai	Rev. Ryukai Matsushima, Kudokuin Temple
Jun.	Jodo Shu Founder Honen	Rev. Tatsuo Yoshida, Banryuji Temple
Jul.	Jodoshin Shu Founder Shinran	Rev. Shingyo Saito, Zenryuji Temple
Sep.	Nichiren Shu Founder Nichiren	Rev. Eikan Hayashima, Myotokuji Temple
Oct.	Rinzai Shu Founder Eisai	Rev. Shinsuke Hosokawa, Ryuunji Temple
Nov.	Soto Shu Founder Dogen	Rev. Kakudo Shimomuro, Yokokuji Temple



Rev. Shioiri



Rev. Matsushima



Rev. Yoshida



Rev. Saito



Rev. Hayashima



Rev. Hosokawa



Rev. Shimomuro

10 Activity Buddhism Through English – Update for 2018 BTE Students Volunteered as English Guides at WFB World Buddhist Conference

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) offers the Buddhism Through English (BTE) course, which was started in 2011, and many attendees have continued learning Buddhist ideas through English in Level 2 and Level 3 courses. For 2018, 38 students completed the Level 2 course, and 15 successfully finished Level 2.

In 2018, The World Fellowship of Buddhists (WFB) hosted the 29th WFB World Buddhist Conference, the 20th WFBY World Young Buddhist Conference, and the 11th World Buddhist University (WBU) Conference in Narita-shi, Chiba-prefecture as well as at Soto Zen Sojiji Head Monastery in Tsurumi-ku, Yokohama-city from November 5 to 9, 2018. BDK invited 27 volunteers from our past BTE students who had successfully passed those courses, and they helped 300 people from 15 countries with their knowledge and language ability.

BDK also has recommended those who finished Level 2 to temples in Tokyo that needed the help of English guide volunteers. For the year 2018, six BTE graduates volunteered at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple. We will continue to man-



BTE student volunteers at WFB World Buddhist Conference

age and improve this program to enable others to actively contribute with their language ability.

For more information about BDK lectures, classes, and events, please visit our official website at www.bdk.or.jp



11 Activity

2018 BDK Symposium

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) invited a variety of accomplished people as our lecturers, and sponsored events for the 2018 BDK Symposium listed below.

The 15th BDK Symposium held on August 30, 2018 in Hiroshima

Theme : “Scenes of Buddhism by Bedsides – with patients, families and medical workers.”

Lecturer : Rev. Norihiro Nagakura, chief priest of Jodoshin Shu Hongwanji School Zenpukuji Temple, and lecturer of Shiga University of Medical Science



The 15th (Rev. Nagakura)

Rev. Nagakura, the 47th BDK Cultural Award Numata Shorei-Sho winner, gave a lecture about terminal and palliative care. He talked about “taking care of patients with an appreciation that resonates with each other. Buddhism gives meaning to life and creates chances for savoring medical care, Buddhism and life. That is the reason why Buddhism and medical care can work together.”

*Entrance fees for the 15th BDK Symposium were donated to “Japan Floods and Landslides 2018” through the headquarters for emergency disaster

control in the Aki-area of Hiroshima.

The 16th BDK Symposium held on February 13, 2019 in Tokyo

Theme : “Deciphering Japanese History – The Mystery of Japanese Buddhism.”

Lecturer : Prof. Atsushi Kawai, Visiting Professor of Tama University, and lecturer of Waseda University

Prof. Kawai explained how Buddhism developed in Japanese history through the relations between Buddhism and historical figures. His bestselling book “「お寺」で読み解く日本史の謎 (Deciphering Temples – The Mystery of Japanese History)” and his TV show “世界一受けたい授業 (The Most Popular Lecture)” are drawing a lot of attention in Japan.



The 16th (Mr. Kawai)

The 17th BDK Symposium held on March 6, 2019 in Aichi

Theme : “A Gift for You – The Path of Life”

Lecturer : Rev. Shundo Aoyama, head priest of Aichi Senmon Nisodo Shobo-ji

Canceled due to lecturer’s personal reasons.

The 18th BDK Symposium held on March 19, 2019 in Tokyo

Theme : “Consent to History, Wonders of Buddhist Statues – Origins of Buddha”

Lecturer : Prof. Satoshi Yabuuchi, Sculptor, Professor of Tokyo University of the Arts



The 18th (Prof. Yabuuchi)

The form of “Buddhist statues” varies and the reason can be found in history. Prof. Yabuuchi, who is a creator of “Sento-kun,” the mascot character for celebrating the 1,300th year of the old capital of Nara, explained why.

For more information about BDK Symposium, please visit our official website at www.bdk.or.jp

12 Activity “Mita Rakugo-Kai Big-Thanks Festival” at Hamarikyū Asahi Hall on June 9, 2018

The festival consisted of two performances, one in the afternoon and another one at night. The matinee performance featured Mr. Gontaro Yanagiya, Mr. Risho Takigawa, Mr. Sentatsu Irifunetei, and Mr. Hakushu Togetsuan. The night performance featured Mr. Sankyo Yanagiya, Mr. Iccho Shunputei, Mr. Shinji Tsuyuno, and Mr. Sanza Yanagiya. Joke after joke threw the audiences into convulsions of laughter, and the festival ended as a success.

Mita Rakugo-Kai used to be hosted by Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) at the Bukkyo Dendo Center Building in Minato-ku, Tokyo, but



Rakugo master, Mr. Sankyo Yanagiya

the event is now hosted by MIT Gathering Co. Ltd. and Nippon Cultural Broadcasting Inc. from October 2018 with BDK supporting the event.

For more information about Mita Rakugo-Kai, please visit the official website at mita-rakugo.com

13 Activity Third Year Memorial Service for the late Rev. Toshihide Numata, Former BDK Chairman, and BDK Memorial Service for the Deceased at Bukkyo Dendo Center Building on February 14, 2019

It has been two years and the third time of holding the memorial service since the late Rev. Toshihide Numata, the former Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) Chairman, passed away in February 2016. BDK hosted a memorial service for the third year anniversary as well as for the deceased who contributed to the work of BDK. About 100 people attended and reminisced about Rev.

Numata and other people during the ceremony and dinner.

The memorial service was led by Rev. Norio Numata, chief priest of Jodoshin Shu Hongwanji School Jorenji Temple. Rev. Koshin Ohtani, Zenmon of Jodoshin Shu Hongwanji School, Rev. Taiho Fukuyama, Kanshu of Soto Shu Daihonzan Eiheiji Temple, and Rev. Shotoku Tanaka, Kansu of

Shokannon Shu Sensoji Temple, offered incense and prayers, followed by Mr. Yoshiaki Numata, son of Rev. Toshihide Numata and President of Mitutoyo Corporation. All the attendees followed after that.

Rev. Shoryu Katsura, President of BDK, gave a dharma talk, and Mr. Yoshiaki Numata greeted everyone with appreciation. After his speech, everyone sang “Mihotoke ni



BDK JAPAN NEWS 2018

Idakarete (Embraced by Amida Buddha).”

Rev. Sikoh-Kiyotaka Kimura, Chairman of BDK, gave the opening remarks at the beginning of the dinner. Mr. Toru Nakagawa, Chairman of Mitutoyo Corporation, offered a toast, and Mr. Harumi Aoki ended the event with his speech.



Rev. Katsura



Mr. Nakagawa



Everyone sang together “Mihotoke ni Idakarete”

14 Activity Newly Installed Capsule Toy Vending Machine - Model Figure of Buddhist Statues

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) installed a vending machine featuring capsule toy Buddhist statues with commentary leaflets on the first floor of the Bukkyo Dendo Center Building in Minato-ku, Tokyo.

The leaflets have information about each Buddhist statue and its affiliated temples, and visitors to the building enjoyed them. BDK changes the model figures every month, and messages placed beside the machine are also updated monthly.

**BDK held the Cultural Awards ceremony on October 4, 2018 and the Numata Shorei-Sho winner, Mr. Jun Miura (left) and his colleague, Mr. Seiko Ito (right) visited the machine and had their photo taken.*



Mr. Miura (left) and Mr. Ito (right) in front of the machine on the first floor of BDK Cente Building

Take a Break

Buddhist YOGA for People in the Modern World

“BDK Buddhist Yoga” marked its 5th year since it started in 2015. The combination of Yoga and Buddhism has been popular among people who seek to have a healthy life-style and are interested in Buddhism and its culture as well.

At the end of the fourth year, we asked some questions of our instructor, Rev. Yuuka Gazzo, who came back from her maternity leave at the end of 2018. She introduced three poses for the morning, afternoon and night with some tips about nurturing good feelings throughout the day.



Buddhist Yoga instructed by Rev. Gazzo

Welcome back to BDK Buddhist Yoga and congratulations on your baby!

How was your 2018?

Thank you! 2018 was a big year for me because I had so many changes in my life since I gave birth to my child. I was a little bit anxious because I was away from the front stage for almost half a year and made everyone who was looking forward to my Yoga classes anxious because of my absence. However, my colleague instructor, Sayuri, who was in charge of the BDK Buddhist Yoga instead of

myself for five months, really focused on what we are doing and she did a wonderful job. I truly appreciate her effort!

Although I was trying to do Yoga everyday before and after I gave birth, it was difficult to manage my own body and that was surprising to me. Ever since I started doing Yoga, I have never felt that way, and I really had to face up to my body and mind.

I got nervous with morning sickness, gained weight, felt anxiety from my pregnancy and had to deal with so many other things. However, I tried not to fall into a depression of feeling as if I could not do anything and was able to face myself. I could focus on what I was doing and enjoyed practicing my Yoga even more.

Wow! It is really a changing of the way you think!

But you were nervous for a long six months?

Yes. I was very nervous about not having been in front of a lot of people for a long time when I came back to the BDK Buddhist Yoga in November 2018. However, right after I looked at everyone in the class, those feelings disappeared and I felt that I was even more powerful than before. I truly appreciate everyone who gave me this opportunity and welcomed me again just as it had been before. Now I can talk about how much fun Yoga can be after my own precious experience of pregnancy and childbirth, and believe that I will be able to teach this class with greater depth.



Dharma talk given by Rev. Gazzo

We are looking forward to the 2019 classes, too!

Could you tell us your 2019 slogan for this class?

“Anytime and anywhere!” (with a big smile). You won’t be able to start anything if you just wait for the perfect situation for getting started. Yoga does not require a special place or tool. You can start NOW being just who you are. Stop making excuses and just start doing it! After you keep at it for a week, it will turn into your daily habit. Of course, you should consider your health condition at first, and I do not want anyone to force themselves if they are sick. However, please just show up if you are healthy

enough to do Yoga and sign up for the BDK Buddhist Yoga even for just a single session though you might not feel like doing Yoga after a long day. Participants frequently tell me, “I felt so energetic after class even though I was exhausted from hard work and did not want to come to the class.” I would like to suggest that everyone come to a class without thinking of anything or making any excuses. Fortunately, we human beings can desire to make an effort. To control your breath, close your eyes, or chant

Nembutsu, you can incorporate those things into your daily life. For this year, I strongly recommend that you start doing Yoga anytime and anywhere without planning.

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“BDK Buddhist Yoga” is held monthly in 2019 under the instruction of Rev. Yuuka Gazzo. Please feel free to make a reservation on the scheduled day and find out more about “BDK Buddhist Yoga” on our official website at <http://www.bdk.or.jp>.



Profile Yuuka (Rev. Yuuka Gazzo)

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

Rev. Gazzo practiced at Jodo Shu Daihonzan Zoji Temple and has 13 years of Yoga teaching experience. She gave birth to a baby girl in 2018. She teaches people how to have a calm and healthy life style and explains the possibilities of Yoga and Buddhism in the modern world. She also participates in the training of Yoga instructors and frequently appears in TV commercials, magazines, etc. in Japan.

Yuuka’s Official Website <https://terayoga.amebaownd.com/>

Let's Try Some Yoga Poses!



Important Points about Trying a Yoga Pose

Try to relax your body.

Breathe slowly and deeply through your nose five times per pose.



A Yoga Pose for Energetic Mornings

Upward Salute - **Urdhva Hasta Asana**

How to

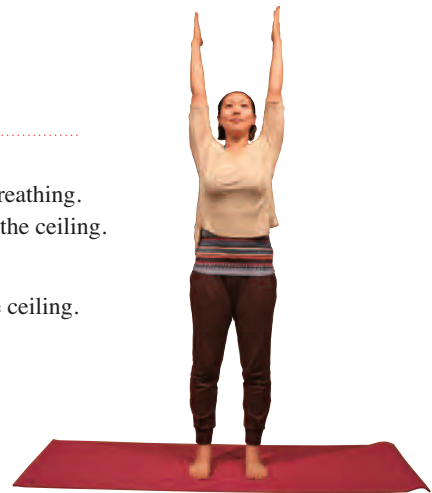
Stand straight and bring your arms up towards the ceiling while breathing. Try to hold your shoulders down and push your hands forward to the ceiling.

Point

Stand firmly on the floor and stretch your entire body to touch the ceiling.

What this is good for

Inhaling fresh air and absorbing the sunlight.
Feel the energy of mornings.



A Yoga Pose for Powerful Afternoons

Warrior 2 - **Virabhadrasana 2**

How to

Straddle your legs and turn the right toe at a 90 degree angle outwards and keep the left toe pointing inward. Bend your right knee and stretch both arms and keep your eyes to the right.

Point

Turn your right knee with the toe pointed in the same direction. Try not to direct it inward. Straighten your back and remain vertical to the floor.

What this is good for

Try to pretend like you are a warrior!
Stand firmly on the floor and awaken the power deep inside of yourself.



A Yoga Pose For Relaxing Nights

Reclining Bound Angle - **Baddhakonasana**

How to

Bend both knees outward. Bring your heels gently together and straighten your back. Put your hands in a comfortable position.

Point

Loosen up your shoulders and relax.
Bend your body forward toward your feet if you feel comfortable.
Breathe deeply.

What this is good for

Calming the nerves and healing your tired body.
Long and quiet breathing can help you fall asleep smoothly.



BDK Affiliated Organization Activities

BDK AMERICA

BDK HAWAII

BDK CANADA

BDK MEXICO

BDK SOUTH AMERICA

BDK ASIA

BDK TAIWAN

BDK EUROPE

BDK UK

BDK POLAND



BDK Affiliated Organization Activities

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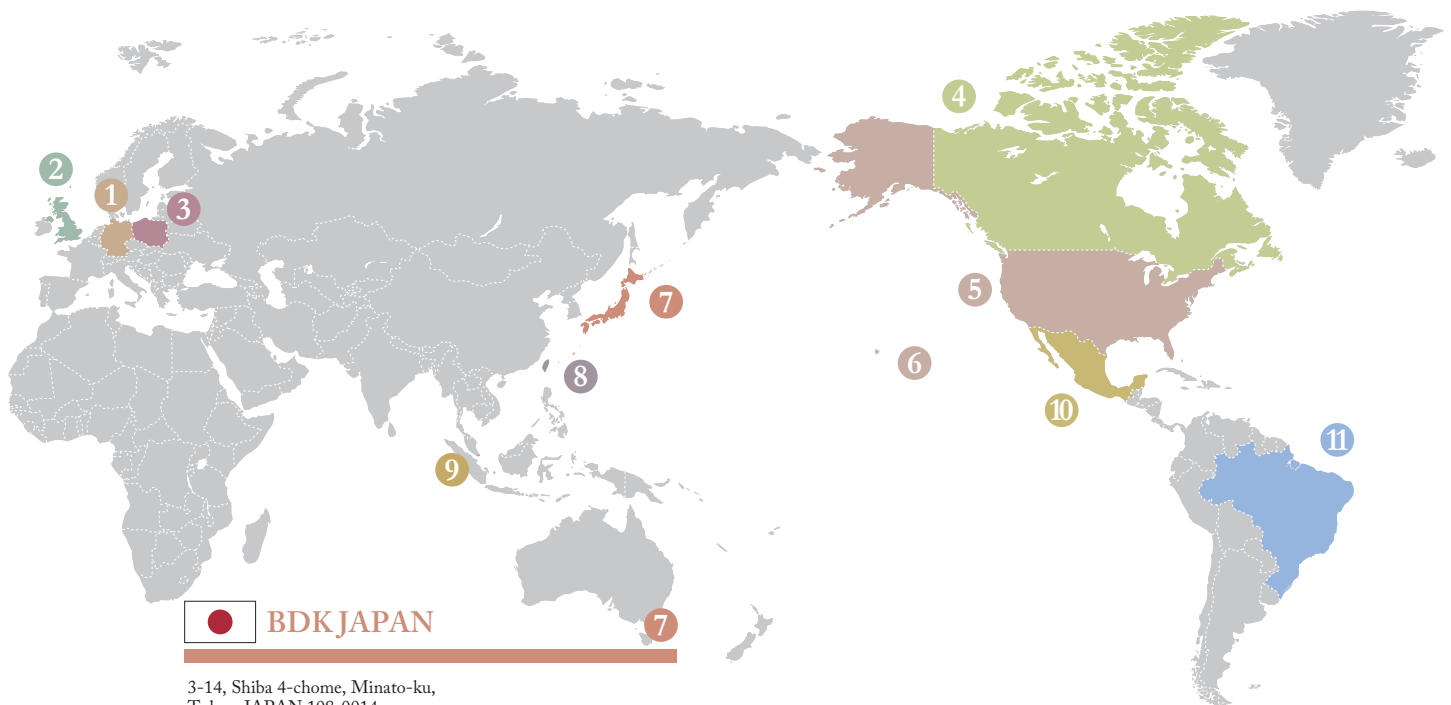
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BDK America Celebrates 40th Anniversary

On May 2, 2018, we began with a special service conducted by BCA Bishop Kodo Umezu and BDK President Shoryu Katsura. After the service, we hosted a luncheon reception at our office in Moraga. In addition to guests from the Bay Area, we welcomed BDK President Shoryu Katsura, Executive Director Harumi Aoki, and members of the Tokyo Editorial Committee headed by Dr. Kenneth Tanaka. It was a beautiful day, and everyone enjoyed the food, friendship and entertainment under a large tent in the back of our property. After the reception, we held our annual meeting of the Board of Directors and Advisors.

On May 3rd, we sponsored an all-day symposium on the topic of Translating Buddhist Texts at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Jan Nattier, a noted translator of Buddhist texts, followed by presentations by Prof. Stefano Zacchetti, the Yehan Numata Professor at Oxford University, Prof. Paul Harrison of Stanford University, Dr. Kenneth



Presenters at a symposium on the topic of "Translating Buddhist Texts"

Tanaka of Musashino University, and Dr. Charles Muller of Tokyo University and Chairman of the BDK America Publication Committee. After the symposium, we enjoyed a dinner with about 35 guests at the Hotel Shattuck in Berkeley.

On May 4th, the Tokyo Editorial Committee and the BDK America Publication Committee met to discuss ways of improving the work of translating Tripitaka texts. The meeting was held at our Berkeley office building, and from there we went on a tour of the wine country in Napa. During the three days of business and



Rev. Katsura's speech at the ceremony

pleasure, we affirmed BDK's basic mission of promoting a better understanding of Buddhism in the modern world.

BDK Establishes Numata Program at Princeton University

BDK sponsors Numata Programs in Buddhist Studies at 15 universities throughout the world and added a 16th program in 2018 at Princeton University. BDK President Shoryu Katsura led a delegation from BDK Japan and BDK America at the signing ceremony held on April 30. The inaugural celebration also included a tour of rare Buddhist manuscripts in the Princeton Library, and a symposium

followed by a dinner. The addition of the Princeton program enhances BDK's reputation of being

the single most important sponsor of Buddhist studies at major research universities.



Participants at the signing ceremony

Numata Program Coordinators' Meeting

Every year, the coordinators of the Numata Program in Buddhist Studies at American and Canadian universities meet in a special session held in conjunction with the annual conference of the American Academy of Religion. In 2018, the meeting was held on November 16 in Denver, Colorado. Program coordinators reported on their activities, which included hosting visiting professors, sponsoring conferences,

supporting research projects and administering fellowships for advanced graduate students.



"Numata Program in Buddhist Studies" coordinators at American and Canadian universities

Toshihide Numata Book Award in Buddhism On November 9, 2018



Prof. Tzohar

The "Toshi Book Award" for the best book published in 2018 on Buddhist studies was awarded to Professor Roy Tzohar of Tel Aviv University for his book, A

Yogacara Buddhist Theory of Metaphor (Oxford University Press). The prize is administered by the Buddhist Studies Program at UC Berkeley and is awarded annually. The award ceremony was held on November 9 at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. Professor Tzohar gave a lecture about his

research, and it was followed by a lively discussion led by three scholars invited for the occasion. Initiated in 2010, the Toshihide Numata Book Award in Buddhism is now recognized as the premier award recognizing the research and publication of Buddhist scholars throughout the world.



BDK Hawaii Celebrates 40th Anniversary



All Buddhist Gathering at the Pacific Buddhist Academy

Like BDK America, BDK Hawaii was established in 1978 and celebrated its 40th Anniversary in 2018. Representatives from Japan were led by BDK President Shoryu Katsura and Executive Director Harumi Aoki. Three days of events began with our annual meeting of directors and advisors held on March 9.

On March 10, an All-Buddhist Gathering took place at the Pacific Buddhist Academy. This was a gathering of representatives from the many Buddhist groups that are in Hawaii. A total of 45 participants rep-

resenting 23 different organizations attended the all-day meeting to discuss the challenges and promises faced by Buddhist temples and lay organizations. This was the first time in the modern history of Hawaii that so many different Buddhist organizations came together for a meeting.

After the All-Buddhist Gathering, invited guests attended our 40th anniversary dinner at the Koolau Ballroom located at the foothills of the beautiful Koolau mountains in windward Oahu. President Katsura joined BDK Hawaii President George

Tanabe in welcoming the guests. Dinner was followed by entertainment provided by ukulele and guitar master Benny Uyetake, and songs and hula dances by students from the Pacific Buddhist Academy.

On March 11, George Tanabe hosted a lunch at his home in Waialua, an old sugar plantation town on the north shore of Oahu. The group visited Waialua Hongwanji, the temple at which Yehan Numata lived and worked before going to California to complete his education.



All Buddhist Gathering at the Pacific Buddhist Academy



Visit to Waialua Hongwanji



Directors and advisors of BDK Hawaii



Ukulele and guitar master, Mr. Benny Uyetake



Prof. Wilson

BDK-Fujitani Interfaith Program

On April 29, the BDK-Fujitani Interfaith Program sponsored a public lecture given by Professor Jeff Wilson. Professor Wilson teaches at Renison University in Canada and was the Numata Visiting Professor at the University of

Hawaii in the spring of 2018. The event was held at Chaminade University, a Catholic institution in Honolulu, and he spoke on the topic of Buddhism in the Age of the Refugee.

Banner Exhibition about Buddhist Temples in Hawaii

This exhibition consists of 12 large banners depicting various aspects of Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawaii. It explores the traditional and unique architecture of temples, the sectarian founders, major objects of worship, temple art and furnishings, objects unique to Hawaii, and other aspects of the 90 temples that still exist in Hawaii. The exhibition was held at the Hilo Hongwanji in conjunction with their Bon Dance on July 13-14, and later moved to Hilo Taishoji Soto Temple. From Hilo, the exhibition was sent to the San Diego Buddhist Temple in California, where it was displayed on September 15-16. This banner exhibition is co-sponsored by BDK America and BDK Hawaii.



Banner Exhibition



A Reflection on the “Buddhism and Ritual Performance in Pre-Modern Japan Workshop” at McGill University Sponsored by BDK Canada and McGill University

On September 28, 2018, McGill University’s School of Religious Studies (SRS) hosted a one-day workshop on “Buddhism and Ritual Performance” organized by Professor Mikaël Bauer of McGill University. The workshop received continued support from BDK Canada and McGill’s Centre for Research on Religion (CREOR). Scholars from Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom explored the relationship between Buddhism and ritual performance in Pre-Modern Japan from the perspectives of literature, art history, history, anthropology, and Buddhist studies.

Throughout the day, scholars delved into Buddhist material culture, as an inquiry of the ways in which ritual performance represented and reshaped Buddhism in pre-modern Japan.



Participants visited the collection of rare books and antiques at McLennan library

During the lunch break, Professor Bauer took the speakers to McGill’s McLennan library to visit the collection of rare books and antiques, including the copy of the Hyakumanto Dhāraṇī (百萬塔陀羅尼經) acquired by McGill in 1968 and the 15th century Yuima-e Shoya Kengaku ku-shaku (維摩會初夜研學矩釋), an Ashikaga(Muromachi)-period manu-

script acquired in 2018.

The workshop continued in the afternoon. Prof. Bauer shared with the speakers and the audience his current research on Jion’e and ritual performances in the Hōsso School, and Prof. Aaron Proffitt of Albany University closed the workshop. After the workshop, the guests had a dinner at McGill University.



Donation of “Budda is Our Teacher” at the Commencement of Alva Edison University

Rev. Joshin Todaka, Mexico Ekoji head priest and professor emeritus of Alva Edison University in Mexico City, was invited to the commencement on July 30, 2018. He joined Mr. Jorge Leon, chancellor of Alva Edison University, Mr. Jaime G. Castaneda, chairman of the board of education for the state of Puebla and Mr. Apolinar

J. Morales, an army officer, in handing out the graduation certificates as well as copies of “Buddha is Our Teacher” to each student.

It is not hard to imagine that most young people in the modern world try to satisfy their own material desires and to have no interest in spiritual education. Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai



Handed out “Buddha is Our Teache” to each student

(BDK) Mexico tries to develop students' hearts and teaches how to control their desires. Also, BDK Mexico teaches the importance of how we should live in society.

Alva Edison University emphasizes the education of morality and discipline. Therefore, "Buddha is Our Teacher" can be a great book for their lives and we hope that it brightens their future.



Rev. Todaka (fourth from the right) on the stage

BDK Asia



"The Teaching of Buddha" Distribution at the Metalex Exhibition 2018

On November 21-24, 2018, Mitutoyo Thailand, which manages the activities of BDK Asia, exhibited Mitutoyo products at the "Metalex Exhibition" at Bitec Bangna in Thailand. In a Mitutoyo Booth, BDK Asia promoted "The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)" to

their customers, dealers and visitors who attended this event.

BDK Asia distributed copies of "The

Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)" to 400 interested people during the four days of the exhibition.



TTOB at Mitutoyo booth



Handed out TTOBs to visitors

"The Teaching of Buddha" Distribution to Senior Aerospace Ltd.

Senior Aerospace (Thailand) Limited in Thailand, one of Mitutoyo's valued customers that has over 60 units of Mitutoyo CMM, is very interested in Buddhism.

On December 20, 2018, BDK Asia

distributed "The Teaching of Buddha" in celebration of the New Year o 2019 to Senior Aerospace. A total of 520 copies in Thai and 20 copies in English-Japanese were distributed.



Mr. Matsuike, Director of Mitutoyo Thailand (left) and Ms. Tassaneewan, HR Manager of Senior Aerospace (right)



Visit to National Chengchi University in Taiwan December 5, 2018

In order to establish a Numata Program in Buddhist Studies at National Chengchi University in the future, President Shoryu Katsura and Executive Director Harumi Aoki from BDK Japan visited Taiwan in December, 2018. On December 5th, they visited Professor Chen-Kuo Lin of the Department of Philosophy at

National Chengchi University and agreed to establish a supporting program at the university. This is the first

attempt to establish a Numata Program for Buddhist Studies at a university in Asia.



Campus of National Chengchi University



At the Department of Philosophy at National Chengchi University

BDK Taiwan Board of Directors Meeting On December 6, 2018

BDK Taiwan holds its Board of Directors meetings every two years, and the latest meeting took place on December 6, 2018. Mr. Harumi Aoki, Executive Director of BDK Japan, described BDK activities taking place all over the world and Professor Ben-

Hang Chang, President of BDK Taiwan and a famous calligrapher, also gave a lecture on "Footprints from Tradition to New Technology." It was a very meaningful time for everyone who attended the meeting.



Participants of BDK Taiwan Board of Directors meeting

Welcoming a New Member of BDK Taiwan!



Ms. Fu

My name is Fu Yuchuan, and I am now responsible for the Taiwan branch of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK Taiwan). I help with the promotion of "The Teaching of Buddha

(TTOB).” Being a native to Taiwan, I am fully aware that almost everyone is familiar

with Buddhism and I certainly will do my best to carry out this meaningful work. Thank you!

TTOB Distribution from January to December 2018

	ENG/CHINESE	ENG/JAPANESE	Total
Volumes	3,959	264	4,223

Signing Ceremony at Leiden University in the Netherlands concerning the Numata Program in Buddhist Studies

On July 5, 2018, Prof. Shōryu Katsura (BDK President), Mr. Harumi Aoki (BDK Executive Director), Rev. Shōjun Ogi (BDK) and Prof. Hisao Matsumaru (Director of EKO House of Japanese Culture) visited Leiden in the Netherlands and were welcomed by Prof. J. Silk, who holds the Numata Chair for Buddhist Studies at Leiden University. Firstly, they visited the university library and saw especially some historic exhibits concerning old Japan, guided by Ms. N. Kreeft (Subject Librarian and Curator). Then, in the presence of Prof. M. Rutgers (Dean of the Faculty of Humanities), Prof. Silk and other people concerned, Prof. C. Stolker (Rector of Leiden University) and Prof. Katsura signed a contract about the Numata fund in a time-honored memorial hall of the university. The Numata Chair for Buddhist Studies at Leiden University was established on March, 1991. Since



Signing ceremony at Leiden University : Rev. Katsura (second from the right) and Prof. Silk (right)

that time BDK has provided the chair with funds in order to maintain it financially. As this fund now has reached a certain amount of accumulated capital, this signing ceremony was held to recognize that this chair program will be maintained for a long time based on this reserved capital.

The attendees recognized the great importance of the Numata Chair at the historic Faculty of Humanities of Leiden University. After the ceremony, a luncheon party was hosted by Leiden University in an agreeable atmosphere on a very summery day.

Numata Program Coordinators' Meeting

The 2018 meeting of the coordinators of Numata Chair programs in Europe took place at EKO House on July 7. In this meeting, the coordinators, Prof. S. Döll (University of Hamburg), Prof. J. Silk (Leiden University), Prof. K. D. Mathes (University of Vienna), Prof. S. Zacchetti (University of Oxford) and Prof. L. Dolce (University of London), gave presentations concerning the Numata Chair program at each of their universities and exchanged views among the participants.



"Numata Program in Buddhist Studies" coordinators at European universities

Memorial Service and Charity Concert for Victims of the East Japan Great Earthquake

On March 11, 2018, we held a memorial service for the victims of the East Japan Great Earthquake of seven years ago. About 50 people representing many nationalities attended the memorial service at EKO temple. After the service, some professional musicians, teachers, selected pupils and their parents from the Düsseldorf Music Studio, performed a charity concert at EKO Hall in collaboration with KAWAI Europe. About 120 people attended. In addition, Ms. Mariko Fuchs was invited to the concert as MC and guest speaker. She gave us a vivid account about the current situation in the disaster area where many people are still living in evacuation centers. A contribution



Memorial service conducted at EKO temple

from the participants in the amount of €800.62, was donated to a nonprofit organization, “Children’s Village Tōhoku,” which is active in support-

ing many children who cannot live together with their families because of the disaster.

Ullambana Service & Eye-witness Report by a Survivor of the Hiroshima Atomic Bombing

On August 11, 2018, we held the Ullambana Service at the EKO temple and about 70 people took part in it. We chanted the “Amida-Sutra,” listened to Dharma talks in German and Japanese and to the “Gobunshō” (Rennyō’s letters).

After the service, Mr. Michimasa Hirata gave a presentation titled “～The Testimony～ the Day on which I became a HIBAKUSHA (atomic bomb survivor).” Mr. Hirata is one of the last eyewitnesses of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. He was exposed to radiation at that time. Regardless of age, sex, or nationality, about 100 people listened to his report and seemed to be deeply impressed. This lecture ended with a dramatic appeal to convey this touching story

about the deep grief of war to the next generations so that this tragedy may never be repeated. The presentation was translated into German at the same time.



Mr. Hirata (right)



Presentation “～The Testimony～ the Day on which I became a HIBAKUSHA (atomic bomb survivor)”

The 50th Anniversary Celebration of Mitutoyo Europe

Mitutoyo Europe celebrated its 50th anniversary on September 17 and 18, 2018. Over two days, about 280 guests from Germany and other European countries participated in the ceremony. At the ceremony held at Areal Böhler, some of the invited guests gave us interesting presentations. The Japanese Consul General, Masato Iso, delivered a short speech as well. After the ceremony, guests had chances to experience Mitutoyo's measuring products. Later they visited the EKO House in Düsseldorf and were officially welcomed by Prof. Matsumaru, director of EKO House, and listened to an explanation about the foundation of the EKO Cultural Center by Rev. Nottelmann.

Under a blue sky in the portico of the temple, the Taiko Ensemble WADŌKYŌ enchanted the guests with an energetic drumming performance. The celebration ended in the evening with a gala dinner party held at Hotel Nikko in Düsseldorf. On the first evening of the party, guests from outside of Germany were invited, and those within Germany were invited on the next

evening. Prof. Matsumaru, Ms. Ehhard (Chief of EKO Kindergarten) and Rev. Shoji were also invited on the first evening.



50th anniversary ceremony at Areal Böhler



Taiko Ensemble WADŌKYŌ Performance at EKO House

Recent Changes in BDK UK

Mr. David Thomson, who had worked for BDK UK for decades, resigned at the end of December 2018. Mr. Raymond Penny replaced him at the beginning of January 2019 and started working together with Mr. Shunsuke Suma, director of BDK UK.



Mr. Suma (left) and Mr. Penny (right) with TTOB

Shigoto (Work)

“Shigoto” is generally defined as work, occupation, duty but properly speaking, since the characters mean to serve, work really means to serve with all of one’s physical and spiritual strengths.

Therefore, we are called upon to engage in a task or work to find something on which to stake our whole lives in service to that purpose.

If one considers whether working to feed oneself or working for a living is truly one’s genuine work, that seems not to be entirely the case.

A person who works reluctantly because he has to or for the sake of money is a person who is unable to find his true work or calling.

To find a purpose to serve with all one’s efforts, to have a true profession or calling—is that not the most important thing for those who must live in this world?

To find one’s work, to live for this work—therein lies the joy of living.

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