

Michi - The Path -

BUKKYO DENDO KYOKAI Society for the Promotion of Buddhism



Michi

— The Path —

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"Sasaeatte" 「Kibō (Hope)」

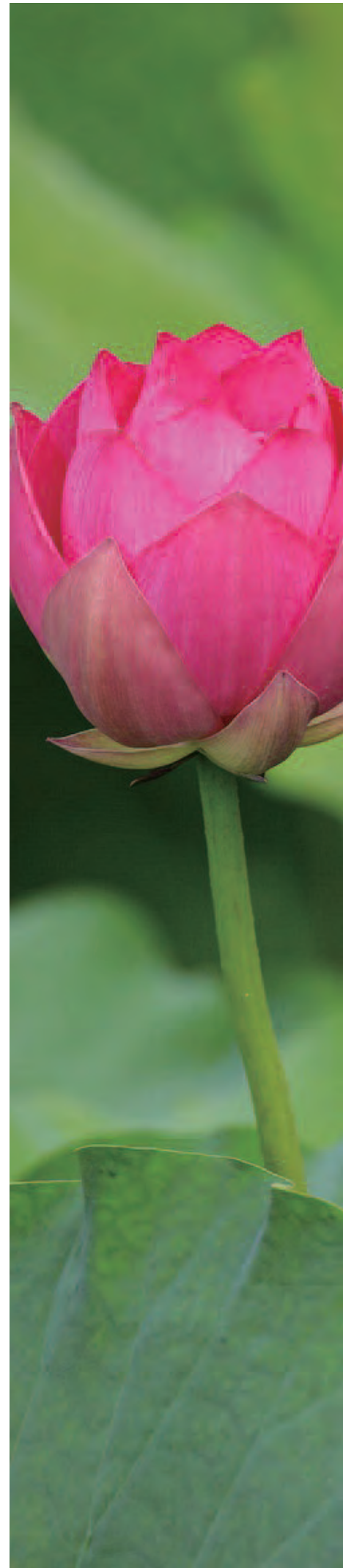


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Society for the Promotion of Buddhism

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“No Night Lasts Forever”

Do Not Take Ordinary Things for Granted

We truly appreciate your generous understanding and continued support for all of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK)’s activities as we report our 2019 news and updates in this issue.

2019 is the first year of the Japanese new era, Reiwa. We are currently experiencing the difficulty of being anxious everyday about the COVID-19 pandemic in the world. Each country has taken safety measures to prevent infections, and they have had a huge impact on our ordinary lives and our economies around the world. Our 2020 activity will not be an exception for sure.

BDK founder, the late Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata, always kept in mind the saying “Asa-no-Konai-Yoru-wa-Nai, No night lasts forever” every time he had to overcome the hard times with Mitutoyo management and BDK activities.

Our life is not always safe and smooth all the time. Suddenly, we may face difficulties in dealing with ordinary things that we usually have no problem with. Even though we find ourselves in a chaotic and anxious darkness, there will be the sunrise coming back to light up our world.

In times of distress, we should not lose hope, and in ordinary times, we should neither take things for granted nor forget to be grateful for them.

With Gassho,



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

Interview



Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University Dept of Pali Prakrit

“The Teaching of Buddha” Interview

Looking Back at the Intensive Distribution Project in India A Life Changing Encounter with a Book Giving Children an Opportunity for Education

Location: Bukkyo Dendo Center Building

Guests: Ms. Rumi (Yayoi Tsuruoka), President of Rumi Impex Private Ltd., Mr. Neeraj Puri, Vice-President of Rumi Impex Private Ltd., and Yuhei Yanagie, Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK)

Interviewer: Emi Kanemaki, BDK

Editor/Photographer: Kaoru Eguchi, BDK



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 institutes.

We looked back at one of our biggest TTOB distribution projects ever done in India in 2019 and had an opportunity to talk with Ms. Rumi and Mr. Puri from Rumi Impex Private Ltd., and with Rev. Yanagie from BDK, who also joined the project in India and distributed the books to local people.

Kanemaki (hereafter K) : First of all, could you tell us about Rumi Impex Private Ltd.?

Rumi (hereafter R) : To explain our work simply, we import Buddhist implements and sutras from other countries to India, fix, re-wrap and deliver them to those who would like to obtain them. Our head office is located in Delhi, and there is a town nearby named Majnu ka tilla, where Tibetan Buddhist temple dormitories are crowded into a small area. Tibetan priests purchase some Buddhist implements made in Nepal and especially those for esoteric Buddhism. We can see a small Tibetan medical clinic there, and they sell pills and thick Tibetan style incense sticks as health care products.

K : I see. Your job sounds important for those areas. Well, I guess that readers of our newsletter might wonder how your company and BDK have been related to each other. And why did you cooperate with our TTOB distribution project?

R : I have known that TTOB can be found at hotels all over the world, so I was surprised at receiving a copy of the book in Tibetan from Rev. Kunchok Sithar, Vice President of “POTALA COLLEGE” of the Tibetan Buddhist Center. I had no idea that TTOB was available in a Tibetan version at that time, and I did not expect that it would become a part of my work. It was just amazing how I was connected to TTOB.

After I accepted his offer, I was



Mr. Puri (left) and Ms. Rumi (right)

connected to more opportunities and people. You would not believe it, but everything opened up fantastic opportunities for me to work with TTOB. One time, I met a professor of the University of Delhi at an electronics store just behind the university where our company’s head office is also located. (I have known him for a long time, and he knew about TTOB way before, but he had no interest in TTOB at that time.) After Neeraji had a strange dream that His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Neeraj, his elder brother and I(Rumi) were in his dream with TTOB, the professor somehow had interests in obtaining a copy of TTOB for himself. This became the start of requests for TTOB from everywhere. People from the University of Delhi really liked TTOB, and they talked to someone else, and finally, we were connected to Rev. Chandrakirti, President of Mahila Sashaktikaran Sangh Nagpur, who led our TTOB distribution project. We edited and revised the original version of TTOB in Hindi with the help of Neeraj and his wife, who is a Hindi teacher, and it took about a year to

finish. We could publish the new TTOB in Hindi with confidence in the end.

K : We truly appreciate this great opportunity to work with you. However, I can imagine that you had a hard time to complete the project in India? Could you tell us more if you had any memorable experiences while you were distributing TTOB in India at this time?

R : At the start of this project, only Rev. Chandrakirti tried to help us, so we originally planned to visit each small temple and school. However, news of what we were doing spread widely through word of mouth, and more people came to know our project very soon. And we had no idea, but surprisingly, our activities were posted in a local newspaper on the third or fourth day after we started the project in a small village (with smile). I must say that Rev. Yanagie, a BDK staff member, came to join the project all the way from Japan and added more significance to the project. We managed to visit about 70 facilities in only a week! The land of India is

vast; therefore, many people came to meet us and receive copies of TTOB since we could not visit each one of them because the distances were too great. That showed how precious TTOB is for people in India. It was such a valuable experience, but I have to apologize to Rev. Yanagie for forcing him into an extremely tight schedule, which we did not even expect at first.

Yanagie (hereafter Y) : No problem at all! I had such a unique experience after all. I felt their high level of energy and excitement about learning the teachings of Buddha. Especially visiting schools was the highlight of my visit.

R : Yes, I totally agree. If you tell someone in India that you would like to donate very precious books and hand them out to everyone, then when the books are mailed to

India, the books will be sold somewhere. I heard that a Taiwanese organization did something like this some years ago, and their books were illegally “distributed.” Therefore, I believe that we must visit each place and hand them out to children who really need them. It should be the safest way for us to distribute the books for sure. Also for them, the fact that someone came all the way from Japan to directly hand the books to them is very much appreciated, and they responded by treating us nicely.

Y : I was very much impressed with the welcoming atmosphere at schools in Nagpur, and their educational level is high. I heard that those educational facilities were originally built for children from poor households by Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. (Dr. Ambedkar was Minister of Justice in the

Jawaharlal Nehru administration, and was a Dalit, the lowest of Indian caste. He was converted to Buddhism from Hinduism two months before his death with 500,000 people and started a revivalism of Buddhism in India.) He wanted children to spread their wings widely and freely fly in the world with “a pencil and an education.” His spirit has taken root at those schools, and they even do meditation as a part of their curriculum.

R : That is so true. I agree that His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Dr. Ambedkar affected lot of people for sure. It is not always the right answer, but I can see some that some Dalit people financially and educationally succeeded in modern Indian society. Some people make fun of India because it did not develop as well as other Asian



Nootan Mahila Vidyalaya

countries, and because modern Indian people do not live with the teachings of Buddha anymore even though Buddhism was born in India.

K : I see. Do you think that this gives them a chance for people in India to reexamine the moral sense of Buddhism?

R : Yes, I feel that the teachings of Buddha are coming back into India now. Some people believe that the moral sense of Buddhism can teach the moral value of work as well.

K : India has been developing rapidly in recent years. Do you have any ideas or comments on what Buddhism can do to foster the friendship of India and Japan as our surrounding world is globally changed?

R : Although Buddhism started when Shakyamuni was enlightened in India, Buddhism had to be revived as “New” Buddhism after Hinduism reasserted itself. The current government still adopts a national policy of Hinduism supremacism, but I would like people to know more about Buddhism, and not have them deny Buddhism without knowing anything about it. It is also important to understand how Hindu people believe and feel as India developed. “Learning each other’s perspective” is important, and we can accept each other if you find what is good in them.

Neeraj (hereafter N) : I couldn’t agree with you more! I would like more people to know about Buddhism. Also, I hope more people can come and go to Nagpur



Jaibai Chaudhary Dnyanpeeth



Bhadant Dhamakirti School J.R Collage

from Japan. People working for temples and believers play a big role at the moment. Nagpur has a unique custom. Husbands follow wives, and women play a huge part in the community. I can see many women’s political activities.

Y : Yes, I still remember our driver, Ashay and his mother. She is an enthusiastic activist and was trying to improve women’s status in society. She was very friendly and welcomed us with beautiful flowers and meals. It was simply blessed.

R : Of course, education is important, however, I really hope for more opportunities for people to

come and go. How can I say? It is like an elementary level of people’s communication through Buddhism? We need that. How temples in India are, how we communicate with priests and believers, etc. We can learn find something from them. I also think that people in the modern world should enrich their abilities to believe. Some people are not confident about themselves, but if they are trying to rely only on themselves, it will easily destroy themselves. It is very sad but true. I strongly feel that we need the right way of belief.

K : Thank you very much for shar-

ing your ideas. Do you have anything that you would like BDK to do in the future? You distributed many copies to children in India this time. Could you also tell us your message for those children who are trying to learn Buddhism through TTOB?

R : I already know TTOB is fantastic, but every time I visit somewhere in India, I always receive inquiries, asking if we have anything especially for children. They would like to have more easy-to-read type of books, such as picture books, manga comics, etc. There are a variety of ways to teach Hinduism in India, for example, they broadcast the TV dramas with the tales of Hinduism. Children watch those with their parents, so they are automatically familiar with the teachings of Hinduism. Therefore, we need more child-friendly and easy-to-understand readings for Buddhism, too. We adults can also learn more easily by looking at pictures, so it would be nicer for children to learn them through lots of pictures and simple tales of Buddhism.

As to my experience, the Tibetan second or third graders are very curious about TTOB. We usually donate copies of TTOB to elementary schools and universities, and they are very much enthusiastic about receiving the books when they are told that they are going to receive the books at school today. Even children at that age can understand how important the book can be for their lives. Teachers at school try hard to explain the books by making it fun to learn, so children take very good care of the



Alankar Sabha

book and take them home with care.

In addition to that, mothers at home play a big role. They have a custom of going to temples daily and they wear white saris, traditional Indian women's clothes. They welcomed us with those traditions when we were there. We can still feel an ancient atmosphere at Indian temples, and they create a welcoming environment for everyone. Therefore, children can naturally learn how they should be. Many people tend to lose their own moral bearings the more they get rich. They focus too much on the materialistic and business world. I would like people to get familiar with Buddhism and use the teachings of Buddha positively in their daily lives.

We would like to thank again the people of Rumi Impex Ltd. for helping us in India regarding this project, and Rev. Myosei Midorikawa, Buddhist priest of Tendai-shu Jindaiji Temple, who supported the distribution project in

2018. BDK completed this big project with all those supporters and distributed 46,980 copies of TTOB in June and September 2019. We also distributed 29,000 copies of "Buddha-no-Oshie Teachings of Buddha" in Hindi in September 2019.

Children are special at any time, particularly in recent years when India has been rapidly developing. We witnessed that children received copies of TTOB with sparkling eyes and with great care. The possibilities TTOB opens up to people remind us to reconfirm our efforts, and we aim to publish a book that will allow children to become familiar with Buddhism.

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



|| BDK Publications

01 Activity “The Teaching of Buddha” – Update for 2019

We distributed many copies of “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” to hotels and temple guest houses inside Japan in 2019. We are expecting more foreign tourists to visit Japan for the Olympic and Paralympic games in 2021, and we are planning to approach newly opening hotels. We also distributed about 40,000 copies of TTOB to 337 Buddhist schools and childcare facilities.



Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School in Ladakh

We continued distributing TTOBs in India this year and donated 46,980 copies of TTOB in Hindi, Tibetan, Nepali and English along with 29,000 copies of “Buddha-no-Oshie, Messages from the Buddha” in Hindi to Ladakh, the northernmost area of India, which is one of the most popular places for Tibetan Buddhism, and Nagpur in the mid-

dle of India, which is famous for the revival of Buddhism. Temple visitors, priests, teachers and children all accepted TTOBs with great appreciation. People living in surrounding areas of those cities heard about TTOBs and asked to receive the books for themselves, too. Therefore, BDK will continue to distribute more TTOBs to those

areas in India and work on distributing more copies to respond to the requests.

For more information about the distributions in India, please see “The Teaching of Buddha” Interview page.



02 Activity

“Let It Shine! Temple Bulletin Board Award 2019”

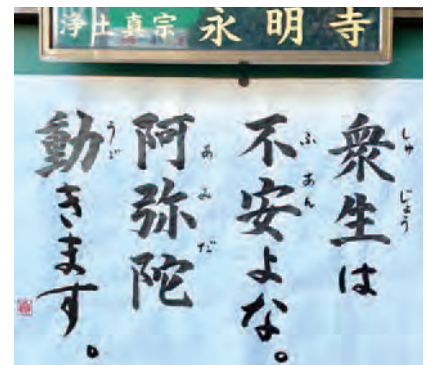
The “Let It Shine! Temple Bulletin Board” project invites SNS posts of slogans on bulletin boards at temples throughout Japan and selects a grand prize winner by reviews and comments. This project has been widely reported on major websites as the first Buddhist SNS project, and websites took notice of this.

“Let It Shine! Temple Bulletin Board Award 2018” made a splash last year, and we held it again in 2019. A variety of media such as TV, radio, newspapers, weekly magazines, etc. talked about the award as a big topic, and we received 925 entries in four months for the 2019 project.

The grand prize for the 2019 award was “Shujo-wa-Fuanyona. Amida Ugokimasu, All sentient beings are anxious. I, Amida myself, will make a move to help them.” It was from Eimyoji Temple, a Jodoshin Shu Hongwanji school in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka and punned on a word used by Mr. Hitoshi

Matsumoto of Downtown, one of the most famous Japanese comedy duos of all time. This slogan entry received more than 100,000 Likes and lots of big responses from everywhere, and Mr. Matsumoto also commented on our project in his popular TV show, “Wide-na-Show” of Fuji TV in Japan.

The Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai Prize went to “Oshaka-sama-wo-Kiraina-Hitomo-Ita. Darenimo “Kirawaretakunai” nante Omowanakuteii,” which means, “Some people hated Shakyamuni, so you do not need to think of not wanting to be hated by others.” This is from Myoenji Temple of Nichiren Shu in Shibuya, Tokyo,



Grand prize for the 2019 award

and many people who are suffering from human relationships agreed with this saying.

We received a lot of great postings and will hold the third competition for the “Let It Shine! Temple Bulletin Board Award 2020.”

03 Activity

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

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted the fourth 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.”

We received as many as 89 submissions from a wide range of age

groups for the fourth competition in 2019. The total number of submissions

was more than the third competition and we even received

works from foreign countries such as Germany and Mongolia as well. Mr. Keisuke Nishimoto, a writer of children's literature, Mr. Tomohiko Fujimoto, a picture book artist, and Mr. Minoru Haga, a 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 “Ari-ga-

Dance-wo-Odottara (When the Ant Dances)” written and drawn by mayfan. The story describes the dance of a tiny ant that makes everyone smile, invoking the Buddhist idea of dependent origination.

BDK awarded the prize money to the winner and published the picture book in March 2020.



mayfan (left) and BDK executive director Harumi Aoki

04 Activity The Sixth Competition and the Fourth Exhibition of the BDK Calendar “A Wise Teaching a Day”

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted the sixth competition and the fifth exhibition of the BDK Calendar, “A Wise Teaching a Day.” We received 2,115 submissions from 638 people. We held a selection meeting on September 5, 2019, and committee members selected 32 photos. The committee awarded them with prize money and certificates, and all of those photos can be viewed on our official website.

The fifth exhibition was held in three places in Japan: the Information Center at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple in Tokyo from April 27 to June 2, 2019, Hoshokan at Byodoin Temple Museum in

Kyoto from June 29 to September 16, 2019, and the main hall at Zuiganji Temple in Miyagi from October 11 to November 27. About 100,000 people visited the exhibition at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple,

280,000 people at Byodoin Temple, and 76,000 people at Zuiganji Temple. Many visitors had a wonderful opportunity to become familiar with the Buddha's words.



Mr. Mori Suzuki's calligraphy performance



05 Activity Exhibition of the “Picture Story of Shakyamuni” at Zuiganji Temple

Seven original pieces of the “Picture Story of Shakyamuni” painted by the Japanese artist, Mr. Kosetsu Nosu, were exhibited with old reference materials and photos at Zuiganji Temple in Miyagi Prefecture. The history of Mr. Nosu’s life and the reference materials such as his handwritten letters were displayed, and many visitors enjoyed them along with appreciating his brush strokes and coloring.



Exhibition of the “Picture Story of Shakyamuni” at Zuiganji

Debut of “Picture Story of Shakyamuni” Jigsaw Puzzle

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) published the jigsaw puzzle version of the “Picture Story of Shakyamuni” so that people can learn the story of Shakyamuni as they enjoy putting the puzzle pieces together. All seven stories beginning with “Conception” and ending with “Death” are currently available for purchase in Japan.



“Picture Story of Shakyamuni” jigsaw puzzle

- B4 size (204 pieces) JPY 2,500. (+ tax)
- B5 size (70 pieces) JPY 1,500. (+ tax)

We currently do not ship BDK Japan purchases internationally. For more information about the “Picture Story of Shakyamuni,” please contact us at our official website at <https://www.bdk.or.jp>

06

Activity

Newly Published “Himekuri Buddha Seikatsu, Living Daily with a Message a Day from Buddha”

We published "Himekuri Buddha Seikatsu, Living Daily with a Message a Day from Buddha" in June 2019. Mr. Makoto Miyashita, the author of the bestselling book “*Buddha-ga-Sensei, Buddha is Our Teacher*” compiled 31 teachings of Buddha that children can understand easily and that sets a goal for each day. The consultation pages for children at the end and 31 humorous illustrations drawn by Tebukuroseijin, a popular Japanese illustrator, adds a charm that draw attention.

We can enjoy ourselves by just looking at the illustrations or by feeling something about Buddhism through the words. This is a book that children and adults can enjoy reading every day, and it can help children’s minds develop with the teachings of Buddha in a daily life setting.

More than 30,000 copies of "Himekuri Buddha Seikatsu, Living Daily with a Message a Day from Buddha," have been sold already in the seven months since June. It can be purchased on the BDK Japan official website for JPY 275 (tax included).

"Himekuri Buddha Seikatsu"



07

Activity

The Campaign for Gratifying Verses from “The Teaching of Buddha”

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) released “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” in 46 language versions as PDF files to the public on its official website at <https://www.bdk.or.jp> in March 2019, so anyone who has internet access can read TTOB online at any time.

We launched “the Campaign for Gratifying Verses from “The Teaching of Buddha” to encourage people to become familiar with TTOB including the PDF versions. Applying for the event is quite simple: people can just tweet their favorite verses and phrases

from TTOB through Twitter, one of the most popular SNSs. Many people participated in the campaign and we received more than 200 tweets for four months. The prize for the campaign was Shojin, Buddhist vegetarian ready-to-eat curry packets, so lots of curry

fans tweeted, too. We found a variety of interesting tweets and had great opportunities to learn about what people value about TTOB, and we will continue holding this event in 2020.

08 “Buddhist Diary 2020” Activity Buddhism through Everyday Life

BDK tries to offer more opportunities for people to experience Buddhism through everyday life and published a diary/schedule planner as one of the BDK publications in 2019.

Many people in Japan visit temples on trips, collect Goshuin, the red ink temple stamps for each visit, and enjoy Buddhist statue exhibitions at museums and department store halls. However, we have fewer opportunities to experience something about Buddhism in our ordinary life, and it is hard to say that the culture of Buddhism is a part of modern Japanese daily life.

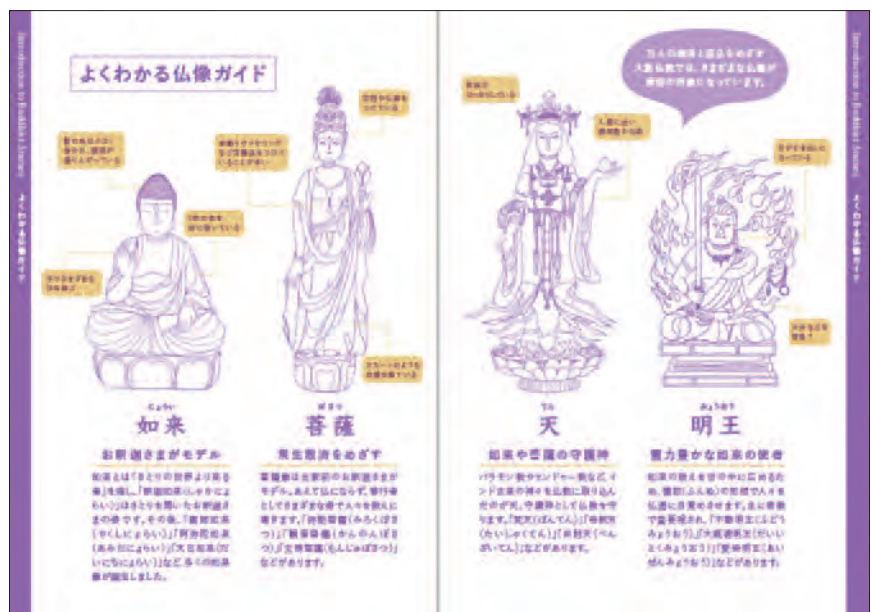
BDK offers “Buddhist Diary 2020” for people to have more chances to appreciate Buddhism itself. The monthly calendar pages have explanations of major Buddhist events for each month, and the weekly sections have tips for learning more about Buddhism. In addition, we introduce various scenarios regarding Buddhism, such as how you should visit a temple and pray, what you should know about Buddhism, how to sit in Zazen meditation, and how you can appreciate Buddhist statues with some illustrations at the end of the diary. There are extra pages for sutra copying and for copying pictures of Buddhist-statues, and you may write and draw as you like. Also, there are some stickers to decorate your own diary as a fancy-looking book so that it would be more fun to carry.

We have finished selling the “Buddhist Diary 2020” at the moment, and will inform you about future publications on our official website.

For more information about BDK publications, please check our official website at <https://www.bdk.or.jp>



“Buddhist Diary 2020”



Pages about statue of Buddha

Financial Assistance and Honoring Recipients

01 Activity BDK Fellowship Programs 2019 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 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 30th year in 2020, we have selected three promising scholars at a committee meeting held in February 2020 as listed below.

The 30th Annual Awardees for BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars

Rev. Choten Dorji

Nationality : Bhutan

Affiliation in Japan : Kyoto University

Academic Advisor in Japan : Prof. Izumi Miyazaki

Theme of Research : Annotated translation and study of Sārasamuccaya: A commentary on Skandila’s Abhidharmāvatāra

Mr. Liyu Hua

Nationality : China

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

Academic Advisor in Japan : Prof. Norihisa Baba

Theme of Research : The Dynamics of the Early Buddhist Commentarial

Tradition : A study of the commentaries on verses from the Khuddaka Nikaya/Kṣudraka Āgama

Mr. Jonathan Edward Thumas

Nationality : U.S.A.

Affiliation in Japan : Historiographical Institute, The University of Tokyo

Academic Advisor in Japan : Associate Prof. Hiroki Kikuchi

Theme of Research : Buddhist Hermitage Communities in Medieval Japan



BDK JAPAN NEWS 2019

The 29th 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?

Ms. Lu Lu

Nationality : China

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

Academic Advisor in Japan : Prof. Seishi Karashima and Prof. Noriyuki Kudo

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

1) I am working on the language of early Chinese Buddhist translations. The literary style of these texts, especially the works of An Shigao, is usually erratic, full of vernacular expressions and far different from other contemporary literature. It is usually impossible to interpret these texts correctly without comparing them with their Indic parallels. Professor Karashima Seishi was an expert in Buddhist philology, particularly focusing on early Chinese Buddhist translation and middle Indic languages. Thus I believed my research could benefit a lot from the cooperation and guidance of Professor Karashima.

2) I would like to express my gratitude for the BDK Fellowship and the generous support I received. Since I came to Japan, I enjoyed an ideal environment for research. I had the great fortune of studying with Prof. Karashima almost every day, and received countless very instructive academic advice from him, until he suddenly passed away



Prof. Karashima (the far right in the first row) Prof. Kudo (second from the left in the second row) and Ms. Lu (the far right in the second row)

on the 23rd of July 2019. As one of his students, I experienced deep grief of losing such a great supervisor. During that period, the support from BDK gave me strength and consolation, and it enabled me to continue my research under the guidance of Professor Noriyuki Kudo in the same institute. Therefore, I really appreciate this opportunity for studying in Japan with the support of BDK.

3) My focus is on studying Buddhist philology, especially the language of early Chinese Buddhist translations, and on providing critical editions and dictionaries for these texts. I hope through this kind of philological study, we can have a better understanding of Chinese Buddhist translations, and learn how and to what extent Buddhist translations influenced the language and culture of East Asia.

Mr. Maxwell Joseph Brandstadt

Nationality : U. S. A.

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

1) I applied for the BDK Fellowship in order to advance my research on the intellectual history of Buddhism in 6th- and 7th-century China. My research would be advanced in several ways by the institutional support provided by the BDK Fellowship. Most importantly, it would allow me to study in Japan, and network with important Japanese scholars of Buddhism. In addition, there are some important manuscripts held in Japan that are relevant to my work. These provided strong motivation to apply for the BDK Fellowship.



Mr. Brandstadt

2) The BDK Fellowship is a wonderful scholarship for several reasons: most importantly, it allows me to focus on my research in consultation with my academic advisor. The

BDK Fellowship is a rare and special research opportunity.

3) I intend to pursue an academic career researching Buddhist history.

I hope this career will help promote an international understanding of Buddhism and the intellectual history of East Asia.

Mr. Anthony Robert Scott

Nationality : Canada

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

Academic Advisor in Japan : Prof. Norihisa Baba and Associate Prof. Ryosuke 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)

※Mr. Scott has just started his life in Japan, and his comments will be updated in the next issue.



02 Activity

2020 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 8th year in 2020, we have selected four promising scholars at a committee meeting held in February 2020.

The 8th Annual Awardees for BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars

<For 12 months>

Ms. Miyuki Ishimura

Affiliation : Institut für Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften in Austria

Theme of Research : A Study of the Intellectual History of Apoha Theory in the Buddhist Logico-epistemological Tradition

<For Five months>

Ms. Shoyo Tominaga

Affiliation : Center for Buddhist Studies, University of California, Berkeley in the U.S.

Theme of Research : A comparison between Chapter 2 of Saddharmapuṇḍarīkasūtra in Kashgar and Nepalese manuscripts

<For Four months>

Mr. Masayoshi Watanabe

Affiliation : Asoka University in India

Theme of Research : The Theory on Perceptibility of Time in Vaiśeṣika Philosophy

<For Three months>

Mr. Yuki Kyogoku

Affiliation : Section des Sciences Religieuses, École Pratique des Hautes Études in France

Theme of Research : Study of Dharmakīrti's Apoha Theory in the Pratyakṣa of the Pramāṇavārttika

The 7th Annual 2019 BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars

Question:

- 1) What made you apply for the 2019 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?

<For 12 months>

Mr. Yosuke Fujimoto

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

Academic Advisor in Germany : Prof. Dr. Harunaga Issacson

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

- 1) Prof. Nobuyoshi Yamabe, my academic advisor in Japan strongly recommend that I study abroad, and I was interested in doing that, too. When I was thinking about applying for the scholarship, Prof. Yamabe welcomed Mrs. Meghan Claire, who was a BDK Fellowship holder in our research group at the time, and I saw a poster in our university. These circumstances encouraged me to apply for the 2019 BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars.
- 2) The best part is that I could learn the trends of current Buddhist

Studies in other countries, and I came to know some enthusiastic colleagues from all over the world. I would like to broaden my research area to China, and try to develop a comprehensive knowledge of Buddhist philosophical history.

- 3) Germany is the center of the field of Indology; therefore, I thought that I would be able to purchase Sanskrit dictionaries easily in the neighborhood. However, I could not find any good bookstores in my neighborhood, and I was surprised how those references I needed are available online or digitalized.



Mr. Fujimoto (left) and Prof. Issacson (right)

<For Short Term>

Mr. Chōjun Yazaki

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

Academic Advisor in Germany : Prof. Dr. Jürgen Hanneder and Dr. habil. Dragomir Dimitrov

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

- 1) I am studying the Cāndravayā-karaṇapañjikā of Ratnamati with Dr. Dimitrov now. I wanted to focus on my research intensively

in Germany while doing my Ph.D. thesis and taking my oral examination.

- 2) Being able to focus on my research is the best part of receiving a scholarship grant while I am staying in a foreign country and



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pursing my research. The BDK Fellowship gave me a great opportunity for studying abroad.

3) I brought my family for the first month of my stay in Germany. My 8-year old son said, “The traveling carnival is fun!” My 6-year old daughter said, “I made a German friend!” My wife said, “German rye bread is so tasty!” And I said, “White beer is amazing!”



From left to right: Dr. Dimitrov, Mr. Yazaki, and Prof. Hanneder

<For Short Term>

Mr. Daisei Michimoto

Affiliation : Institut für Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens

Academic Advisor in Austria : Prof. Dr. Birgit Kellner

Theme of Research : A Study of the Cāndravyākaraṇapañjikā of Ratnamati

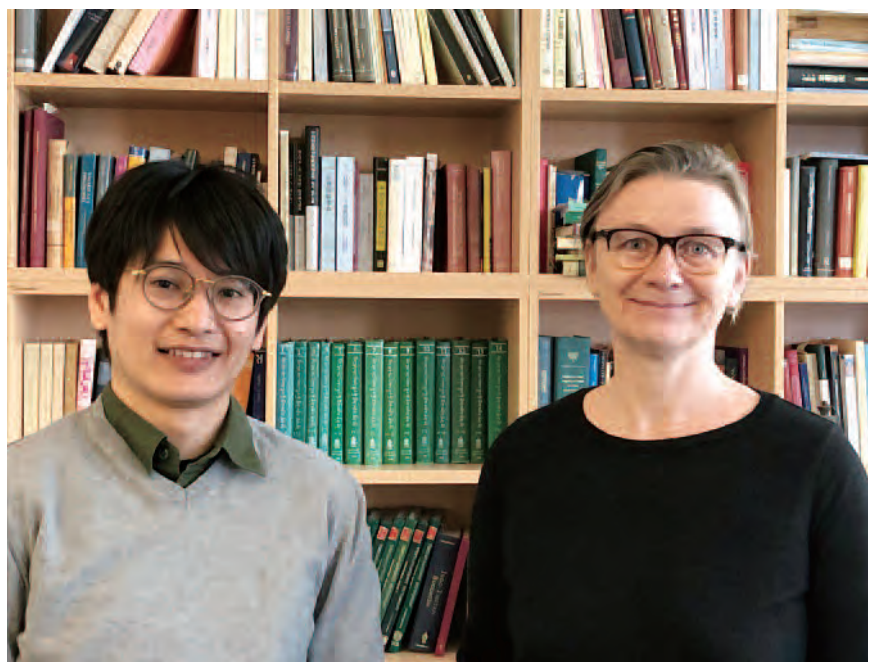
1) I wanted to study under the direction of Prof. Birgit Kellner, who is a pioneer in my research field of anupalabdhi. Also, the Institut für Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens is popular for researchers of Indology, including Buddhist logical schools. When I started thinking about studying there, I found the BDK Fellowship program that supports scholars to study abroad.

2) My research group in Austria was translating Pramāṇaviniścayaṭīkā and compiling a critical text. It was quite helpful for my current studies.

3) The city of Vienna has historical cityscapes with good urban

development along with technology. The transportation is smooth, and the city is safe, therefore, life

in Vienna was extremely comfortable for me.



Mr. Michimoto (left) and Prof. Kellner (right)

03 Activity

BDK Fellowship “Gathering for Scholarship Holders” on July 10, 2019 at Bukkyo Dendo Center Building

The BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars program welcomed its 30th anniversary, and the BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars welcomed its 8th year in 2019.



BDK Fellowship “Gathering for Scholarship Holders” participants

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.

Eleven scholarship holders and three of their professors attended the gathering and introduced themselves and their studies and 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 program.

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.

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



04 Activity

The 53rd BDK Cultural Awards Ceremony On October 17, 2019 at the Bukkyo Dendo Center Building

The 53rd BDK Cultural Awards, Bunka-sho and Numata Innovation and Visionary Award, Numata Shorei-sho ceremony and banquet were held on October 17, 2019 at the Bukkyo Dendo Center Building.

Rev. Tetsubun Fujita, the Bunka-sho winner said, “I have not done anything special. I have only tried to deal directly with the works given to me. I shared many pains with my family and colleagues, but I am able to stand here because of their efforts. BDK has given me this award to a person like myself. I am overwhelmed and truly appreciate this opportunity.” At the end of his speech, he said, “I was shocked about winning this award. I went to give talks everywhere in Japan, but I could not achieve that by myself. I met so many people by luck.”

Prof. Shinho Morimura, the Numata



Rev. Fujita (second from the left) and Prof. Morimura (second from the right)

Shorei-sho winner, remembered her childhood and said, “I kept asking myself about the meaning of life and how human existence can be evil.”

She finished her speech by saying, “I would like to continue making efforts because BDK has recognized me and what I have done.”



BDK Cultural Awards, Bunka-sho

Rev. Tetsubun Fujita

● Suggested the sociability of devotion. Contributed to missionary work with various publications and lectures throughout Japan.



Numata Innovation and Visionary Award, Numata Shorei-sho

Prof. Shinho Morimura

● Investigated the philosophy of Master Shinran and has disseminated his work to a wide audience in the world. Translated and published the Chinese version of “Kyōgyōshinshō, The Collection of Passages Expounding the True Teaching, Living, Faith, and Realizing of the Pure Land.”

05 Activity **BDK Financial Assistance Programs** – Update for 2019

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) supports individuals and groups that agree with the purposes of our non-profit activities and contribute to promote Buddhism and its culture with high quality public programs.

For 2019, we received 36 applications and the BDK Financial Assistance Committee selected 27 individuals/groups and granted them financial assistance as listed below.

A. Support for Groups

Name of Group	Project
The Japanese Association of Buddhist Studies	International academic exchanges and promotion of cultural contributions, etc.
NPO Kamakura Terakoya	Promotion of temple communities through volunteer activities by universities, temples, local government, and people
Japan-India Cultural Exchange Network	Development of Japan-India cultural exchange network and promotion of cultural exchanges between Japan and India
“Freestyle Monks”	Publication of free magazine, “Freestyle Monks” and website, and holding related events

B. Supports for Projects: B-1 Buddhist Spiritual/Cultural and Humanitarian Activities

Name of Group	Project
Society for Interfaith Chaplaincy in Hokkaido and Tohoku	Telephone consultation
General Incorporated Association Terakoya Buddha	Workshops and lectures for Buddhist priests who try to maintain temple communities in each local area and provide useful information through its website
General Incorporated Foundation Hongwanji Vihara Medical Welfare Association	General Incorporated Foundation Hongwanji Vihara Medical Welfare Association Development of Buddhist priests who can work with medical personnel
“JU YA FES” Executive Committee	Temple festival “JU YA FES”
NPO Society to Promote India-Japan Cultural Relations	Dance Performance “Learn More – Brahmin monk Bodhisena the First Indian who came to Japan”
General Incorporated Association Kogen	Temple festival “Kogen”
Public Interest Incorporated Foundation Zenkoku Kyokaishi Renmei (Japan Buddhist Chaplain Union)	Training/education of Buddhist chaplains
All Japan Young Buddhist Association	Mindfulness retreats of Thich Nhat Hanh
General Incorporated Association Society for Interfaith Chaplaincy in Japan	Training/education of chaplains
General Incorporated Association Project Gamon	Publication of free Buddhist magazine, “Wagense”
Buddhist Cultural Resources Study Group	Series of lectures and seminars “Rakan, Arhat Buddhist Culture”
The ZENSEIKYO FOUNDATION for Youth and Child Welfare	Training/educating chaplains and sending them to facilities in need



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B. Supports for Projects: B-2 Promotions of Buddhist Academic Learning

Name of Group	Project
Ryukoku Museum	Special Exhibition Fall 2019 “Japanese simple drawings – Relaxed, Cute, and Fun Art”
Public Interest Incorporated Foundation the Nakamura Hajime Eastern Institute	2019 research investigation
Klaus-Dieter Mathes, University of Vienna, Austria	150th anniversary Symposium for Japan-Austria Friendship “Celebration for Japan-Austria Friendship: Southern Asia Studies, Tibetology, Buddhist Studies”
Jørn Borup, Aarhus University, Denmark	Academic Conference “Japanese Buddhism in Europe”
Japan Society for Buddhist Nursing and Vihara	15th conference of Japan Buddhist Nursery Society for Vihara

B. Supports for Projects: B-3 Protections of Buddhist Cultural Properties

Name of Group	Project
Minobusan University	Restoration Project of Buddhist statues in the world heritage sites of Luang Phabang, Laos
Nousu Kosetsu Commendation Committee	Preservation Project of Buddhist wall paintings by Mr. Kosetsu Nousu in Sarnath, Inida

C. Numata Program in Buddhist Studies and Its Related Activities

Name of Group	Project
The University of Chicago Divinity School, U.S.A.	Continuing Numata Program in Buddhist Studies
Leiden University, The Netherlands)	Continuing Numata Program in Buddhist Studies
National Chengchi University, Taiwan	Establishing Numata Program in Buddhist Philosophical Studies
McMaster University, Canada	Establishing Numata Program in Buddhist Studies

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

Buddhist Lectures and Seminars

01 Activity The 49th Jissen Fukyo Kenkyukai, BDK Buddhist Missionary Seminar at Koyasan Shingon Sect Main Temple Kongobu-ji: May 29-31, 2019

BDK hosted the 49th Buddhist Missionary Seminar (BMS) with the theme of “Learning from Master Kukai” at Koyasan Shingon Sect Main Temple Kongobu-ji in Wakayama prefecture from May 29 to 31 in 2019. We welcomed 46 priests and their temple family members from different sects, and they practiced Ajikan, Esoteric Buddhist meditation, and learned from participating in many discussions held among the participants in Bunkakai discussion groups.



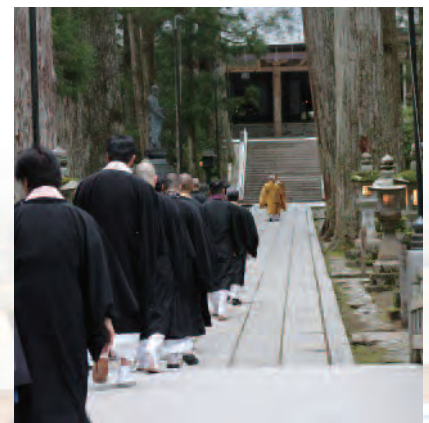
Rev. Shinnin Hashimoto

We also provided an opportunity for participants to discuss and communicate with others at Jodoshinshu Hongwanji School Hongwanji Tsumura Betsuin in Osaka on May 28, the day before the actual seminar dates. Ten people joined the study group and participated in enthusiastic discussions. Rev. Kougi Kasai, the 414th Zashu, head of Koyasan Shingon Sect Main Temple Kongobu-ji, and

Kancho, head of Koyasan Shingon Sect, greeted the BMS participants at the opening ceremony on the first day, and he gave them instructions about Shingon religious services and the “Hannyashingyo, Heart Sutra.” On the following days, participants attended lectures given by Rev. Shinnin Hashimoto, Rev. Junkei Matsunaga, and Rev. Ryugen Saito and practiced Ajikan, etc. They learned the teaching of “Saisei Rimin, saving everyone in



Study group at Hongwanji Tsumura Betsuin



BMS participants visiting the inner sanctuary

the world,” through those lectures and practices. On the last day, they visited Okunoin, the inner sanctuary, and chanted the Heart Sutra together in front of Mater Kukai’s mausoleum and completed the 49th BMS with calm feelings.



02 Activity Special Zazen Retreat at Soto Zen Sojiji Head Monastery on June 1, 2019

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) held an event combining Zazen, Yoga and Shojin Ryori, Buddhist vegetarian food, to provide another opportunity for people to freely visit temples more often and experience Buddhist spirituality and culture.



Yoga session by Mr. Watamoto

This is our fourth year of holding a special Zazen event at Sojiji in Yokohama, and we welcomed one of the most famous Japanese Yoga pioneers, Mr. Akira Watamoto. More than 100 people applied to participate in this special event.

We also welcomed the music duo, “Pranada,” who play the Bansli, an ancient Indian vertical flute, and the synthesizer. Once they started the music, the atmosphere of the venue completely changed, and participants were drawn into their performance.

After the Yoga session, we had a dharma talk by Rev. Komyo Hanawa from Sojiji. He explained the history of Sojiji and the basic teachings of Soto



Participants enjoying Shojin lunch

Zen. After his talk, participants learned how to sit, experienced Zazen for about twenty minutes at the Zazen hall. This was the first experience for most of the participants, and they told us that they wanted to continue for longer.

After Zazen, those who were interested in experiencing the authentic Soto Zen style of Shojin Ryori enjoyed lunch and visited some halls in Sojiji. They seemed to be having fun spending time at the temple for a day.

03

Activity

The Weekly Radio Program on FM Osaka “WARAIMESHI TETSUO’s Saturday★Night Buddhism” – The Recording at Mitsutera Temple on June 9, 2019

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) started a weekly radio program in June 2018 for those who do not have many opportunities to learn more about Buddhism as it relates to their ordinary lives. BDK sponsored a live recording session at Mitsutera Temple in Osaka to celebrate the first-year anniversary of the program.

The program is broadcast only for five minutes from 12:55 am to 1:00 am on Saturday nights, and it is exclusive to the Kansai area of western Japan. However, listeners from all over Japan and even from overseas continued listening to it as a Podcast, and we finished our first year of this program with great success, celebrating it with the live recording in front of fans at Mitsutera Temple in Osaka.

We put out a call for participants for the public recording and received 174 applications, of which 70 won tickets for the event. They ranged in ages from the teens to the sixties, but we could see that most were women in their forties and included Tetsuo’s fans. Mr. Hideki Kobayakawa, one of the most popular DJs of FM Osaka, facilitated the event, and Tetsuo talked about Buddhism. We also had a crosstalk



Tetsuo talking at the main hall of Mitsutera

with Tetsuo and Rev. Shunyu Kaga from Mitsutera and had a question-and-answer session with participants in the end. The talk was enlivening, and all the participants enjoyed the memorial group photo shoot in Mitsutera after the recording session. Rev. Kaga kindly answered the participants’ questions about temples and Buddhism even after

the event, and participants could deepen their understanding of Buddhism.

The recording was broadcast twice in July 2019. Some of the participants uploaded the event on SNS, and web interview articles also introduced our program. It was a fantastic opportunity for many people to learn more about the program.

04

Activity

New BDK Bulletin Board at the Entrance of Bukkyo Dendo Center Building in July 2019

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) installed a new bulletin board at the entrance of the building in July 2019.

The BDK Bulletin board introduces BDK lectures, seminars, and events,

and also posts interesting phrases such as are found on temple bulletin

boards. We select phrases from many sources, including our best-selling



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book, “The Teaching of Buddha,” and we even have some quotations from celebrities. We post some unique ones like “I cannot be Takuya Kimura (a favorite actor/singer for all ages in Japan like Johnny Depp), but he cannot be the way I am either.” This one was the most popular post in our Instagrams for 2019 as well.

People passing by the bulletin board often take pictures and post them on SNS. We find that our postings provide opportunities for people to become familiar with Buddhism. We

hope you will look at our bulletin board if you happen to be in our neighborhood, or check them out in our SNS pages!



New bulletin board at the entrance

05 Activity “Let’s Try Some Yoga and Zazen at a Temple” for Children at Ryuunji Temple on July 29, 2019

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) held an event that combined Yoga and Zazen for children who do not have an opportunity to visit temples in their daily life so that they can become familiar with a temple and Buddhism.

We wanted children to enjoy spending time at a temple during their school summer break, and about thirty energetic elementary school children participated in the event.

The venue was Rinzaï Shu Myoshinji-ha Ryuunji Temple in Setagaya, Tokyo, a temple that has been popular among the locals. Adults expected that the children would be noisy and joke around at the temple, however, they were quietly focused during the Zazen session led by Rev. Shinsuke Hosokawa, the head priest of Ryuunji.

After the quiet Zazen session, they experienced Yoga. We welcomed Ms. Mami Sakurai, who is an



Rev. Hosokawa

expert Yoga instructor for children. She started a fun filled and kids-friendly talk and gradually worked forward. We notice that the children did their poses seriously, moved their bodies with their friends, and seemed to enjoy work-



Children experiencing Zazen

ing out at their own pace. Most of us adults still have memories about our summer breaks. We truly hope that the children will be willing to visit a temple again sometime in the future.

06

Activity

“Buddhist Vegetarian Cooking Class for Children and Parents” in Asakusa, Tokyo on August 4, 2019

BDK hosted a “Shojin Ryori, Buddhist Vegetarian Cooking Class for Kids and Parents,” as one of our school summer break special events for children. We welcomed Mrs. Reina Aso, a Japanese culinary historian and Shojin Ryori cooking specialist, to teach children under the age of twelve and their family members to make Shojin lunch boxes together.



Mrs. Aso in the middle and participants

This was the first time ever that BDK held a cooking class for children and their parents. Sixteen people; including children ranging in ages from three to twelve years old and their family members, attended the class. After learning “What is Shojin Ryori?” everyone cooked the dishes together with Mrs. Aso and arranged the food beautifully into each lunch box by themselves.

We prepared two kinds of rice balls (shiso perilla rice and corn rice), stir-fried thin sliced zucchini, sweet pickled Japanese ginger and okura, fried summer vegetables, Koya tofu, dried tofu, deep fried Koya tofu, and deep-fried kurumafu (gluten cake). The children looked anxious at first, how-



Smiling children with their Shojin lunch boxes

ever, they were soon smiling as they worked with Mrs. Aso. Some of them hated vegetables, but they ate everything, and we had no leftovers at the end of class. Some of the children had never seen a traditional Japanese wappa craft lunch box, which is made by bending very thin cedar boards into the shape of ring. There were a

variety of great-looking lunch boxes made by participants, and the children had so many new experiences. They even took photos of themselves with their lunch boxes, and the experience of making Shojin Ryori gave them an opportunity to think about the importance of our daily habit of eating.



07 Activity

The Premiers of Picture Story Show “Buddha” ©TEZUKA PRODUCTIONS on October 1, 2019

BDK published the world’s first picture story book, “Buddha” under the supervision of ©TEZUKA PRODUCTIONS as well as the "Picture Story of Shakyamuni" jigsaw puzzle and donated them to 2,500 Buddhist kindergartens and pre-schools throughout Japan.

We celebrated the publication of this art works and held the premiers at the BDK Center Building in October 1, 2019.

We handed them out to the representatives of Japan Buddhist Childcare Association and the Childcare Federations of each sects of Japanese Buddhism for the first half of the event. We can enjoy a biography of the Buddha and the original of the comic book, “Buddha” at the same time because the picture story is drawn with similar brush touches of Mr. Osamu Tezuka, one of the greatest Japanese manga artists of all time. Rev. Takayama, chairman of Japan Buddhist Childcare Association appreciated BDK, “Children would be interested in the picture story so much! We would like to help raising



Participants in the event

children with compassion by sharing it at kindergartens.” Shibuya Gagekidan, Japanese picture story-telling company established by Manga Artist Network Inc. performed a special picture story show with four professional voice actors. Their actions were convincing, and everyone attended the event was

impressed with their powerful performance.

BDK hopes that more children will be able to have an opportunity to learn about the life of the Buddha and get used to some teachings of Buddha through playing with puzzles and picture story of “Buddha.”

08 Activity

The 5th Commemorative Lecture in Japan by the winner of the “Toshihide Numata Book Award in Buddhism” on October 4 and 9, 2019

The “Toshihide Numata Book Award in Buddhism” supports the advancement of Buddhist studies in the western world. BDK established the award, which is administered by the Center for Buddhist Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. The winning entry for the best academic Buddhist title of the year is selected by an independent committee every year.

The 2018 winning author Dr. Roy Tzohar of Tel-Aviv University, was selected for his publication of “A Yogācāra Buddhist Theory of Metaphor” (Oxford University Press, 2018), and he gave public lectures about his book in Japan.

He lectured on the theme of “What Metaphors Mean and Do within Buddhist Philosophical Texts?” at Ryukoku University on October 4, 2019 and the University of Tokyo on October 9, 2019 and presented his cutting-edge research results in Buddhist studies to Japanese audiences.



Lecture by Dr. Tzohar at the University of Tokyo

09 Activity **Feel Buddhism: Experiencing Temples in Asakusa, Tokyo on November 9, 2019**

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted “Feel Buddhism,” a one-day field trip to temples located in Asakusa, Tokyo with the theme of “feeling” the teachings of each Buddhist school.

We held the first event in the Shiba area of Minato-ku, Tokyo in 2018, and since most of the participants from 2018 signed up for the 2019 event, we quickly reached the maximum number of 25 people.

Participants visited Sensoji Temple and were able to go deep inside the temple during the first half of the event. We welcomed Rev. Ryojo Shioiri, the head priest of Hozenin Temple, who is also one of our popular lecturers of the BDK study group for “The Teaching of Buddha for Daily Life.” He guided the participants through the main hall, the precincts of the temple, and the treasure museum, which we normally cannot enter. Everyone was able to learn the details of 1400-years of



Dharma talk by Rev. Shioiri

Sensoji history through a dharma talk by Rev. Shioiri.

After the tour of Sensoji, participants visited Ryokusenji Temple, which is also in Asakusa, and enjoyed Shojin Ryori with the theme of “Tasting Shojin Ryori and its true mind” during the second

half of the event. Rev. Kakuho Aoe, head priest of Ryokusenji, who is an author of many Shojin cooking books, provided food and a dharma talk. Most of participants told us that they would like to attend such an event again, and it was a satisfying experience for many people.



10
Activity

The 19th “Buddhist Music Festival BUDDHASPEL - Rediscovering Japanese Tradition ~A Night of Noh, Kyogen and Buddhism” at Cerulean Tower Noh Theatre on November 14, 2019

BDK hosted the 19th “Buddhist Music Festival BUDDHASPEL – Rediscovering of Japanese Tradition ~A Night of Noh, Kyogen and Buddhism” at Cerulean Tower Noh Theatre in Shibuya, Tokyo on November 14, 2019.

The theme of the 19th music festival featured Japanese traditional performing arts, and we welcomed Rev. Shotoku Tanaka, the head priest of Shokannon Shu Sohonzan Sensoji Temple, which is said to be the place of origin of Hokkehakko (a Buddhist form of discussion), Noh and Kyogen. His disciples at the temple performed.

Mr. Mansai Nomura, a Kyogen performer, and Rev. Michio Henmi, the chairperson of the BDK Buddhist Music Popularization Committee, talked about the traditional performing arts based on Buddhist philosophy. After the discussion, Mr. Yoshimasa Kanze, a Nohgaku performer, solemnly performed “Jinenkoji,” which was originally written by Kannami, who is a legend in the history of the establishment of Noh. This song is about a Buddhist priest rescuing a girl from a slave trader. The crowd loved his serious performance and gave him a hearty round of applause. Mr. Nomura performed “Shuron,” a play that describes humorous debates between two priests from different sects, the Hokke and Jodo.



Performance of Hokkehakko

People also enjoyed his performance, and the laughter fulfilled the venue.

This was the first time that BDK to sponsored performances that deeply relate the traditional performing arts with Buddhism, and everyone truly enjoyed the presentations of Rongi, Noh, and Kyogen.



Mr. Yoshimasa Kanze

11 Activity “Japanese Buddhist Vegetarian Cooking Class in English” in Asakusa on November 20, 2019

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted a “Japanese Buddhist Vegetarian Cooking Class” in Asakusa mainly for foreign people who reside in Japan. We welcomed Rev. Kakuho Aoe, head priest of Ryokusenji Temple, and provided an opportunity for foreign residents and Japanese people who are interested in learning about Shojin Ryori, Buddhist vegetarian food, in English.

Offering a cooking class in English was the first challenge for us, however, we were pleased that 15 participants (eight foreign residents and seven Japanese) signed up for the program. They heard a talk “What is Shojin Ryori?” before the cooking lesson and tasted a variety of dishes together.

Participants tried ofujaga, which is a vegetarian version of one of the most favorite Japanese home-cooked dish, nikujaga (normally made with meat and potatoes), spinach boiled in a kelp soup, asparagus dressed with tofu, and soup made with vegetable strips. Everyone seemed to enjoy communicating in English with a lot of



Ofujaga

gestures and completed four dishes together at each table.

We find many vegetarian/vegan people in today’s world in a time of diversity, even for food. Some of our foreign participants told us that they are having a hard time finding good vegetarian restaurants and also in finding vegetarian ingredi-



Participants helping each other

ents at grocery stores in Japan. BDK hopes that participants were able to learn the Shojin Ryori spirit of “treating each ingredient well and not wasting anything.” They experienced this style cooking and eating each ingredient with deep appreciation.

12 Activity Special Event “Learning Buddhism Through Buddhist Vegetarian Food” with Movie “TENZO” and Buddhist Vegetarian Lunch at Tokyo Grand Hotel on February 15, 2020

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted a special event called “Learning Buddhism Through Buddhist Vegetarian Food.” The event also featured a movie, “TENZO,” produced by the All Japan Young Soto Zen Buddhist Priests Association, and a special lunch provided by a young Buddhist priest, who is working as a French chef, as a way of introducing various aspects of Buddhism.



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There were 68 participants who experienced the three-hour program. The first half of the program was a combination of a short Zazen meditation session with chairs and the movie, “TENZO.” Rev. Chiken Kawaguchi from Kounin Temple, who is a main character in the movie, explained his thoughts on the movie with episodes, which have been shown at movie festivals overseas as well. After that, participants practiced Zazen meditation using chairs and calmed their feelings before the movie. The movie provided an opportunity for everyone to think about their beliefs. For the second half of the event, we welcomed Rev. Daiki Orihashi from Josenji Temple, who is a French chef at an auberge, and he provided a special Shojin lunch for participants. Shojin Ryori can be a quite simple Japanese dish as you might expect, however he cooks Shojin Ryori with a twist of western style added since most Japanese tend to eat western food more often in the modern Japanese world. The lunch consisted of seasonal salad with red bell pepper dressing, a potage of turnip and Chinese cabbage, deep fried Japanese taro, Shojin curry and rice, and almond blancmange with strawberry sauce. Rev. Orihashi provided all the recipes to participants so that they can cook for themselves at home. Participants tasted each ingredient while they learned how to cook with the recipes. More people accept vegetarian food in today’s world of diversity, even



Rev. Kawaguchi



Rev. Orihashi



“TENZO”



Participants chanting together after Shojin lunch

in our eating habits. Learning the Shojin way of not wasting ingredients and consuming and communicating with others with appreciation

are important. Most of participants told us that they had a precious opportunity to reconsider their lives through the essential act of eating.

13 Activity Other BDK Related Lectures, Classes, and Events – Update for 2019

One of the missions of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) is to “support programs that advance the Buddhist spirit and its culture.” 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 businesspeople who desire background in Buddhism to help them operate and manage their businesses with opportunities to

learn about the spirit of compassion and the wisdom of Buddhism. For 2019, we welcomed Rev. Tozen Nakano, former head priest of Soto Shu Ryuhoji Temple, and Prof. Rev.

Makoto Ichiraku, head priest of Shinshū Ōtani-ha Shuenji Temple, Ohtani University, and hosted a monthly lecture on every fourth Friday at 6:00 pm.

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. For 2019, the lectures were delivered by Rev. Ryojo Shioiri, head priest of Shokanon Shu Sensoji Hozenin Temple, and Prof. Rev. Ichigyo Oyama, head priest of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Kogakuji Temple. We hosted a monthly lecture on every fourth Tuesday at 1:30 pm.



Lecture by Rev. Shioiri

Buddhist Yoga

The two aspects of Buddhism and Yoga can help in developing a calm and healthy life. Rev. Yuuka Gazzo from Jodo Shu Seiganji Temple led the class held monthly on every first Wednesday at 7:00 pm. She taught clearly and carefully for everyone, including beginners, to be able to listen to their own inner feelings and bodies through Yoga.



Yoga instruction by Rev. Gazzo



14 Activity Elementary Course of Buddhist Lectures on “Japanese Buddhism – Learning from Scratch” in Ikebukuro, Tokyo – Update for 2019

The Elementary Course of Buddhist Lectures on “Japanese Buddhism – Learning from Scratch” is one of the most popular educational courses hosted by Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) since 2016 to help people learn the basics of Japanese Buddhist schools in terms of their principles, histories and the lives of each founder.

The lectures were held in Ikebukuro, Tokyo for the 2019 series, and they were about the basics of each Japanese Buddhist school with dharma talks that included each lecturer’s own experience and beliefs. This series of lectures is sponsored exclusively by BDK with the cooperation of vari-

ous Japanese Buddhist schools. For 2018, we had many participants from Kanagawa prefecture since the venue was in Shibuya, Tokyo. For 2019, we had lots of people from Saitama prefecture and could provide opportunities for them to get familiar with Buddhism. Participants told us that “The two

hours flashed by! The photos of the monks’ trainings and practices are quite interesting, and it was easy to follow.”

We planned to have the 2020 series in Akihabara, however, we had to cancel them due to the measures required because of COVID-19.



Rev. Gyodai Kiuchi



Rev. Ryukai Matsushima



Rev. Tatsuo Yoshida

Lectures in 2019

Month	Theme	Lecturer
April	Tendai Shu Founder Saicho	Rev. Gyodai Kiuchi, Associate Professor of Taisho University
May	Shingon Shu Founder Kukai	Rev. Ryukai Matsushima, Koyasan Shingon Shu Kudokuin Temple
June	Jodo Shu Founder Honen	Rev. Tatsuo Yoshida, Jodo Shu Banryuji Temple
July	Jodoshin Shu Founder Shinran	Rev. Hisao Maeda, Associate Professor of Musashino University
October	Rinzai Shu Founder Eisai	Rev. Shinsuke Hosokawa, Rinzai Shu Myoshinji-ha Ryuunji Temple
November	Soto Shu Founder Dogen	Rev. Koji Chiba, Soto Shu Horinji Temple
December	Nichiren Shu Founder Nichiren	Rev. Eikan Hayashima, Nichiren Shu Myofukuji Temple



Rev. Hisao Maeda



Rev. Shinsuke Hosokawa



Rev. Koji Chiba



Rev. Eikan Hayashima

From Beginner to Intermediate Level

Special Lecture: Comparison between Namu Amida Butsu and Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō on February 2, 2020

BDK received many requests from previous participants that they would like to learn more deeply about Japanese Buddhism, and we therefore started holding a special lecture for intermediate level learners since 2018. We held a lecture about “Nara Buddhism and Heian Buddhism” for 2018.

For 2019, we welcomed Prof. Satoshi Hiraoka, president of Kyoto Bunkyo University. The theme of this year was about “A Comparison between Namu Amida Butsu and Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō - the Longer Sukhāvāṭīvyūha Sūtra and the Lotus Sutra / Master Honen and Master Nichiren.” The first half of the lecture

focused on the two sutras and Prof. Hiraoka explained the construction and the relationship with the biographies of Buddha. The second half compared Jodo Shu and Nichiren Shu in Japanese Buddhism and the various perspectives of the philosophies of

Master Honen and Master Nichiren. Participants told us that they could understand the big difference as well as the things held in common between the two and felt how both masters had lived in the same era.



Lecture by Prof. Hiraoka

15 Activity “Buddhism Through English” in Tokyo – Update for 2019

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) offers a two-year program of “Buddhism Through English (BTE)” with level 3 and level 2 classes. Each course has a final exam in February each year, and for the 2019 course, 45 people for level 3 and 23 people for level 2 passed.

BDK also offers recommendation letters for those who passed the

level 2 exam to work as an English volunteer guides at Buddhist tem-

ples in Tokyo. For 2019, six of them applied and worked as



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precinct guide service members at Jodoshin Shu Hongwanji-ha Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple. BDK started

the course in 2011 and continued hosting it until 2019, however, we had to cancel the 2020 course due

to the measures required because of COVID-19.

New Lecture: “Buddhism Through English - Learning the Basics of Japanese Buddhism in English” in Kyoto



Lecture by Dr. Grumbach

BDK received many requests and started the BTE in Kyoto as well in 2019. Kyoto welcomes tourists from all over the world, and we expected that they have more opportunities to introduce temples and shrines to

tourists in English. We welcomed Dr. Lisa Grumbach from Ryukoku University and hosted a monthly class in September, October, November, and December 2019. We informed the tourist associations

and interpreter volunteer groups in Kansai area about this program, and 56 people applied for 50 seats. The satisfaction of the course is quite high, and we are planning to hold the course again soon.

16 Activity A New Series of Lectures: “Learning About Buddhism in the World Part I”

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) started the new series of lectures: “Learning About Buddhism in the World Part I” in 2019.

Buddhism was originally founded in India, and it spread to the north and

the south to other parts of the world. We find various teachings and

customs in each place to differ even though they are all Buddhist

countries. Part I focused on the northern route and featured the fantastic instructors as listed below. Participants learned about the unique Buddhist perspectives and current trends of each country. More than 70 people applied for Part

I, and we planned to hold Part II about Buddhism in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar and Malaysia in 2020, however, we had to cancel due to the measures required because of COVID-19.

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



Prof. Kiyokuni Shiga



Rev. Akira Fujimoto



Dr. Hitoshi Yoshimura



Prof. Sudan Shakya



Dr. Seiji Kumagai



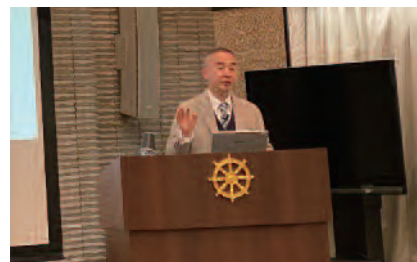
Prof. Takashi Matsukawa



Dr. Mikiyasu Yanagi



Dr. Atsushi Sato



Rev. Prof. Kenryo Minowa

Lectures in 2019

Country	Lecturer	Date
India	Prof. Kiyokuni Shiga, Kyoto Sangyo University	July 5
Sri Lank	Rev. Akira Fujimoto, Jodoshin Shu Seikyoji	August 29
Tibet	Dr. Hitoshi Yoshimura, The Nakamura Hajime Eastern Institute	September 26
Nepal	Prof. Sudan Shakya, Shuchiin University	October 24
Bhutan	Dr. Seiji Kumagai, Kyoto University Kokoro Research Center	November 29
Mongolia	Prof. Takashi Matsukawa, Otani University	December 20
China	Dr. Mikiyasu Yanagi, Hanazono University	January 22
Korea	Dr. Atsushi Sato, Toyo University	February 27
Taiwan	Rev. Prof. Kenryo Minowa, The University of Tokyo	March 25



17 Activity 2019 BDK Symposium

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) invited a variety of accomplished people as our lecturers, and sponsored events for the 2019 BDK Symposium introduced below.

The 19th BDK Symposium “Facing Myself – My Eighty-Year Path of Zen” in Hokkaido on July 22, 2019

BDK welcomed Rev. Eshin Nishimura, the 52nd BDK Cultural Award winner and former president of Hanazono University, and held a symposium with the theme of “Facing Myself – My Eighty-Year Path of Zen,” in which he talked about his life and the teachings of Zen.

We had about 90 participants at this event. Rev. Nishimura recalled his college life in the U.S. and enthusiastically talked about “my encounters with Christian scholars and artists, and how learning Christianity while I was in the U.S. broadened my views.”



BDK donated the entrance fees for this event to the restoration project money for “Hokkaido Iburi Tobu Earthquake Aid” through Hokkaido Buddhist Association.



Rev. Nishimura

While he remembered his previous life experiences, he confirmed that the path of Zen lies in “pursuing himself.” BDK hosted the symposium in

Hokkaido for the first time, and it was a great success indicating a major new step for our future activities.

The 20th BDK Symposium “The Future of Japanese Buddhism” at BDK Center Building on October 29, 2019

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) welcomed Dr. George Tanabe, Emeritus Professor of the University of Hawaii, and he talked about “The Future of Japanese Buddhism” with comparisons between examples of American temples and the current situation of Japanese Buddhism as they related to Japanese Buddhism.

He discussed the future of Japanese Buddhism from the western perspectives with Prof. Shizuka Sasaki from Hanazono University and examined together with the audience “what we



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

need for changing the future of Japanese Buddhism.”

BDK provided everyone with simultaneous interpreting service for the first time. Therefore, audiences could

listen in both Japanese and English, and it was a great first step for more people to participate in our symposiums.

The 21st BDK Symposium “Buddhism and Medical Treatment -Talking about Now and Future” at BDK Center Building on November 29, 2019

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) invited a variety of accomplished people as our lecturers, and sponsored events for the 2019 BDK Symposium introduced below.

We often see more cases in which religionists support medical work in recent years, however, various issues and questions have arisen at the same time. BDK welcomed two priests who actively work in the medical field as well.

Rev. Dr. Taishu Kawano, a psychiatrist and head priest of Rinzaï Shu Kenchoji-ha Rinkoji Temple, spoke on the theme of “Buddhism Works for Body and Mind,” in which he talked about the effect of Buddhist mindfulness on psychiatric treatment. Rev. Yugaku Ikawa, president of the Kanto Buddhist Chaplain Association and head priest of Koyasan Shingon Shu Kanrakuji Temple, addressed the theme of “Facing Life and Death” and



Rev. Ikawa (left) and Rev. Kawano (right)

talked about what he wants to communicate with people at the end of their lives.

During the conversation between both of them, they addressed questions from the audience and offered advice about the future of Buddhism and medicine. Many people who work in the medical field attended, and it gave

them a chance to think about the possible connections between Buddhism and medical care.

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

TAKE A BREAK

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) has been distributing “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” to hotels throughout the world to spread Buddhism widely.

However, more hotels refuse our offer of copies of TTOB because modern hotels tend to simplify their room interiors and staff operations. They also need to be sensitive about religious sensibilities of guests coming from all over the world. And sometimes, some staff members do not even know that copies of TTOB are already in their hotels.



BDK Web Movie Promoting TTOB is Out!



TTOB relates Buddhism to daily life situations, including business, and therefore we would like more hotel guests and hotel staff members to know about TTOB. In order to promote an awareness of TTOB, we created a short movie about TTOB in a hotel.

<https://www.bdk.or.jp/move/doga-haishin.html>

The main character of the movie is an ordinary business person who stays at a hotel for a business trip. He finds TTOB in a drawer and picks it up. What kind of phrases does he find that had an impact on his mind? Find out more in our web-movie page in our official website.

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

World Map & Contact Information

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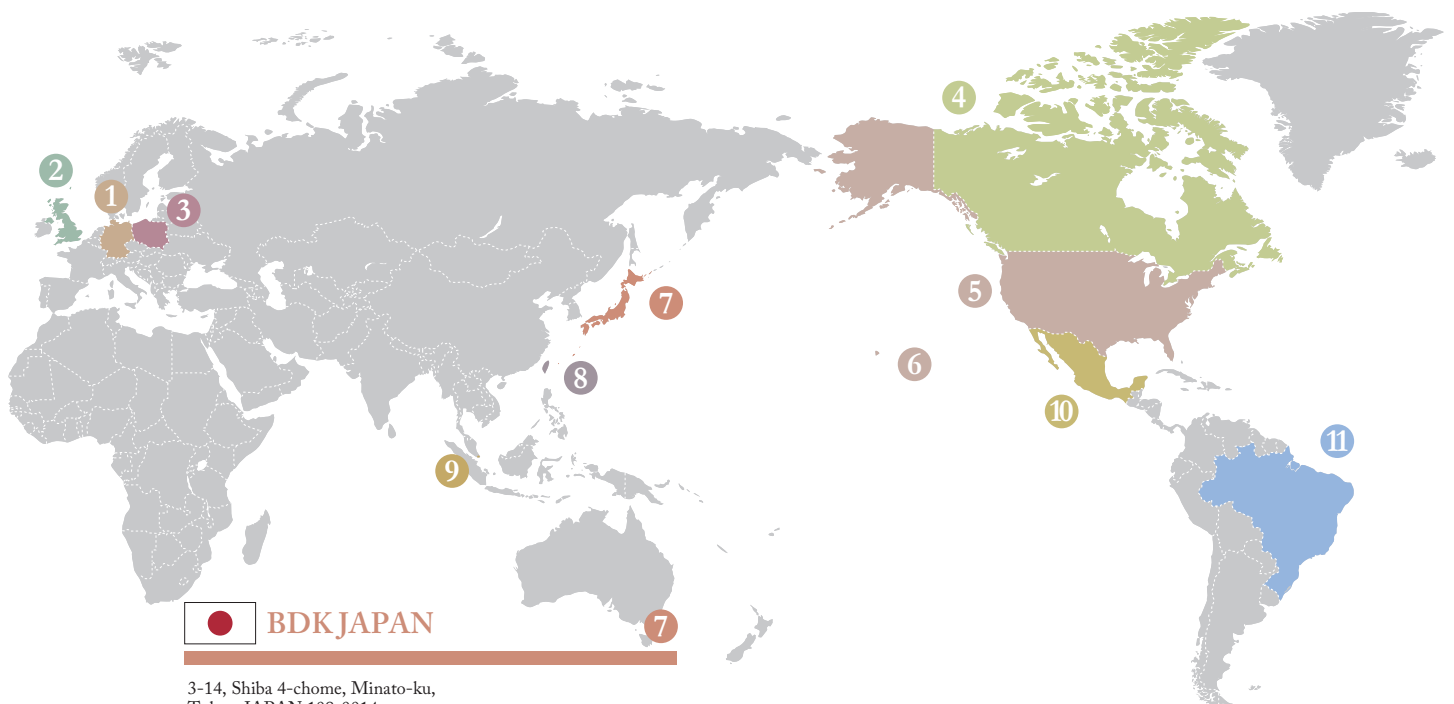
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BDK Canada



Numata Chair at McMaster University

Reports from Dr. George Tanabe, BDK Hawaii President

BDK continues to expand its support of Buddhist Studies programs at various universities. In 2018, a new Numata Program was established at Princeton University, and in 2019, another Numata Program was initiated at McMaster University in Canada. This brings the total number of Numata Programs to 17 in the U.S., Canada, the UK, and other European countries. All of the program coordinators at American and Canadian universities meet annually at the American Academy of Religion meeting, which was held in San Diego in 2019.

Professor Shoryu Katsura, president of BDK Japan, led a delegation of BDK representatives at the signing ceremony held at McMaster



Left to right: Prof. Benn, Prof. Hurley, Prof. William, Prof. Deane, and Prof. Katsura

University to celebrate the establishment of the Numata Program. McMaster University is one of the leading universities in Canada for the

study of Buddhism, and the new Numata Program will contribute to making their program even stronger.

BDK America



UC Berkeley East Asian Library Reception and Symposium on Buddhist Philosophy



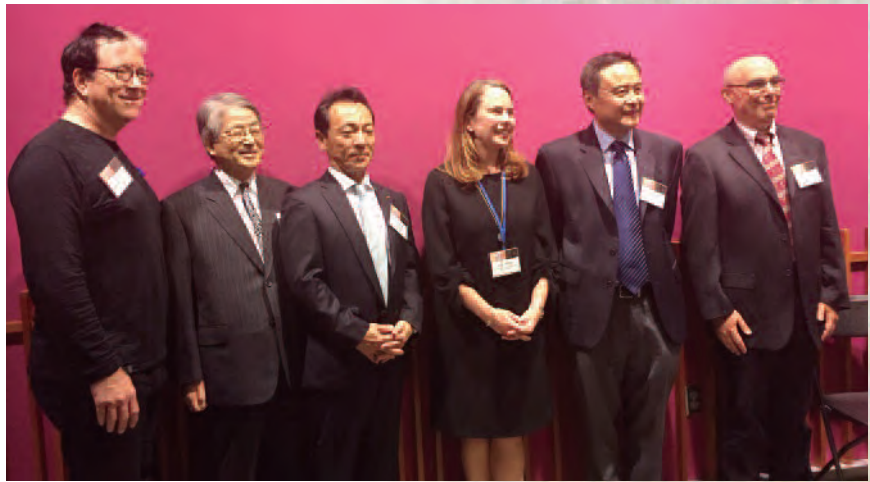
Mr. Numata

The C.V. Starr East Asian Library at the University of California at Berkeley celebrated its 10th anniversary on September 19, 2019. Built as the only free standing East Asian library in the United States, the Berkeley East Asian library contains in one location a vast collection of materials in East Asian languages. An important part of the library is the Yehan Numata collection of Buddhist materials that makes the library one of

the most important resources for the academic study of Buddhism.

In addition to the generous donation made by the Numata family and BDK for the construction of the library, BDK makes annual contributions for the advancement of the Buddhist collection. In recognition of the support given by BDK, UC Berkeley invited Mr. Yoshiaki Numata, president of the Mitutoyo Corporation, and Professor Shoryu Katsura, president of BDK

Japan, to be honored guests at the 10th Anniversary celebration. Other guests from the university and the community enjoyed a wonderful reception at the library, viewed a special exhibition about Yehan Numata's life, and ended the evening with dinner at the UC Berkeley Faculty Club. On the day after the Library reception, a special symposium on Buddhist philosophy was held on the campus of UC Berkeley. Organized as part of the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the East Asian Library, the symposium featured presentations by prominent scholars from the University of Chicago, Oxford, Harvard, the University of British Columbia and Princeton. Professor Shoryu Katsura also presented a paper and chaired one



Left to right: Dr. Mackie-Mason, Prof. Katsura, Mr. Numata, Prof. Hopper, Prof. Zhou, and Prof. Sharf

of the sessions. President Yoshiaki Numata of the Mitutoyo Corporation opened the symposium with welcome remarks. The specific field of Buddhist Philosophy is not as well recognized

as the broader area of Buddhist Studies, and this conference made an important case for highlighting the study of Buddhist Philosophy as a subject deserving greater academic attention in its own right.

Toshihide Numata Book Award in Buddhism

The Toshi Award, as it is popularly known in the West, is now recognized as the premier prize for the best book published in English on Buddhism in any given year. In 2019, Professor Paul Swanson of Nanzan University won the award for his book, *Clear Serenity, Quiet Insight: T'ien-t'ai Chih-i's Mo-ho chih-kuan*, published by the University of Hawaii Press in 3 volumes. Professor Swanson's translation of Chih-i's masterpiece was described by the selection committee as a "formidable achievement," "a masterwork of scholarship," and the "fruit of mature and sustained scholarship at the highest level." The Toshi Award is administered by the Buddhist Studies Center at UC Berkeley, which selects an external committee to review the submissions and select a winner. The award program was held at UC



Prof. Stone (left), Prof. Swanson (middle), and Prof. Kieschnick (right)

Berkeley on December 6, 2019 and featured a presentation by Professor Swanson followed by comments from Professor John Kieschnick of Stanford University and Professor Jacqueline Stone of Princeton University. In his remarks, Professor Swanson noted that it took him more than 30 years to complete his translation along with commentaries and annotations explaining the terms and ideas of this Buddhist classic.



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



Banner and Photo Exhibition at Hanamatsuri Celebration



In cooperation with BDK America, BDK Hawaii sponsored a banner exhibition on Buddhist Temples in Hawaii, and a photo exhibition on the Buddha's Words in the Landscape of India. Both exhibitions were installed in the social hall of the Honpa Hongwanji Betsuin temple on the occasion of the Hanamatsuri celebration held on April 7, 2019. The event was organized by the Hawaii Buddhist Council, which includes all denominations of Japanese Buddhism in Hawaii.

The banner 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 ninety temples that still exist in Hawaii.

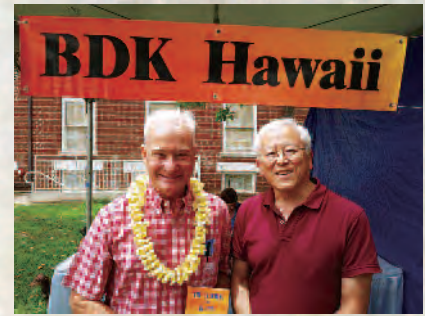
The photo exhibition was developed by BDK Japan featuring photos of contemporary religious activities in India paired with sayings of the

Buddha. BDK America translated the exhibition brochure and photo captions from Japanese into English. BDK America and BDK Hawaii have cooperated together in circulating the banner and photo exhibitions to many temples in California and Hawaii. Large audience was mesmerized by the beautiful, soulful music that celebrated the holiday season and expressed the desire for world peace. The event was co-sponsored by BDK Hawaii and the BDK-Fujitani Interfaith Project.

Hawaii Book and Music Festival

BDK Hawaii again participated in the annual Hawaii Book and Music Festival by distributing 200 copies of *The Teaching of Buddha* to attendees of this popular event held on the

grounds of the Honolulu City Hall. Volunteers manned the BDK Hawaii booth, and not only passed out books, but also had many conversations with people about Buddhism.



BDK Hawaii booth

Soul Shop Suicide Prevention

Soul Shop is a national movement focused on helping religious communities develop skills and strategies for the prevention of suicide. Soul Shop has conducted hundreds of workshops throughout the United States and BDK Hawaii was a co-sponsor here in Hawaii for the first time in 2016 for church and temple leaders of all denominations. Since that time, the suicide rate has significantly increased in Hawaii and the nation, and BDK Hawaii joined several other community organizations in sponsoring an expanded two-day Soul Shop program held



on October 18-19, 2019.

The main workshop was held in Honolulu, but people on the neighbor islands were also able to participate through Webinar broadcasts over the internet. In all, 160 people from Oahu, Kauai, Maui and the

Big Island of Hawaii participated and benefitted from the presentations that were specifically designed for adults and youth leaders in Christian churches and Buddhist temples.

Handbells and Shamisen Concert for Peace

Rev. Kazuki Moriyama of Fukujuji temple in Yokohama organized this unique concert performed by Tinkerbell, a Japanese handbell group, and by two award-winning Tsugaru shamisen players, Shoju Aratani and Tatsuya Oikawa. The concert was held at Chaminade University, a Catholic institution in Honolulu, on December 7, 2019 in commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day and also in gratitude to the people of Hawaii who donated funds for victims of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster in Tohoku. The large audience was mesmerized by the beautiful, soulful music that celebrated the holiday sea-



son and expressed the desire for world peace. The event was co-sponsored

by BDK Hawaii and the BDK-Fujitani Interfaith Project.



Welcoming a New Member of BDK Mexico!



"Eko Ennichi Matsuri" festival

Mrs. Sakiko Yokoo joined BDK Mexico in September 2019. She first came to Mexico as one of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers in 2003, and then established the NPO,

"A.C.México-Japón Caminando Juntos," which contributes to the cultural exchanges between Mexico and Japan. Once she encountered the philosophy of Ekoji Temple, the spirit of

"compassion and symbiosis," she decided to join BDK Mexico. She has now been studying to be a Buddhist priest to succeed Rev. Joshin Todaka, the current head priest of Ekoji Temple.

Message from Mrs. Yokoo

2019 was a year of big changes for Mexico as a nation, when the new government was launched, and it was the same for BDK Mexico. As people wish for the new government to change society, we set "transformation" as our activity theme for 2019 to encourage each person to develop their minds and try to create a society without crimes. About 200 people come to Eko hall and practice Yehan Juku, martial arts, dancing, calligraphy, Zazen meditation, Yoga, etc., and we encourage them to include these practices in their life and work.

In addition to the distribution of "The Teaching of Buddha," we held a variety of events to encourage more people to come and join our temple and to be a supporter of Ekoji Temple, where

people can gather, learn and rest. The "Eko Ennichi Matsuri" festival on December 14, 2019 was a special success, and over 300 people joined the event.

The year 2020 will be the 35th anniversary of BDK Mexico. We started reconstructing our building, and this will be a big first step of our changes. I believe that we need to take a moment once again and reconsider our "mission" to change how to approach local people along with meeting the needs of each situation. Mexican people love festivals and something new, and they are friendly and tolerant about changes. Culture/art related activities are easy for everyone to join, and it is easy for everyone to join because it is the most peaceful way to introduce Buddhism



Mrs. Yokoo

as an important part of our culture. In addition to the monthly Dharma talk by Ekoji head priest, Rev. Todaka at Puebla University, we started a new project of presenting a picture story show for elementary school children to tell Buddhist tales and morality stories. We also began a project of visiting prisons, and are contributing to spreading the teachings of Buddha with a spirit of compassion and symbiosis to the Mexican world.

BDK Taiwan (Taiwan)



BDK Taiwan Official Website

BDK Taiwan is pleased to announce that we have launched our official website on April 1, 2020. We will keep updating and improving our website and hope to delight our viewers in the future.

- Official website URL :
<https://www.bdk.tw/>
- E-mail address for inquiries :
bdktaiwan@yahoo.com



BDK Asia website

BDK Asia



“The Teaching of Buddha” Donation to Mahamakut Buddhist University in Thailand



TTOB distribution by Mitutoyo Thailand



Mahamakut Buddhist University

BDK Asia donated 2,000 copies of “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” to the central library of Mahamakut Buddhist University via Mitutoyo Thailand on October 10, 2019. The university is one of the major Buddhist universities in Thailand, and

has four faculties, a graduate school, seven campuses and three colleges. On November 16, 2019, BDK Asia exhibited and donated another 2,000 copies of “The Teaching of Buddha” to the students and their relatives who attended the graduation ceremony,

which was presided over by the Thailand Patriarch. It was a great opportunity for BDK Asia to receive more enquiries regarding “The Teaching of Buddha” from various interested organizations such as temples, hospitals and schools.



Dusseldorf Japan Day



Dharma talk by Rev. Nottelmann

The 17th Japan Day, which is planned, designed and financed annually by the Japanese community and the Consulate-General on the Japanese side, and by the State of North Rhine Westphalia and the City of Dusseldorf on the German side, took place on May 25th in 2019. On the eve of Japan Day, an open-air Taiko concert was held in front of the EKO-Haus Temple. We left the door open for visitors on the day of Japan Day. In great weather, a lot of people

visited a workshop on calligraphy, a photo exhibition, and a workshop about Koto. The number of visitors was estimated to be over 1,000 people. In addition, the Gōtan-e service (to celebrate the Birthday of Shinran Shōnin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu) was carried out at the main temple and 80 visitors attended it. An introduction to Buddhism was presented by a Buddhist minister twice after the service with favorable responses. We also set up a special booth for the



Calligraphy workshop

sale of “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” in front of the reception area and sold 69 copies in that weekend.



Tea ceremony



Koto workshop

20th Anniversary of EKO-Kindergarten

EKO-Kindergarten celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 2019. On this occasion a commemorative ceremony was held on July 3rd. After the memorial ceremony in the temple, children of EKO-Kindergarten performed their dance in front of guests. After the performance, a celebration party took place in EKO-hall. It was a grand party with many special guests such as Mr. Masato Iso, Japanese Consul General in Dusseldorf, Friedrich G. Conzen, Deputy Mayor of Dusseldorf and so on. The display of works made by the children and the chorus of their parents added spice to the ceremony.



Children dancing in front of guests

Hōonkō-Seminar



Seminar participants

The Hōonkō-Seminar took place on November 22 - 24. Rev. Dr. Kenneth Tanaka, Professor Emeritus of Musashino University, was invited as lecturer. He talked about “Shinjin Awakening in Shin Buddhism –Its

Mahayana Buddhist Roots, and Nembutsu Meditation.” 12 Jodo Shinshu ministers in Europe and 23 ordinary people participated in it. This annual seminar is a quite important opportunity for European Jodo



Rev. Tanaka

Shinshu ministers and members because they can gather to exchange opinions about Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu in Europe.

Increase in the sales of “The Teaching of Buddha”

The volume of sales of “Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” at EKO-House increased dramatically in 2019. More language versions of sample

books were available, and the eye-catching display in the main hall caught the attention of many more guests. Total sales in 2019 was 646

copies, which is triple what it is in usual years.

Kibō (Hope)

Hope means to wish or desire. To live means to seek to fulfill our wishes. There is nothing more miserable than a life that has no hope. However, we often lose sight of our desire and lose hope.

For the person who has spent all his energies dealing with matters at hand and is overcome by present reality, there will be no hope after losing an ideal. Living with hope means to live always with having an ideal.

The realm in which the ideal of life is realized is the Pure Land. There is a passage in The Smaller Sūtra on Amitāyus, which goes as follows:

The color blue radiates a blue light,
yellow a yellow light,
red a red light,
and white a white light.

Each color radiates its own light. Therein lies the ideal of life and true hope.

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