

# Michi - The Path -

BUKKYO DENDO KYOKAI Society for the Promotion of Buddhism



# Michi

— The Path —

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**BUKKYO DENDO KYOKAI**  
Society for the Promotion of Buddhism

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## Pass Down and Continue Sharing the “Eternal Messages from Buddha”

We truly appreciate your generous understanding and continued support for all of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK)’s activities as we report our 2021 news and updates in this issue.

2020 was the year of the COVID-19 pandemic in the world, and it is still going on and continues for over two years. Our daily life has dramatically changed, and things we used to take for granted are not usual any more.

Our activities have been deeply affected and limited in various situations. People continue to be limited in travelling around the world, and this has had a big impact on the BDK Fellowship program. We were forced to stop accepting our BDK Fellowship applications for the year 2021.

However, we kept distributing “The Teaching of Buddha” to the world, held many of our planned projects, and improved our activities. We cannot thank enough everyone who supported us during this tough time.

Our mission is to keep providing the eternal messages from Buddha to everyone who needs them in this world, to pass down this wisdom to the next generation and to share our thoughts. We believe in providing more opportunities to the younger generation and introducing the attraction of Buddhism and the importance of Buddhist philosophy. BDK will continue to promote whatever we all need to do in order to overcome adversity in the pursuit of our mission.

With Gassho,



Seikoh-Kiyotaka Kimura

Chairperson

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK)

Society for the Promotion of Buddhism

# Interview



*Horinji (Rev. Umino's temple in Gunma prefecture, Japan)*

## “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” Interview

### TTOB Volunteer - Living with TTOB in local communities

Location: Bukkyo Dendo Center Building

Guest: Rev. Shunko Umino

Interviewer: Masayuki Masuda, BDK

Editor/Photographer: Kaoru Eguchi, BDK

✧ We conducted an in-person interview in accordance with COVID-19 safety protocols.



Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) has been distributing “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” for the past decades as one of its major activities, and the books have been utilized in a variety of ways in today’s modern world. TTOBs have been distributed to hotels, temples, medical facilities as well as educational institutions. BDK invited Buddhist priests who are willing to distribute TTOBs in their local areas on behalf of BDK, and we have welcomed 57 priests as of 2021 even though we were uncertain about the future during those times.

A “TTOB Volunteer” is a Buddhist priest who is trying to reach as many people as possible in order to disseminate TTOB and its teachings to local hotels and accommodations. We had an opportunity to talk with Rev. Shunko Umino, one of those “TTOB Volunteers,” and we listened to his own experiences and found out how he has been contributing to our project.



**Masuda (hereafter M)** : We truly appreciate your continued support of our project. First of all, could you tell us a little bit about yourself and your temple, Horinji?

**Umino (hereafter U)** : Thank you for having me, and it is such a great honor to be here today. To explain myself simply, I belong to Obaku-shu and its head temple is Manpukuji temple, which has an exotic Chinese atmosphere in Uji city of Kyoto prefecture. My temple is Horinji temple and it is located in Chiyoda-cho, Ora county, in the very south of Gunma prefecture. Horinji used to be a Rinzai-shu temple, but it was changed to Obaku-shu and was rebuilt as the first dojo or training hall in the northern Kanto area. Rev. Choon Dokai Zenji established the Kosaiji temple in Tatebayashi and was the head priest there. After Kosaiji was closed, its furnishings, including Buddhist statues and bells, were moved to Horinji. Eight of those statues were designated as important cultural properties of Gunma prefecture and the portrait of Rev. Choon Dokai Zenji and the picture of Kannon Bodhisattva with white clothes were also designated as important cultural properties of Chiyoda-cho. As you can see, the temple has a long history to preserve.

**M** : I see. BDK is located in Tokyo, so we have not carried out detailed activities in Gunma prefecture since it is a bit far from here. Therefore, we really appreciate all the opportunities you have created. However, what made you participate in the project?



**U** : I used to work for a company that managed a project named “Otera Temple Stay” to connect local temples to shukubo, hotels and inns managed by temples. That is why it was easy for me to start as a “TTOB Volunteer.”

**M** : We cannot thank you enough for smoothly connecting local hotels to our activities because “TTOB Volunteers” know their local areas very well. We feel the importance of expanding the reach of “TTOB” in each local area where we did not have any opportunities before. Did you experience anything special while you were communicating with people who welcomed “TTOB”?

**U** : Yes. I have an old memory from the time before the COVID-19 pandemic. I was in Takayama City, Gifu prefecture. Some foreign tourists showed some interest in “TTOB” and started reading it at a shukubo. They had to leave

soon and asked me to provide them with a digital version because they wanted to read the rest of it after their trip. I introduced the PDF version that is free on the BDK official website, and they were extremely happy about that. I felt that these foreigners valued the opportunity to be able to read the book in their own language.

People in Japan generally think that Christianity equals the Bible, however, they are not sure what book Buddhism should be identified with. Japanese Buddhism has many sects, so it is difficult to identify only one central scripture, but I believe “TTOB” could be that text.

Being a Japanese Buddhist priest in Japan, I really appreciate the opportunities for being able to talk to people beyond my sect. “TTOB” is like a universal language, and we easily can talk about it. It provides such a great opportunity to many



people.

**M** : Your message can make our day. We truly hope that “TTOB” is able to serve as a “universal language” in the Buddhist world! However, we are worried about the difficult situation that hotels and inns are experiencing due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic in the world.

**U** : You are right. It is a tough situation, but I feel that the “guest house” where I often speak is not affected badly because it can be rented as a whole house and guests do not have to contact each other after checking in. I believe that the house is spacious enough for guests to be able to relax.

**M** : That makes sense. The single word “hotels” covers a lot, but we have a variety of business venues. When BDK originally started distributing “TTOB” a long time

ago, hotels were the places that had many guest rooms, so we were not able to come up with alternatives besides hotels for distributing our books. We appreciate that you have expanded your efforts with a different point of view. However, does this project weigh heavily on your shoulders, to be honest (with a smile)?

**U** : No, not at all (with a big smile)! I have only talked to people with whom I already have a good relationship with. In my case, I am able to make use of my working experience at corporate offices. Honestly speaking, it feels like priests would be abandoning the everyday world if they were to concentrate only on their temples. Through their BDK activities, priests are able to have opportunities to talk to many people outside of the temples in their own local area and learn the conditions of the modern world. It gives me

many chances to encounter new people in my neighborhood.

In addition, we donate copies of TTOB, and some people think that “there is nothing scarier than something free.” Therefore, I always explain that we do not require anything special in return even though they receive the copies for free (with big smile). In addition to that, I tell my own story about why I support the BDK activities, and people finally feel relieved as they receive the copies of TTOB.

**M** : I totally agree! When people hear that TTOB is “a good book at no cost,” they must be suspicious about why they are free, and they feel anxious about receiving the book. However, once we explain the background and rationale of our activities, people feel a relief as if it were lubricant oil, which reduces the friction between BDK and hotels.

**U** : Owners of hotels find it hard to choose only Buddhism for their hotels because there are other religions in the world, and people from many parts of the world visit their hotels. Also, they are not confident enough to identify as Buddhists themselves, so it is hard to place TTOBs, especially at big hotels in the first place.

**M** : You are right. However, we very much appreciate learning why hotel owners need our books or not. From a long-term perspective, it is good that we are able to hear their honest opinions because the relationships between TTOB volunteers and hotel owners must be built on trust.





We really hope that the COVID-19 pandemic will be over soon. Could you give us some message that can be passed on to prospective priests who are thinking about joining BDK as a TTOB volunteer?

**U** : It is a wonderful opportunity for priests to expand their range of activities outside of their temples because they can acquire new points of contact with society through TTOB. It should be a great beginning to learn how society thinks about temples, and for priests to improve various skills of communication.

**M** : We understand how difficult it was when priests wanted to try some activities outside of their temples but could not do anything due to the COVID-19 situation. We are grateful that TTOB volunteers respect the connections they have in their local areas.

**U** : Some of the people who work at hotels might be your own temple followers. I believe that there was nothing special we had to do, except for the important matter of tailoring ourselves to the circumstances of each region.

**M** : There are some regions in which BDK activities and TTOB are not well known yet, but TTOB volunteers give people in those areas a perfect opportunity to learn what BDK does. We hope to enlarge the circle of TTOB volunteers and communicate more with people.

**U** : I do not think that choosing to distribute TTOB is a disadvantage; but some people do not want to do that somehow. It is important that we understand each person's reasoning and accommodate them by selecting the right language for them. It is an important matter for them to be able to read in their

mother tongue. In addition to that, we can tell people why we distribute TTOBs and explain the importance of BDK activities in our own words.

**M** : Thank you very much for your comments. We hope that Rev. Umino's comments and advice will persuade people to become a TTOB volunteer in the near future.

We recorded the experiences of Rev. Umino as a TTOB volunteer in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. The possibilities that TTOB at hotels opens up for people reconfirms what they really need.

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



## Rev. Shunko Umino

Deputy Chief Priest of Obaku-shu Horinji temple in Gunma prefecture  
Manager of GLOCAL Co.

Work experiences at a few startups gave him ideas of utilizing shukubo and its surrounding areas. Developed the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) systems at GLOCAL Co. to connect with temples and people who visit temples.





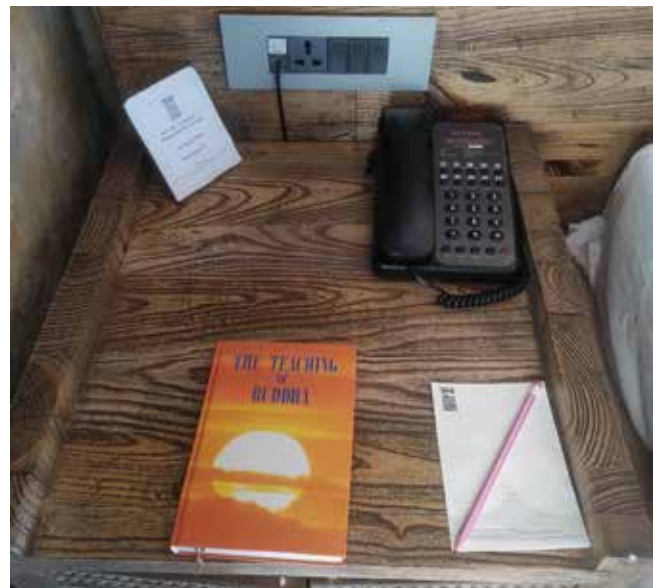
# BDK JAPAN NEWS 2021

## BDK Publications



01  
Activity

### “The Teaching of Buddha” – Update for 2021



*TTOB in a guest room*

Distribution of “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” in 2021 was still very difficult due to the COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020. We had the Olympics in July in Tokyo, however, the number of foreign tourists who visited Japan in 2021 fell to 240,000, well below the 4,110,000 people in 2020. While the number of guests at hotels has decreased, we donated 3,813 copies of TTOB. We were able to distribute the copies with the help of “TTOB Volunteer” priests to new hotels and shukubo, hotels managed by a temple. (For more information about the “TTOB Volunteer” program, please refer to the interview section on page 2.)



*Sarangkot Hotel in Nepal*

BDK also donated some copies to the Sarangkot Hotel in Nepal. The number of copies donated to Buddhist educational facilities and nurseries dropped due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however

we still distributed 21,782 copies. BDK is going to encourage the active distribution of more copies of TTOB inside as well as outside of Japan.

## 02 Activity

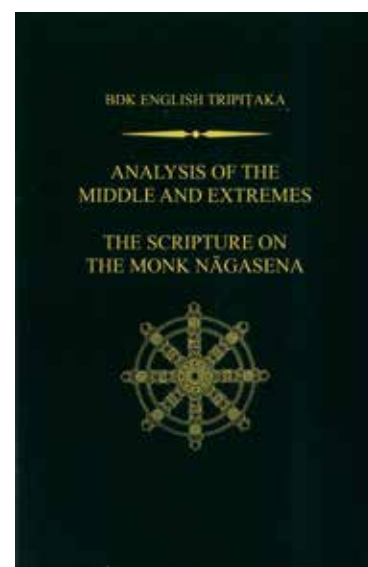
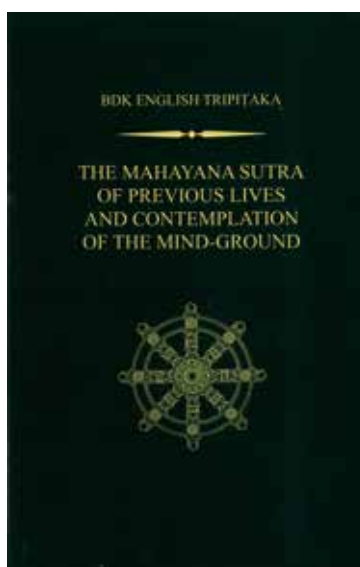
## Newly Published BDK Publications in 2021

Following last year's publication of "Almsgiving: the Heart of Making Offerings" in the Six Paramitas series of "The Signpost," which is published annually, we published "Live Better Through the Precepts" in June of 2021. The book was written by Rev. Sogen Yamakawa from Rinzai-shu Myoshinji-ha, Rev. Kojun Hayashida from Jodo-shu, and Rev. Mitsusei Shirakawa from Koyasan Shingon-shu, who carefully explain the BDK "A Wise Teaching a Day" calendar from their different points of view.

For the English Tripitaka series, we have published "The Mahayana Sutra of Previous Lives and Contemplation of the Mind-Ground," which was translated into Chinese by Prajna in the 9th century. We also published two texts, "Analysis of the Middle and Extremes," and "The Scripture on the Monk Nāgasena" in a single volume. "Analysis of the Middle and Extremes," was written by Maitreya, a master of the Yogachara school, and was translated into Chinese by Xuanzang.

"The Scripture on the Monk Nāgasena" explains the debates between Menander I, the king of Bactria, and Nāgasena, a Buddhist priest.

BDK also published the Spanish



version of "Hajimeteno Bukkyo, The Guide to Buddhism," one of the most popular BDK publications. We

hope the Spanish version will be successful in the Spanish-speaking world such as Mexico, etc.

## Launch of "Bonno, Desires – Sugoroku Board Game with the Illustrated Story of Shakyamuni"

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) produced 2,000 copies of "Bonno, Desires – A Sugoroku Board Game with the Illustrated Story of Shakyamuni" by using some sections of the "Illustrated Story of Shakyamuni," which was painted by the Japanese artist, Mr. Kosetsu Nosu, and is owned by BDK, and

parts of the "Colossal Buddha Wall Paintings of Mulganga kuti Vihar" owned by Soto-shu Daihonzan Eihei-ji Temple. The game board is printed on both sides with the back-side being a reprinted version of "Jodo Sugoroku," which was popular among people in the Edo period and is said to be the origin of the







# BDK JAPAN NEWS 2021

sugoroku game with pictures.

From the front side, people will be able to learn about the life of Shakyamuni and his struggles with a variety of desires and his final attainment of nirvana, which is the goal of the game. The dice

for the “Reprinted Version of Jodo Sugoroku” on the back-side are not marked with the usual dots from one to six. It has instead the six letters of “南無分身諸仏 NaMuBunShinShoButsu” that directs moves to designated spots.

People start from “南閻浮洲 Nanenbushu,” where humans live and head toward “Hotoke/Butsu, Buddha” as the goal.

How about learning about the life of Shakyamuni by playing the sugoroku game?



*The Dice for the "Reprinted Version of Jodo Sugoroku"*

## 03 Activity “Let It Shine! Temple Bulletin Board Award 2021”

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) held the fourth annual “Let It Shine! Temple Bulletin Board Award” in 2021. This award program continued to draw media attention, and we received a record-breaking 2,887 entries sent in from July 1 to October 20, 2021.

The grand prize for the 2021 competition was “Hotoke-no Kao-wa Nandodemo (Buddha forgives you as many times as you wish).” It was from Shinshu Otani-ha Chogakuji Temple in Hiroshima prefecture. The Japanese proverb, “Hotoke-no Kao-wa Sandomade (Buddha forgives you three times for everything)” is quite popular among all Japanese people, however the one at Chogakuji indicates that Buddha does not get mad at anyone

even after three times and it is a more suitable update for describing the Buddha.

We selected three bulletin board phrases for BDK prizes, and one of these was “Okareta Basho de Sakenaitoki wa Nigetemo Iiyo Sakerutokoroe (You can always leave the place you are not really comfortable with and move to another where you are able to shine).” This was from Jodo-shu Myokeiin Temple in Hiroshima

prefecture, and reflects the situation of people who are worried about their current unwanted situations.



*The Grand Prize Winner*

## 04 Activity The Sixth BDK Buddhist Picture Book Prize Competition

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted the Sixth Buddhist Picture Book Prize Competition co-sponsored by Suzuki Publications and supported by Mainichi Newspaper, the Japan Buddhist Nursing Association and the National Youth Indoctrination Council with the aim of promoting the “development of the hearts and minds of children through reading.”



Mr. Norio Yamakawa

We received 145 submissions from a wide range of age groups for the 2021 competition. The reason why we received so many submissions in 2021 might be due to the continued situation of the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020. Mr. Keisuke Nishimoto, a writer of children’s literature, Mr. Tomohiko Fujimoto, a picture book artist, and Mr. Minoru Haga, chief editor from Suzuki Publications, carefully selected one work for the grand prize, three for outstanding awards,

and five for fine works.

The grand prize went to “Shirokuma-ga Kitazo! (The polar bear is coming!)” written and drawn by Mr. Norio Yamakawa. The story describes how everything affects and connects to each other by showing the humorous communication between children and a polar bear.

BDK awarded JPY 500,000 as the prize money to the winner and published the picture book in March 2022.



“Shirokuma-ga Kitazo!”

## 05 Activity The Eighth Annual Photography Competition for the BDK Calendar “A Wise Teaching a Day”

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted the eighth annual competition for the BDK Calendar, “A Wise Teaching a Day.” We received 2,791 submissions from 824 people, which was the highest record for two years in a row.

We held a selection committee meeting in September 2021 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.



Screening meeting





## BDK JAPAN NEWS 2021

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

The seventh exhibition was held in three places in Japan: Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple in Tokyo from April 24 to June 13, 2021, Byodoin Museum at Byodoin Temple in Kyoto from June 25 to September 26, 2021, and the main hall at Zuiganji Temple in Miyagi from October 8 to November 24, 2021.

We welcomed Mr. Mori Suzuki,

calligrapher, and he presented a big calligraphy performance on August 6 twice, “泥中之蓮 Deichu-no Hasu, (The lotus in the mud)” in the morning and “雲外蒼天 Ungai Soten (Blue sky awaits beyond clouds)” in the afternoon. 180,000 people visited the exhibitions at the three venues and enjoyed the photos and the quotations expressing Buddhist teachings.



*Exhibition at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple*

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

“Mokunyo-no Kuyo (Sujātā’s Offering)” and “Nehan (Nirvana)” are two out of 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). They were exhibited at the “Exhibition of the Kosetsu Nosu and Buddha Wall Paintings in Sarnath” hosted by Nosu Kosetsu Gahaku Kensho-kai at the Embassy of India in Tokyo, from July 16 to 23, 2021.

There were a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a forum at the opening on July 16. Eighteen pieces of his artwork were exhibited and showed how the Buddha wall paintings in Sarnath were restored.

It was a very precious opportunity for BDK to exhibit the “Illustrated Story of Shakyamuni” at such an event with a variety of Mr. Nosu’s artworks.

For more information or inquiries regarding the BDK Publications, visit our official website at <https://www.bdk.or.jp>



*“Nirvana” left “Sujātā’s Offering” right*



# 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.

### The 2023 BDK Fellowship

BDK had to stop accepting applications for the 2022 BDK Fellowship in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, in March, 2022 we resumed accepting applications for 2023, our 32nd BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars.

For more information about the 2023 BDK Fellowship, visit our official website at <https://www.bdk.or.jp>

### The 30th Annual Awardees for BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars Q&As

While some of our scholarship holders have not been able to come to Japan in 2021, one of them was able to be in Japan and we asked some questions.

**Name** : Choten Dorji

**Tenure** : 2020/11/1 – 2021/10/31

**Affiliation** : Kyoto University

**Academic Advisor** : Prof. Izumi Miyazaki

**Theme of Research** : Annotated translation and study of Sārasamuccaya: A commentary on Skandhilā's Abhidharmāvatāra.





# BDK JAPAN NEWS 2021

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

It was in 2016 when I enrolled as a Ph.D. student for Textual Studies at Mahidol University in Thailand, where I met a Japanese scholar, Prof. Kengo Harimoto, who was teaching in the same department. I attended his class too. A little later, after completing some course work, I heard about the BDK Fellowship from a fellow student, and in order to learn more details, I asked Kengo Sensei and he was kind enough to share more information. I then learned when and how to apply. He introduced me to one of the Japanese scholars who does work related to the field of my study and later became my Academic Advisor. I was eventually motivated to apply for the fellowship when he asked me to list him as my reference and apply for the fellowship. So, this is what inspired me to apply for the 2020 BDK Fellowship and I am honored to have been one of the recipients.

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

The best thing about being a BDK Fellowship recipient is the opportunity to study with Japanese scholars in Japanese universities. I was fortunate to be placed at Kyoto University and had a wonderful stay studying under the guidance of Prof. Izumi Miyazaki. Secondly, being a BDK Fellowship holder, I anticipate the chance of expanding



*Rev. Choten Dorji (left) and Mr. Harumi Aoki (right)*

my work with the BDK program in the field of research, translation, and editing canonical texts. Through this, I will be able to express my appreciation by contributing to the BDK program. Besides these advantages, I have already been recognized by monastic institutions and organizations, and have even been offered some positions in the field of research and textual studies which I will accept later at the right time..

## 3 ) What did you like the most about life in Japan? (or anything you were surprised about?)

Every foreigner is not able to live in and leave Japan without fascinating and mesmerizing memories, and so it was with me. It was my second

visit to Japan in 2020 and it was one of the most memorable visits. The residence I lived in was within walking distance from Kyoto University and I liked walking to and from the university, passing the streets of Japanese houses built in both traditional and modern styles. Every research student was given access to a shared study room filled with many resources and this enabled an efficient exchange of knowledge and experiences among multicultural students from different countries. And more than anything else, what I cherished the most was studying and reading texts with Prof. Izumi Miyazaki in his office. Also, I did not miss visiting some of the most amazing historic temples in Kyoto, including two Bhutanese

temples, one in Kyoto and the other in Kagawa Prefecture.

We were unable to welcome the rest of the 2020 BDK Fellowship awardees and the 2021 scholars

due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. Therefore, we would like to introduce them in the next issue.

## 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.

Some of the 8th annual awardees were finally able to go abroad after a year of delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We asked two awardees who were able to complete their scholarship periods some questions about their stay as a BDK Fellowship awardee.

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

**Name** : Dr. Miyuki Ishimura (nee Nakasuka)

**Tenure** : 2020/04/01~2020/09/30, 2021/04/01~2021/09/30

**Affiliation** : Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia

**Academic Advisor** : Prof. Dr. Birgit Kellner

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

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

I had long wanted to gain experience at a foreign research institute, so I applied for this fellowship program. The Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, which I decided to affiliate with, is an important scholarly center for the study of Buddhist epistemology and logic, and I had hoped to do my research there.



*Dr. Cristina Pecchia, Dr. Patrick McAllister, and Dr. Miyuki Ishimura (from left to right)*

#### 2 ) What is/are the best thing(s)





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## about being a BDK Fellowship holder and what do you think about your future career?

It is good for me to have had the opportunity to participate in the institute's ongoing research project on Jinendrabuddhi's commentary on the fifth chapter (Apoha Chapter) of Dignāga's *Pramāṇasamuccaya*, and to read the unpublished critical edition of Jinendrabuddhi's Sanskrit text. Moreover, as a result of this study abroad, I had the opportunity to study in Vienna

for four years with a research grant from the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). After receiving my doctoral degree, I had no prospect of joining a research institute, but this opportunity to study abroad has opened the door to my future as a researcher. I am very grateful to this fellowship program.

## 3 ) What did you like the most about life in a country you stayed? (or anything you were surprised about?)

During my stay, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I did not commute to the institute but did research at my apartment and did not do any sightseeing at all. My only pleasure was to buy fresh fruits and vegetables at the street markets nearby. The most surprising thing I found while living in Vienna is that the tap water is spring water from the Alps. I was shocked to realize that there is such a country where you turn on the faucet and mineral water comes out.

**Name :** Yuki Kyogoku

**Tenure :** 2021/11/01 – 2022/01/31

**Affiliation :** École Pratique des Hautes Études, France

**Academic Advisor :** Prof. Vincent Eltschinger

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

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

I applied for this scholarship at the suggestion of a Japanese professor.

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

Firstly, with regard to my dissertation, I received fantastic suggestions from my supervisor. Secondly, I had a chance to talk about research topics that I would like to do in the future. Part of the outcomes from this time will be published in the appendix of the book being issued by my supervisor. I will restrict the planned range of my dissertation in order to finish it

as soon as possible.

## 3 ) What did you like the most about life in a country you stayed? (or anything you were surprised about?)

There are a lot of attractive cafes at

the city center.

The 2021 BDK Fellowship awardee was unable to go abroad due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. Therefore, we would like to introduce the scholar in the next issue.



Mr. Yuki Kyogoku (left) and Prof. Vincent Eltschinger (right)

# 03

Activity

## The 55th BDK Cultural Awards Ceremony on October 14, 2021 at the Bukkyo Dendo Center Building

The 55th BDK Cultural Awards, Bunka-sho ceremony and banquet were held on October 14, 2021 at the Bukkyo Dendo Center Building.



Rev. Shucho Takaoka (third from the left) and Rev. Ichijo Ogawa (third from the right)

Rev. Dr. Ichijo Ogawa, the Bunka-sho winner, contributed to research on Indian Mahayana Buddhism and the Buddhist Path of Nagarjuna, which was learned by Master Shinran.

He expressed his appreciation to his mentor, Dr. Susumu Yamaguchi, and said in his speech, “I always wished to teach as many people as possible so that they could encounter the teachings of Buddha, but I was the one who kept walking

through my life and encountered the teachings of Buddha.”

Rev. Shucho Takaoka, the Numata Shorei-sho winner, accepted people from all over the world at his temple with the philosophy of “living together” and contributed to the preservation of Sanskrit books in Nepal and rituals associated with cultural properties. He ended his speech by saying that “meeting many people in Asian countries such as Nepal made me who I am

today. I would like to blaze a new path to the future without forgetting to feel gratitude.”



Rev. Ogawa





# BDK JAPAN NEWS 2021

## 04 Activity

## BDK Financial Assistance Programs

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

For 2021, we received 18 applications and the BDK Financial Assistance Committee selected 12 groups and granted them financial assistance as listed below.

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

### A. Support for Groups

Name of Group	Project
The Japanese Association of Indian Studies	International academic and cultural exchanges through digital correspondence
NPO Kamakura Terakoya	Promotion of temple communities through volunteer activities by universities, temples, local government, and individuals
"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
H1HOUWA Grand Prix Executive Committee	2021 H1 HOUWA Grand Prix
General Incorporated Association Gamon	Publication of free Buddhist magazine, "Wagense"
Public Interest Incorporated Association Otani Childcare Association	Certified Childcare Psychologist Course
Shimane Buddhist Federation	The 45th All Japan Buddhist Conference in Shimane

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

Name of Group	Project
Public Interest Incorporated Foundation the Nakamura Hajime Eastern Institute	2021 research investigation
Public Interest Incorporated Foundation Japanisch-Deutsches Kulturinstitut	Workshops co-hosted by four institutes in Japan and Germany "Concepts of Buddhism and Christianity" (Did not subsidize due to the suspension of the project)
Ryukoku Museum	2021 Special Exhibition "Deities in Asia"

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

Name of Group	Project
Conservation Science Laboratory, Graduate School of Conservation, Tokyo University of the Arts	Training/education of people who protect and preserve Buddhist Sculpture cultural properties through research, restoration and engraving of letters in order to print on paper

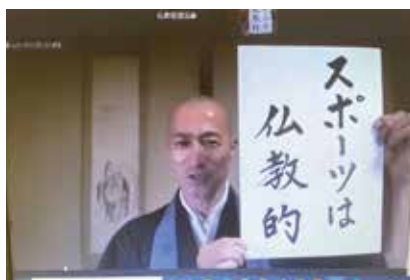
# Buddhist Lectures and Seminars

Activity  
01

## BDK Online Station: “Weekly Dharma Talks”



Rev. Makoto Hida



Rev. Gihan Unno



Rev. Kojun Shimizutani



Rev. Junkyo Narita



Rev. Shunsho Matsuura



Rev. Eisho Kanda

We started broadcasting “Weekly Dharma Talks” via Zoom in January 2021 as one of the basic ways of providing more opportunities for everyone to become familiar with Buddhist teachings. The BDK Online Station “Weekly Dharma Talks” provide live dharma talks on Zoom every Wednesday with a monthly theme for 20 minutes from 6 pm. We broadcasted for a total of 50 times by the end of January 2022. The previous talks are also available on our official YouTube page and counted 2,000 views at most.

We are continuing “Weekly Dharma Talks” in 2022.

### Comments from Viewers

- \* I would like to make “listening to dharma talks” a part of my daily life.
- \* Listening to dharma talks once a week will be the food for my life.
- \* 30 minutes can be perfect to focus.
- \* I really appreciate the opportunities to listen to dharma talks by some priests who live far away.
- \* It was relaxing to listen to dharma talks online without complicated thinking.

For more information about the 2021 lecturers and the 2022 schedule, visit our official website at <https://www.bdk.or.jp>

Themes of the 2021 Fiscal Year	
April	Family
May	Time
June	Love Affair
July	Sports
August	Welfare
September	Animals
October	Education
November	Arts
December	Genders
January	Money
February	Work style
March	Friendship





# BDK JAPAN NEWS 2021

## 02 Activity The Weekly Radio Program “WARAIMESHI TETSUO’s Saturday★Night Buddhism”

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) started a weekly radio program in June 2018, and it was the fourth year for us to share the attractions of Buddhism with people.

The program is broadcast for 15 minutes from 12:15 am to 12:30 am, and was started in 2020. For 2021, we welcomed priests and celebrities as monthly guests. The communication between celebrities

was friendly and presented diverse perspectives of Buddhism, while the priests introduced deeper aspects of Buddhism. The total number of Podcasts was over 2 million. The fans of the

program are gradually increasing, and it provides great opportunities for people who do not have much of a chance to learn about and become familiar with Buddhism.



Rev. Yoshiharu Tomatsu (left) and Mr. TETSUO (right)



Rev. Ryojun Shionuma (left) and Mr. TETSUO (right)

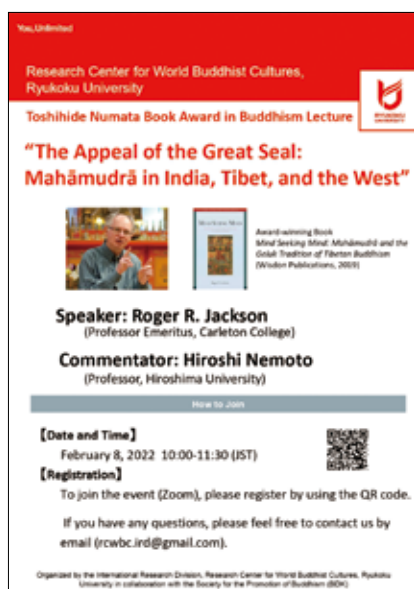
### Guests of the 2021 Fiscal Year (Names listed without honorifics)

April	Yoshiharu Tomatsu (Jodo-shu priest, President of the Japan Buddhist Federation)
May	So Takei (TV personality, former track and field athlete)
June	Etsuko Karatani (Jodoshin-shu priest)
July	Dai Tamesue (former track and field athlete, sport commentator)
August	Ryojun Shionuma (Kinpusan Shugenhon-shu priest, Acharya head priest of Fukujusan Jiganji Temple)
September	Kazutoyo Koyabu (Comedian, comedy actor)
October	Yonin Koike (Shingon-shu Sumadera-ha priest, deputy head priest of Sumadera Temple)
November	SANKYU TATSUO (Comedian, linguist of Japanese)
December	Kobo Inoue (Jodo-shu priest, head priest of Korinji Temple)
January	SUEHIROGARIZU (Comedy duo)
February	Myosei Midorikawa (Tendai-shu priest)
March	Mitsuru Kuramoto (TV script writer, lyricist, composer)

## 03 Activity

# The 2020 “Toshihide Numata Book Award in Buddhism” Commemorative Lecture Online on February 8, 2022

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.



The 2020 winning title is “Mind Seeing Mind: Mahāmudrā and the Geluk Tradition of Tibetan Buddhism,” and the author, Prof.

Roger Jackson of Carleton College, gave an online lecture on February 8, 2022 with the help of the co-host, the Research Center for World Buddhist Cultures of Ryukoku University.

“Mind Seeing Mind: Mahāmudrā and the Geluk Tradition of Tibetan Buddhism” is the result of research on Mahāmudrā in Tibetan Buddhism of the Geluk tradition. The committee organized by the Center for Buddhist Studies, University of California, Berkeley evaluated the book as being central to the studies on the history and philosophy of Kagyu and Geluk Tibetan Buddhism.

Prof. Jackson mentioned that his research on the theme of the

“complication and the simplicity of existence” even has implications for the natural and social sciences.

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

The online lecture by Prof. Jackson can be viewed on the YouTube page of the Research Center for World Buddhist Cultures of Ryukoku University at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pavil7JVgiU>

## 04 Activity

# More Familiarity with Buddhism

### Bulletin Board

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) installed a new bulletin board at the entrance to the BDK Center Building in 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. We also post announcements about BDK hosted events and lectures.

We hope people will become a little more familiar with Buddhism and





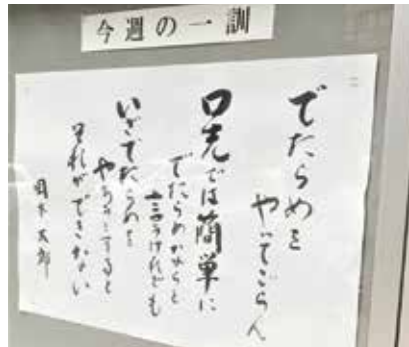
# BDK JAPAN NEWS 2021

we post pictures of them on our official SNS pages. Please check our previous posts, too.

## Capsule Toy Vending Machine

BDK installed a vending machine featuring capsule toy Buddhist statues with commentary leaflets on the first floor of the Bukkyo Dendo Center Building in 2018. The leaflets have information about each Buddhist statue and its affiliated temples, and visitors to the building enjoy 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 miss that either.



Bulletin Board



Capsule Toy Vending Machine

## 05 Activity Studying “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” for Business/Daily Life

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. The one with the longest history is ‘Studying “TTOB” for Business,’ which began in 1981.

This lecture series was established mainly for business people who want to acquire some background knowledge about Buddhism to help them operate and manage their businesses with opportunities to learn about the spirit of compassion and the wisdom of Buddhism.

For 2021, we welcomed Rev. Makoto Ichiraku, Chancellor of Otani University, and Rev. Koji Chiba, Chancellor of Tohoku Fukushi University, and hosted a monthly lecture on every fourth Friday at 6 pm.

Lectures for ‘Studying “TTOB” for Daily Life’ also has a long



Studying TTOB for Daily Life (Rev. Hogen Natori)

history and began a year after the establishment of ‘Studying “TTOB” for Business’ in 1982. 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 are held in a relaxed atmosphere during the day. For 2021, the lectures were delivered by Rev. Hogen Natori, head priest of

Mitsuzoin Temple, and Rev. Hisao Mayeda, Associate Professor of Musashino University. We hosted a monthly lecture on every fourth Tuesday at 1:30 pm.

We began broadcasting the live classes online for 2021 so that people were able to attend whenever and wherever they like.

## 06 Activity Elementary Course of Buddhist Lectures on “Japanese Buddhism – Learning from Scratch” – Update for 2021

### Broadcasting Classes Online

The Elementary Course of Buddhist lectures on “Japanese Buddhism – Learning from Scratch” is one of the most popular educational courses about the teachings and histories of each Japanese Buddhist school and the lives of their founders. We had to cancel all the classes in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but we held the classes in-person and online via Zoom Webinar in 2021.

The lectures were about the basics of each Japanese Buddhist school with dharma talks that included each lecturer’s own experience and



*Rev. Kenshin Yamaguchi*

beliefs.

The series of lectures was held online as well as in-person for the

first time this year, therefore people who live far from the BDK Center Building in Tokyo were able to

Lectures in 2021 (Names listed without honorifics)		
Month	Theme	Lecturer
April	Tendai Shu Founder Saicho	Gyodai Kiuchi, Distinguished Associate Professor of Taisho University
May	Shingon Shu Founder Kukai	Hogen Natori, Head priest of Mitsuzoin Temple
June	Jodo Shu Founder Honen	Kojun Hayashida, Professor of Taisho University
July	Jodoshin Shu Founder Shinran	Kenjun Inoue, Associate Professor of Ryukoku University
September	Nichiren Shu Founder Nichiren	Kenshin Yamaguchi, Gakkan Nichiren shu Ikegami Honmonji Temple
October	Rinzai Shu Founder Eisai	Ryugyo Matsumoto, Head priest of Nomanji Temple
November	Soto Shu Founder Dogen	Shoyo Yoshimura, Deputy Head Priest of Fumonji Temple





# BDK JAPAN NEWS 2021

attend the classes.

## Comments from Participants

- \* The venue is too far, but online classes made it possible for me to attend the classes from home.
- \* I truly enjoyed the knowledgeable, entertaining classes filled with laughter. It was easy to understand because the lecturer explained with personal experiences.
- \* The classes were fantastic with well-prepared handouts and beautiful pictures.
- \* I was able to understand deeply



*Rev. Ryugyo Matsumoto*

because of the lectures that had unique perspectives that cannot be experienced by reading an ordinary book.

## Special Lecture: The Heart Sutra in Japanese Buddhism at Bukkyo Dendo Center Building on February 26, 2022

### From Beginner to Intermediate Levels

As we had the special lecture, “Comparison between Namu Amida Butsu and Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō” by Prof. Satoshi Hiraoka, in 2019, we hosted another special version of “Japanese Buddhism – Learning from Scratch” again in 2021 and welcomed Prof. Shogo Watanabe as a lecturer and highlighted the “Heart Sutra” with the presentation, “The Heart Sutra in Japanese Buddhism” in-person and online.

We started off with an explanation of the Heart Sutra and the commentaries from each era after the teachings of Buddha reached Japan. He also introduced “The Heart Sutra with Pictures,” which was popular among people who were not able to read at the time



*Prof. Shogo Watanabe*

and explained it from various perspectives.

### Comments from Participants

- \* The “Heart Sutra” is supposed to be difficult to understand, however, Prof. Watanabe explained how it was accepted by ordinary people and still exists in our modern world.

\* It was interesting how the “Heart Sutra” played an important role not only in Japan but also in China, Southeast Asian countries and Tibet.

- \* I was able to understand the academic content of the “Heart Sutra,” as well as what made people believe in it and how they continue to this day.

## Activity 07 “Buddhism Through English (BTE)” – Update for 2021



BTE in Tokyo online

### BTE in Tokyo – Online Classes

The program of Buddhism Through English (BTE) originally began in 2011, and Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) renewed the program in 2016 to teach people how to explain Buddhism in English. We welcomed Dr. Kenneth Tanaka, emeritus professor of Musashino University and Ms. Carrie Tanaka, English Phonetics Specialist, as the lecturers. 30 of 79 participants passed at level 3 and 23 out of 27 passed at level 2. BDK issued “Buddhist English Tour-guide” certificates to four people who passed at level 2 and recommended them to Jodo Shinshu Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple and Jodo-shu Zojoji Temple in Tokyo.

For 2022, we only opened the level 2 classes for people who passed level 3 in 2021. We are planning to renew the entire program in 2023 to prepare more people to be able to explain Buddhism in English.

### BTE in Yamaguchi Prefecture, “Otera de Eigo, Learning English at a Temple”

BDK hosted the lectures, “Otera de Eigo, Learning English at a Temple,” to provide more opportunities for everyone to learn “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” in English for the first time in Yamaguchi prefecture. Ten people attended.

Rev. Shojun Ogi, head priest of Jodo Shinshu Choshoji Temple, offered six lectures with the themes of 1) Life of



BTE in Yamaguchi (Rev. Shojun Ogi)

Buddha, 2) Enlightenment of Buddha I, 3) Enlightenment of Buddha II, 4) Acceptance of Desires, 5) Words of Buddha, and 6) The Last Teaching. Readings were from the English/Japanese version of “TTOB.” Participants commented at the last lecture that “it was easier to understand in English than using difficult/specific terms in Japanese,” “I was able to learn Buddhism easily by reading “TTOB” for the first time.”





# BDK JAPAN NEWS 2021

08  
Activity

## “Buddhist Yoga” at Bukkyo Dendo Center Building – Update for 2021

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted “Buddhist Yoga” in-person and online with thorough countermeasures to ensure health and safety in 2021.



Rev. Ryoyu Konishi

We welcomed Rev. Ryoyu Konishi, also known as Momo, who is a Koyasan Shingon-shu priest, to conduct monthly classes consisting

of 60-minutes of yoga, 10-minutes of dharma talks, and 20-minutes of meditation.

The theme for the yoga classes each month was the passing of the seasons. For instance, we had a class focus on poses for easing the tiredness and sleepiness due to seasonal allergies in spring, on the day before “Risshun, the first day of spring.”

The instructor, who trained at a meditation center in Myanmar, mainly teaches Vipassana

meditation, one of the oldest ways of meditation in India. This style of meditation was said to have been rediscovered by Buddha and it eases anxiety and frustration by focusing on something to be examined carefully and by looking at things as they are.

Participants are able to experience the connection to Buddhism as they encounter their bodies and mind by practicing yoga and meditation in their daily life.

# Activity

## “Learning About Buddhism in the World Part II” at Bukkyo Dendo Center Building

Focusing on Features and the latest Findings about the Spread of Buddhism in Southeast Asia



Prof. Hidetake Yano



Prof. Toshiaki Kimura



Prof. Ryosuke Kuramoto

We had to cancel the classes for Part II that were originally planned for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, we were finally able to have seven lectures in-person and online in 2021.

We focused on Buddhism that spread from India to northern Asia

in the Part I classes in 2019, and we put a spotlight on Buddhism that spread to southeast Asia in Part II in 2021. Participants really enjoyed the lectures based on the lecturers' own experiences and the latest achievements of regional research.

Most of the participants online

were people who were not living in the Tokyo area. We were able to provide an opportunity for more people who did not have easy access to the BDK Center Building, and broadcasting online was a great success.

### Lectures in 2021 (Names listed without Honorifics)

Country	Lecturer	Date
Thailand	Hidetake Yano, Professor of Komazawa University	April 22
Laos	Yosei Ikegami, Professor of Minobusan University	May 27
Cambodia	Satoru Kobayashi, Professor of Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University	June 17
Indonesia	Toshiaki Kimura, Professor of Tohoku University	July 29
Vietnam	Kosei Ishii, Emeritus Professor of Komazawa University	August 26
Myanmar	Ryosuke Kuramoto, Associate Professor of Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, the University of Tokyo	September 16
Malaysia	Yun Huang, Associate Professor of Shokei University	October 28

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





# BDK JAPAN NEWS 2021

## 10 Activity 2021 BDK Symposium

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) invited a variety of accomplished people as our lecturers, and sponsored events for the 2021 BDK Symposium as described below.

### The 25th BDK Symposium

Theme: “What Is Going to Happen to Buddhism? – How It Should be for the Post COVID World”

Place: Bukkyo Dendo Center Building and online

Date: September 13, 2021

BDK welcomed Rev. Hidenori Ukai, journalist and head priest of Jodo-shu Shogakuji Temple in Kyoto, and Mr. Hideo Usui, president of Jiin Design Co., Ltd. for the 25th Symposium, “What is going to happen to Buddhism?”

Rev. Ukai talked about the “Present and Future of Temples” and Mr. Usui gave a lecture on the “Future Role of Temples.” Rev. Ukai used various research data to explain how temples have changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and told the participants about the future of temples including the “digital transformation of temples” and



Rev. Hidenori Ukai (left) and Mr. Hideo Usui (right)

the “disappearance of meaningless temples.” On the other hand, Mr. Usui used research results to show what people thought about temples and Buddhist rituals during the pandemic, and talked about the actual situation of how temples

have not responded to the wishes of people who want to rely on temples. At the end of their talks, they came to the conclusion that temples need to be closer to people’s thinking and need to update their understanding of rituals.

### The 26th BDK Symposium

Theme: “Let’s Talk about Religion 2021 – The Direction of Post COVID Religion”

Place: Bukkyo Dendo Center Building and online

Date: November 6, 2021

BDK held this symposium to consider what religions can do for society and how people might be able to live without strife, as social problems such as disparity and conflicts clearly appeared due to the pandemic.

We hosted the 26th BDK Symposium, “Let’s Talk about Religion 2021 – The

Direction of Post COVID Religion” online and on-site with thorough

health measures being observed since we were still in the middle of



*Rev. Gakugen Yoshimizu, Ms. Randy Taguchi, and Rev. Tomoshi Okuda (from left to right)*

the pandemic, and welcomed three panelists: Rev. Tomoshi Okuda, who is a pastor of Higashiyahata Baptist Church and president of Hoboku NPO Corporation; Ms. Randy Taguchi, writer who focusses on various social problems; and Rev. Gakugen Yoshimizu, deputy head

priest of Jodo-shu Koshoji Temple, who established the “Hitosaji no Kai” that prepares meals for homeless people and supports the funerals of people who have no family. Rev. Okuda addressed the theme of “churches connecting to all lives and serving all lives,” Ms.

Taguchi spoke about “the forms of belief without religions,” and Rev. Yoshimizu dealt with “community service from Buddhist perspectives.” They discussed the possibilities and contradictions of traditional religions, exchanged ideas with each other, and presented future forecasts of religions.

## The 27th BDK Symposium

Theme: “Thinking about Fragmentation and Harmony in Modern Society”

Place: Bukkyo Dendo Center Building and online

Date: March 5, 2022

What can be the messages from historical figures to the modern world? We hosted at lecture by Prof. Shigeki Moro of Hanazono University, who wrote the widely discussed book, “Saicho and Tokuitsu, The Greatest Battle in Buddhist History (Iwanami Shinsho)” released in October 2021.



*Prof. Shigeki Moro*

Prof. Moro pointed out dialogues that indicate the fragmentation of society and surveillance capitalism in the modern world.

For the first half, he commented that the Saicho-Tokuitsu debate was not what we think it was and explained what they discussed and why Master Saicho wrote “Disputed History.”

For the second half, Prof. Moro talked

about how people can harmonize with each other in surveillance capitalism in the modern world, based on what he said in the first half. He also indicated that people can change themselves without harmony and the important tool for that is a ‘dialogue.’ People should understand the etiquette of dialogue and how it aims for coexistence.

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





Take a Break

## Introducing BDK SNS Pages (total from both Facebook and Instagram)

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) has official SNS pages on such sites as Facebook and Instagram, and we introduce our activities and announce events and lectures. We currently have about 2,400 followers on Facebook and 1,000 followers on Instagram, and we are gradually improving our pages. We uploaded many posts in the 2021 fiscal year and would like to introduce the most popular posts of the year.

● January 5, 2022



245 likes / 2089 reaches

### “Saturday★Night Buddhism” – Episode on January 1, 2022

The most popular of all the “Saturday★Night Buddhism” posts was the episode in which we welcomed Suehirogarizu, a popular Japanese comedian duo. Their fans shared our post on their pages of SNS.



● August 16, 2021



165 likes / 4,995 reaches

### “Worldly Desires: Sugoroku, a Japanese board game with the Illustrated Story of Shakyamuni, a reprinted version of the Jodo Pure land Sugoroku.”

The post about our Sugoroku board game was the most popular in 2021. It was shared by many people, and some of them actually purchased the game.

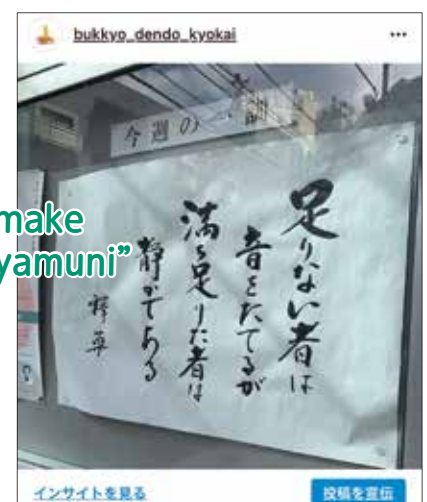
● April 13, 2021



247 likes / 2,645 reaches

### “The Word of the Week –Those who are not satisfied make noises, but those who are satisfied are silent. By Shakyamuni”

We introduced some wise sayings by celebrities every week on our bulletin board at the BDK Center Building and the above post earned the most “Likes” in 2021. The words of Shakyamuni have the power to reach into the hearts of many people.



## Obituary: His Eminence Rev. Taiho Fukuyama, 7th BDK President

His Eminence Zen Master Rev. Taiho Fukuyama, who was our 7th President and the 79th Head Priest of Soto-shu Daihonzan Eiheiiji Temple named Jiko Gentoku Zenji / Zetsugaku Taiho Daiocho, passed away at the age of 90 on September 10, 2021.



Calligraphy on a hanging scroll in the BDK chairperson's office



Formal funeral at Eiheiiji Temple-600 people attended

Rev. Fukuyama served as a head priest of Myogonji Temple in Toyokawa city, Aichi prefecture; the Kancho, head priest of Soto-shu; and the Kanshu, head priest of Daihonzan Eiheiiji Temple. He contributed to the promotion of the Soto sect and Buddhism, and taught many people in the world.

He took the position of our director in 1995 and succeeded to the position of president in 2008, then honorary chairperson for two years from 2013. He truly contributed to improving our organization for nearly two decades.

Rev. Seikoh-Kiyotaka Kimura, our current chairperson, attended his

formal funeral at Eiheiiji Temple on December 16, 2021 and expressed his condolences.

Rev. Kimura remembered the warm personality of Rev. Fukuyama and delivered his memorial address by introducing his calligraphy on a hanging scroll, “一華開五葉 Ikka Goyo wo Hiraku, “one successful experience leads to another,” which still hangs in the chairperson’s office. The words encourage us to continue to make efforts for the benefit of the public. Rev. Kimura also expressed his deep appreciation to what he has done for BDK.

All of our BDK directors and staff members express our appreciation



Rev. Seikoh Kimura, BDK Chairperson expresses his condolences

once again and offer our sincere condolences to the family of Rev. Fukuyama.

With Gassho,

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK)  
Society for the Promotion of Buddhism



A full-page background image showing a majestic mountain range under a clear blue sky. The mountains are covered in dense green forests, with rocky peaks visible in the distance. In the foreground, a clear, turquoise river flows through a lush green valley, bordered by a rocky shoreline and dense foliage.

# BDK Affiliated Organization Activities

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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



### BDK EUROPE

1

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Brüggener Weg 6, 40547 Düsseldorf, GERMANY  
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E-mail: bdk@eko-hause.de  
<http://www.eko-haus.de>



### BDK U.K.

2

c/o Mitutoyo(UK)Ltd. Joule Road, West Point  
Business Park, Andover, Hampshire SP10 3UX U.K.  
Tel: +44 1264-353123 Fax: +44 1264-354883  
E-mail: BDK.UK@mitutoyo.co.uk



### BDK POLAND

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ul. Graniczna 8A 54-610 Wrocław, POLAND  
Tel: +48(71)354 83 50 Fax: +48(71)354 83 55



### BDK CANADA

4

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E-mail: honjo@bdkcanada.com  
<http://www.bdkcanada.com>



### BDK AMERICA

5

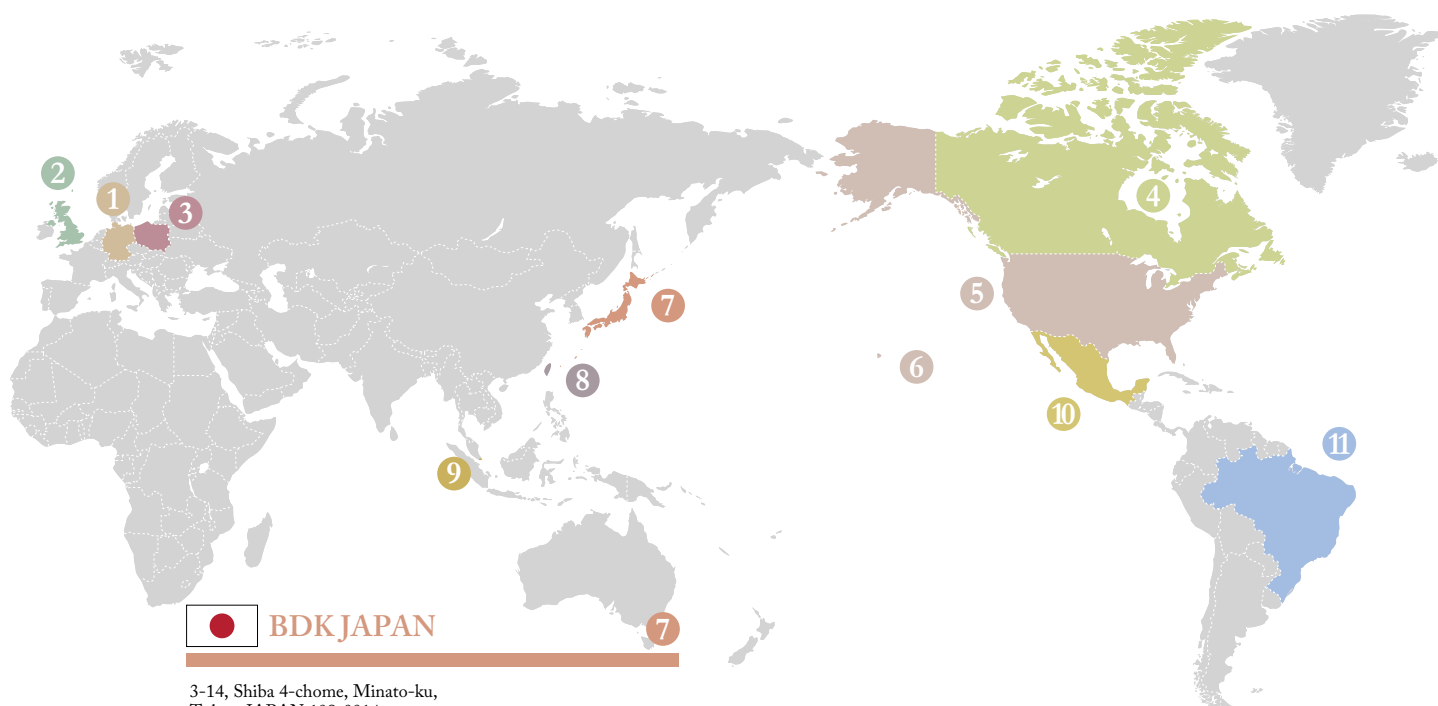
1675 School Street,  
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6

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### BDK JAPAN

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Despite the difficulties caused by the continuation of the Covid pandemic, we adjusted our operations and continued our work through email, phone calls and Zoom meetings. While hotel distribution of The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB) has decreased during the pandemic, we still distributed 3,363 copies and had to do a reprinting of the softcover edition. We also developed an audio version of TTOB that is available on Audible.com on Amazon.

We were pleased with the demand for TTOB from the U. S. military and we distributed 1,250 copies to military bases throughout the nation in 2021. The demand was so great that we published a special military version with a camouflage pattern on the cover. In January 2022 the Army Buddhist chaplain at Ft. Benning, Georgia sent in an order for 5,000 copies of TTOB and reported that several hundred soldiers regularly attend his Sunday services.

Non-TTOB books such as Learning the Wisdom of Enlightenment were also popular, and we distributed 3,884 copies in both print and download formats. There continues to be widespread interest in the teachings of Buddhism, and we plan on publishing books aimed at the general public.

While the Tripiṭaka series of translations of Buddhist scriptures can be difficult for the ordinary reader, they remain extremely popular. We sold or donated over 5,000 copies, and 12,589 titles were downloaded from our website in

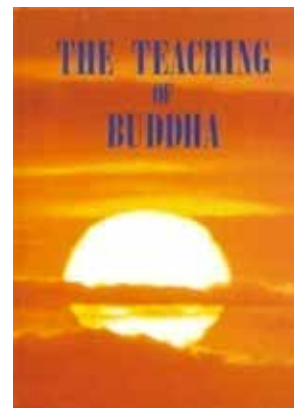
2021. We published three new translations and are expecting to receive a substantial number of new translations for editing and publication.

The Numata Programs continue to grow, and we will be dedicating the new Numata Center for Buddhist Studies at UC Berkeley sometime in 2022. We also concluded an agreement to establish a new chair in Japanese Buddhist Studies at the University of Chicago.

The 2021 Toshihide Numata Book Award was given to Dr. Christopher V. Jones of Cambridge University for his book, *The Buddhist Self: On Tathāgatagarbha and Ātman* (University of Hawaii Press). The award ceremony and symposium were held on Zoom on November 5, 2021.

We continue to develop new ways to distribute our books, and we created a QR code for TTOB that can be sent to hotels and other institutions. The QR code can also be included

in magazines, brochures and newsletter such as Michi.



For a free e-book of  
The Teaching of Buddha  
scan the QR code



For more information and books, go to  
[www.bdkamerica.org](http://www.bdkamerica.org).

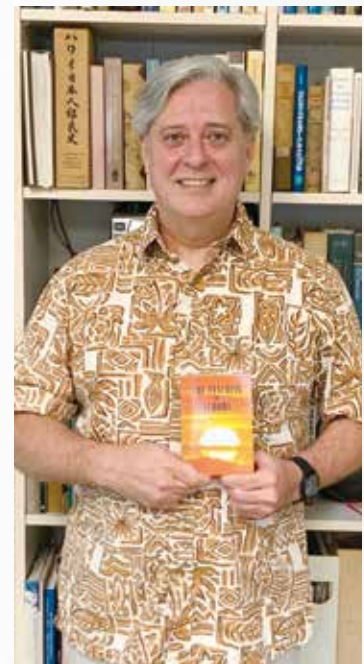


*Weekly Sunday Buddhist service at Ft. Benning, Georgia*



With the Covid pandemic continuing in 2021, we made adjustments to our book distributions and public programs. Due to the decline of demand for The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB) from hotels, we initiated a mail campaign of introducing TTOB to prisons in Hawaii and the U.S. mainland. The response from prison chaplains was very positive and we were able to distribute over a thousand copies to twenty-five prisons. Sales at temple gift shops remained strong, and the demand for books such as The Messages from Buddha and Learning the Wisdom Enlightenment was also strong. As a result, we were able to more than double our total distribution of books over what we donated and sold in 2020.

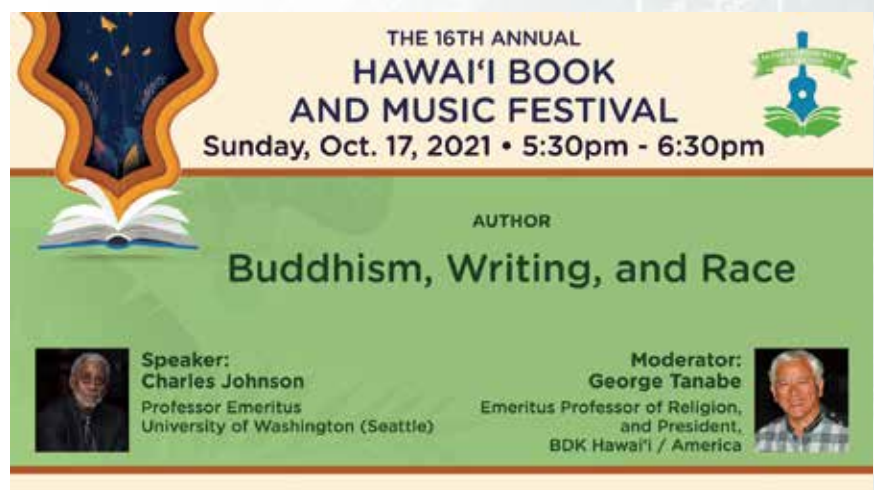
We conducted several online public programs using Zoom. Through the BDK-Fujitani Interfaith Program, we held Interfaith Conversations on Overcoming Polarization with panelists from Native Hawaiian, Buddhist and Jewish traditions; How Families Support their Children and Teens During Covid-19 featuring Buddhist and Christian viewpoints; and Where's My Religion? How Does My Faith Support My Life? with Buddhist, Catholic and Jewish high school and college students discussing the role that religion plays in their lives. Our major event was Buddhism, Writing and Race, which was a Hawaii Book and Music Festival online conversation with Charles Johnson, a nationally recognized African American writer and



Clyde Whitworth

Buddhist practitioner. This program reached an international audience and was sponsored by BDK Hawaii in cooperation with the University of Hawaii. Finally, 2021 marked the 10th anniversary of Clyde Whitworth's work as Distribution and Residential Manager of BDK Hawaii. Clyde manages the eighteen-unit

apartment building that is the financial foundation of BDK Hawaii and is instrumental in the planning and execution of all of our book distributions and public programs. Thank you, Clyde, for your devoted service to the BDK mission of promoting better understandings of Buddhism.







*The service for the 120th anniversary of Japanese Immigrants (Rev. Todaka)*

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai Mexico (hereafter BDK Mexico) has been renovating the BDK Mexico building and we are preparing for the re-opening. BDK staff member, Ms. Yokoo, was ordained with the dharma name, 釋墨咲Shaku Bokusho at the end of 2021. The name means that she may blossom in Mexico with the teachings of Buddha.

We could not do much in person in 2021 due to the continued pandemic and the renovating construction, but we performed a memorial service on November 15, 2021 to commemorate the 120th anniversary of Japanese Immigrants in Mexico. The service was for the people who lost their lives in accidents at a coal mine and those who had died with no family.

Many people left Yokohama to immigrate to Mexico for the first time on November 15, 1900. Eighty-two people who were supposed to work at a coal mine arrived in the village of Las Esperanzas, which means “hope.” By 1907, about 3,000 people arrived. However, nearly 100 people lost their lives in an accident at the mine, and the victims’ bodies were buried randomly in a trench. Most of them were in their 20s, and had crossed the sea with hopes in their hearts.

People who attended the service expressed great appreciation and joy because for years that they had always wanted to have a memorial service with a Buddhist priest. People found some Buddhist statues at the former site of the

coal mine, and we were able to understand how people at that time cared deeply about Buddhism. We learned the history of the Japanese immigrants who lost their lives in a foreign country and we reaffirmed our important role of continuing to maintain the connection between ancestors and descendants through this event.



*Distribution of TTOB (Rev. Todaka)*

# BDK Taiwan



We donated the English Tripiṭaka to the Taiwan Nanlin Monastery and its Vancouver Branch in Canada last year.

The person in charge of Buddhist classics procurement learned through the BDK Taiwan's website that there is an English Tripiṭaka available. This is the very first time someone showed interest in the English Tripiṭaka, so we responded to them seriously.

At the same time, we also donated 40 TTOBs to the Nanlin Monastery. We would like to express our gratitude to BDK Japan and BDK America for their kind cooperation through the publication of the BDK Newsletter Michi, The Path.

In addition, Omicron complicated the pandemic worldwide and the distribution of TTOB became increasingly difficult so we reconsidered our list of those

who receive the books. We got in touch with neighborhood leaders as potential receivers. We thought if we send TTOB to them, they would distribute the books to their residents. After a trial run in last December, the response was better than expected. They were quite happy to accept TTOB.

We will continue to find other places with great potential and continue to donate TTOB.



*Taiwan Nanlin Monastery*

# BDK Asia



## Khukhan School

On 23rd February 2021, Mitutoyo Thailand, which manages the activities of BDK Asia in Thailand

donated 1,000 copies of “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” Khukhan School, Srisakate

Province in the northeastern region of Thailand.

Dr. Panya Madee, who is a science



teacher received and distributed the books to students and teachers on behalf of Khukhan School, libraries, and nearby schools.

As Dr. Panya is a strong believer in Buddhism, he regards TTOB to be a key factor in promoting Buddhism not only in Thailand but also in the rest of the world.

Khukhan school was established in

1950 for high school students and by the end of 2021, it had a total of 3,404 students and 170 teachers. The school is located in Khukhan District, Srisakate Province near the Cambodian border approximately 478 km from Bangkok. This is a government school administered under the Ministry of Education.



*Dr. Panya receives TTOBs*



*Khukhan school in Thailand*

## BDK Europe



As of February 2022, we are still not able to hold temple services that are open to the public. Since February 2021, we have been holding on-line (Zoom) general Buddhist observances such as our monthly services, Pāramitā-services, Shinran Shōnin's Gōtan-e service, Ullambana service, etc. Priests deliver the live Sutra-chanting from our temple Buddha Hall (Hondo), and after listening to Dharma talks in German and Japanese we also provide time for chatting with our

on-line participants. Thanks to this on-line system, people who couldn't participate in services because they live far away are now able to join us. This has brought about an increase in the number of new participants. However, there is also a disadvantage that some persons are no longer able to participate due to their limitations in using electronic media.

Last year, over the November 26-28 weekend, EKO-House observed our annual Hōonkō (memorial

for the founder of Jōdo Shinshū) Service and held a 3-day on-line Hōonkō Seminar featuring the Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, President of the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, who spoke on the "Tannisho" as our guest lecturer. Since the service and seminar were held on-line, Nembutsu followers from not only Europe, but also in Japan, India and the United States, who would not have been able to participate in-person, were able to join us for the seminar in its on-line

format.

During the 9-month period in 2021 when private gatherings were allowed, we had our on-line services and were also able to provide private in-person services for requesting families. Twenty-three families participated in the Infant Presentation Service (the first presentation of a child by the parents in front of the Buddha) and 25 families who participated in the Shichi-Go-San Service (Seven-Five-Three years celebration). Both of these services had the largest number of participants ever in a single year. As the situation of not being able to easily return to Japan continues, the number of families holding children's milestone events at EKO-Temple has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

A noteworthy event in addition to the Buddhist services at EKO-House in 2021 was a tea ceremony held in July for the first time since



*Hōonkō Service online*

February 2020. Since the traditional Japanese pavilion where the tea ceremony is usually held would have had a very limited capacity due to COVID-19 infection regulations, the ceremony was held at EKO-Hall using chairs and tables (Ryurei-style) this time. We set up a pre-reservation system for three sessions of 14-15 participants each, conducted by four Urasenke tea masters who guided us through the tea ceremony.



*Infant Presentation Service in-person*



## Kankyō (Environment)

There has been no other time in history when the environment is being threatened with pollutants as it is today. Insatiable human desire is the cause of environmental destruction. Our desire to pursue a more convenient life is constant and never stops.

The warming of the earth has caused certain areas to have abnormally high or cold temperatures, and has accounted for the deaths of many people. Continuous heavy rains in many countries have caused big floods and destroyed much of the earth's cultivated land, and the loss of many lives.

Witness the escalating volume of garbage and the increase of dioxin, produced in the processing of garbage, as well as severe air pollution caused by the increasing number of cars. Our indispensable water supply is also polluted. As these examples illustrate, there are no limits to our environmental problems, and the culprits are all human beings.

Environmental problems are human problems. Unless our eyes are focused on human beings, there will be no real solutions to these problems.

In the center of the world of Universal Life, we humans exist together with all other forms of life. This is the starting point, and unless we return to this starting point and try to solve the problems, our environment will continue to be polluted.

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