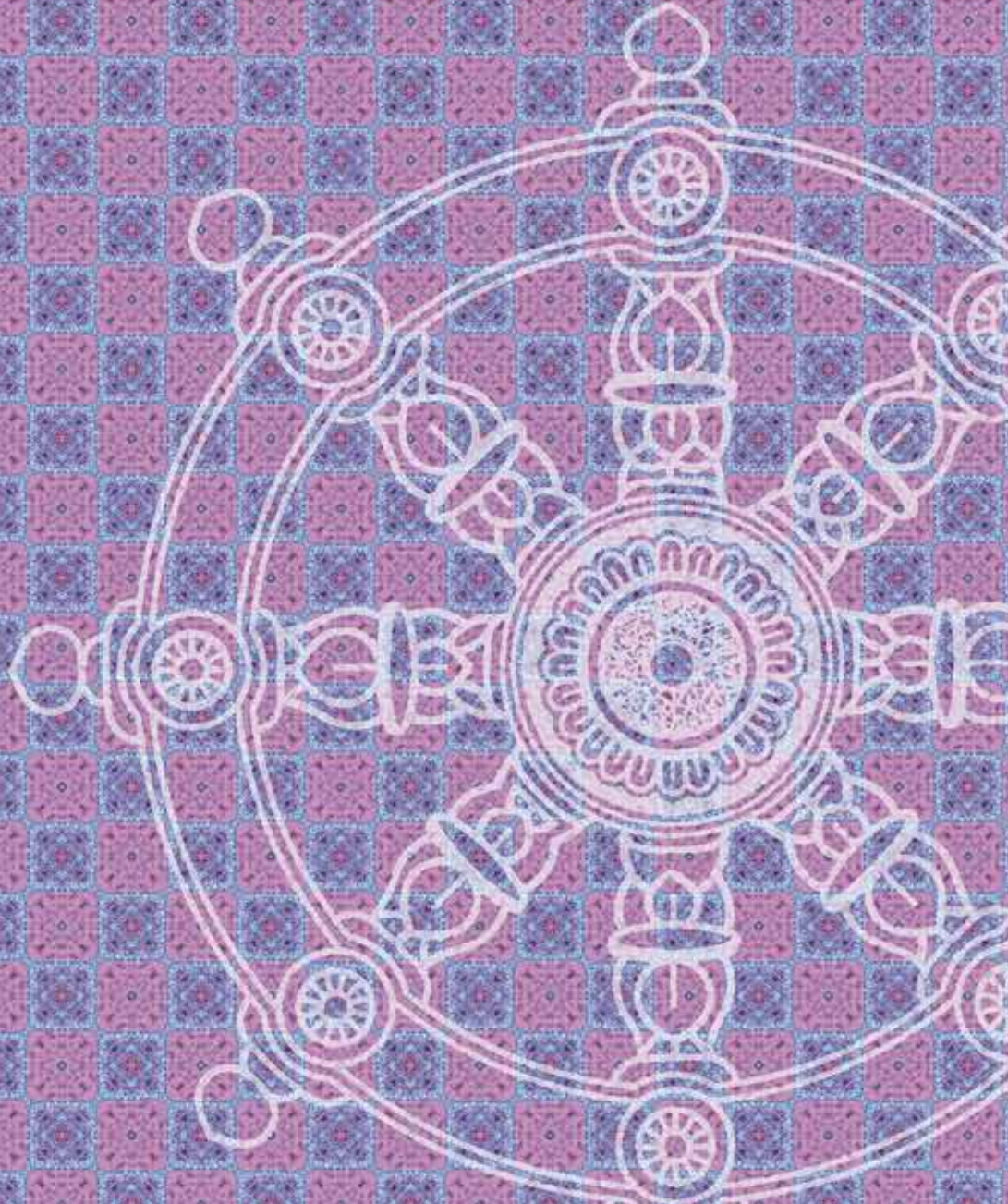


BDK Newsletter



Michi - The Path -

BUKKYO DENDO KYOKAI Society for the Promotion of Buddhism

No. 10
2021

Michi

— The Path —

10

CONTENTS

02 BDK Japan News 2020

~BDK Publications~

- "The Teaching of Buddha"
- Newly Published BDK Publications
- "Let It Shine! Temple Bulletin Board Award 2020"
- The Fifth BDK Buddhist Picture Prize Competition
- The Seventh Annual Competition of the BDK Calendar "A Wise Teaching a Day"
The Sixth Photo Exhibition of the BDK Calendar "A Wise Teaching a Day" at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple, Byodoin Temple, and Zuiganji Temple
- Providing the "Illustrated Story of Shakyamuni" to the "Exhibition of the Kosetsu Nosu and Buddha Wall Paintings in Sarnath"
- Sales of Kamishibai, Picture Story Cards "Buddha -the Life of Shakyamuni"
- The 2020 Campaign for Gratifying Verses from "The Teaching of Buddha"

08 ~Financial Assistance and Honoring Recipients~

- BDK Fellowship Programs
 - * BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars
 - * BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars
 - * Obituary: Professor Seishi Karashima
- The 54th BDK Cultural Awards Ceremony
- BDK Financial Assistance Programs

17 ~Buddhist Lectures and Seminars~

- BDK Official LINE Account
- Live Dharma Talks on Instagram: "Organize the Mind through Buddhist Stories"
- BDK Online Station: "Weekly Dharma Talks"
- The 50th Anniversary of the Pipe Organ at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple.
"The 20th BDK Buddhist Music Festival, Buddhaspel; An Evening Pipe Organ Concert"
- "Buddhist Yoga Plus ~My First Meditation~"
- The 2019 "Toshihide Numata Book Award in Buddhism" Commemorative Lecture
- More Familiarity with Buddhism
 - * Ten Best Phrases from the BDK Bulletin Board Chosen by Viewers in 2020
 - * "Capsule Toy Vending Machine - Model Figures of Buddhist Statues"
- Other BDK Related Lectures, Classes, and Events
- "Buddhism Through English" in Tokyo
 - * "Buddhism Through English - Learning the Basics of Japanese Buddhism in English" in Kyoto
- "Buddhist Yoga"
- 2020 BDK Symposium
 - * The 17th BDK Symposium "How to Live Your Life Only Once"
 - * The 22nd BDK Symposium "New Biography of Shakyamuni"
 - * The 23rd BDK Symposium "Are We Able to Make Ourselves Happy through Buddhism?"
 - * The 24th BDK Symposium "Buddhism and Palliative Care -Supporting the Last Moment with Calm"
- Canceled/Postponed Lectures, Classes, and Events in 2020
- Take a Break : Buddhist Yoga for People in the Modern World + Meditation

33 BDK Affiliated Organization Activities

World map & Contact information

- BDK America
- BDK Hawaii
- BDK Mexico
- BDK Taiwan
- BDK Asia
- BDK Europe

42 "Sasaeatte" 「Jinsei (Life)」



BUKKYO DENDO KYOKAI
Society for the Promotion of Buddhism

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Enrich Your Life by Aiming for a “New Lifestyle”

We truly appreciate your generous understanding and continued support for all of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK)’s activities as we report our 2020 news and updates in this issue.

2020 was the year of the COVID-19 pandemic in the world, and our daily lives have been deeply affected and limited in various situations. For instance, we frequently heard “Avoid the 3Cs: Closed spaces, Crowded places, and Close-contact settings.” “Avoid meeting people.” “Avoid all social activities.”

Consequently, people continue to make efforts to date, thinking about what we can do now to overcome these real difficulties by communicating online, working from home and such.

BDK also had to cancel and postpone most of our scheduled activities, and we struggled to find the best possible countermeasures against COVID-19 to keep providing opportunities to everyone. We would like to express our gratitude to all of you for your understanding about the significance of our activities and supporting us in these times of difficulty.

We cannot say anything with certainty, but we know what we should do. We hope that these difficult situations will improve. Moreover, BDK will continue to promote whatever we all need to do in order to share this “new lifestyle” to enrich our lives.

With Gassho,



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



BDK Publications

01 Activity “The Teaching of Buddha”

Distribution of “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” in 2020 was very difficult due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The number of tourists who visited Japan in 2020 was 4.11 million, the smallest number since 1998. Most hotels were temporarily shut down or closed.



TTOB placed in a hotel guest room

Despite this tough situation, we were still able to distribute 7,662 copies of TTOB to hotels and Shukubo, pilgrims' lodgings at temples. In addition to the hotels in Japan, we replenished the Korean version of TTOB in establishments such as the “TOYOKO-INN HOTEL Busan Station 1” in South Korea. We have been distributing TTOB to 13 TOYOKO-INN hotels in Korea since 2012.

During this tough time, we started uploading free PDF versions of TTOB in various languages in April 2020. BDK is working to provide more opportunities for everyone anywhere in the world to read TTOBs without any hassles. We are going to retrieve lost opportunities once we finally get back to normal again.



Toyoko Inn Seoul Yeongdeungpo in Korea

Fortunately, we were able to complete most of the distributions to Buddhist educational facilities and nurseries in Japan before the COVID-19 situation got worse, and we distributed 40,143 copies, the same amount as in 2019.

In addition to the above efforts, revision of TTOB in Japanese has been going on through the work of the “TTOB Editorial Committee.” TTOBs have been revised to adapt to changing needs, and Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) is going to make it better and more reader-friendly for everyone.

However, we had to postpone our plan to donate TTOBs in the PRC and India, and lost most of our precious opportunities for distributing TTOBs to temples since Buddhist services and events were canceled or scaled down.

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

Activity 02 Newly Published BDK Publications



"Michishirube (The Signpost)"

One of the most popular Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) yearly publications, 'Six Virtues' in the newest series of "Michishirube (The Signpost)" has started. We renewed the contents, and three Buddhist priests carefully explain the "A Wise Teaching a Day" calendar. Rev. Hogen Natori from Shingon-shu Buzan-ha, Rev. Tesshu Shaku

from Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, and Rev. Shoyo Yoshimura from Soto-shu wrote and published the very first issue of "Fuse – Hodokoshi-no-Kokoro (Offering – the Mind of Almsgiving)" in June, 2020.

BDK also published the audio version of "The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)" at audiobook.jp. We tried to sell the audio versions in various ways such as cassette tapes and CDs; however, those had to be excerpted due to the limits of recording duration. The newest audio version is recorded as a "complete edition" with the voice of Mr. Tamiyoshi Okuda, one of the most popular professional narrators for TV programs and animations. We have uploaded it in our official website and hope everyone will enjoy listening to it.

For the English Tripitaka series, we have published "A Forest of Pearls from the Dharma Garden" No.3 and No.4, which are known as encyclopedias compiled in the Tang dynasty (seventh century), and "The Madhyama Agama" No.2, which is the work of Gautama Samgha-deva in the fourth century.

On our official website, digital versions of TTOB in various languages, the "English Tripitaka" series, the "Kokoro-no-Ehon" picture book series, etc. are available, and we hope more people will take this opportunity to download those books at <https://www.bdk.or.jp/english/>



BDK English Tripitaka series

Activity 03 "Let It Shine! Temple Bulletin Board Award 2020"

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) held the third annual "Let It Shine! Temple Bulletin Board Award 2020" Competition. This award program drew media attention in spite of the pandemic of COVID-19, and we received 1,677 entries in 2020 compared with 925 entries in 2019.

The grand prize for the 2020 award was "Corona yori Kowai nowa Ningen datta (the most terrifying

thing is a human being, not COVID-19)." It was from Myodoji Temple in Kumamoto prefecture

and was tweeted by a drugstore clerk in Kanagawa prefecture.



BDK JAPAN NEWS 2020

We selected three bulletin board phrases for BDK prizes, and one of these was: “Although someone pushes you, do not push back. That is Buddhism.” This was from Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple in Tokyo. This came from the popular Japanese TV drama, “Hanzawa Naoki” and expresses the Buddhist attitude of nonviolence.

We found many good phrases and are going to hold the fourth annual competition in July 2021. For more information, please visit our official website at <https://www.bdk.or.jp/english/>



Photo taken at Tsukiji Hongwanji by aco@SDGs×仏教

04 Activity The Fifth BDK Buddhist Picture Prize Competition

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted the Fifth 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 146 submissions from a wide range of age groups for the 2020 competition. The reason why we received more submissions in 2020 than we did for the 2019 competition might be the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 four for fine works.

The grand prize went to “Gamaguchi-san (Ms. Purse with a Clasp)” written and drawn by Ms. Aya Yamaguchi. The story describes the humorous and magical experiences through ‘Gamaguchi,’ the clasps of the purse. BDK awarded the prize money to the winner and published the picture book in March 2021.



The fifth grand prize "Gamaguchi-san (Ms. Purse with a Clasp)"

05 Activity The Seventh Annual Competition of the BDK Calendar “A Wise Teaching a Day”

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted the seventh annual competition of the BDK Calendar, “A Wise Teaching a Day.” We received 2,722 submissions from 805 people. We held a selection meeting in September 2020 and the 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 at https://www.bdk.or.jp/photo_contest/2020_result.html (available only in Japanese).



Calligraphy performance at Byodoin Museum by Mr. Mori Suzuki

The Sixth Photo Exhibition of the BDK Calendar “A Wise Teaching a Day” at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple, Byodoin Temple, and Zuiganji Temple

The sixth exhibition was held in three places in Japan: the Information Center at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple in Tokyo from April 25 to June 14, 2020, Byodoin Museum at Byodoin Temple in Kyoto from June 26 to September 22, and the main hall at Zuiganji Temple in Miyagi from October 1 to November 4.



Exhibition at Tsukiji Hongwanji

About 10,000 people visited the exhibition at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple, 121,000 people at Byodoin Temple, and 41,000 people at

Zuiganji Temple. Many visitors had a wonderful opportunity to become familiar with the Buddha’s words accompanied by beautiful photos.



06 Activity

Providing the “Illustrated Story of Shakyamuni” to the “Exhibition of the Kosetsu Nosu and Buddha Wall Paintings in Sarnath”

Seven original pieces of the “Illustrated Story of Shakyamuni” painted by the Japanese artist, Mr. Kosetsu Nosu, which are owned by Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK), were exhibited at the “Exhibition of the Kosetsu Nosu and Buddha Wall Paintings in Sarnath” hosted by Nosu Kosetsu Gahaku Kensho-kai at Kagawa Prefectural Museum in Takamatsu, Kochi from September 1 to 6.

Mr. Keizo Hamada, governor of Kagawa prefecture; Mr. Raj Kumar Srivastava, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India in Japan; and Mr. Harumi Aoki, BDK executive director, attended the ribbon cutting ceremony in the morning, which was followed by a forum in the afternoon of September 1.



“Colossal Buddha Wall Paintings of Mulganga Kuti Vihar”

The “Colossal Buddha Wall Paintings of Mulganga Kuti Vihar” owned by Sotoshu Daihonzan Eiheiji Temple were displayed at the exhibition as reproductions of the same scale as that of Mulganga

Kuti Vihar in India.

Displays of all seven paintings of the “Illustrated Story of Shakyamuni”

in Kagawa, the hometown of Mr. Kosetsu Nosu, has special meaning for BDK and made the exhibition even more precious.

07 Activity

Sales of Kamishibai, Picture Story Cards “Buddha –the Life of Shakyamuni”

Kamishibai is a form of storytelling for children using picture cards, which was popular in the 1930s in Japan. Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) published it in prequel and sequel versions under the supervision of ©TEZUKA PRODUCTIONS with the same

touch as is found in the manga comic, “Buddha,” which was originally drawn by Mr. Osamu Tezuka, one of the greatest Japanese manga artists of all time. BDK donated 2,500 copies to Buddhist kindergartens and pre-schools throughout Japan in 2019. In



The cover page of “Buddha -the Life of Shakyamuni”

response to all the requests from many temples in Japan after the 2019 donation, we decided to sell a limited number of up to 2,000 copies in 2020.

In addition to selling the Kamishibai cards, we arranged for shows at kindergartens. For instance, they were lively presented to 50 children by the Shibuya Gagekidan, a Japanese picture storytelling company established by the Manga Artist Network Inc. at Jufukuji Kindergarten



Kamishibai show performed by Shibuya Gagekidan

No.1 and No.2 in Nerima-ku, Tokyo and Korin Kindergarten in Ota-ku, Tokyo in December 2020. It is our

pleasure to see that children can learn more about the teachings of Buddha through Kamishibai.

08 Activity The 2020 Campaign for Gratifying Verses from “The Teaching of Buddha”

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) has tried to provide constant opportunities for more people to experience the wonderful teachings from “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” through our publications, pdfs, audio books, etc., and we launched the Campaign for Gratifying Verses from TTOB. This campaign invites people to tweet their favorite verses and phrases from TTOB through Twitter.

Although we had to shorten the application period, we received over 300 entries. We could see many people participating in the campaign such as the Buddhist

priest who tweeted sayings from TTOB every morning. There was also the person who was eager to get the prize, ready-to-eat curry sauce, by tweeting many times.

We found various tweets that revealed meaningful verses people discovered in TTOB.

"The Campaign for Gratifying Verses from TTOB"



Financial Assistance and Honoring Recipients

01 Activity **BDK Fellowship Programs** **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 31st year in 2021, we selected the following two promising scholars at a committee meeting held in February 2021.

The 31st Annual Awardees for BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars

Ms. Simona Lazzerini

Nationality : Italy

Affiliation in Japan : Waseda University

Academic Advisor in Japan : Prof. Nobuyoshi Yamabe

Theme of Research : A Study of Icons of Demonic Hārītī (Kishimojin) with Human Hair

Ms. Laxin Zhang

Nationality : China

Affiliation in Japan : Kyoto University

Academic Advisor in Japan : Prof. Shinji Yoshikawa

Theme of Research : Buddhist Chanting, Spirit Writing, and Literary Culture in Heian Japan

We were unable to welcome all the awardees of the 2019 and 2020 BDK Fellowship due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Therefore, we would like to introduce them in the next issue.

The 29th Annual Awardee for BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars Q&As (continued from the previous issue)

Mr. Anthony Robert Scott

Nationality : Canada

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

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

Theme of Research:

1) What made you apply for the 2018 BDK Fellowship?

I first learned about the BDK Organization as an undergraduate student at the University of Calgary working with Professor Leslie Kawamura. As a Master Student at the University of Hong Kong, I studied many BDK-sponsored translations. When I started my PhD Program at the University of Toronto, I learned about the BDK Canada Graduate Scholarship, and visited Japan to meet with scholars researching Theravada Buddhism and Pali Texts. After meeting with these scholars and learning about their exciting research, I resolved to study in Japan to learn as much as I can about the academic culture in Buddhist Studies.

2) What is the best thing about being a BDK Fellowship holder?

The most important part of my BDK Fellowship tenure is immersing myself in the Japanese Buddhist culture both inside and out of the university. An important aspect of this immersion is learning as much Japanese language as I can, both writing and speaking, especially in terms of Buddhist



Prof. Baba (left) and Mr. Scott (right)

concepts and translations of Sanskrit and Pali words. Without the BDK Fellowship tenure, I would not have had a chance to learn Japanese in my career, which opens up a new horizon of how Buddhism is researched and taught outside of the English-speaking world.

3) What do you think about your future career?

With my time in Japan learning about Buddhist Studies at the University of Tokyo, I have experienced different approaches and perspectives to

both researching and teaching Buddhism. My BDK Fellowship has thus internationalized my career-trajectory, moving my mindset outside of American-dominated universities, and opening up possibilities for a professorship outside of North America and Europe. It has also renewed my commitment to repay all of my past teachers by becoming a professor and teacher myself, spreading Buddhist Studies to the next generation and beyond.



02 Activity

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. It is intended to enable Japanese researchers to engage in research on Buddhism while in foreign countries.

For the 9th year in 2021, we selected a promising scholar at a committee meeting held in February 2021.

The 9th Annual Awardee for BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars

Mr. Arihiro Kosaka

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

Academic Advisor : Prof. Michael Zimmermann

Theme of Research : Candrakīrti's Interpretation of Satyadvaya

Most of the 8th annual awardees were unable to go abroad due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Therefore, we would like to introduce the rest of them in the next issue.

The 8th Annual Awardee for BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars Q&As

Ms. Yosho Tominaga

Affiliation : Center for Buddhist Studies, University of California, Berkeley

Academic Advisor : Prof. Alexander von Rospatt

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

1) What made you apply for the 2020 BDK Fellowship?

At the end of November 2019, I got an email from Professor Akira Saito, who recommended that I apply for the 2020 BDK Fellowship. This email made me nervous because, in my opinion,

only those who are smart can apply for this fellowship. I told Professor Alexander von Rospatt about it, and he recommended that I apply for it. I remember the professor saying that unless you apply for it, there is no chance of getting it. Even though I understood that I am not suitable

for the application, thanks to both professors' kind recommendations, I decided to apply for the 2020 BDK fellowship with great courage.

2) What is/are the best thing(s) about being a BDK Fellowship holder and what do you think



Ms. Tominaga (second from the left in the second row) with her colleagues on a hiking trip, taken in 2019

about your future career?

Thanks to BDK, I had the chance to study Buddhism at the University of California, Berkeley. There were countless great experiences while studying at UC Berkeley. In addition, the most impressive thing was studying with wonderful professors and great classmates who constantly worked hard with infinite perseverance and joyfulness. I learned the power of grit from all of them. Honestly, I sometimes wanted to give up participating in their classes due to my poor English and understanding. However, they never gave up on me and always gave me a chance to participate in their classes, not as a guest, but as a fellow student. To sum up my experiences, I can use the power of grit that I learned through my study abroad at UC Berkeley and will

continue to do so in my research in Japan.

3) What did you like the most about life in a foreign country?

I could say that the most striking thing is how to participate in a class. I observed that it was like a "question-discussion party" because the teachers and the students shared their opinions and openly discussed them inside the class. In my opinion, classes are based on the lecture-style in Japan, but UC Berkeley is based on a discussion style. I have never experienced such excellent classes in which professors and students examined texts by asking questions and discussing issues together. I remember what Professor Alex said, "After the class discussion, our understanding will become a lot better even though we prepared

for the class before." I prefer this teaching style because teachers and students can get a deeper understanding together.

By studying abroad at UC Berkeley, I learned the power of grit and experienced a discussion and question style of classroom learning. I cannot convey all of my wonderful experiences, but I can say that studying abroad gave me a new perspective and the power of grit, not only for our research but also for our lives.

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



Obituary : Professor Seishi Karashima

The BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars has a long history and welcomed its 31st year in 2021. During those decades, Professor Karashima, who was the former director of the International Research Institute for Advanced Buddhology at Soka University, had taught many of the BDK Fellowship scholars from all over the world. He passed away at the age of 61 in July 2019.



Prof. Karashima and Dr. Lu

His enthusiastic yet polite attitudes towards those who aim to learn more in Japan under his supervision made him everyone’s favorite. Scholars trusted him as he represented our aim of promoting international cooperation and mutual understanding in Buddhist studies.

Specializing in Buddhist philosophy, Professor Karashima applied his vast knowledge of Sanskrit, Tibetan, Pāli, Middle Indo-Aryan, and ancient Chinese to conduct detailed analyses of early Chinese Buddhist translations.

He studied the formation of early Mahayana Buddhism and was a leading light of the Buddhist academic community in Japan and abroad. Professor Karashima was invited to work at various institutions in Japan and abroad, including the University of California, Berkeley; the School of Literary Studies at Renmin University of China; and Institut de France. During his time at these institutions, he did not limit himself to simply giving lectures on Buddhist studies. He also set up initiatives to support research, such as creating a worldwide network of

Buddhist researchers. Moreover, he appeared with those researcher/students in our newsletter many times before.

We truly appreciate his support and guidance over the years. As the chairperson of BDK, Seikoh-Kiyotaka Kimura would like to offer our deepest condolences. We also received the heartwarming message from Dr. Lu Lu, who was the 2019 BDK Fellowship awardee and his last student, telling us her memories about him and showing her appreciation.

In Remembrance of Professor Seishi Karashima Seikoh-Kiyotaka Kimura, BDK Chairperson

BDK has contributed to the promotion of Buddhism and its culture in various ways, and the

“BDK Fellowship” is one of the most important programs for us.

The last time I met Professor Karashima was at the “BDK Fellowship Gathering for

Scholarship Holders” in July 2019. He attended with Dr. Lu Lu from China. After all the presentations of scholars’ research and studies in Japan, we shared the same dinner table and talked about everything ranging from nothing in particular to academic issues for more than an hour. It was a truly fun moment after we had not seen each other for a long time.

However, only two weeks after the gathering, I received the sudden news of his passing away. I was

absolutely shocked and was at a complete loss for words.

He was only in his 60s but his achievement of Buddhist philology was stunning. He had an abundance of knowledge about Pali, Sanskrit, Tibetan, ancient Chinese, etc. and his research on early Chinese Buddhist translations had a huge impact. In addition to those achievements of his research/studies, he was eager to nurture young promising Buddhist scholars and linguists from all over the

world. He taught/supervised four of our excellent BDK Fellowship awardees since 2006. I am sure that they have been leading at the forefront of Buddhist studies after their stay with Professor Karashima in Japan.

I would like to express our deepest appreciation and pay our heartfelt respects and gratitude to his work and contributions to the BDK Fellowship program, the field of Buddhist studies, and the Humanities as well.

Dr. Lu Lu (studied at the International Research Institute for Advanced Buddhology, Soka University) The 29th BDK Fellowship Awardee

Those who knew Professor Seishi Karashima, even if they were completely unfamiliar with his field of study, were always surprised by his language talents. As a Buddhist philologist, he was not only proficient in Sanskrit, Pali, Chinese, Tibetan, English, French, German, and of course his native language, Japanese, but as far as I know, he also studied Russian, Thai, and Korean for many years. Thus, despite the fact that Sanskrit and ancient Chinese are two very difficult and vastly different languages, Professor Karashima was able to master both of them, and to examine many unanswered questions about Buddhism by comparing Buddhist texts written in various languages. His dictionaries on the early Chinese translations of *Aṣṭasāhasrikā Prajñāpāramitā* and *Saddharmapuṇḍarīkasūtra* are

essential tools for every scholar engaged in related studies.

I only met Professor Karashima in person for the first time after many years of acquaintance with his works, and, like every young scholar starting out in Buddhist philology, I was very curious about how he managed to master such a wide range of languages so well. I soon noticed that he was a very lively and talkative person who spoke Chinese as fluently as the locals, and he had a long-standing habit of keeping a small dictionary or a storybook in foreign languages in his suit pocket -- learning languages at anytime and anywhere had apparently become a source of pleasure for him.

In all the time I spent doing research with him, he was always

generous in enlightening me with his unimaginable wealth of knowledge. What I had learned from him was not only specific knowledge, but also all the personal characteristics that an outstanding scholar should possess: tenacity, diligence, perspicacity, patience, and generosity to students, just as he said one day when leaving the institute: "You young scholars are like cherry blossom trees in winter, which, although seemingly unimpressive, are absorbing nutrients through their roots day and night, waiting for the day when they will bloom in spring."

I believe that Professor Karashima has now reached the "pure land" that he had been seeking and contemplating all his life, and I will always cherish all my wonderful memories of studying with him.



03 Activity

The 54th BDK Cultural Awards Ceremony on October 8, 2020 at the Bukkyo Dendo Center Building

The 54th BDK Cultural Awards, Bunka-sho ceremony and banquet were held on October 8, 2020 at the Bukkyo Dendo Center Building.

Dr. Sengaku Mayeda, the Bunka-sho winner, taught at the University of Tokyo after Dr. Hajime Nakamura, the world renown authority of Indian philosophy. He contributed to developing human resources in Buddhist studies and its research field as a chairperson of the Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies and the Nakamura Hajime Eastern Institute.



Dr. Mayeda (right)

In his greetings at the ceremony, he talked about how he accepted the position of chairperson of the BDK English Tripiṭaka Editorial Committee and why he had decided to major in Indian philosophy because he was fascinated with the cutting-edge lecture on “An Overview of the History of Indian Thought” by Dr. Nakamura at the University of Tokyo. At the end of

his speech, he said, “There is only one more thing I can do to make my parents proud. I will need to live to be 90 years old.” The whole crowd filled the room with laughter.

Rev. Zenno Ishigami, Emeritus Professor of Taisho University congratulated Dr. Mayeda by recalling old memories of compiling

the “Sanskrit-Japanese Dictionary” together. Rev. Hiroyuki Honda, Director of the Shinran Buddhist Center, proposed a toast and expressed his gratitude for his contributions to the republishing project of “The Teachings of Jodo Shin Buddhism” translated by Dr. Daisetsu Suzuki.

Obituary: Rev. Zenno Ishigami

Rev. Zenno Ishigami, who won the 50th BDK Cultural Awards in 2016, passed away on November 29, 2020. He was a pioneer of studies of the sutras of Pure Land Buddhism. He contributed to the publication of BDK’s “The Teaching of Buddha”

and the “English Tripiṭaka” from the beginning, and supported BDK as a board member for decades. BDK would like to express our sincere appreciation and pay our heartfelt respects and gratitude to his work and contributions to our activities.



Rev. Ishigami (the middle of the front row) with the TTOB editorial team (1960s)

Activity 04 BDK Financial Assistance Programs

BDK supports individuals and groups that agree with the purpose of our non-profit activities and contribute to promote Buddhism and its culture with high quality public programs.

For 2020, we received 30 applications and the BDK Financial Assistance Committee selected 20 individuals/groups and granted them financial assistance as listed below.

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

A. Support for Groups

Name of Group	Project
The Japanese Association of Indian Studies	International academic and cultural exchanges through digital correspondence at the association
NPO Kamakura Terakoya	Promotion of temple communities through volunteer activities by universities, temples, local government, and people
"Freestyle Monks"	Publication of free magazine, "Freestyle Monks" and website, and holding related events

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

Name of Group	Project
Public Interest Incorporated Foundation Zenkoku Kyokaishi Renmei (Japan Buddhist Chaplain Union)	Training/education of Buddhist chaplains (*Did not subsidize due to the suspension of the project because of the COVID-19 pandemic)
Public Interest Incorporated Association Zaika Bukkyo Kyokai (Buddhist Followers Association)	Workshops and lectures for Buddhist followers
All Japan Young Buddhist Association	International young Buddhist exchange program (*Did not subsidize due to the suspension of the project because of the COVID-19 pandemic)
General Incorporated Association Project Gamon	Publication of free Buddhist magazine, "Wagense"
Public Interest Incorporated Association Shanti Volunteer Association	Publication of picture books of Buddhist tales in Myanmar
H1 HOUWA Grandprix H1 Executive Committee	2020 H1 HOUWA Grandprix in Nara (*Did not subsidize due to the suspension of the project because of the COVID-19 pandemic)
Tohoku University Graduate School of Letters, Endowed Courses of Practical Philosophy	Training/education of chaplains (*Did not subsidize due to the suspension of the project because of the COVID-19 pandemic)
All Japan Young Buddhist Association	Plum Village Mindfulness retreats of Thich Nhat Hanh (*Did not subsidize due to the suspension of the project because of the COVID-19 pandemic)
Shimane Buddhist Federation	The 45th All Japan Buddhist Conference in Shimane (*Did not subsidize due to the suspension of the project because of the COVID-19 pandemic)
Public interest incorporated association Otani Childcare Association	Certified Childcare Psychologist Course



BDK JAPAN NEWS 2020

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

Name of Group	Project
Public Interest Incorporated Foundation the Nakamura Hajime Eastern Institute	2020 research investigation
Ryukoku Museum	Special Exhibition 2020 “The Disciples of Buddha –Their Stories_ (*Did not subsidize due to the suspension of the project because of the COVID-19 pandemic)
Public Interest Incorporated Foundation Japanisch-Deutsches Kulturinstitut	Workshops co-hosted by research institutes in Japan and Germany “Concepts of Buddhism and Christianity” (*Did not subsidize due to the suspension of the project because of the COVID-19 pandemic)
Research Center for Buddhist Studies, Eötvös Loránd University	Research based on the philology and iconography about Samantabhadra in East Asia

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

Name of Group	Project
Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin	“i am a link” project

C. Numata Program in Buddhist Studies and its Related Activities

Name of Group	Project
University of Vienna	Continuing Numata Program in Buddhist Studies
University of Chicago Divinity School	Continuing Numata Programs in Buddhist Studies



Buddhist Lectures and Seminars

Activity 01 **BDK Official LINE Account**

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) officially opened a LINE account in June 2020 for promoting our activities to people of all ages.

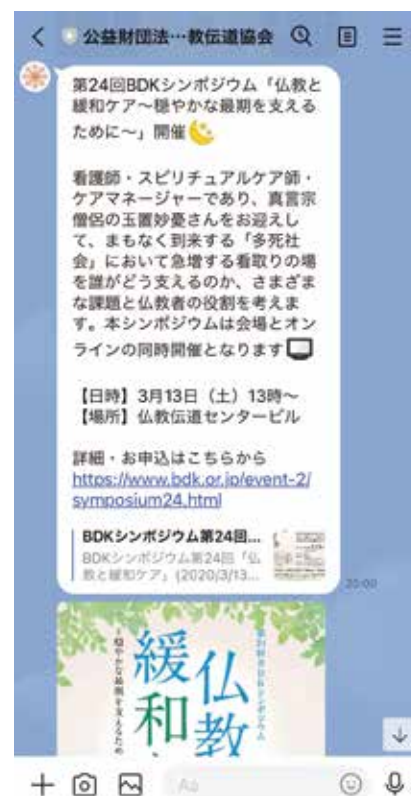
Through this account, we introduce information about our publications, regular classes, BDK symposiums and more, and anyone can browse through a variety of BDK related information once you add yourself as a “Friend” as directed below.

●How to Add yourself as a LINE Friend (only available in Japanese)



Name of Account : 公益財団法人
仏教伝道協会 Koeki Zaidan Hojin
Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK)
LINE ID : @384zhjgw

- 1) Search with ID “@384zhjgw”
- 2) Visit <https://lin.ee/wlOD8qj>
- 3) Read QR code



BDK official LINE page

Activity 02 **Live Dharma Talks on Instagram: “Organize the Mind through Buddhist Stories”**

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) welcomed Rev. Ryukai Matsushima, head priest of Koyasan Shingonshu Kudokuin Temple, as a guest speaker for the live dharma talk event on BDK’s official Instagram, “Organize the Mind through Buddhist Stories,” on July 30, 2020. He selected some words and phrases from his publication “Oyasumimae-no Sanpun Ondoku-de Iyanakoto-ga Suutto Kieru Hotoke-sama-no Hanahi (Buddhist Stories to make bad things disappear with 3-minutes of chanting before going to bed).”

We had many viewers not only from Japan but also from the U.S., Austria, and other foreign countries. We also received various comments

such as, “This is what I was waiting for,” “It drew me into his world because it was so easy to follow,” “It was fantastic that his examples

were modern and it was easy to understand the doctrines,” etc.



BDK JAPAN NEWS 2020

Themes (Number of Viewers)

The First Live Talk: “Are you trying to compare yourself with someone else?” (30 people)

The Second Live Talk: “Are you always at the mercy of someone else’s schedule?” (33 people)

The Third Live Talk: “Are you ignoring your small feelings every day?” (27 people)

The Fourth Live Talk: “Are you believing that you are the only person having a hard time?” (25 people)



Rev. Matsushima explaining the words

03 Activity BDK Online Station: “Weekly Dharma Talks”

We lost many opportunities at Buddhist temples because of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. We started broadcasting “Weekly Dharma Talks” via Zoom as one of the basic ways of providing more opportunities for everyone to become familiar with Buddhist teachings in January 2020.



Live dharma talks

(Rev. Matsubara)



(Rev. Kobayashi)

The BDK Online Station “Weekly Dharma Talks” provides live dharma talks on Zoom every Wednesday with a monthly theme for 30 minutes from 6 pm. These talks provide moments for taking a break from everything at the end of each day. We use Webinar, which

is a form of an online seminar on Zoom. Therefore, viewers’ faces are not shown in public, and they do not need to interact with other participants and can simply enjoy the dharma talks. The previous talks are also available on our official YouTube page.

We are continuing “Weekly Dharma Talks” in 2021. For more information about the 2021 broadcasts, please visit our official website at <https://www.bdk.or.jp> (only available in Japanese).

2020 Themes, Schedules and Speakers

January: "Health"

1/20 : Rev. Kakuho Aoe (Jodo Shinshu Higashi Honganji-ha, Ryokusenji Temple)

1/27 : Rev. Hironori Tsukada (Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, Kyogakuji Temple)

February: "Information"

2/3 : Rev. Yonin Koike (Shingon-shu Sumadera-ha, Sumadera Temple)

2/10 : Rev. Daiki Fujimoto (Rinzai-shu Nanzenji-ha, Hosenji Temple)

2/17 : Rev. Eshun Kobayashi (Tendai-shu, Shomyoji Temple)

2/24 : Rev. Tetsuhide Saiiki (Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, Saihoji Temple)

March: "Changes"

3/3 : Rev. Daichi Matsubara (Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, Komyoji Temple)

3/10 : Rev. Jin Makino (Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, Houonji Temple)

3/17 : Rev. Daishin Otobe (Shinshu Otani-ha, Onrakuji Temple)

3/24 : Rev. Koshi Hirano (Soto-shu Kannonji Temple)

3/31 : Rev. Shozui Murakami (Jodo Shu Kenchuji Temple)

04 Activity

The 50th Anniversary of the Pipe Organ at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple. "The 20th BDK Buddhist Music Festival, Buddhaspel; An Evening Pipe Organ Concert" on November 18, 2020 at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple

It has been 50 years since Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) donated the pipe organ to Tsukiji Hongwanji in Chuo-ku, Tokyo.

For the 50th anniversary, we held "The 20th BDK Buddhist Music Festival, Buddhaspel; An Evening Pipe Organ Concert" in the main hall of Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple.

At the beginning of the concert, we received a congratulatory message from Rev. Kojun Ohtani, the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Monshu. Rev. Yugen Matsunaga from Tsukiji Hongwanji temple



Concert at Tsukiji Hongwanji



BDK JAPAN NEWS 2020

led the music service with the pipe organ as the first part. In the second part, Ms. Mineko Kojima, a professional organist, presented a solo performance accompanied by Ensemble Kochi (Eastern Breeze). The entire crowd was fascinated with the majestic and splendid performance.

For the third part, the Tsukiji Hongwanji Gasshodan Gakuyukai choral group conducted by Rev. Joko Ando performed “Genso

Watashi (Element Myself).” BDK had commissioned Mr. Isao Matsushita, who was the vice chancellor of Tokyo University of the Arts and who passed away in 2018, to compose this song for peace. The soft voices of the chorus accompanied by the pipe organ created a comfortable harmony and the concert ended with a calm feeling.

We had to limit the audience to 250 people because of COVID-19,



Pipe organ donated by BDK

however, we managed to provide a valuable opportunity for participants to experience the beautiful sound of this pipe organ aged with a long history of half a century.

05 Activity

“Buddhist Yoga Plus ~My First Meditation~” at Bukkyo Dendo Center Building, December 2020 to March 2021

One of the most popular Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) classes is Buddhist Yoga, and we held a special series of classes focusing on meditation with a new perspective.

We had three classes in December 2020, February 2021, and March 2021 (we had to cancel the one in January 2021 due to the state of emergency).



Yoga class at the BDK Center Building

We welcomed Rev. Ryoyu Konishi, also known as Momo, who is a Koyasan Shingon-shu priest and yoga instructor for the special series. She taught yoga for 60 minutes, gave a dharma talk for 10 minutes, and gave instructions for the meditation for 30 minutes with a mixture of Vipassana and esoteric meditations.

Depending on the state of emergency, we had classes at the hall in our building and online at the same time for December and March, and online for the February class. We welcomed many participants both for the on-site

and online classes.

We are currently experiencing difficulties because of the unstable situation of COVID-19. The new series of yoga classes were able to satisfy the participants and we decided to renew our regular yoga class with the addition of meditation from 2021.

For information about the regular yoga classes for 2020, please see page25.

For more information about the new yoga classes for 2021, please check page30.

06 Activity

The 2019 “Toshihide Numata Book Award in Buddhism” Commemorative Lecture on February 12, 2021

The “Toshihide Numata Book Award in Buddhism” supports the advancement of Buddhist studies in the western world. Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (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 written in English of the year is selected by an independent committee every year.



Dr. Swanson online

The 2019 winning title is “Clear Serenity, Quiet Insight: T’ien-t’ai Chih-i’s Mo-ho chih-kuan (3 vols.,

Nanzan Library of Asian Religion and Culture, University of Hawai’i Press 2018),” which was selected by the committee in November 2019. The 2019 winning author Dr. Paul Swanson lectured online with the help of the co-host, the Research Center for Buddhist Culture in Asia.

Literature and the Future Tasks,” he explained the three important aspects of translation, the meaning of the word, the context, and the reader constituencies, and described the points to consider in English translations.

At the end of the lecture, he promised to translate “Hokke Gengi (Essentials of the Lotus Sutra).”

Dr. Swanson has continued his researches on the translation of “Makashikan (Mahayana Practice of Cessation and Contemplation)” for over forty years as his lifework. In his talk, “What is a translation? Forty Years of English Translation of Tendai Buddhist Related

For more information about the “Toshihide Numata Book Award in Buddhism” and its previous awardees, please visit <https://www.bdk.or.jp/english/>



Flyer for the lecture at Ryukoku University

07 Activity

More Familiarity with Buddhism Ten Best Phrases from the BDK Bulletin Board Chosen by Viewers in 2020

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) installed a new bulletin board at the entrance of the BDK Center Building in July 2019. We select phrases from many sources, including our best-selling book, “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB),” and some quotations from Japanese celebrities and historical figures, and put them with pictures on our official SNS such as Facebook and Instagram.



BDK JAPAN NEWS 2020

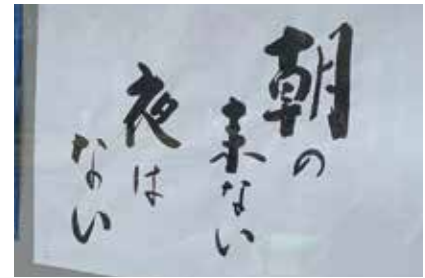
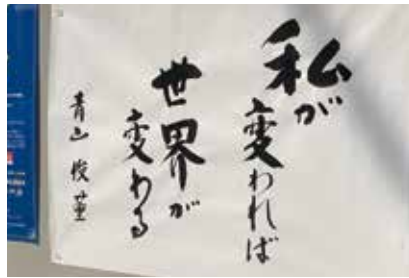
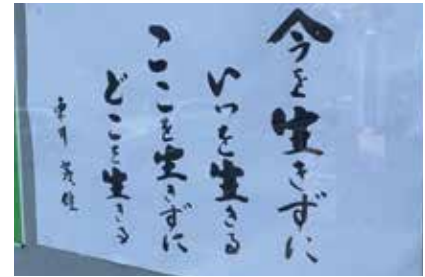
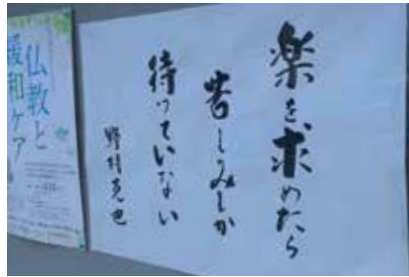


Capsule toy vending machines at BDK

We introduce below the 10 best phrases that earned the most “Likes” in 2020. We hope that the bulletin board can provide moments when you can think of yourself in relation to Buddhism. We will keep posting more phrases on our SNSs, and please check our previous posts, too.

“Capsule Toy Vending Machine – Model Figures of Buddhist Statues”

BDK installed a vending machine featuring capsule toy Buddhist statues with commentary leaflets on the first floor of the Bukkyo Dendo Center Building in July 2018.



The leaflets have information about each Buddhist statue and its affiliated temples, and visitors to the building enjoyed them. We currently have in place four vending

machines and change one of them every month. In addition to that, we change the messages on the white board monthly as well, so we hope people will not to miss that either.

- #1: “Shimura*is not dead. He is still alive.” By Boo Takagi**with 274 Likes
*Ken Shimura - The most popular Japanese comedian of all time, who passed away from COVID-19 in 2020 (1950-2020)
**Boo Takagi – Japanese comedian/ukulele player, one of Mr. Shimura’s best friends
- #2: “You will have a hard time if you only seek comfort.” By Katsuya Nomura* with 247 Likes
*Katsuya Nomura – The most famous Japanese baseball player of all time (1935-2020)
- #3: “What is the big deal about being famous?” By Tatsuro Yamashita* with 180 Likes
*Tatsuro Yamashita – the famous Japanese singer/song writer of all time
- #4: “When are you trying to live, if not now? Where are you trying to live, if not here?” By Yoshio Toui*with 131 Likes
*Yoshio Toui – Japanese educator/Jodo Shinshu priest (1912-1991)
- #5: “Snails. It does not matter where they die because they are always at home.” By Issa Kobayashi* with 121 Likes
*Issa Kobayashi – a Japanese legendary Haiku poem artist (1763 -1828)
- #6: “Prejudice is Ignorance” By Michel Jackson with 98 Likes
- #7: “Do not think that a losing person is weak. They are strong because of their patience.” With 97 Likes
- #8: “Rain has to drop on poop. It cannot be avoided, but no one understands.” By Kojiro Nomura, a Japanese poet with 94 Likes
- #9: “Evil out! Fortune in!” with 90 Likes
- #10: “The world will change if YOU change.” By Shundo Aoyama* with 90 Likes
*Shundo Aoyama – the famous Japanese Buddhist priest of Aichi Senmon Ni-sodo Shobo-ji Temple in Aichi, Japan

08

Activity

Other BDK Related Lectures, Classes, and Events

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 business people 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 2020, we welcomed Rev. Makoto Ichiraku, Professor of Otani University and Rev. Koji Chiba,

Chancellor of Tohoku Fukushi University, and hosted a monthly lecture on every fourth Friday at 6 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 Buddha through reading TTOB. The lectures were held in

a relaxed atmosphere during the day. For 2020, the lectures were delivered by Rev. Ryojo Shioiri, head priest of Shokannon-shu Sensoji Hozenin Temple, and Prof.

Rev. Hisao Mayeda, Musashino University. We hosted a monthly lecture on every fourth Tuesday at 1:30 pm.

We had to postpone/cancel some of the above lectures, which were scheduled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we are going to start broadcasting the classes online for 2021 so that people can attend whenever they like.

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



Lecture by Rev. Mayeda

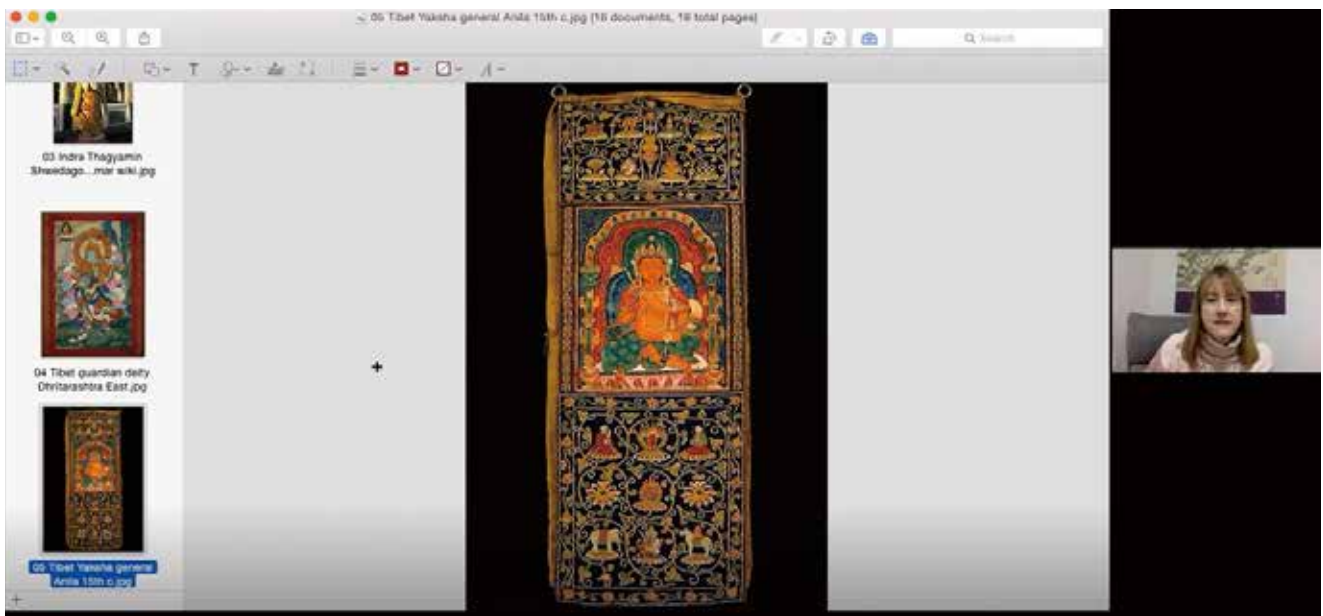


09 Activity

“Buddhism Through English” in Tokyo

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) offers a two-year program of “Buddhism Through English (BTE)” with level 2 and level 3 classes. We planned to hold the classes in Tokyo for 2020; however, we had to cancel them due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Buddhism Through English – Learning the Basics of Japanese Buddhism in English” in Kyoto



BTE lecture online by Dr. Grumbach

“Buddhism Through English – Learning the Basics of Japanese Buddhism in English” was started in Kyoto in 2019, and we were able to begin the classes from September 2020 with appropriate countermeasures against COVID-19.

We welcomed Dr. Lisa Grumbach, lecturer of Ryukoku University, once again for the series of classes in 2020 since last year’s classes were well received. We held four

classes in 2019, but we planned for six classes this time to enhance the course.

Starting from an outline of Japanese Buddhism, she also included aspects of Buddhist culture such as the design and function of traditional Japanese gardens in temple architecture. One of the students who is working as a professional tour guide commented, “the classes were very practical, and I have learned a lot from this

course.”

Nevertheless, we had to cancel the December class since the government issued a state of emergency once again. We changed the class settings and started having it online.

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

10 Activity “Buddhist Yoga” at Bukkyo Dendo Center Building

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) canceled the classes from April to August due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restarted it from September with thorough countermeasures to ensure health and safety.

We tried to provide opportunities for Buddhist yoga and dharma talks to ease the stress from the long-term voluntary restraints after five-months of cancelation. Rev. Yuuka Gazzo, BDK Buddhist yoga instructor, gave us lots of practical advice, and we tried our best to welcome our participants at the Bukkyo Dendo Center Building once again. At the September class, most of the people returned happily, saying “We were very much looking forward to the Buddhist yoga classes resuming at BDK!”

For those who would like to participate without coming to the site and having close contact with others during the COVID-19 pandemic, we started having classes online and on-site at the same time from October 2020. We are still trying to figure out how we can handle the changing situation to satisfy everyone’s needs.

The December class was the last one for Rev. Gazzo, who has been teaching our Buddhist yoga classes from the beginning of the program, and Mr. Go Sato, the director of Radhika yoga and certified IHTA yoga instructor, taught the classes from January to March. For the 2021 classes, we welcomed Rev.

Ryoyu Konishi, also known as Momo, who is a Koyasan Shingonshu priest and Ashtanga yoga instructor, and she taught a special course, “Buddhist Yoga Plus -My First Meditation,” which replaced

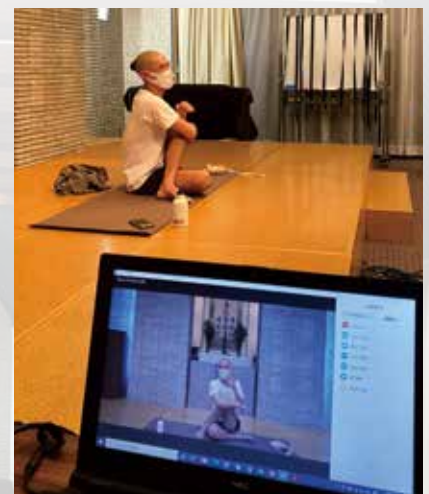
“BDK Buddhist Yoga.” For more information about “Buddhist Yoga Plus,” see page and for the new “Buddhist Yoga,” please also check page.



Yoga Instruction by Rev. Gazzo



Yoga instruction by Mr. Sato





11 Activity 2020 BDK Symposium

The 17th BDK Symposium “How to Live Your Life Only Once” at AP Nagoya on October 28, 2020

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) welcomed Rev. Shundo Aoyama, who is the head priest of Aichi Senmon Nisodo Shobo-ji Temple and who also won the BDK Bukkyo Dendo Koro-sho, Innovation Award in 2004, to give lectures on her life and teachings of Zen in a symposium titled, “How to Live Your Life Only Once.”

We originally planned to have it in March 2019, but we postponed it to April 2020 because of her sickness. Unfortunately, we had to postpone it again due to the state of emergency. We were finally able to welcome Rev. Aoyama and most of her fans and 70 participants in October 2020.

Rev. Aoyama talked to the audience about her own experiences.

“Although going straight to your goals is important, you will enjoy your life more if you are able to have some fun along on the way to your goals.”

This was our first time to hold an event in Nagoya, and we took a big new step even though the symposium was affected by the pandemic.



Rev. Aoyama

The 22nd BDK Symposium “New Biography of Shakyamuni” at Bukkyo Dendo Center Building on September 12, 2020

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) welcomed Emeritus Professor Shoji Mori from Toyo University for the 22nd BDK Symposium, “New Biography of Shakyamuni.”

Professor Mori is a group leader of a research project called “A Study of the Biography of Shakyamuni Based on the Early Buddhist Scriptural Sources” that is based at Chuo Academic Research Institute. The research group studied Shakyamuni’s life and the formation of the Buddhist community for 28 years and finally resolved many questions regarding this important topic. Professor Mori explained the beginning of Buddhism and

profiled Shakyamuni based on their research.

We limited the audience to 60 people and held the lecture with thorough countermeasures against COVID-19. Participants commented, “I felt closer to Shakyamuni,” and “I was able to learn about the beginning of Buddhism as a religious community,” etc.



Prof. Mori

The 23rd BDK Symposium “Are We Able to Make Ourselves Happy through Buddhism?” at Bukkyo Dendo Center Building on December 10, 2020

We definitely learned that things are not always as good as we wish them to be in 2020. We held this symposium, which asks people if we can really make ourselves happy through Buddhism.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we limited the audience to half the number as we would have had at a regular event and held the 23rd BDK Symposium with thorough countermeasures against the virus. We welcomed Rev. Jikisai Minami, head priest of Soto-shu Reisenji Temple in Fukui and deputy priest of Osorezan Bodaiji Temple in Aomori.

Starting with his shocking statement that “you will not be able to make yourself happy through Buddhism,” Rev. Minami talked about how we make compromises with Buddhism and religion while understanding the ambiguous concept of happiness with the key word, “Live Well.” His humorous talk made the crowd smile many times, but they were

drawn into his words in the second half of the lecture and tried to face themselves.



Rev. Minami

The 24th BDK Symposium “Buddhism and Palliative Care –Supporting the Last Moment with Calm” at Bukkyo Dendo Center Building on March 13, 2021

We are expecting a rapid increase of finding ourselves by someone’s deathbed at home in our society that has a high percentage of elderly people and therefore a high death rate. What will the challenges be both for people who will be at someone’s deathbed and for people who are going to pass away? We held this symposium to think about what Buddhists can do to prepare for these roles in society.

We set a maximum capacity and held the 24th BDK Symposium “Buddhism and Palliative Care – Supporting the Last Moment with Calm” on-site and online at the same time under the state of emergency for the Tokyo area in March.

We welcomed Rev. Myoyu Tamaoki, who is a nurse and a Koyasan Shingon-shu priest, and she talked about spiritual care and modern medical care in a society that still

sees death as taboo. She explained about the spiritual care provided by Buddhist priests at Taiwanese medical institutes as an example from which Japanese can learn.

We had participants from various places in Japan since we held the event both online and on-site and we expect that we are going to have more people attending online at future events. We also had many people who are working at the

medical institutions, so we hope that this kind of opportunity will be a good chance to make a connection between the medical world and Buddhism.



Rev. Tamaoki

※You may find the information about previous BDK Symposiums and see our future schedule on our official website at <https://www.bdk.or.jp/english/>

Canceled/Postponed Lectures, Classes, and Events in 2020

We canceled/postponed some lectures, classes, and events in 2020 listed below. The 2021 events might be affected as well and we will change schedules depending on future circumstances. For the latest information, please visit our official website at [https:// www. bdk.or.jp/english](https://www.bdk.or.jp/english)

(As of April 2021)

Lectures, Classes, and Events	Scheduled Dates	New Schedule	Online/Offline(Place)
The 50th Jissen Fukyo Kenkyukai at Tendai-shu Head Monastery Hieizan Enryakuji Temple	June 3-5, 2020	May 2022	TBA
BDK Symposium in Sapporo, Hokkaido	July 20, 2020	October 20, 2021	Online and Offline
Special Zazen Retreat at Soto-shu Daihonzan Sojiji Temple	September 1, 2020	Fall 2021	TBA
Special Fall Program : One-day Field Trip (Studying TTOB for Business and Daily Life)	November 10, 2020	November 9, 2021	Offline
"Feel Buddhism" in Meguro, Tokyo	November 29, 2020	November 1, 2021	Offline
Choir Volunteer GASSHO	March 25-26, 2021	March 1, 2023	Online
"Buddhism Through English" Level 3 at Bukkyo Dendo Center Building			
No. 1	April 13, 2020	May 10, 2021	Online
No. 2	May 11, 2020	June 7, 2021	Online
No. 3	June 8, 2020	June 28, 2021	Online
No. 4	June 29, 2020	July 12, 2021	Online
No. 5	July 20, 2020	July 26, 2021	Online
No. 6	October 12, 2020	October 4, 2021	Online
No. 7	November 16, 2020	November 8, 2021	Online
No. 8	December 14, 2020	December 13, 2021	Online
No. 9	January 18, 2021	January 17, 2022	Online
Final Exam	February 13, 2021	February 12, 2022	Online
No. 10 (Completion ceremony)	February 22, 2021	February 21, 2022	Online
"Buddhism Through English" Level 2 at Bukkyo Dendo Center Building			
No. 1	April 22, 2020	May 26, 2021	Online
No. 2	May 20, 2020	June 23, 2021	Online
No. 3	June 10, 2020	July 14, 2021	Online
No. 4	July 1, 2020	July 28, 2021	Online
No. 5	July 22, 2020	September 29, 2021	Online
No. 6	October 28, 2020	October 27, 2021	Online
No. 7	November 25, 2020	November 24, 2021	Online
No. 8	December 23, 2020	December 22, 2021	Online
No. 9	January 27, 2021	January 26, 2022	Online
Final Exam	February 20, 2021	February 19, 2022	Online
No. 10 (Completion ceremony)	February 24, 2021	March 2, 2022	Online

Lectures, Classes, and Events	Scheduled Dates	New Schedule	Online/Offline(Place)
Learning About Buddhism in the World Part II at Bukkyo Dendo Center Building			
Thailand	April 23, 2020	April 22, 2021	Online and Offline
Laos	May 28, 2020	May 27, 2021	Online and Offline
Cambodia	June 23, 2020	June 17, 2021	Online and Offline
Indonesia	July 30, 2020	July 29, 2021	Online and Offline
Vietnam	August 27, 2020	August 26, 2021	Online and Offline
Myanmar	September 24, 2020	September 16, 2021	Online and Offline
Malaysia	October 29, 2020	October 28, 2021	Online and Offline
Elementary Course of Buddhist Lectures on "Japanese Buddhism - Learning from Scratch" at Bukkyo Dendo Center Building			
Master Saicho, Tendai-shu	April 28, 2020	April 27, 2021	Online and Offline
Master Kukai, Shingon-shu	May 26, 2020	May 25, 2021	Online and Offline
Master Honen, Jodo-shu	June 30, 2020	June 29, 2021	Online and Offline
Master Shinran, Jodo Shinshu	July 28, 2020	July 27, 2021	Online and Offline
Master Nichiren, Nichiren-shu	September 29, 2020	September 28, 2021	Online and Offline
Master Eisai, Rinzai-shu	October 27, 2020	October 26, 2021	Online and Offline
Master Dogen, Soto-shu	November 24, 2020	November 30, 2021	Online and Offline
Studying "The Teaching of Buddha" for Business and Daily Life at Bukkyo Dendo Center Building			
Studying "The Teaching of Buddha" for Business in April	April 24, 2020	September 25, 2020	
Studying "The Teaching of Buddha" for Business in May, June, and July	May, June, and July in 2020	Canceled	
Studying "The Teaching of Buddha" for Business in February	February 26, 2021	March 12, 2021	
Studying "The Teaching of Buddha" for Daily Life in April	April 28, 2020	September 15, 2020	
Studying "The Teaching of Buddha" for Daily Life in May, June, and July	May, June, and July in 2020	Canceled	
Studying "The Teaching of Buddha" for Daily Life in February	February 9, 2021	March 9, 2021	

Buddhist Yoga for People in the Modern World + Meditation

Are you feeling uncomfortable with the instability of your daily life during the COVID-19 pandemic because you cannot freely go outside and stay away from stressful situations? We are pleased to introduce our new instructor, Rev. Ryoyu Konishi, also known as Momo, who taught “Buddhist Yoga Plus” earlier in 2020 for one of the most popular Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) classes, “Buddhist Yoga,” for 2021. At the beginning of the new year, we interviewed her about her suggestions for meditation at home to loosen up your body and soul.



How was the “Buddhist Yoga Plus”?

First of all, I must thank everyone who attended my classes during this tough time. We had to cancel the January class due to the state of emergency and had to have classes

online and all that. However, the attitude of the participants impressed me because they tried so hard to do yoga and meditation. People of all ages and genders

participated in the classes, and we were able to enjoy our time in a peaceful atmosphere.

Could you tell us your motivation for teaching our very first class with the combination of yoga and meditation?

I have practiced yoga for more than 15 years and taught as a yoga instructor for more than ten years now. On the other hand, I officially received my ordination as a Buddhist priest after training at Koyasan, Mt. Koya in Wakayama in 2019, so I am still a rookie in the world of priests.

At the time I officially received my ordination, my teacher gave me a message, saying, “You are now ready to perform the role of disseminating

Buddhist teachings to everyone.” After I came back to Tokyo, I started thinking that I would like to have a place where I could pass on the wisdom of Buddhism to people around myself. My yoga teacher, Mr. Ken Harakuma, introduced me to BDK’s “Buddhist Yoga,” and I immediately said YES to that!

I would like everyone to feel good about both Buddhism and yoga in one class. For example, I hope people who are already practicing yoga daily will learn something about Buddhist meditation

and philosophy, and for people who are studying Buddhism to absorb the wisdom of yoga. I just hope for anyone to join the class with no hesitations.

It takes a long time to pass on both yoga and Buddhism to people with care, and to maintain their cultures. Both present complete packages of wisdom and richness that do not easily change according to time and place. Let’s learn together the “wisdom for living” that has been proven in history.

What is the advantage of adding “meditation” to “yoga”?

For our Buddhist Yoga classes, one of the themes is ‘making our

bodies sit easily.’ Yoga poses and meditation are complementary

to each other and produce good effects.

In general, people who regularly practice meditation tend not to practice yoga, and people who regularly practice yoga tend not to practice meditation. However, both are something like the head and tail of a coin. The only difference lies in their methods of approach but the

destination is the same.

We human beings like to move our bodies when we have to stay still and like to sit quietly when we have to move around all the time. Training our bodies so that we can easily practice meditation

eases the tiredness of our bodies after sitting for a long time. The practice of meditation helps the practice of yoga and makes our bodies comfortable. I will be more than happy if the Buddhist Yoga participants could feel this synergy.

Do you have anything special that we should pay attention to when we practice meditation?

Let's try not to practice meditation (Meisou) by getting off track (Meisou)! I'm kidding (with a big smile).

Seriously speaking, the state of being focused in mind automatically leads to the state of practicing "meditation." Conversely, you cannot create the state of "meditation" by yourself. This means that you should pay

attention to keeping your focus while you are sitting.

Everyone experiences days in which they feel sleepy all the time, days in which they lose concentration, or days in which they feel anxious for some reason. Therefore, I truly hope that everyone will be able to enjoy the time of mediation with an easy and relaxed feeling.



Could you tell us your advice for prospective participants of "Buddhist Yoga"?

I would like everyone to attend a class once and think about adding yoga, meditation and Buddhism to their daily lives. I am also happy to recommend that participants deepen their learning about yoga and meditation. Or maybe, they

may feel like learning a little more about Buddhism, and I would like to recommend that they follow their interests.

The most important thing about yoga and Buddhist training is to just

practice. I hope people will be able to practice by themselves from what they learn in the classes, even for a short time. They will realize the changes in their bodies and souls.

The room has a high ceiling with a huge space unlike that of regular yoga studios. The quiet and calm voice of Momo gently resonates within the spacious room. Especially for those who are feeling stress from every day of the pandemic, this is an extraordinary place where you can relax and experience yoga. For 2021, we are having the classes both online and

on-site at the same time, so anyone can participate from anywhere and focus on yoga and meditation in their own space without concern about others.

* * *

The 2021 "BDK Buddhist Yoga" classes are taught by Momo. BDK hopes to offer more opportunities for everyone to feel a connection to Buddhism through yoga and

meditation and absorb the essence of Buddhism and yoga/meditation by facing your true self in your daily life.

For the latest information about "Buddhist Yoga," please visit our official website at <https://www.bdk.or.jp/english/>

Let's Try "Meditation" at Home!

By Rev. Ryoyu Konishi, the BDK Buddhist Yoga Instructor

Momo(Rev. Ryoyu Konishi)

Ashtanga Yoga instructor officially certified by Sharath Yoga Center, SYC in India. Koyasan Shingon sect Buddhist priest.

Teaches over 1,000 people monthly. Instructor at Yoga Festa, the biggest Yoga event in Asia for ten years. Published DVDs. Directs for TV commercials, magazines, etc. Also teaches at business corporations. MA from Koyasan University. Completed 100 days of training at Koyasan Shingon Sect Main Temple Kongobu-ji and participated in Denpo Kanjo consecration ritual for the conferral of the status of Acharya in esoteric Buddhism. Received the status of Acharya from Rev. Zenryu Hidaka, the 520th Hoin, the head priest of Kongobu-ji.

<IYC Profile Information> <https://iyc.jp/instructor/momo>

<YouTube> <https://www.youtube.com/c/AshtangaYogaTemple/>

<Blog> <https://ameblo.jp/momoshanti/>



Step 1: Sit on the floor or on a chair and relax.

How to

Place your legs in a lotus position or just cross your legs when you sit on the floor.

Put both soles of your feet on the floor when you sit on a chair.

Stretch your spine, remove excess energy from your body, and relax.

Place your hands easily on your laps.

Step 2: Relax the whole body.

How to

Exhale, remove excess energy from your face and head, and relax.

Exhale, remove excess energy from your right hand, and relax.

Exhale, remove excess energy from your left hand, and relax.

Exhale, remove excess energy from the front side of your body, and relax.

Exhale, remove excess energy from the back side of your body, and relax.

Exhale, remove excess energy from your right leg, and relax.

Exhale, remove excess energy from your left leg, and relax.



Point Keep your back and head straight when you remove excess energy from your body.

Step 3: Count your breaths when your whole body is relaxed.

How to

Breathe slowly, inhale and exhale for the first set.

Breathe slowly again for the next set.

Count to ten.

For the beginner, 3-10 minutes of meditation can be enough. Please try not to overdo it. I would recommend that you set your own daily meditation schedule like right after you get up in the morning, before you go to bed at night, before you eat, etc. After you become familiar with the schedule, practice longer for 20 minutes, 30 minutes...

Point Breathe deeply if you get sleepy while practicing meditation
Please get back to breathing consciously whenever you lose your concentration or think about something else while sitting.

I hope you will enjoy the relaxed moments of your day without thinking about difficult things!

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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BDK CANADA 4

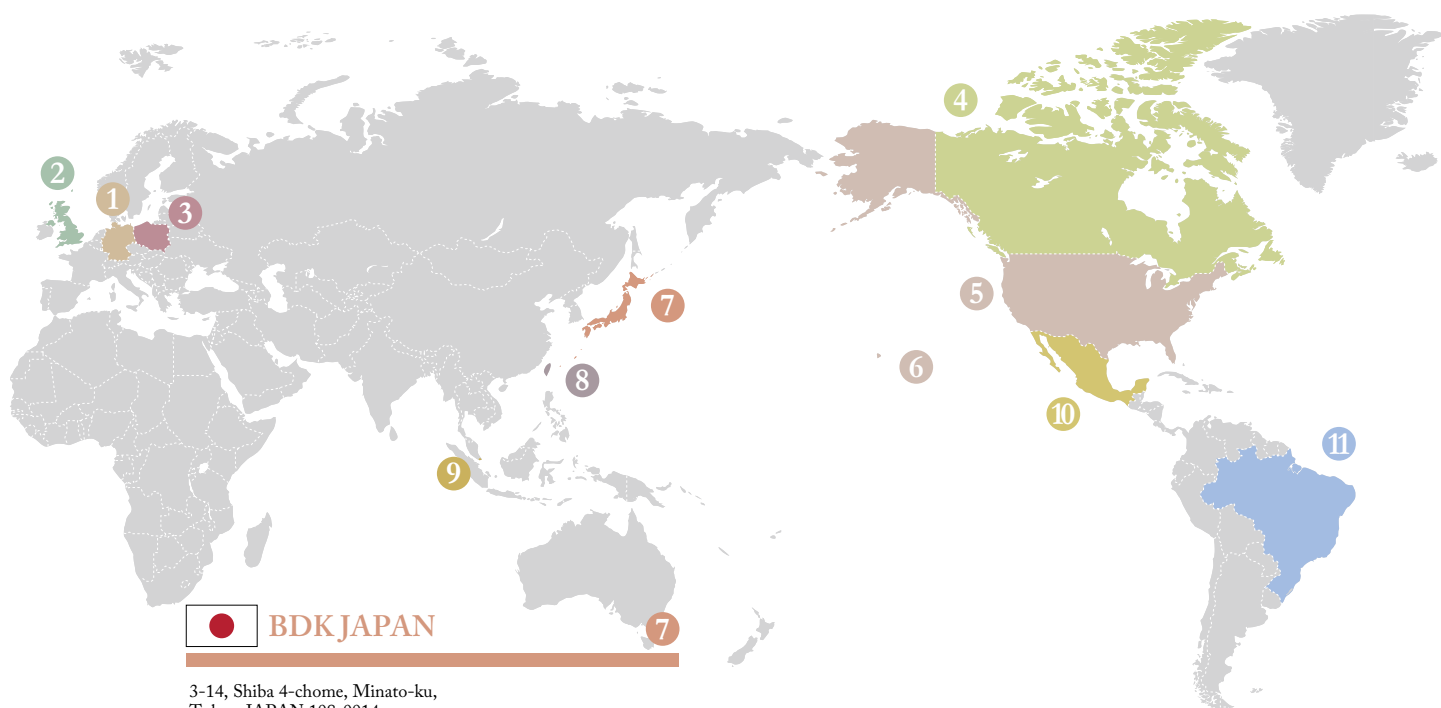
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Toshi Award online talk : Dr. Tanabe (left) and Prof. Jackson (right)

The great pandemic of 2020 affected everyone in serious ways and BDK America had to make major adjustments. We had to suspend our distribution of “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” to hotels and we were not able to have in-person events. Despite these severe challenges, we nevertheless were able to continue much of our work by telephone, email and Zoom meetings.

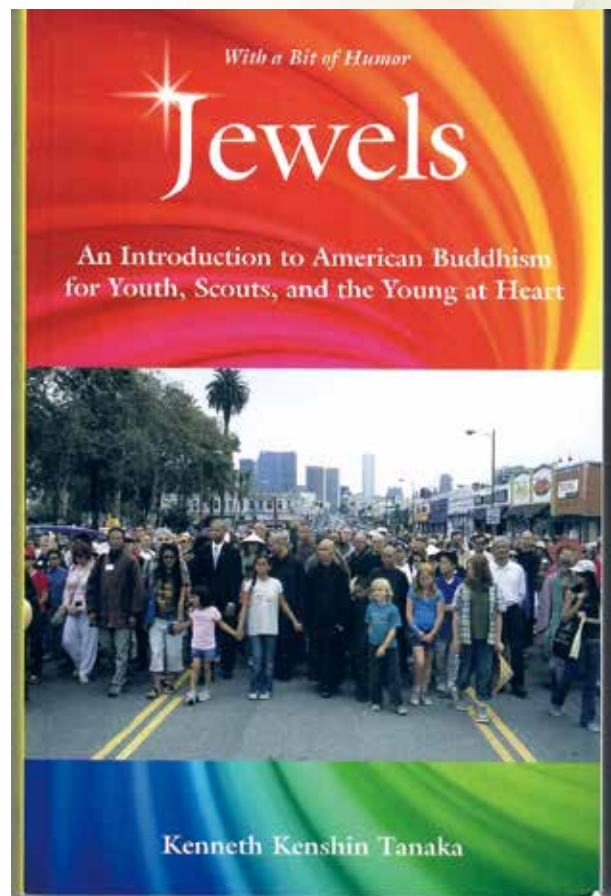
Challenging as it was, we still managed to have a productive year with our publications. With the support of BDK Japan, we published the first American edition of TTOB. The U. S. edition has some formatting revisions, but the content remains exactly the same. Publishing TTOB in the U. S. will save on the costs of shipping from Japan and allow us to distribute the book more widely and easily. While our usual distribution of TTOB was down, we were surprised and pleased to receive orders for 10,500 copies from various branches of the U.S. military.

In the Tripitaka series, we published

A Forest of Pearls from the Dharma Garden and The Madhyama Agama, which, at more than 500 pages, is the longest single translation so far. The distribution of Tripitaka books remains high, both in print form and as free PDF downloads.

To meet the needs of the general reader, we published a new book written by Professor Kenneth Tanaka. It is aimed specifically for younger people and is called *Jewels: An Introduction to American Buddhism for Youth, Scouts, and the Young at Heart*. The print version is available for purchase by individuals but is free for institutions. It can also be downloaded for free from our website. The Toshihide Numata Book Award in Buddhism in

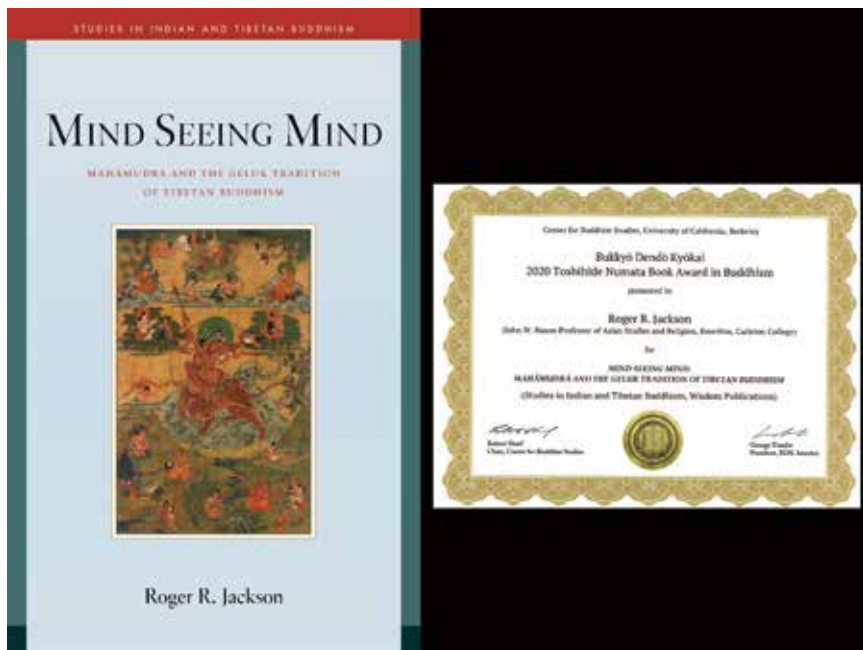
2020 was given to Roger Jackson, Professor Emeritus of Carleton College. The award ceremony and symposium were held on Zoom on November 6 with over 100 people participating from all over the world. His book is called



Cover page of "Jewels" by Prof. Tanaka

Mind Seeing Mind: Mahāmudrā and the Geluk Tradition of Tibetan Buddhism.

The pandemic has made all of us aware of how the internet has become even more important for us to do our work. In recognition of this, we redesigned our website to make it more attractive and user friendly. Check it out at www.bdkamerica.org.



"Mind Seeing Mind" by Prof. Jackson 2020 Toshihide Numata Award in Buddhism

BDK Hawaii



Dr. Tanabe (BDK Hawaii), Mr. Aoki (BDK) and Mr. Yamashita (BDK America) at KOLOA Jodo Mission

The COVID-19 pandemic severely affected our operations and activities in 2020. Hotels shut

down and temples cancelled their summer Bon dances, thus depriving BDK Hawaii of the most important

venues for the distribution of The Teaching of Buddha. Despite these difficulties, we managed to hold our

annual board of directors meeting on March 6, 2020, when it was still safe to travel. Mr. Harumi Aoki was able to come from Japan, and Mr. Mikio Yamashita travelled from California.

We had to cancel some in-person programs but were able to have two events on Zoom. On June 27, we held a workshop “Understanding Trauma,” and on November 14, we did a Zoom meeting called “I’m Not Okay, but It’s Okay” about finding spiritual comfort from Buddhism and Native Hawaiian religion in a time of difficulties. Sponsored by the BDK Hawaii-Fujitani Interfaith Program, both of these workshops addressed personal challenges people faced during the pandemic. We also did a virtual tour of Honpa Hongwanji temples in Hawaii by Zoom. In all of these events, over 100 people participated, and we realized that while we miss having



in-person events, Zoom meetings allow many people from many places to participate.

Let us hope that our health and economic conditions will improve in 2021.

BDK Mexico



BDK Mexico operates a non-sectarian Buddhist temple called Mexico Eko-ji that is popularly known by many people as the “Open Temple,” and we planned to hold a variety of activities in 2020. At the end of February, the very first patient of COVID-19 in Mexico was reported. After the “Taisho-era Romantic Jazz Piano Concert” on March 19, we had to temporarily close the entire temple.

Fortunately, we were able to

provide many opportunities such as the regular exchange of opinions between Mexican Buddhist groups, a music event at the main hall and garden of the temple, a book fair, a small dharma talk event with Kamishibai illustrated storytelling at elementary schools, a special dharma talk by Rev. Gyomyo Nakamura, a Miso (soy bean paste) making class, etc. in addition to Buddhist services and programs in January and February before we closed. And we were able to



Rev. Todaka (BDK Mexico) chanting at the service

distribute more than 300 copies of “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” in Spanish in person and 2,500 copies of the BDK “A Wise



Participants of the music event

Teaching a Day” calender.

No one expected the COVID-19 pandemic, but it feels like we have been challenged to ask ourselves about how we think, act and live our lives within the natural world. Moreover, we felt that more people want Buddhism and we have many things to offer while everyone in the world is staying home.

As we tried to provide more opportunities for more people to experience Buddhist related books in Mexico, we translated “Satorino Chie-wo Yomu (Learning the Wisdom of Enlightenment),” “GUIDE TO BUDDHISM IN JAPAN” and “A LIFE OF THE BUDDHA” into Spanish. We uploaded each chapter on SNS and received responses every time with comments like, “This is the teaching that we want to listen to.”

We were able to distribute 3,000 copies of TTOBs to universities, hospitals, correctional facilities, and corporations in 2020. In addition to the TTOB distributions, we



Top page of the event online (Ms. Yokoo from BDK Mexico on the bottom right)

uploaded the Spanish translation of the Kamishibai “Buddha,” which BDK originally published with the theme of war and peace, and the episodes of the Japan-Mexico friendship history. Many people enjoyed them.

Zazen meditation and the study group called “Yehanjuku” are continuing online, and more people from distant places are able to join us.

Moreover, we started renovating the

BDK Mexico building in the middle of November, and this will be completed in July 2021. Although it is hard to predict the future, we have been planning on various events for our renewal opening. At the moment, 10% of COVID-19 patients are dying in Mexico, so we must find ways to live together with nature. We think everything including the virus is related to each other as we live and die. Therefore, we will continue to deal with the truth for the consolation of those who have been sacrificed.

BDK Taiwan



BDK Taiwan was established in 2000 and distributes “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” to hotels and public facilities throughout Taiwan. We have organized a new team that we introduce below with our activities since January 2021. We hope to provide various opportunities for distributing TTOBs in Taiwan.

For more information about BDK Taiwan, please visit <https://www.bdk.tw/>



BDK Taiwan members

Yoshio Tsutsumi

I have once again been appointed as the director of BDK Taiwan. Before that, I had served as the director of BDK Taiwan for about seven years from 2006 to 2013. This is my second time, so I feel it is destiny that brings us together. And I am very glad to be given such an opportunity again in Taiwan, where Buddhist



ideas are familiar to everyone. I will do my best to contribute to the expansion of Buddhism.

Hsiao-Chu, Lin

My name is Lin and I have been the secretary to Mitutoyo Taiwan, which manages the activities of BDK Taiwan, since January 2021. I am honored and glad to be involved



with Buddhist efforts. I will do my best to learn and work for BDK.

Yu-Chuan, Fu

My name is Fu, and have been with BDK Taiwan since September 2018, helping promote TTOB. We are active with 240 new donation cases per year. The expansion into hotels and other places has been affected by COVID-19. Besides, schools often refuse to accept books on politics and religion, therefore the PR activities are not going well. Despite many setbacks, we were able to take advantage of lessons we learned from BDK JAPAN, and also most people in Taiwan are familiar with Buddhism. We certainly will do our best to increase donations of TTOB to city libraries, hospitals, Buddhist organizations, and other institutions in the near future.



Display at the BDK Taiwan office

BDK Asia



BDK Asia was established in 1999. The main project includes presenting “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” to Buddhist temples and hotels in Asian countries. In the past, BDK Asia presented 32 different language versions of TTOB to Her Royal Highness Princess Mahachakri Sirindhorn of Thailand and 5,000 copies of the book to the Thai Hotel Association. For 2020, we were not able to carry out all of the activities that we originally had planned, however, we distributed some TTOBs to the places described below with the support of Mitutoyo Thailand.



Students at the commencement

Mahamongkut Buddhist University

On 21st November 2020, Mitutoyo Thailand, which manages the activities of BDK Asia in Thailand, donated 1,500 copies of TTOB to student graduates and their

relatives who attended the rehearsal ceremony. This was the second time we attended this event. We plan on promoting this activity to other universities in Thailand.

Department of Corrections

We donated 11,540 copies of TTOB to libraries located at 142 prisons nationwide. The library concept originated with HRH Princess

Sirindhorn. We hope that TTOB will educate prisoners to be good people in the future.



Officer received TTOB at the department of corrections

BDK Europe



Due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, our physical EKO-House facility was initially closed in the Spring of 2020 and then was able to open from June to October. In April 2020, we established an Instagram

account by which we could share photos of EKO-House’s programs and our beautiful facilities with people throughout the world during this difficult time. Please join us on Instagram at “ekohaus_germany.”

Additionally, since July, we have been providing Sūtra-chanting and Dharma-talk videos on YouTube. Thus, people who cannot visit our temple are still able to listen to

the Buddhist teachings, and this also provides a good opportunity for people who might have never visited a temple to encounter Buddhism. You can visit our YouTube channel by searching for “EKO-Gemeinschaft.”

EKO-House has been offering monthly lectures on the venerated and classic Japanese Buddhist text “Tannishō” in Japanese, and on an introduction to Buddhism and Buddhist thought in German. And, after the COVID pandemic began, we started doing on-line lectures. Thanks to this on-line system, people who couldn’t participate in EKO-House programs because they live far away are now able to join us. This has brought about an increase in the number of new participants, and even those who live abroad are now able to join



Lectures and programs online by BDK Europe



Japanese Family attending Infant Presentation Ceremony (Rev. Shoji from BDK Europe on the right)

us. However, for those who might not be so technically capable, they might not be able to join us for the time being during the pandemic.

Throughout the past year, EKO-House could conduct funeral services by limiting the number of mourners who could attend the service, but other private services were somewhat limited. During this COVID-19 period, the most frequently held private service was the Infant Presentation Ceremony (the first presentation of a child by the parents to the Buddha). During the 7-month period while private services were allowed, there were 17 families who participated in this Infant Presentation service. Considering that in past years, less than 20 families would typically participate in an Infant Presentation Ceremony in one year, it can be said that the number of Infant Presentation services held in 2020 was unusually large. The reason why the number of Infant services might have increased may be due to the fact that Japanese families who might have planned to temporarily return to Japan and visit a temple or shrine for their child’s Infant Presentation were unable to return to Japan due to COVID-19 travel

restrictions. Therefore, these families chose to come to EKO-House for the Infant Presentation ceremony. Thus, 2020 was a year filled with such unexpected encounters.

Each November EKO-House observes our annual Hōonkō (a day to pay our respects to Master Shinran, the founder of Jodo Shinshu) service and sponsors a 3-day Hōonkō seminar featuring a lecturer from abroad. Over the November 27-29, 2020 weekend, we held our on-line Hōonkō service and seminar. The 2020 lecturer was the Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, Director of the Jodo Shinshu International Office and Supervising Minister of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple in California, whose seminar topic was “The Light to Change.” Since the service and seminar were held online, Nembutsu followers from Japan, India, Brazil and the United States, who would not have been able to participate in the seminar if the seminar had been only held in-person, were able to join in the seminar this time. The 2020 On-line Hōonkō-Seminar has offered us some new possibilities to share the Buddha’s teachings with people from throughout the world.

Jinsei (One's Life)

“Jinsei” refers to one’s life, which can be likened to a journey. What’s important about a journey is that the destination is clear. To wander around aimlessly without a clear destination is not a journey but simply wandering or roaming.

Once, someone asked me where he was destined to go when he died. I had a difficult time trying to answer this question. An easier question would have been “To get to a certain place, which road do I take to get there?” to which I would have answered, “Take this road to get there.”

Is it permissible to let our truly precious life wander around without aim or purpose, perchance to perish on the road? If life is a journey, where is it headed?

Our predecessors, who lived their lives according to the Buddhist precepts, saw life as a journey to the “Land of Enlightenment” (Jōdo), and lived life day by day, advancing step by step with a steady gait toward the Pure Land.

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