

BDK
Newsletter

No. 12
2023

Michi - The Path -

BUKKYO DENDO KYOKAI Society for the Promotion of Buddhism

Michi

— The Path —

12

CONTENTS

02 BDK Japan News 2022

~BDK Publications~

- "The Teaching of Buddha(TTOB)" Interview: TTOB Volunteer - Living with TTOB in Local Communities
- "The Teaching of Buddha" - Update for 2022
- Newly Published BDK Publications in 2022
- Publications of the BDK English Tripitaka - Update for 2022
- "Let It Shine! Temple Bulletin Board Award 2022"
- The Seventh BDK Buddhist Picture Book Prize Competition
- The Ninth Annual Photography Competition for the BDK Calendar "A Wise Teaching a Day"
* The Eighth Photo Exhibition of the BDK Calendar "A Wise Teaching a Day"
- Exhibition of the "Illustrated Story of Shakyamuni"

12

~Financial Assistance and Honoring Recipients~

- BDK Fellowship Programs
- 10th Anniversary Special Interview: BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars
- BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars
- BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars
- The 56th BDK Cultural Awards Ceremony
- 2022 BDK Financial Assistance Programs

23

~Buddhist Lectures and Seminars~

- BDK Online Station: "Weekly Dharma Talks"
- The Weekly Radio Program "WARAIMESHI TETSUO's Saturday★Night Buddhism" by FM Osaka
- The 2021 "Toshihide Numata Book Award in Buddhism" Commemorative Lecture
- The 2022 Tour of the Picture Story Show "Buddha-The Life of Shakyamuni" as a Special Project on the 50th Anniversary of the Publication of the Manga "BUDDHA" by Tezuka Production
- BDK Flower Festival for the Vesak Celebration
- The 50th Jissen Fukyo Kenkyukai, BDK Buddhist Missionary Seminar
- Studying "The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)" for Business/Daily Life
- "Buddhism Through English (BTE)" - Update for 2022
- "Buddhist Yoga" - Update for 2022
- "Feel Buddhism"
- "Symbolic Character of Hope for 2023" Contest
- "Tips from the Masters of Buddhism" is out!
- Elementary Course of Buddhist Lectures on "Japanese Buddhism - Learning from Scratch" - Update for 2022
- 2022 BDK Symposium
 - * The 28th BDK Symposium "Asking About Life and Death"
 - * The 29th BDK Symposium "Is It Possible for Humans to Save Humans? -Thinking About the Work of Chaplains"
 - * The 30th BDK Symposium "How to Live Without Conflicts"
 - * The 31st BDK Symposium "The Beauty of Buddhist Statues: Why Do People Pray?"

38

Take a Break "Renewal of BDK Official SNS Pages"

39

BDK Affiliated Organization Activities

World map & Contact information

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

48

"Sasaeatte"「Hansei(Self-Examination, Introspection)」

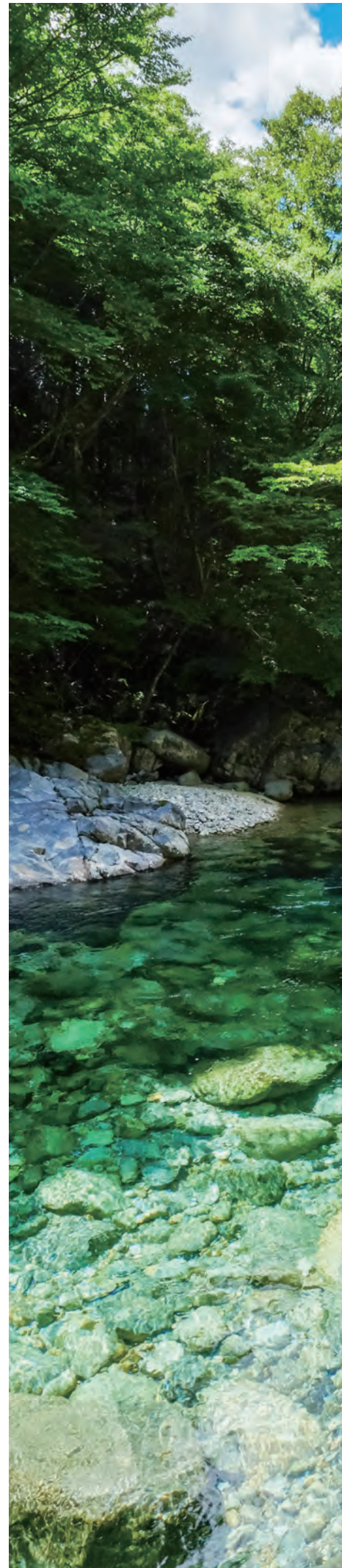


BUKKYO DENDO KYOKAI
Society for the Promotion of Buddhism

BDK Newsletter No.12 2023-6/1/2023-3,000

Copyright©2023 by BUKKYO DENDO KYOKAI(BDK)
Published by BDK
3-14, Shiba-4chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan, 108-0014

Edited by Kaoru Eguchi, BDK
Printed in Japan by ARC Co., Ltd.



Going Forward to a Society in Which We Are Able to Realize “Well-being and Peace”

We truly appreciate your generous understanding and continued support for all of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK)’s activities as we report our 2022 news and updates in this issue.

As we were still being affected by new strains of the Covid-19 in 2022, we slowly adjusted to living with covid. However, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has cast a dark shadow on the world. As we watch the various media scenes of how Ukrainian children and soldiers are suffering from the war, we feel their great pain and deep sorrow.

The battles of one power against another power over the ages have produced too many unnecessary victims. Although we should have already learned this from our past experiences, we are still witnessing the tragedy of repeated wars, so we as Buddhists must dedicate ourselves to our pledge to be against war, and we hope that the conflict will end quickly and that a peaceful everyday life will return.

When we realize how we human beings cause most of the serious disasters including wars to spread in the world, we should agree that “everyone should try to do something, no matter how small, to make a better world.”

We will continue to cooperate together to promote activities centered on Buddhism for the realization of BDK’s goal of creating social well-being and world peace.

With Gassho,



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

Interview



Daishoin temple (Kannon Hall)

“The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” Interview

TTOB Volunteer – Living with TTOB in Local Communities

Guest: Rev. Daiyu Yoshida

Location: Daishoin Temple in Miyajima-cho, Hatsukaichi-shi, Hiroshima-prefecture

Interviewer: Masayuki Masuda, Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK)

Editor/Photographer: Kaoru Eguchi, BDK



Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) has been distributing “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” for the past decades as one of its major activities, and the books have been utilized in a variety of ways in today’s modern world. TTOBs have been distributed to hotels, temples, medical facilities as well as educational institutions. BDK invited Buddhist priests who are willing to distribute TTOBs in their local areas on behalf of BDK, and we have welcomed 74 priests as of 2022.

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. Daiyu Yoshida, 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, Daishoin?

Yoshida (hereafter Y) : Thank you for having me, and it is such a great honor! To explain my temple Daishoin simply at first, it was established in 806 by Master Kukai, who is posthumously called Kōbō Daishi, the founder of Shingon-shu Buddhism. After Kukai completed one of the most difficult trainings of Shingon-shu; 虚空蔵求聞持法 *the Kokuzo Gumonjiho*, which consists of the chanting 10,000 times of a Shingon mantra in front of a drawing of *Kokuzo Bosatsu* (Akasagarbha Bodhisattva) for a hundred days straight, he performed the sacred Goma fire ritual by burning small pieces of scented wood before a Buddhist altar for spiritual purification to show his appreciation for the success of his training. That fire is called “*Kiezu-no-Reika*, the everlasting flame,” which is also known as the origin of the “Peace Flame” in the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima City. Miyajima island itself is a sacred place of worship, and our temple played a role along with Shugendo (Shinto-Buddhist mountain asceticism) in the development Itsukushima belief. There were 12 to 20 supporting temples of Daishoin at the time, and the chief priest of our temple was in charge of all the rituals related to the Itsukushima Shrine. The temple is dedicated to the eleven-faced *Kannon Bosatsu* (Guanyin Bodhisattva), and the statue is currently placed inside the *Kannon* Hall. You might have known that

Miyajima is registered on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Although many people know the vermilion-painted buildings connected by corridors and its great torii gate that appear as if it is floating on the sea at high tide, I have heard that it was highly valued as a place of faith and prayer that is in perfect harmony with its natural surroundings of *Misen* forests, and is a synthesis of Shinto and Buddhism.

M : I see. That is the synthesis of Shinto and Buddhism. We can see the history of preserving this land with the help of everyone here and the power of nature.

Y : Some people in today’s world say that Miyajima is a “power spot,” a place visited by a variety of powerful people in history. Ninnaji, the head temple of the Omuro school of Shingon-shu in Kyoto, which was established in 888, is deeply related to Daishoin, and their 20th Monzeki, the head priest of Ninnaji, stopped by our temple on the way to Kyushu island when he was soliciting donations to rebuild

the temple after the great fire during the Ohnin War in 1467. He even stayed at Daishoin for ten years after that. Kiyomori Taira, Hideyoshi Toyotomi, the Ashikagas and others who were famous Samurai warriors in Japanese history all visited. The Meiji Emperor even stayed at our temple, and we still have his painted portrait and the note of his travel itinerary hanging on the wall of our Kannon Hall. The history of the synthesis of Shinto and Buddhism continues to today. In addition to those mentioned above, Hirobumi Ito, the first prime minister of Japan, also was a believer, and he spent his own fortune to repair the approach to the Daishoin. I think everything is connected with the teachings of Master Kukai from his birth 1250 years ago till now.

M : Thank you so much. That is just incredible. We are able to see how this island and its temple naturally attracted people all the time, and it is because of the power of belief. However, did everyone in Miyajima have a hard time during the Covid pandemic because everything stopped for a few years?



Great torii gate of Itsukushima shrine on the sea

Y : That is right. Especially the hotels struggled for several years, but the pandemic made our bonds even stronger because people tried to come together to support each other. I talked about that to everyone, and they showed me their own way of helping us. For example, Mazda, one of the most popular Japanese automobile manufacturing companies based in Hiroshima prefecture, tried to support us by constructing a sacred fire platform for the “*Kiezu no Reika*.” The term, 三密 *San Mitsu*, “*three secrets*” became popular during the pandemic as the Three Cs: Closed spaces, Crowded places, and Close-contact settings. Master Kukai spread the Esoteric Buddhism teachings of “三密行 *San Mitsu Gyo* (practices of the three secrets): 身 *Shin* means Body, 口 *Ku* means Mouth, and 意 *I* means Mind as well, and I would like to promote these once the pandemic is finally over. 身密 *Shin Mitsu* means Body and Action. You should assess your actions and determine what is most important. Do not act selfish. For instance, you should not think that everything is all right just because everything is fine with you. 口密 *Ku Mitsu* refers to Speech. You should always reflect on what you want to say before you actually speak. For example, you should not say bad things behind someone’s back, write bad things online, or maybe jump on someone’s mistake without thinking about your own actions. 意密 *I Mitsu* means Thoughts and Feelings. Look at your own heart and be aware of who you are. For example, you should not be too greedy about grabbing all sorts of information and deceiving yourself. I believe those three considerations

are the most important things to practice everyday as we try to be like the Buddha.

M : Thank you, that is exactly what we need for today’s world. However, what made you decide to participate in the “TTOB Volunteer” program even though you were experiencing difficulties during the pandemic?

Y : I am just practicing the idea of “*San Mitsu*” (laughter). I am down for anything when people ask me a favor. I will always try to do the best I can and will not refuse others, which is a teaching from my father, the head priest of Daishoin. It is just a simple thing, my motto.

M : We truly appreciate that you feel this way. I felt how you really blended in with the local community while I was accompanying you as a “TTOB Volunteer” to visit some hotels in Miyajima the other day. I understand that you have a great personality for this, and I felt that the community welcomed you. I was surprised about how close you were with them!

Y : Our temple does not have so-called “members,” therefore, the temple and the local community have a good relationship and we all cooperate to make Miyajima better. I myself participate as a member of the local fire fighter group because I simply want to contribute to Miyajima. To make a better community, both people and the economy must be improved at the same time as well. In the case of Miyajima, sight-seeing and religious belief must be balanced, but tourists did not come to the island, and hotels were empty for a long time. The

spread of the covid-19 virus had a great impact on the accommodation industry and the economy declined. During this period of self-isolation, I thought it would be fantastic if we could provide a place for everyone to relax and heal our feelings, and we planned and carried out the “Miyajima Lighten-up Project” with the collaboration of hotels on the island. Daishoin is kind of far from the entrance to Miyajima, and after getting off the ferry, you have to walk up a steep slope to the temple. Therefore, I would like to welcome people with a warm hospitality. We are happy to provide the opportunity for people to experience something about Japanese Buddhism. With those feelings, we are trying to contribute to the community’s cultural development and do what we can do.

M : I feel that locals open up to you because of this close relationship and the equal footing you share with them. You earned their trust with your honesty without having to explain how great “The Teaching of Buddha” is! Could you share any feelings you have had through the “TTOB Volunteer” program? Any memorable experience?

Y : I personally believe that temples will face a new phase of communication with their local community. I think the “TTOB Volunteer Program” is a great way of practicing communication (smiling). The accumulation of small daily communications reminds me of how temples should be. If people are not willing to receive a copy of TTOB from you, that means they do not trust you enough yet. I think we priests

should be the ones who must be trusted and relied upon.

M : I totally understand that this is how it works, but it is a most difficult thing to achieve!

Y : In my case, the process of building lasting relationships with them has already been done, thankfully, so I simply recommend “TTOB” to people. Of course, it does not matter whether they accept a copy or not. I just ask them if they are interested in reading it without giving any complicated explanations about the book. I will patiently wait until they find the book interesting and start reading pages by themselves. I finally start explaining about TTOB once they have started to read it. That is how I do it.

M : I see. That is why they are happy to welcome you because your priority is always on who you are talking to.

Y : No no no! It might be because I am still young and easy to talk to. I have some opportunities to give dharma talks to children on their school field trips. I see their faces all the time, and I immediately understand if they find my talk interesting or not, you know (smiling). This may help me with my communication with adults.

M : I know you are not having any difficulties, but is there anything you have to be careful about when you are talking to people as a “TTOB Volunteer”?

Y : We have often seen the news lately about a variety of religions in



Rev. Daiyu Yoshida at Daishoin

modern Japanese society. Therefore, some people are suspicious about the free distribution of TTOB. Those people are thinking that “this great looking book cannot be donated without any compensation! There must be some bad trick behind this.” I had a friendly conversation between some good friends from some hotels the other day. They asked me, “How much is TTOB?” and I answered, “4.3 million yen (US\$ 40,000.)!” We shared big laughs. In reality, I explained, there is a Japanese manufacturing company named Mitutoyo that fully supports the activities of BDK. That is why the books can be “donated” to hotels. They continued with happy faces and said, “We have seen this nice book at many hotels throughout the nation, but we had no idea that BDK is able to distribute the books to my hotel at no cost!” The book is a so-called “bible” of Buddhism, so some people even think that there must be something if they receive it

free (laughing). Therefore, I think close communication with the community is the key. It is just an accumulation of small steps you take every day.

M : Wow! Thank you very much for sharing such an inspirational story with us today. That is totally true. TTOB and BDK are not suspicious at all (laughter), so we hope more people will come to know the book. Lastly, please give us any advice for a prospective priest who might be willing to participate in the “TTOB Volunteer” program.

Y : As I said earlier, daily communication is the most important thing! That is it. I would like to be a person who can be trusted. I am trying to talk to people by being on their side. I usually start by saying “Sorry! It is a very thick and heavy book...” I simply ask them if they are interested and do not force them at all. We are on an equal footing,

so priests should not look down on them. However, my presumption is that TTOB is a good thing that people can believe in.

M : We would also hope for them to use TTOB as a tool for communicating with their local community. Thank you again for sharing your story with us! We were honored to welcome Rev.

Daiyu Yoshida, who is overcoming the pandemic with the support of his local community. The possibilities TTOB opens up to hotels remind us to reconfirm our efforts and rethink about what we can do further. In addition to TTOBs, we are pleased to provide free copies of the “Guide to Buddhism,” “Messages from the Buddha,” and other books if you

participate in the program.

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

Here are the hotels and organizations where they are actually using BDK publications such as “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB),” “Guide to Buddhism,” and “Messages from the Buddha” in Miyajima.

“We would be happy if TTOB can give our hotel guests a more relaxed experience at our hotel.” Mr. Satoshi Shikuma, Executive Manager, Kinsuikan



“The Japanese version and English version are the most popular of all. They are gone even while we are placing them on the shelf!”
Mr. Naoki Saito, Senior PR Manager, Miyajima Sight Seeing Association



Rev. Daiyu Yoshida

Assistant Chief Priest of Daishoin Temple of Shingon-shu Omuro school from 2017. Born in 1990 in Miyajima. Began practicing at Ninnaji Temple, Head Monastery of Shingon-shu Omuro-school. Wishes that people have a happy life through Buddhism. Supports the international exchange programs between Tibet, China, Thailand, etc. Associate member of the Miyajima Sight Seeing Association. Contributes to “Terakoya,” the children’s education program. Board member of Miyajima Daichakai, a tea ceremony association.



BDK Publications



Activity
01

“The Teaching of Buddha” – Update for 2022

Distribution of “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” in 2020 and 2021 was very difficult due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, we saw a recovery in 2022, and we were able to distribute 9,653 copies of TTOB (3,913 copies in 2021).

There was a big impact not only on distribution to hotels, Buddhist schools, kindergartens, etc. during the previous two years, but we were able to donate 25,192 copies of TTOB in 2022 (21,782 copies in 2021). We received more requests from schools recently, and we see the high retention rate of using TTOBs at entrance ceremonies or commencements at educational institutions.

For distribution outside Japan, we donated 4,800 TTOB copies in Hindi and 5,000 in English in the state of Chhattisgarh in India. The donation was supposed to have been done in 2020, but we had to postpone for two years due to the pandemic.

There are about 2,000 Buddhist institutions such as large and small viharas, schools, and hospitals in Chhattisgarh. Some of those institutions requested TTOBs, so the books were received with an enthusiastic welcome.

We are going to encourage the active distribution of more copies of TTOB inside as well as outside of Japan.



TTOB distribution in Chhattisgarh, India



TTOB distribution to The Pavillions Himalayas in Nepal





BDK JAPAN NEWS 2022

Activity 02 Newly Published BDK Publications in 2022

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 2021 and “Accepting the Truth Through Endurance” in June, 2022. Rev. Issho Fujita from Soto-shu, Rev. Junsho Oka from Tendai-shu, and Rev. Hisao Mayeda from Jodo Shin-shu wrote the latest one and explained the sayings in our “A Wise Teaching A Day” calendar from the various perspectives of each Japanese Buddhist school. In addition to the above, we

published “En, The Best of The Signpost” in September, 2022 in which we selected 22 popular stories

from the previously published issues to follow the ones published in 2015.



“Accepting the Truth Through Endurance”



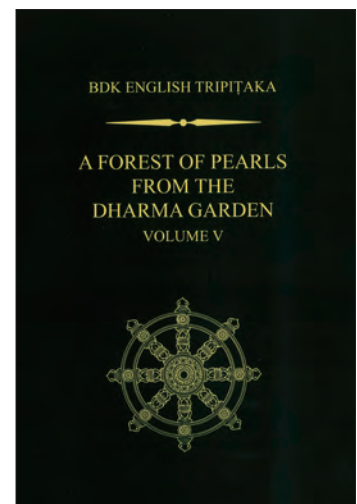
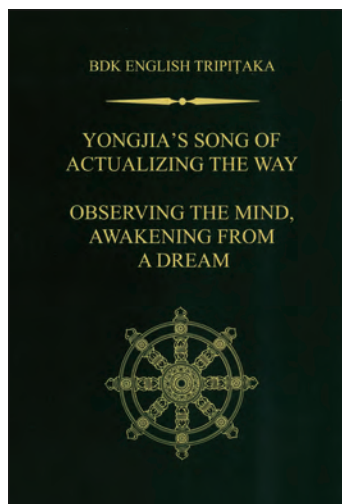
“En, The Best of The Signpost”

Publications of the BDK English Tripiṭaka - Update for 2022

For the English Tripiṭaka series, we have steadily completed 75% of our goal of translating 139 classical writings, and the editorial committee plans to finish all translations by 2030. We published two books in 2022. The first one combines two texts: (1) “Yongjia’s Song of Actualizing the Way,” which was written by Yongjia, a disciple of the Sixth Patriarch Huineng, to explain the summary of his enlightenment written in 1,814 characters in 247 verses; and (2) “Observing the Mind, Awakening from a Dream,” which was written by the Japanese Hosso priest Ryohen to explain the teachings of the Yogacara Mind

Only school. The second book we published was “A Forest of Pearls from the Dharma Garden, Volume V,” which consists of the 28th to

the 34th volumes of the hundred volumes compiled by Dao Shi in 668.



03 Activity “Let It Shine! Temple Bulletin Board Award 2022”

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) sponsored the fifth annual “Let It Shine! Temple Bulletin Board Award” program in 2022. This award program continued to draw media attention, and we received a record-breaking 4,093 entries sent in.

The grand prize for the 2022 competition was “Buki-wo Sute Juzu-wo Motou (Drop your weapons and carry your Buddhist prayer beads instead).” It was from the 10-year-old son of the Ryuganji Temple chief priest in Kyoto. He drew a picture with this phrase because he is really sad about the war between Ukraine and Russia. There is the phrase, “No Warfare”

in the “Sutra of Infinite Life” and this means that we do not need any weapons or soldiers. BDK truly wishes that everyone would drop their weapons and carry their prayer beads with respect for each other for the sake of the children who will live in our future world. This message was selected for the grand prize.

We are going to hold the sixth

annual competition starting from July 1, 2023.



Ryuganji Temple

04 Activity The Seventh BDK Buddhist Picture Book Prize Competition

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted the Seventh 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 129 submissions from a wide range of age groups for the 2022 competition, which continued to receive a high level of attention due to 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 “Nakigoe-ga

Jiman-no Kitsune (The Fox with the Proud Roar)” written and drawn by Ms. Eri Kondo. The story describes how important it is for us to make the most of what we have already by showing how a fox takes on the shape of a temple bell. BDK awarded the prize money to the winner and published the picture book in March 2023.

You may purchase all of the publications introduced in this newsletter online. Please take a look at our official website!



“Nakigoe-ga Jiman-no Kitsune (The Fox with the Proud Roar)”



BDK JAPAN NEWS 2022

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

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted the ninth annual competition for the BDK Calendar, “A Wise Teaching a Day.” We received 2,497 submissions from 738 people.

We held a selection committee meeting on September 6, 2022 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.



Photo selection

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

The eighth exhibition was held in three places in Japan: Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple in Tokyo from April 23 to June 12, 2022, Byodoin Museum at Byodoin Temple in Kyoto from July 1 to October 2, 2022, and the main hall of Zuiganji Temple in Miyagi from October 7 to November 24, 2022.

We welcomed Mr. Mori Suzuki, calligrapher, and he presented a major calligraphy performance at the Byodoin exhibition. He wrote “慈心不殺 Jishin Fusetsu (Practice compassion and do not kill)” for the morning performance, and “一味同心 Ichimi Doshin (Unite everyone’s heart for the same purpose)” for the afternoon performance. His calligraphy drew the attention of many visitors. 338,000 people

visited the exhibitions at the three venues and enjoyed the photos and

the quotations expressing Buddhist teachings.



Byodoin Temple



Picture Story Show



Calligraphy Performance by Mr. Mori Suzuki

06 Activity

Exhibition of the “Illustrated Story of Shakyamuni” at Zojoji Temple



Buddhist reliquary and “Illustrated Story of Shakyamuni” exhibition

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted an exhibition on the “Illustrated Story of Shakyamuni – Kosetsu Nousu, the Artist Who Devoted His Lifetime to Shakyamuni” at the Jodo-shu head monastery in Minato-ku, Tokyo from December 7, 2022 to February 20, 2023.

The Buddhist reliquary which was donated in 1966 by Mahabodhi Temple in India to Zojoji Temple was officially installed in December of 2020 in the lounge in front of the Treasures Gallery, an exhibition space of Zojoji. They also set up an explanatory signboard of the reliquary, and it was an honor for the “Nirvana Scene in the Illustrated Story of Sakyamuni,” which BDK

owns, to have been on display. In commemoration of this event, we decided to exhibit seven original drawings from of the “Illustrated Story of Shakyamuni.”

It was a meaningful opportunity after seventy years of the passing away of Mr. Kosetsu Nousu (1885-1973).





Financial Assistance and Honoring Recipients

01 Activity BDK Fellowship Programs BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars

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

The BDK Fellowship for 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.

The year of 2022 was our 10th anniversary year of the establishment of the BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars. We welcomed Assoc. Prof. Maho Iuchi, who was one of our first BDK Fellowship holders and currently is in Japan, and our interview with her brought back memories.

10th Anniversary Special Interview: BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars Asking Questions to Assoc. Prof. Iuchi – Messages for Young Promising Scholars

Guest : Associate Professor Maho Iuchi, Hakubi Center for Advanced Research/
Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University

Location : Kyoto University

Interviewer/Editor/Photographer : Kaoru Eguchi, BDK



Eguchi (hereafter E) : Thank you for joining us today. First of all, could you explain the course of events that led you to apply for a BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars?

Iuchi (hereafter I) : It was my second summer of my studies at

Harvard University in the U.S., and I was thinking about staying for another year and continuing my studies and research at Harvard. Right around that time, I participated in an international conference in China and one of the professors who was there introduced me to the scholarship program. I

had already known about the BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars but had no idea that BDK had one for Japanese scholars as well at the time. I thought it would be a fantastic opportunity for me and decided to apply for the program.

E : Wow! We established the “BDK

Fellowship for Japanese Scholars” just in time for you.

I : You are right!

E : As our committee selected you as the very first Japanese scholarship holder (you were already staying at Harvard at the time) do you have anything in particular that you remember about your life in the U.S. or at the university?

I : I had been studying Tibetan history, so I had experiences of long-term stays in Tibet or some cities in China before, but I had never done that in the U.S. or other European countries. Therefore, everything is memorable to me. To talk about my research, I was affiliated with the Department of South Asian Studies (Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies before 2011) and there were many students and scholars from all over the world such as from the U.S., India, China, Taiwan, Korea, Mongolia, etc, to study Tibetan Buddhism, history, and culture. It was just amazing to be there. There were classes regularly for reading Tibetan texts with post-doc scholars and PhD students like myself twice a week. I did not have enough experience of reading classical Tibetan texts in English before, so the class was just tough. I tried to prepare for the class every time, but it was not enough, and I had a hard time following the class at first. I was like a young MA student struggling in a class, but it



Prof. Maho Iuchi in her office

is absolutely a great memory from back then.

E : I cannot imagine that you experienced something like that! I think you are always calm and manage everything in order. How about life outside the campus?

I : There were a lot of Tibetan exiles who were living in the Boston area at the time, so it was a good opportunity to learn more about them and the Tibetan community through our communication. Some of them were born in India, some were from Tibet and arrived in the U.S. via India, and some others came directly to the U.S. from Tibet. Their backgrounds varied and their dialects varied as well. The first Tibetan dialect I learned was the Central Tibetan dialect, so it was easy to catch on to it. However, Tibetan people in the U.S. came from everywhere, so I had a hard time catching all of those dialects at first.

I was studying at Harvard in the U.S., and I know my English skills were supposed to have been improved. However, it was a time for me to improve my Tibetan skills instead while I was in the U.S. (laughter). The friendly communication between them and myself continues to date, and I must say that it was just a precious opportunity to be able to build relationships with them.

E : It sounds very nice that you had your lifetime experience not only on campus but also in your private life in the local community in Boston! I can tell that you enjoyed life in the U.S. a lot, but did you experience any turning-point of your career from being a BDK Fellowship holder to date?

I : I would say that publishing *An Early History of Rwa sgreng Monastery The Rgyal ba'i dben gnas rwa sgreng gi bshad pa nyi ma'i 'od zer of 'Brom Shes rab*



BDK JAPAN NEWS 2022

me lce (Harvard University Press) as vol. 82 of the Harvard Oriental Series in 2016 was it. This Tibetan text is the only existing monastic chronicle (*gdan rabs*) of Rwa sgreng monastery, which was established in 1057, and it was written in 1229, found in the library of the Fifth Dalai Lama in 2004, and made available in 2010. I started my research at Harvard in 2011, so it was perfect timing for me that my academic advisor, Prof. van der Kuijp, supported me by reading it together and preparing the critical text. Completing it within two years was very hard, but the BDK Fellowship allowed me to continue for another year. Therefore, I was able to finalize my project and I really appreciate the support of Prof. van der Kuijp and BDK that enabled it all. I was honored that I was able to publish it, especially as a part of the Harvard Oriental Series. I am just thankful.

E : It was our pleasure to support you at the time. In 2011, our program was just born, and we were also trying to figure out what is good for scholars, what we can do, etc. Could you honestly tell us how



Kyoto University

you felt about the BDK Fellowship program itself?

I : As I told you earlier, I was able to extend my stay at Harvard for another year. Studying and researching Buddhism, can be time consuming. especially reading Tibetan and Sanskrit texts, can be time consuming. At the time that the BDK Fellowship was started, the program only allowed for a scholarship period of one year, but I have heard that it is now for a maximum of three years. It is just amazing that BDK is able to provide more opportunities for more Japanese scholars.

E : Yes, thank you for bringing that up. The BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars allows two months for short-term stays and up to three years for long-term stays. It should be flexible to accommodate each person's plans, I guess.

I : I believe that more options for selecting the period of stay would be very much appreciated. To me at the time, one year was enough, so I cannot think of any complaint about the program. However, you set the age restriction to be "under 40 years old"? "Within xx years after completing the PhD degree" or something more flexible about age would be even nicer. I think more people would be interested in applying for the program.

E : I see. We should be more flexible and listen to what students

and scholars really need from time to time, so please let us hear your honest opinions from now on! Well, could you tell us about your future career then?



I : I must thank you for enabling me to continue my research at such a substantial facility like the Hakubi Center of Kyoto University. I am still on my journey started at Harvard, but I began my new project in 2021 called "Elucidation of the Foundations of Tibetan Cultural Area: On Medieval Tibet and the Second Diffusion of Buddhism in Tibet." This is a study of Tibetan history from the ninth century to the thirteenth century, and I am using newly discovered texts that have become available since 2000. I am trying to compile and publish my PhD thesis and my new research. Moreover, I would like to publish something more casual so that everyone can read classical Tibetan texts in translation. I had an opportunity to teach some Tibetan graduate students in Tibetan in 2023. I was not able to fully commit

to teaching for the past few years because of the birth of my daughter and nursing, but teaching enables me to review my research as well and even to find new perspectives through that. I am looking forward to teaching students, too. I am planning to tell students how to write academic papers and introduce the studies and research being done currently in Japan. I was the one who was taught and was accepted by some professors and some institutions for a long time, but it would be nice to be able to be the one who teaches and accepts some students in the near future.

E : You are expecting a lot of things now since the pandemic is finally over!

I : Yes, I cannot wait to go back to Tibet and do some fieldwork there which I could not do during the pandemic.

E : Lastly, could you share any message about yourself when you were in the U.S. and to young promising students and scholars who are aiming to be researchers in the future?

I : I would definitely tell myself, “You should study more Sanskrit and English because you had so much time at the time!” (with a big smile) but I still think my inspiration that made me say, “I should go to Tibet” or “Next, to the U.S.” was not that bad at all. There might have been better choices in the past, but I could

not think of other options at the time. And my intuition brought me good results.

E : I totally agree with that! Timing is everything, but there are many people who might hesitate to take a first step toward what they really wish for.

I : You are right. I personally think that there is nothing wasted to experience when you are young and doing immediately whatever you want to do. Every single experience brought me precious opportunities. To tell you honestly, research itself is very lonely work, and I sometimes feel anxious about my future. You will need to face feelings like that forever, but I am having so much fun, too. Work is a big part of your life, so I hope they believe in themselves and do what they are able to do at each time with no hesitation.

E : I think being a researcher is hard to imagine, but I believe that

your message will encourage many students and scholars.

I : No, no. Japanese scholars who have a BDK Fellowship should choose to go abroad and challenge whatever they aim for. I still have close communications with my colleagues at Harvard and I met my lifetime friend, too. I am just grateful. I could not have such essential relationships with other people unless I had the opportunity to study abroad with the support of a BDK Fellowship.

E : The possibility is open to everyone. We would like to welcome promising students and scholars who are thinking about having a chance to study abroad, and we hope they will experience lifetime encounters during their time aboard and come back to Japan and become a person who is able to tell things to the next generation! Thank you so much for sharing your experience with us today.

Profile



Prof. Maho Iuchi

Specializes in Tibetan history and Tibetan Buddhist history.

Received PhD degree at Otani University in Japan in 2008.

Started her career as associate professor of the Hakubi Center for Advanced Research of Kyoto University in 2021 after being a Research Fellow for Young Scientists (PD) of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science; Post-Doctoral Associate of Department of South Asian Studies, Harvard University; Visiting Scholar of Kobe City University of Foreign Studies; Visiting Scholar of Qinghai University for Nationalities, etc.



BDK JAPAN NEWS 2022

The 9th Annual Awardee for BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars Q&As

Name (Title if any) : Arihiro Kosaka (Dr.)

Tenure : 2022/04/01 – 2023/03/31

Affiliation (Country) : Department of Indian and Tibetan Studies, Asia-Africa Institute, University of Hamburg (Germany)

Academic Advisor (Title) : Prof. Michael Zimmermann (Dr.)

Theme of Research : Candrakīrti's Interpretation of satyadvaya

1) What made you apply for the 2021 BDK Fellowship?

Since I entered graduate school, I had often heard about the BDK fellowship. Several scholars around me got it and studied abroad. So, I immediately decided to apply for the fellowship when considering what to do after submitting my dissertation. I think that young postdoctoral researchers do not have so many career options. Thus, the fellowship was very attractive for me.

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

Thanks to the fellowship, I had an opportunity to concentrate on my studies abroad in the long term without any worries. This is the best thing about being a BDK Fellowship holder. I was originally planning to go to Hamburg by the end of 2021. But the coronavirus situation in Europe was not good at that time. So I asked BDK if I could postpone my departure. Fortunately, BDK quickly and flexibly responded to me and accepted my change of plans. I really appreciate BDK's sincere response to my request.



Mr. Kosaka in the middle of the first row Prof. Zimmermann on the right of the second row

During my stay in Hamburg, the most beneficial thing for me in terms of my future career was that I organized an international workshop with the support of my host researcher, Prof. Michael Zimmermann. Because of the BDK fellowship, I took the first step of my career as a postdoctoral fellow in a very meaningful and fruitful

way. I would like to apply what I learned at that time to the future and continue to work internationally.

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

Hamburg, a large city in northern Germany where I stayed, is a

historical place centered around Lake Alster. It is a calm and beautiful city that is neither noisy nor lonely. Importantly, it is very safe; and occasionally I would come home late at night from the university, but I have never been in any danger. Furthermore, the Asia-Africa Institute of the University of Hamburg, which was my host institution, is one of the largest Buddhist research centers in the world. It has more than 10 researchers of Indology

and Tibetology, and more than 50 students in the master's and doctoral programs. They come from all over the world. It was very stimulating to see people from various countries studying Buddhism with interest and enthusiasm. I recommend Hamburg to anyone who wants to broaden their knowledge through studying abroad.



2024 BDK Fellowship PR poster

The 10th Annual Awardee for BDK Fellowship for Japanese Scholars

Name (Title if any) : Keiki Nakayama

Tenure : 2023/04/01 – 2026/03/31

Affiliation (Country) : Institute for South and Central Asian Studies, University of Leipzig (Germany)

Academic Advisor (Title) : Prof. Jowita Kramer

Theme of Research : A Study of the Paryāyasamgrahaṇī of the Yogācārabhūmi: Yogācāra's Interpretation of Scriptural Phrases

Activity 02 BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars

The 31st Annual Awardees for BDK Fellowship for Foreign Scholars Q&As

Name (Title if any) : Iris Zhang

Tenure : 2022/04/01 – 2023/03/31

Affiliation (Country) : Kyoto University

Academic Advisor (Title) : Prof. Yoshikawa Shinji

Theme of Research : Buddhist Chanting Practices and Literary Culture in Heian Japan

1) What made you apply for the 2021 BDK Fellowship?

I learned about the fellowship through senior PhD students during

my second year of my MA studies at Columbia University. I truly appreciate BDK's dedication to Buddhist studies and its support of

overseas scholars. Some scholars who I admire have also received support from BDK before. Thus, I applied in order to do my fieldwork



BDK JAPAN NEWS 2022



Ms. Zhang and her colleagues

in Japan and communicate more with Japanese scholars.

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

BDK has supported me through a very difficult time. The pandemic forced many scholars to adjust their overseas research plans, but people from BDK have been understanding and supportive throughout the entire process to make sure one can carry out his or her research plans. Another aspect I appreciate the most is that the fellowship offers reimbursement for necessary research expenditures such as research travel expenses or book purchase expenses. Personally, I do feel that BDK cares about its awardees and truly wish for their success.

My priority right now is to complete

my dissertation since this year of research has given me a lot of materials. And I hope my work will continuously offer new insights into Buddhist culture and its influence on Japanese culture.

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

One thing I observed during my

short trips in Japan is that many Japanese people truly respect nature and appreciate its connection with Japanese culture. Such connections can be strongly felt at places like the Cupressus forest near Tōshōgū or temple gardens in Kyoto. This aspect of Japanese culture may be my favorite part of living in Japan.



Ms. Zhang (left) and Prof. Yoshikawa (right)



BDK headquarters (from left to right : Prof. Yamabe, Ms. Lazzerini, and Mr. Aoki)

Name (Title if any) : Simona Lazzerini
Tenure : 2022/05/01 – 2023/04/30
Affiliation (Country) : Waseda University
Academic Advisor (Title) : Yamabe Nobuyoshi
Theme of Research : Demonic icons of Hārītī

1) What made you apply for the 2021 BDK Fellowship?

The BDK Fellowship is one of the most renowned and prestigious fellowships in Buddhist Studies. Because it is based in Japan, it allows you to study in this country for a year and it provided the perfect opportunity for me to do fieldwork in Japan to finish my dissertation. I am here to study demonic icons of Hārītī with human hair. There is very little scholarship on this topic, therefore fieldwork across Japan was an essential part of my research.

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

I am very thankful for BDK's

flexibility, kindness, and impeccable organization. Because of the pandemic, I had to postpone my fellowship for 9 months, but BDK was patient and accommodating. This clearly reflects the commitment, kindness, and seriousness of BDK. Besides being able to do fieldwork all over Japan, from Hokkaido to Kyushu, the fellowship has given me the opportunity to work with Japanese scholars and monks; visit some of the most important Buddhist sites in the world (such as Tōji in Kyoto, Enryakuji, the Great Buddha in Kamakura); and access materials that are not available in the US.

As for my future career, I will defend my PhD dissertation in the Spring of 2023. I want to

become a university professor and continue my research on East Asian Buddhism. I am sure my future projects will bring me back to Japan sooner or later.

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

Besides going to temples and learning about Japanese Buddhism, I love eating Japanese food (especially ramen); going to konbini and trying all their seasonal goods and fried food; exploring anime places, like Nakano Broadway and Akihabara. I also love traveling and discovering new places. Kyushu had some of the best sashimi I have ever had, and I had never seen so much snow as in Hokkaido.



03 Activity

The 56th BDK Cultural Awards Ceremony on October 27, 2022 at the Bukkyo Dendo Center Building

The 56th BDK Cultural Awards, Bunka-sho ceremony and banquet were held on October 27, 2022 at the Bukkyo Dendo Center Building.



The 56th BDK Cultural Awards winners

The BDK Cultural Awards Committee celebrated the achievement of Rev. Shotoku Tanaka, the Bunka-sho winner, for his compositions of various Buddhist hymns that contributed to the modernization of Buddhist music.

He recalled his memories for the past 60 years and expressed his appreciation in his speech. “I just loved what I do and could not give up on composing and playing Buddhist music for years. I must thank everyone who supported me throughout those years.”

The Numata Shorei-sho winner, the Todaiji Social Welfare Corporation,

has continued to tell everyone about the importance of the bond between children and parents and the coincidence between them, based on the teachings of Kegon and Nara Buddhism, by establishing facilities for children and parents who are suffering from intractable diseases. The chairperson of the corporation, Mr. Kiyotaka Tomiwa said, “We would like to contribute to creating a society where every child feels that they are happy to be born in this world and every parent feels that they are happy to be their parents. The receipt of this award encouraged us so much and we are

going to continue our activities from now on for sure.”



Rev. Shotoku Tanaka



Mr. Kiyotaka Tomiwa from Todaiji Social Welfare Corporation

04 Activity

2022 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 2022, we received 23 applications and the BDK Financial Assistance Committee selected 14 groups and granted them financial assistance as listed below.

We are pleased to introduce some previously funded programs in this article. We supported the Nousu Kosetsu Commendation Committee for the preservation of Buddhist wall paintings by Mr. Kosetsu Nousu in Sarnath, India in 2019. The paintings were successfully restored, and a completion ceremony was hosted by the governments of India and Japan on December 16, 2022.

In addition to the above, we supported NPO Kamakura Terakoya, which promotes temple communities through volunteer activities such as

reading books for children, summer camp at temples for children, etc. in the city of Kamakura, Kanagawa prefecture in 2022. Moreover, we supported a special public lecture hosted by University Hospital

of Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine about “How cancer survivors and their families can live better through the perspectives of Buddhism.”



Completion ceremony in India

For more information about BDK financial assistance programs, visit our official website at https://www.bdk.or.jp/english/about/financial/financial_assistance_programs.htm

A. Support for Numata Program in Buddhist Studies

Name of Group	Project
University of California, Berkeley	Reserve funds for establishment of Numata Center

B. Support for BDK Affiliated Organizations

Name of Group	Project
BDK Asia	Distribution of “The Teaching of Buddha”
BDK Taiwan	Distribution of BDK publications

BDK JAPAN NEWS 2022

C. 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
Public Interest Incorporated Foundation the Nakamura Hajime Eastern Institute	2022 research investigation, support of research, etc. as public interest incorporated foundation

D. Support for Projects: D-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
The Committee for the 46th All Japan Buddhist Conference in Minobusan, Yamanashi	The 46th All Japan Buddhist Conference in Minobusan, Yamanashi prefecture
University Hospital Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine	"How cancer survivors and their families can live better through the perspectives of Buddhism."
All Japan Young Buddhist Association	National Conference of All Japan Young Buddhist Association and WFBY 50th anniversary service
All Japan Young Buddhist Association	Vesak, "Flower Festival," for promoting the teachings of Buddha and its religious services

D. Support for Projects: D-2. Promotion of Buddhist Academic Learning

Name of Group	Project
Ryukoku Museum	2022 Special Spring Exhibition, "Disciples of Buddha -Stories of Passing the Baton of Teachings"
2022 International Conference for the Japanese Association of Digital Humanities	International Conference for Digital Humanities in 2022



Picture story show (hosted by NPO Kamakura Terakoya)

"How cancer survivors and their families can live better through the perspectives of Buddhism."

Buddhist Lectures and Seminars

Activity 01 BDK Online Station: “Weekly Dharma Talks”



Rev. Kyokuyu Enta



Rev. Ryosho Shimizu



Rev. Jikido Yoshii



Rev. Naomi Sato

We started broadcasting “Weekly Dharma Talks” via Zoom in January 2021 by setting a monthly theme and welcoming a Buddhist priest every week. Priests from various schools of Japanese Buddhism participated in the program.

We had the 100th anniversary program in February 2023, and it seems like more people are looking forward to viewing the Wednesday night programs. We record each live program and after a month or so, we provide free YouTube videos, which attract a lot of viewers. We try to change the stereotypical image that “Dharma talks are

too lofty” and will continue to broadcast the weekly programs so that more people can relate to them in 2023.

Comments from Viewers

* It was easy to understand and I felt an affinity with the program. I enjoyed listening to the story about Buddhist training. It was realistic and showed his desires and conflicts.

* I was interested in this theme and will continue viewing as much as I can from now on!

* BDK Online Station provides a slow pace and calm moments to my day.

Themes of the 2022 Fiscal Year	
April	Lies
May	Eating
June	Environment
July	Fear
August	Peace
September	Universe
October	Health
November	Nature
December	Loneliness
January	Future
February	Communication
March	Buddhist Training



BDK JAPAN NEWS 2022

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

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) started a weekly radio program in June 2018, and 2022 was the fifth year for us to share the attractions of Buddhism with people.

The program is broadcast for 15 minutes from 12:15 am. We welcomed priests and celebrities as monthly guests, and various stories provided by the guest speakers enabled listeners to feel closer to Buddhism.

Especially for season 5, we welcomed Mr. Sekaikan Ozaki, who is a novelist and a vocalist with Creephyp, the popular Japanese rock band; Mr. Hakuzan Kanda, a famous Japanese traditional storyteller; and various other celebrities from various fields. Also, the “Free-style Dharma Talks” provided during the weeks when priests are guests draws attention from the listeners. We received



Mr. TETSUO (left) and Rev. Daiko Matsuyama (right)

many heartwarming comments from the fans such as “I am looking forward to listening to the stories that make me feel closer to Buddhism in my daily life.” “The

priest’s stories provide good tips for my everyday life.” “This is a high-quality program that allows me to have a closer experience to many aspects of Buddhism.” etc.

Guests of the 2022 Fiscal Year (Name listed without honorifics)	
April	Nanrei Yokota : Kancho Head Priest of Rinzaishu Engakuji-ha
May	Bike Kawasaki Bike : Comedian, Novelist
June	Noelke Muho : Former chief priest of Soto-shu Antaiji Temple
July	Jun Miura : Illustrator
August	Daiko Matsuyama : Vice chief priest of Rinzaishu Myoshinji Taizoin Temple
September	Hakuzan Kanda : Traditional Japanese Storyteller
October	Keisho Matsumoto : Priest, Jodo Shin-shu Hongwanji-ha Komyoji temple
November	Sekaikan Ozaki : Musician, Novelist
December	Koji Chiba : Chief priest of Soto-shu Horinji temple
January	Kiyoshi Ibukuro and Daisuke Kaminaga from “Wagakki (Traditional Japanese instrument) Band”
February	Junsho Oka : Chief priest of Tendai-shu, Enyuji temple
March	Yoneda 2000 : Comedian duo

03 Activity The 2021 “Toshihide Numata Book Award in Buddhism” Commemorative Lecture

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 2021 winning title is “*The Buddhist*

Self: On TATHĀGATAGARBHA and ĀTMAN,” and the author, Dr. C. V. Jones of Cambridge University, gave commemorative lectures in April 2023 at Ryukoku University (Kyoto) and the University of Tokyo about the book and his research results after writing it. It was a fantastic opportunity to listen to lectures by a cutting-edge researcher of Buddhist studies, and he received a lot of attention from students and scholars.



Dr. C. V. Jones

04 Activity The 2022 Tour of the Picture Story Show “Buddha -The Life of Shakyamuni” as a Special Project on the 50th Anniversary of the Publication of the Manga “BUDDHA” by ©Tezuka Production

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted the ‘Picture Story Show’ performed by professional picture storytellers and voice actors as a special project commemorating the 50th anniversary of the publication of the Manga “BUDDHA” by ©Tezuka Production. The tour went to 16 places in Tokyo such as kindergartens and childcare facilities as well as Tsukiji Hongwanji, Byodoin, and Zuiganji, where the BDK photography exhibitions are held. “Buddha -The Life of Shakyamuni” was enthusiastically performed by the storytellers and actors.



Picture Story show at Tsukiji Hongwanji

1,571 people watched the shows during the period of April 1 to December 31, and BDK handed out

an exclusive gift of coloring books to the attendees.



05 Activity BDK Flower Festival for the Vesak Celebration



Winning paintings from the “Design Contest for the Flower Festival”

We exhibited the 17 winning paintings from the first to the fifth competitions of the “Design Contest for the Flower Festival” hosted by the Japan Buddhist Federation (JBF) since 2017. The paintings were displayed in the lobby area of the BDK Center Building.

Most of the pieces were colorful and appropriate for the “Flower Festival,” which celebrates the birth of Shakyamuni, and they were full of various good wishes and thoughts.

In addition to the 17 pieces, we displayed a reproduction painting of the “Nativity of Shakyamuni” and

a Hanamido, the special altar with a statue of the infant Shakyamuni decorated with flowers. We also installed a colorful flower bed right in front of our building and it seemed that people passing by our building paid a lot of attention to it. The Japan Buddhist Women’s Federation provided us with flower seeds that visitors to the exhibition freely took home.

BODAIJU, the restaurant inside the Bukkyo Dendo Center Building, sold a special Buddhist vegetarian curry and rice dish just for this period to celebrate this event and many people enjoyed the food.



“Nativity of Shakyamuni” and a Hanamido altar



Flower bed in front of the BDK Center Building

06 Activity

The 50th Jissen Fukyo Kenkyukai, BDK Buddhist Missionary Seminar, at the Tendai Sect Head Temple Hieizan Enryakuji: June 1-3, 2022



Zazen meditation practice



Guide tour by Rev. Kakushun Kogamo

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted the 50th Buddhist Missionary Seminar (BMS) at Hieizan (Mt. Hiei) Enryakuji, the head temple of the Tendai sect in Shiga prefecture. We had postponed it for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and we were finally able to hold the 50th anniversary seminar after three years. We welcomed 30 priests and their temple families from various sects of Japanese Buddhism this time, and they deepened their understanding of the theme, “The Buddhist Path of Mt. Hiei – Learning from *Kaihogyo Training.” His Eminence, Rev. Kokei Ohki, the Tendai Zasu, the head priest of the Tendai sect, gave the participants an exclusive welcome speech at the opening of the seminar on Day 1. The participants attended the early morning service at the Konponchudo



Lecture by Rev. Soho Miyamoto

Hall, visited temples under the guidance of Rev. Kakushun Kogamo, and encountered the mind of Master Saicho through a lecture given by Rev. Soho Miyamoto on Day 2. The participants woke up at 2 am on Day 3 and engaged in the Kaihogyo training. They wore the white sacred clothes and chanted the “Heart Sutra” as they walked the mountain

paths of Mt. Hiei, and safely finished their seminar trip of three days.

* Kaihogyo Training: ascetic practice of the Tendai sect; a thousand-day walk through the mountains from Hieizan to the old Imperial Palace in Kyoto



Activity 07 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.” Seminar 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.



Lecture by Rev. Hogen Natori

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 2022, 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 6pm.

The participants enjoyed a little

gathering after each lecture to communicate with each other and the instructors.

Lectures for ‘Studying “TTOB” for Daily Life’ also has a long history and began a year after the establishment of ‘Studying “TTOB” for Business’ in 1982. The monthly lectures share 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 2022, the lectures were delivered by Rev. Hogen Natori, chief priest of



Lecture by Rev. Makoto Ichiraku

Mitsuzoin Temple, and Rev. Chiryō Matsumoto, chief priest of Enryūji Temple. We hosted a monthly lecture on every fourth Tuesday at 1:30pm.

08 Activity “Buddhism Through English (BTE)” – Update for 2022

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 to tourists from all over the world in English. 185 of 400 participants passed at level 3 and 119 of 149 passed at level 2 by 2022. Many people who passed at level 2

currently work for temples with lots of tourists as a “Buddhist English Tour Guide.”

Participants really enjoyed learning Buddhism in English for all those years with Dr. Kenneth Tanaka, emeritus professor of Musashino University, and Ms. Carrie Tanaka, English Phonetics Specialist, our friendly lecturers who have a good

sense of humor. Although the 2022 lectures were the last ones for this program, BDK will provide various opportunities in different ways for learning Buddhism in English from now on. (For more details about the on-going/up-coming lectures, please visit our official website.)



Guide tour by Rev. Gyoei Saile at Kofukuji

BTE in Kyoto and Nara, “Learning Buddhism in English Through Experiences at Temples”

BDK hosted “Learning Buddhism in English Through Experiences at Temples” by combining lectures in a classroom with experiences

at temples in Kyoto and Nara. We set three themes of 1) Zazen meditation, 2) Buddhist architecture and Japanese gardens, and 3)

Buddhist statues. We welcomed three lecturers. Rev. Muho Noelke, former chief priest of Antaiji temple, explained the teachings



BDK JAPAN NEWS 2022

of Zen in lectures and directed Zazen meditation at Soto-shu Koshoji temple in Kyoto. Dr. Lisa Grumbach, lecturer at Ryukoku University, explained the Buddhist worldview of the Buddha and Shinto Kami and gave a special tour at Kita Hosso-shu Kiyomizudera in Kyoto. Rev. Gyoiei Saile, priest

of Kofukuji, gave a lecture about Buddhist statues and led a tour at Hosso-shu Kofukuji in Nara. Participants said that by actually visiting the temples in person after learning things in a classroom, they were able to deepen their understanding of Buddhism as well as practice their English.



Zazen instruction by Rev. Muho Noelke at Koshoji



“Buddhist Yoga” – Update for 2022

The BDK “Buddhist Yoga” class enables participants to focus on difficult poses while they are having fun, and it gained a popular reputation.



Yoga instruction by Momo

We welcomed Rev. Ryoyu Konishi, also known as Momo, who is a Koyasan Shingon-shu priest. Her classes often involved difficult poses, however, the goal of the class was not to do the poses perfectly. She focused on the participants’ breathings and body movements. Participants performed the body movements as much as they could and enjoyed yoga at their own paces. Momo’s dharma talks offered

opportunities for participants to feel closer to Buddhism because she kindly explained the common points shared between Buddhism and yoga with easy-to-understand examples each time.

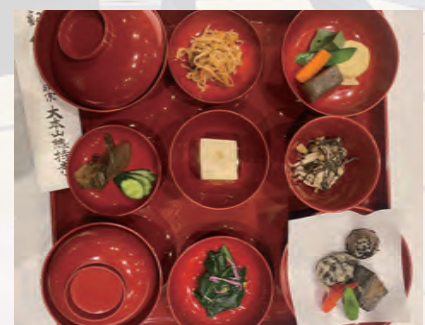
Mr. Ken Harakuma, a legendary Japanese yogini, gave special classes in August and September while Momo was in India for yoga training. We had lots of participants who joined in-person and online.

Special Zazen Retreat at Soto Zen Sojiji Head Monastery on November 19, 2022

After three years of the pandemic, BDK finally resumed the “Special Zazen Retreat” in which people were able to experience Yoga, Zazen and Japanese Buddhist vegetarian cuisine at the same time at Sojiji temple.

We began this event at Sojiji in 2016 to provide another opportunity for people to freely visit temples more often and experience

Buddhist spirituality and culture. This is our fifth year of holding this special event after a pause of three years, and we welcomed



Shojinryori prepared by Sojiji temple

Mr. Ken Harakuma for the yoga class, and Rev. Zenchi Uno from the Soto Institute for Buddhist Studies for the dharma talk. Rev.

Komyo Hanawa from Sojiji gave explanations about the temple itself as well. Participants tried zazen meditation and had a Buddhist

vegetarian lunch after chanting the “Verse of Five Contemplations,” and they were able to have a meaningful experience at Sojiji for half a day.

10 Activity “Feel Buddhism” Experiencing Temples in Meguro, Tokyo on November 29, 2022



Guide tour by Rev. Kodo Takiguchi

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted a special program, “Feel Buddhism,” a one-day field trip to temples located in Meguro, Tokyo with the theme of “feeling some aspects of the significance of Buddhism.”

Although we had to postpone this event for three years during the COVID-19 pandemic, this was our third time after the program was started at Asakusa in 2019.

The first part was held at Gohyakurakanji temple, and Rev. Shujo Mukushina, the temple’s chief priest, gave instructions about Nenbutsu chanting at the main hall. The second part was held at Meguro Fudosen Ryusenji temple, and participants were able to see the Gomagyo, the sacred fire ritual, conducted by Rev. Kodo Takiguchi, the chief priest. They went on a guided tour of the temple and heard

about the history of Meguro as well. The weather was fantastic on that day, and we received many comments from participants, who said that they were looking forward to the next opportunity. We are going to hold another “Feel Buddhism” event in the fall of 2023. (For more information about the up-coming event, please visit our official website.)



11 Activity

“Symbolic Character of Hope for 2023” Contest



Calligraphy of “会 (Meeting)” by Mr. Suzuki



Mr. Harumi Aoki (left) and Mr. Mori Suzuki (right)

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) hosted the “Symbolic Character of Hope for 2023” contest for making a wish based on a single Kanji (Chinese) character for the up-coming New Year. We invited public participation from October 1 to December 15, 2022, through our official website. We selected “会 (Meeting)” as the 2023 character, which was submitted by someone who wanted to meet people but

couldn’t for the past three years due to COVID-19. “会” also means attaining enlightenment, and we selected this character so that more people can meet the teachings of Buddha.

We welcomed Mr. Mori Suzuki, a professional calligrapher, and he did a special performance of writing “会” in front of the Great Hall of Daihonzan Zojoji, the chief temple of the Jodo-sect, against

the background of Tokyo Tower on January 6, 2023. He received lots of applause from the audience for his lively performance using his whole body. We also distributed to the audience an exclusive gift of a postcard on which he had written the character “会.” We exhibited the masterpiece in the precinct of Zojoji temple for that day and later installed it in the lobby of the Bukkyo Dendo Center Building.

12 Activity “Tips from the Masters of Buddhism” is out!

The “Tips from the Masters of Buddhism” project began in 2022 in which we interviewed prominent people who have been leaders in the field of Buddhism in Japan for years. Their careers, essays, and publications are widely known among people, but their private experiences, personal characteristics, and their feelings about Buddhism have not been discussed in public. In this program, we introduced their own experiences, feelings and words that

express what is important to them as Buddhists. We listened to their stories by taking a step into their personalities. We interviewed six people so far in 2022 and presented three short interview videos to

the public and posted the entire interviews in articles on our official website. We are going to continue to introduce more of the valuable tips they have to offer in 2023.

We are now broadcasting the following three programs: (Names listed without Honorifics/as of March 2023)	
The 1st Program	Hoyo Watanabe (Special distinguished professor of Rissho University)
The 2nd Program	Tainen Miyagi (Monshu, high priest of Shogoin Monzeki)
The 3rd Program	Noritoshi Aramaki (Emeritus professor of Kyoto University)



Rev. Hoyo Watanabe



Rev. Tainen Miyagi



Emeritus Prof. Noritoshi Aramaki

13 Activity Elementary Course of Buddhist Lectures on “Japanese Buddhism – Learning from Scratch” – Update for 2022

The elementary course of Buddhist lectures on “Japanese Buddhism – Learning from Scratch” is one of the most popular elementary courses about the teachings and histories of each Japanese Buddhist school and the lives of their founders. We had

classes online as well as in-person for the 2022 course and were able to provide more opportunities for people who do not live close to the Tokyo area.

We added “Ji-shu, Ippen” to the 2022 program, and all the

instructors talked about masters who restored each school as well as the founders so that the participants were able to deepen their understanding.

BDK JAPAN NEWS 2022



Rev. Eshun Kobayashi



Rev. Kojun Hayashida



Rev. Naoto Iwata

Lectures in 2022 (Names listed without honorifics)

Month	Theme	Lecturer
April	Tendai shu Founder Saicho	Eshun Kobayashi, Disciple of Tendai-shu Shomyoji temple
May	Shingon Shu Founder Kukai	Koyu Amano, Chief Priest of Koyasan Shingon-shu Kozoji temple
June	Jodo Shu Founder Honen	Kojun Hayashida, Professor of Taisho University
July	Jodoshin Shu Founder Shinran	Kenjun Inoue, Associate Professor of Ryukoku University
August	Ji Shu Founder Ippen	Naoto Iwata, Chief Priest of Ji-shu Manpukuji temple
September	Rinzai Shu Founder Eisai	Ryugyo Matsumoto, Chief Priest of Rinzai-shu Kenchoji-ha Nomanji temple
October	Soto Shu Founder Dogen	Koji Chiba, Chancellor of Tohoku Fukushi University
November	Nichiren Shu Founder Nichiren	Kankei Tanigawa, Vice Chief Priest of Nichiren-shu Shinjoji temple

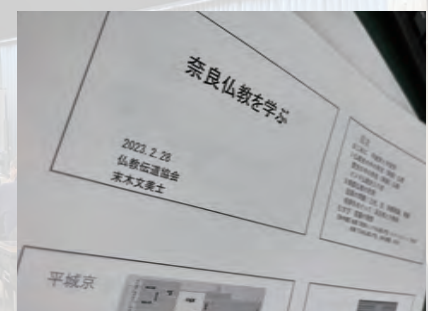
Special Lecture: Learning Nara Buddhism on February 28, 2023

BDK hosted a special lecture, “Learning Nara Buddhism,” which addressed the Six Schools forming the foundation of Japanese Buddhism.

We welcomed Dr. Fumihiko Sueki, Emeritus Professor of the University of Tokyo, and had a special lecture both online and in-person since we had no chance to introduce Nara Buddhism during the 2022 regular lectures. We offered a discount rate especially for people who have a student ID to encourage more students to participate in this opportunity. Nara Buddhism in general refers to

the Buddhist schools that flourished around the south of Heijokyo, the ancient capital of Japan. However, the lecturer pointed out that his talk was not only about the Nanto Rikushu, the six schools of the Southern Capital, but was also about how Buddhism started in India, developed various philosophies in China, then came to Japan and developed their own ways in Nara with an emphasis on the state. Our

current Buddhism is based on Nara Buddhism and flourished all over Japan.



Handouts prepared by Emeritus Prof. Fumihiko Sueki

14 Activity 2022 BDK Symposium

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) invited a variety of accomplished people as our lecturers, and sponsored events for the 2022 BDK Symposium as described below.

The 28th BDK Symposium “Asking About Life and Death” on July 13, 2022

BDK hosted special lectures by Rev. Tetsubun Fujita, the 53rd BDK Cultural Award winner, and Rev. Ichijo Ogawa, the 55th BDK Cultural Award winner, in Sapporo City, Hokkaido with the theme of “Asking About Life and Death.”



Rev. Fujita talked about the direction of our lives by addressing his own theme of “Where are you going after death? -To you who live here at this moment.”

Rev. Ogawa quoted a poem written by his younger sister, Ms. Akiko Suzuki, and explained the importance of understanding that we are not walking towards death but are living in the present moment. He addressed the theme of

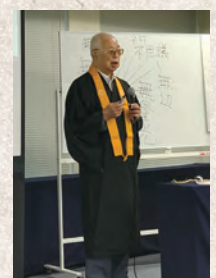
“What lies at the basis of Buddhism – Informing Patients of Cancer and Buddhism.”

To provide more opportunities for more people, we asked for help from the Hokkaido Hand Sign Center and welcomed professional simultaneous hand sign interpreters. It was our first-time welcoming hand sign interpreters, and we were able to welcome two of them to assist in our event. The

28th symposium was our second one in Hokkaido, and we had 92 participants: 60 people online and 32 people at the venue.



Rev. Ichijo Ogawa



Rev. Tetsubun Fujita



BDK JAPAN NEWS 2022

The 29th BDK Symposium “Is It Possible for Humans to Save Humans? -Thinking About the Work of Chaplains” on September 10, 2022

Recently there has been a lot of media attention such as the novel that was made into a movie about the efforts of chaplains to heal inmates of their mental problems. We welcomed three panelists: Mr. Masatsugu Yazawa, a former judicial instructor at a correctional facility in Fuchu and Executive Officer of the National Federation of Chaplains, Rev. Hiroyuki Yutani, a Catholic priest of the Tokyo Diocese, and Rev. Kenjo Kuboi, chief priest of Soto-shu Daisenji temple.

They started talking about the reality of their chaplain activities behind the wall, compared their activities as Buddhist and Christian chaplains, and discussed the theme

“Is It Possible for Humans to Save Humans?” The three panelists also exchanged comments with each other and answered questions from the participants.

The lectures were published on our official YouTube channel with subtitles and hand sign language for the benefit of people with hearing impairments.



Panelists (left to right: Rev. Kuboi, Rev. Yutani, and Mr. Yazawa)



YouTube movie with subtitles and Japanese sign language interpretation (JSL interpreter: Mr. Satoshi Ezoe)

The 30th BDK Symposium “How to Live Without Conflicts” on November 12, 2022

BDK hosted a symposium to consider the role of religion in how to live without conflicts in the modern world in which we face disasters, fatal diseases, and wars as daily problems. We welcomed Mr. Yosuke Nagai, the executive director of NPO Accept International, and Prof. Katsuhiko Kohara of Doshisha University, who is also executive director of the Center for the Study of Conscience, as our guest speakers.

The theme of Mr. Nagai’s lecture was “A new approach to solve terrorism and conflict – What can we do with terrorist groups with whom we have no interactive

communication?” He talked about the role that religion can play in the re-education and rehabilitation into society of former soldiers and people who used to be part



Prof. Katsuhiko Kohara (left) and Mr. Nagai (right)

of terrorist groups and had been arrested.

The theme of Prof. Kohara's lecture was "What we can do to not intensify conflict through thinking about the history and reality of monotheism." He explained the characteristics of human and modern society behind conflicts, the history of conflicts in monotheism, and the necessity for education in religious literacy.

It was a great opportunity to rethink the relationship between religions

and conflicts by listening to the active exchanges between two

professionals working in different fields.



Panelists exchange comments

The 31st BDK Symposium "The Beauty of Buddhist Statues: Why Do People Pray?" on March 4, 2023

We welcomed four panelists, Prof. Yasushi Okada; Mr. Gizan Kato, a Buddhist sculptor; Prof. Hisanori Kojima; and Mr. Atsushi Nishiyama to think about the beauty of Buddhist statues and their power to save and answer the prayers of many people.



Panelists (left to right: Mr. Nishiyama, Prof. Kojima, Mr. Kato, and Prof. Okada)

Assoc. Prof. Okada from Tokyo University of the Arts talked about the meanings of icons in religions in general, and Mr. Kato, the Buddhist sculptor, explained the relationship between prayers and Buddhist statues through his experiences of

dedicating one of his statues to the disaster area of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Assistant Prof. Kojima from Tokyo University of the Arts spoke about the ideas of Buddhist sculptors and the beauty of Buddhist statues through the

production of replicas, and Mr. Nishiyama, executive director of the East Asia Buddhist Cultural Institute, discussed Buddhist statues as the accumulation of prayers.

We were able to think about various elements of "the beauty of Buddhist statues" and it was a precious opportunity to learn about multiple perspectives from each lecturer. Each lecture had a different point of view, but all lecturers agreed that at the foundational level of Buddhist statues there are the considerations of both the sculptors and the people who offer prayers.

Everyone came to the common conclusion that those thoughts and feelings definitely create the beauty of the statues.



Take a Break

“Renewal of BDK Official SNS Pages”

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) renewed its official SNS pages in order to post and share information of our activities faster with more people.



Most people in the modern world use social networking services (SNS) daily to receive useful information concerning their interests and related matters. We have official SNS pages on such sites as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter (started in July 2022), and TikTok (started in October 2022), through which we introduce our activities and announce various events and lectures. We post announcements about our upcoming/new events, lectures, and publications through Facebook and Instagram, and share video clips of the previous “Weekly Dharma Talks,” lectures, symposia, and other events. The BDK SNS team, which started in August 2022, manages all the official pages in order to reach even more people. Especially, we focused on Instagram for greatly renewing our postings of content according to certain rules and schedules. Through trial and error in terms of design and timing, we are disseminating various contents related to Buddhism that go beyond merely making announcements of events.



BDK official LINE pages



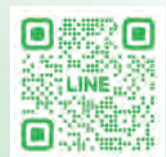
QR code for new registration



Buddhist yoga



Buddhism through English



BDK

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

BDK EUROPE 1

EKO-Haus der Japanischen Kultur e.V.
Brüggener Weg 6, 40547 Düsseldorf, GERMANY
Tel: +49(211)577918-0 Fax: +49(211)577918-219
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 3

c/o Mitutoyo Polska Sp.z o.o.
ul. Graniczna 8A 54-610 Wrocław, POLAND
Tel: +48(71)354 83 50 Fax: +48(71)354 83 55

BDK CANADA 4

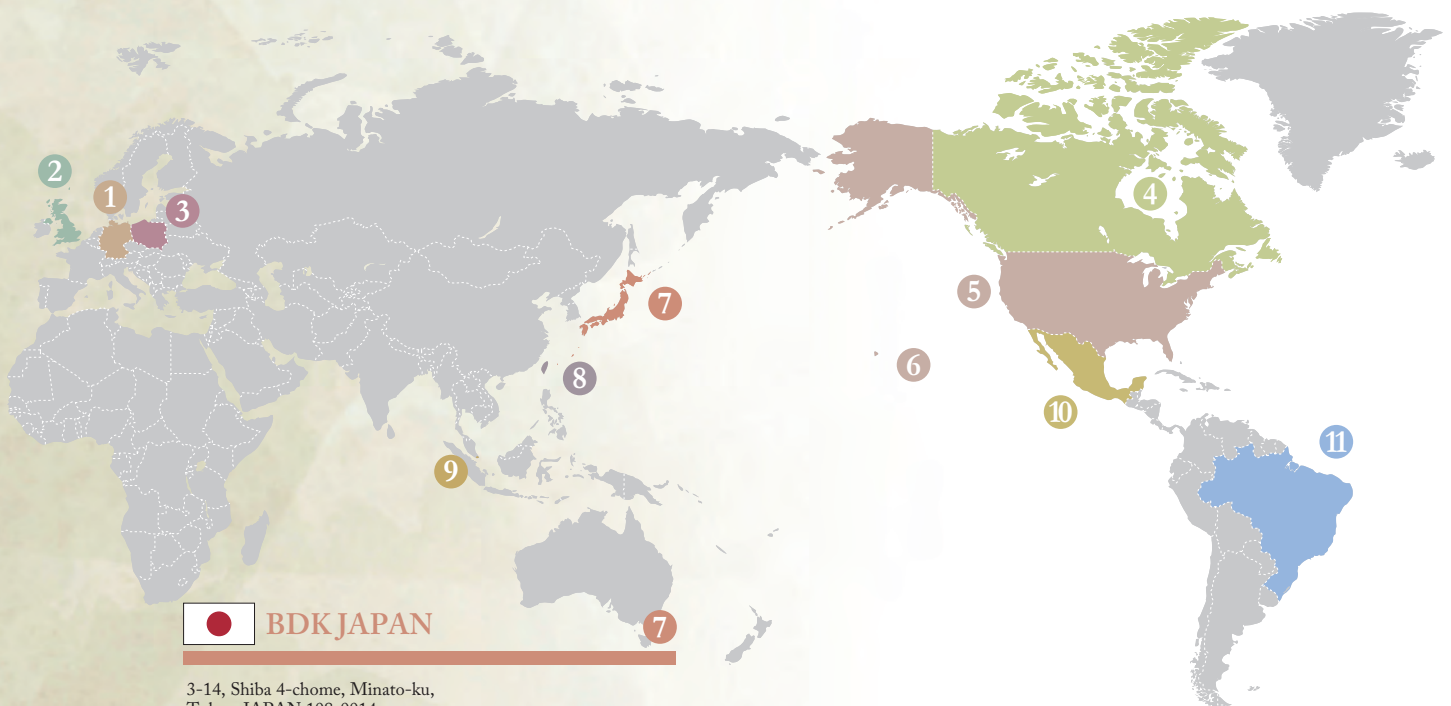
c/o Mitutoyo Canada Inc. 2121 Meadowvale Blvd.
Mississauga, ON, CANADA L5N 5N1
Tel: +1(905)821-6202 Fax: +1(905)821-4968
E-mail: honjo@bdkcanada.com
<http://www.bdkcanada.com>

BDK AMERICA 5

1675 School Street,
Moraga, CA 94556 U.S.A.
Tel: +1(925)388-0067 Fax: +1(925)388-0331
<http://www.bdkamerica.org>

BDK HAWAII 6

1757 Algaroba Street, Honolulu, HI 96826, U.S.A.
Tel: +1(808)942-1511 Fax +1(808)942-2622
E-mail: bdkshi@hotmail.com
<http://www.bdkhawaii.com>



BDK JAPAN 7

3-14, Shiba 4-chome, Minato-ku,
Tokyo, JAPAN 108-0014
Tel: +81(3)3455-5851 Fax: +81(3)3798-2758
E-mail: bdk@bdk.or.jp
<https://www.bdk.or.jp>

BDK TAIWAN 8

c/o Mitutoyo Taiwan Co., Ltd.
4F., No.71, Zhouzi St., Neihu Dist.,
Taipei City 114, TAIWAN
Tel: +886(2)5573-5913 Fax: +886(2)8752-3267
E-mail: bdktaiwan@yahoo.com
<https://www.bdk.tw>

BDK MEXICO 10

Protonagación Eugenia No. 17, Colonia Nápoles,
Alcaldía Benito Juárez, CDMX, C.P.03810, MEXICO
Tel: 52{55}5543-0507
Email: contacto@ekocj.com
<http://ekocj.com>

BDK ASIA 9

c/o Mitutoyo Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd.
24 Kallang Avenue, Mitutoyo Building,
Singapore, 339415, SINGAPORE
Tel: +65 6294-2211 Fax: +65 6299-6666
E-mail: bdk@mitutoyo.com.sg
<https://bdkasia.org>

BDK SOUTH AMERICA 11

a/c Mitutoyo Sul Americana Ltda.
Avenida Mimes, 25 - Jardim Ermida I- Jundiá / São Paulo, Brasil
Tel: +55(11)5643-0006 Fax: +55(11)5641-3745
E-mail: bdk@mitutoyo.com.br



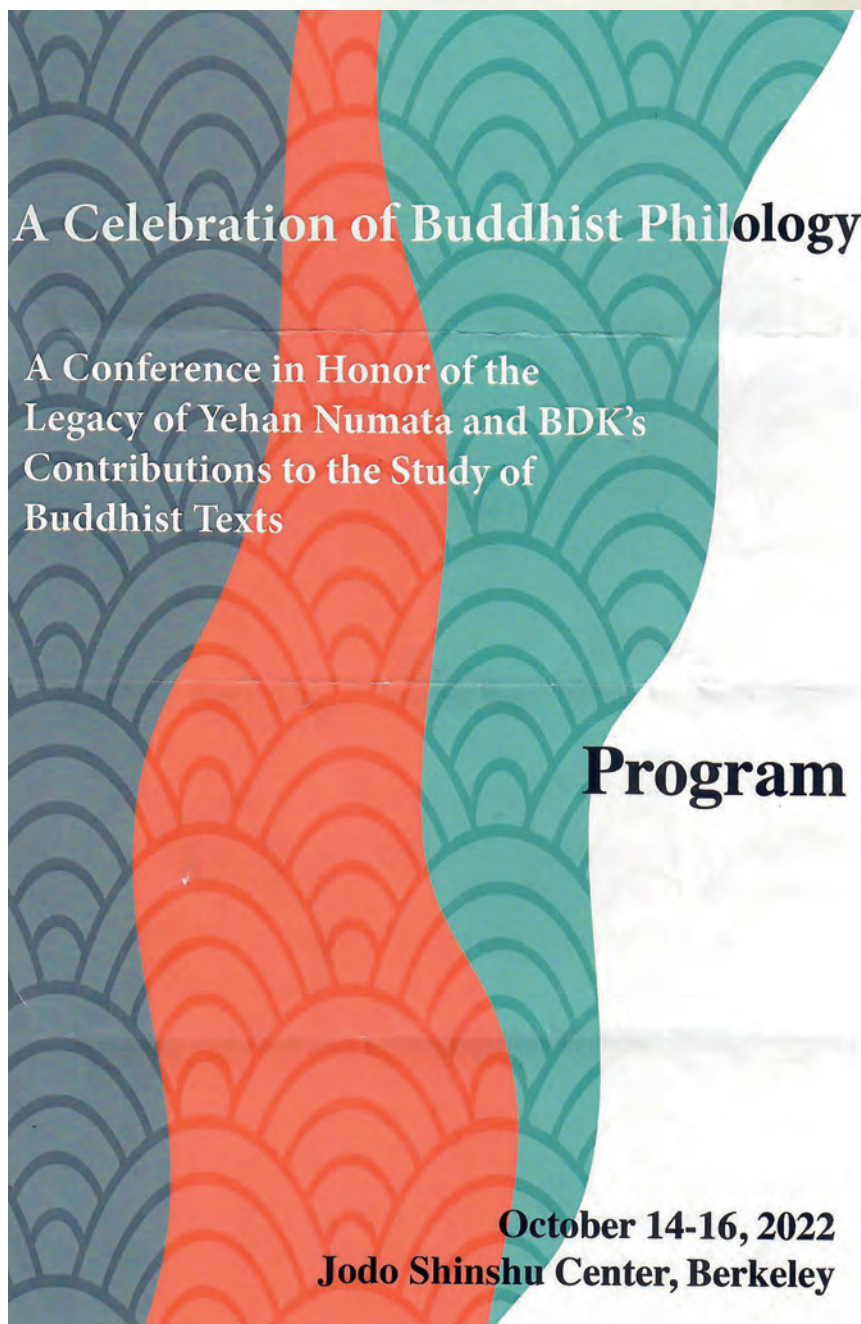
As we slowly recover from the Covid pandemic, we continue to be cautious and also to be creative in how we do our work. Half of our monthly staff meetings, for instance, are conducted in-person, and the other half by Zoom. After two years of conducting our annual board meetings by email, we had an in-person board meeting in March, 2023.

We are returning to our distribution of *The Teaching of Buddha* to hotels by contacting our clients by phone and will plan on attending national and regional meetings of hotel associations. Distribution of TTOB remains strong with the military and to date we have published 12,000 copies of the military edition.

Distribution of BDK books other than TTOB reached an all-time high in 2022. We distributed a total of nearly 9,000 books such as *Learning the Wisdom of Enlightenment*, *Jewels*, *Messages from the Buddha*, and *A Teaching a Day*. The demand for easy-to-read books remains high, and we plan on publishing the BDK version of the *Dhammapada*, the classic collection of early teachings.

Fortunately, the Tripitaka project was not affected by the pandemic, and we distributed over 14,000 copies through sales, donations and PDF downloads. In 2022, we published three new books, and we are looking forward to publishing five new volumes in 2023.

John S. Strong, professor emeritus of Bates College, won the 2022 Toshihide Numata Book Award for his publication of *The Buddha's*



Tooth: *Western Tales of a Sri Lankan Relic*. The award ceremony and symposium were held in February 2023 at UC Berkeley, which administers the book award program.

BDK made significant contributions to the Numata Programs in

Buddhist Studies at UC Berkeley and the University of Chicago. The program at Berkeley was strengthened and rededicated as the Numata Center for Buddhist Studies with a conference and reception held in October 2022. At the University of Chicago

Divinity School, the new Numata Professorship of Japanese Buddhist Studies was inaugurated and Stephan Licha (Heidelberg) has been named to be the first holder of the position.

BDK continues to support Ekoji Buddhist Temple located on the outskirts of Washington D. C. Rev. Nariaki Hayashi was reassigned to the BCA temple in Denver, and Rev. Kurt Rye was appointed to

serve Ekoji along with the BCA temples in New York City and Seabrook, New Jersey. The Ekoji congregation has ambitious plans to remodel the buildings and to install a new audio-visual system capable of connecting them to organizations and individuals throughout the world via the internet. Their vision for creating a Worldwide Sangha is bold and promising for the future.



Mr. Numata at symposium in Berkeley

BDK Hawaii



In 2022, we still felt the effects of the Covid pandemic as hotels continued to be reluctant to place reading materials in their rooms. In response to this situation, we printed cards with a QR code for a free download of *The Teaching of Buddha*. We sent samples to 36 hotels in Waikiki but only two accepted the cards for placement in their rooms. Since the pandemic is slowly easing, we plan on recontacting hotels in 2023 to see if they are interested in our books and/or the QR code cards.

Tourists have returned to Hawaii, and many purchase TFOB from the gift shop at the Valley of the Temples and its replica building of Byodoin. In 2022, we sold 2,312 books at this popular tourist destination.

We continued our campaign to reach out to prisons nationwide and sent samples to 528 chaplains. Many of them requested books and we shipped a total of 748 copies.

All of our community programs were conducted as Zoom online meetings. In April, the BDK-

A promotional poster for the 2022 Hawai'i Book & Music Festival. The top half has a yellow background with a portrait of Vanessa R. Sasson on the left. To the right of the portrait, the text reads "2022 Hawai'i Book & Music Festival" in large green letters, followed by "THE BOOKS, ARTS, MUSIC, AND IDEAS THAT DEFINE US" in smaller black letters. Below this is a logo featuring a blue guitar and an open green book, with a banner that says "IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UH MANOA". The bottom half of the poster has a green background with white and yellow text. It says "Saturday Oct. 29, 2022 • 2:00pm" in white, followed by "Vanessa R. Sasson" and "Yasodhara and the Buddha" in yellow. Below that, it says "SPONSORED BY BDK HAWAII" in white, "Moderator: George Tanabe" in white, and "Pres., Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai Hawai'i, and BDK America" in white. At the very bottom, on a yellow background, it says "#HBMF • HBMF.online" and "hawaiibookandmusicfestival.com" in black.

Yoshiaki Fujitani Interfaith Program sponsored a virtual discussion by three clerics explaining the meanings of their places of worship. The panelists represented Orthodox Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism.

As we have in the past years, we co-sponsored a workshop on suicide prevention in cooperation with the Samaritan Counseling Center and the Honpa Hongwanji Mission. The online workshop was called

Embracing Hope 2022: Suicide Prevention During the Pandemic Years.

In October, we sponsored an online discussion about Vanessa Sasson's novel, *Yasodhara*, as part of the Hawaii Book and Music Festival. Professor Sasson participated from Montreal, Canada, and our discussion about *Yasodhara*, the

Buddha's wife, created so much interest that the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii has invited her to give an in-person lecture in Honolulu in October 2023. Since she will be in Hawaii, BDK Hawaii will sponsor an in-person discussion of her second book about *Yasodhara* as part of the Hawaii Book and Music Festival. The

event will take place on the campus of the University of Hawaii. Our BDK apartment building is getting old and has required some expensive repairs. Since it is our primary source of income, we are committed to taking care of it so that we can continue our work long into the future.

BDK Mexico



Line of people waiting to receive "TTOB"

We could not do much in-person at the beginning of 2022 since some of the BDK Mexico staff members tested positive for Covid-19, and we therefore focused on online activities featuring translations, publications, etc. We collected some drawings from the local children and created the "Animation

of Buddhist Tales," recorded a video interview of an atomic bomb survivor who lives in Mexico and made a video clip promoting the EKO Center of Japanese Culture with the help of instructors from of the EKO-Dojo, our martial arts gym. We tried to establish our official website at ekocj.com to

enhance our online activities. The situation of Covid-19 finally came under control after June, so we were able to resume our activities in-person. Rev. Yokoo, the assistant chief priest of Ekoji temple, was able to receive her missionary license from Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji school in person.

She brought back memories of her stay in Japan and remembered that the training opportunity she had with other fellows was just precious. Her instructor said repeatedly that “being a Buddhist priest is not just a license, but is a matter of self-consciousness,” and these words really encouraged her for our future activities in Mexico.

In addition to the above, BDK Mexico welcomed a new staff member, Ms. Miyauchi, in June. She has been working as a registered nutritionist for past years to help people make their lives healthier. She is going to contribute to our new activities mainly through Buddhist vegetarian cooking.

Moreover, we resumed the Buddhist lectures at Alva Edison University. Rev. Todaka, the chief priest of Ekoji temple, holds an honorary doctorate from the university and was invited in October to the 25th International Educational Conference that 18 countries participated in. Rev. Yokoo’s picture story show, which was a project commissioned by the Ministry of Culture, was also restarted, and we distributed about 6,000 copies of “The Teaching of Buddha (TTOB)” as well.



Rev. Yokoo (middle) with children wearing Yukata

We attended the “125th Anniversary of the Enomoto Migration” ceremony and held a Buddhist service in November for our ancestors in the magnificent natural setting of Chiapas in the southern state of Mexico. Most of the immigrants from Japan became Christians at the time, so the younger generations had no idea about Japanese Buddhism, and they were really

interested in the Buddhist rituals. We handed out many copies of TTOB to the local people and felt that we should explore more about their cultural roots and pass these on to the next generation.

All the BDK Mexico staff members reaffirmed their important roles in the community and will continue to take on new challenges in Mexico in 2023.

BDK Taiwan



Even though people have gradually returned to their daily lives after the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic in 2022, there are still more than 10,000 new infections per day on average in Taiwan. At times, there are over 20,000 cases. As a result, the distribution of TTOB became

increasingly difficult, and we are always concerned about what to do. We reconsidered our list of those who receive the books. We contacted neighborhood leaders as potential helpers. We thought that if we send TTOB to them, they will distribute the books to

their residents. After a trial run in December 2021, the response was better than expected. They were quite happy to accept TTOB.

We have finished donating more than 6,000 TTOB (traditional Chinese) to several areas in Kaohsiung, for example, Xinxing

District, Nanzih District, etc. After finishing with Kaohsiung, we will try to donate TTOB to the other districts in Taiwan so that more people can learn about TTOB.

Before the Lunar New Year's holidays, we visited the neighborhood leaders who helped distribute TTOB so far. We recorded their experiences to commemorate them, and we would like to share our joy with global BDK members.

We published an article about this on our website, and added photos and a promotional video of TTOB to make it easier for customers to

understand. Also, the "Newsletter" has been published on the English webpage so that more foreigners in



Mr. Ciou The neighborhood leader of Jintian Vil. Nanzih Dist. (left)

Taiwan can understand the global activities of BDK.



Mr. Li The neighborhood leader of Hanmin Vil. Xinxing Dist. (right)

BDK Asia



During November 16-19, 2022, Mitutoyo (Thailand), which manages the activities of BDK

Asia in Thailand, distributed 2,234 "The Teaching of Buddha" books to visitors who visited the Mitutoyo

(Thailand) booth at the Metalex Exhibition organized at BITEC (Bangkok International Trade &



"TTOB" distribution by Mitutoyo Thailand at Metalex

Exhibition Center).

The Metalex Exhibition is one of the biggest industrial exhibitions in Southeast Asia and there are more than 100,000 visitors attending every year except when the exhibition was postponed temporarily due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Mitutoyo (Thailand) regularly sponsors an exhibition booth for metrology instruments and provides a display corner or counter to promote TTOB to visitors.

We started donating TTOBs to Mahamakut Buddhist University in 2019 and provided copies for their graduation ceremonies in 2019 and 2020; but because of the pandemic, the university postponed the ceremony for year 2021 and combined it with the 2022

ceremony.

The ceremonies held on December 16-17, 2022, represented the third time for us to participate, and Mitutoyo (Thailand) donated

3,000 copies of “The Teaching of Buddha” to the graduates and their relatives who attended the rehearsal and graduation ceremonies.



Receiving “TTOB” at the ceremony

BDK Europe



Since the beginning of the covid-pandemic, many EKO-Center events, such as our regular Buddhist services, lectures, and colloquiums, were held exclusively online. However, starting in the summer of 2022, many of these events

could be held in a hybrid format that combined in-person meetings thereby allowing more people to participate in our events and programs.

Rev. Shojū Nakagawa Roshi, Chief Priest of the Soto sect Fumonji

Temple in Eisenbuch near Munich, gave a lecture on the theme “Zazen, da wir Menschen sind” (Zazen, Because We Are People) and also played the shakuhachi flute in a hybrid format. The day after the lecture, a Zazen session was held at the temple under the guidance of Rev. Nakagawa. This was the first official Zazen session held at EKO-Center since the start of the corona-pandemic, and the Zazen session was attended by many people who had been waiting a long time for the Zazen session to be restarted again. After being unable to hold the traditional Joya-e (Year End Service) since New Year's Eve of 2019, this service was held for the first time in three years at the



Ringing a temple bell for the New Year's Day eve



Lecture by Rev. Shoji Nakagawa Roshi

end of 2022. However, this time, the service was held at 2:00 P.M. instead of at night as in the past, and the number of participants was limited to 35. After the Joya-e service was held at the temple, the participants moved to the bell tower to take turns tolling the bell.

The number of Shosanshiki (Infant Presentation) ceremonies being held at EKO-Temple has been increasing year by year since the corona-pandemic, and in 2022, we held the largest number of ceremonies, a total of 26 ceremonies (mostly for Japanese families). The corona-crisis may be coming to an end, but the situation in Ukraine and rising airfares make it difficult for Japanese families to return to Japan even for just a short period of time to conduct these ceremonies



Shosanshiki (Infant Presentation)

for their children. Therefore, in this situation, more and more families are celebrating the birth of their children at EKO-Temple. In the three years since the corona-

pandemic began in 2020, we have held 66 Shosanshiki at EKO-Temple.

Hansei (Self-Examination, Introspection)

Although “hansei” (Self-Examination, Introspection) invites us to think about whether there is anything in our past for which we are regretful, it is doubtful that one can truly examine oneself.

We always adopt the immovable position that we are right and others are wrong, whether in an argument with a spouse, a dispute with our children, or a disagreement with a friend, and our conclusion is always the same even though we wonder “Why did it become this way?” We say, “I have reconsidered. I have reconsidered.” But if one asks what was your reconsideration, it is “No matter how I think about it, the other person is wrong.”

Although true self-examination could result in concluding that “What I did was wrong,” or “What I said was wrong,” we always conclude in any event that the other person is wrong. Our self-examination is always only half-hearted and perfunctory.

The only way to know what we look like is to stand in front of a mirror. The only mirror that will show us what our life should be like is the Teaching. True self-examination comes about when we are shown what we are when we stand before the Teaching.

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