



**IOP  
NEWSLETTER  
No. 1**

**The Institute of  
Oriental Philosophy**



# Table of Contents

## ● Symposium

Annual Conference . . . . . 2

An Islamic-Buddhist Dialogue . . . . . 3

● Exhibitions . . . . . 4

● Public Lectures . . . . . 5

● Academic Exchanges . . . . . 6

● Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series & Islamic Lectures . . . . . 7

● Publications . . . . . 8

IOP Newsletter No.1 covers the news of events and books published during the period of March to December 2014.

The Institute of Oriental Philosophy

Address: 1-236, Tangi-machi, Hachioji-shi, Tokyo, 192-0003 Japan

Tel: +81-42-691-6591 Fax: +81-42-691-6588

E-mail : [iop\\_info@iop.or.jp](mailto:iop_info@iop.or.jp)

English website: <http://www.iop.or.jp/>

Japanese website: <http://www.totetu.org/>

# Annual Conference

## The 29<sup>th</sup> IOP Annual Conference: “The Possibility of Buddhism for the Future of Humankind”



The Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) holds annual conferences in March, at which the IOP researchers present their study results of the year. The Institute sponsors symposiums with keynote speakers from Japan and overseas covering themes related to peace, the environment, women’s studies, human rights, religion, bioethics and various other topics.

On March 22 and 23, 2014, the IOP hosted the 29th Annual Conference on the theme of “The Possibility of Buddhism for the Future of Humankind” at Soka University in Tokyo, Japan.

At the symposium held on March 22, the guest of honor, Professor Richard F. Gombrich, Founder-President of the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies (OCBS) delivered a keynote lecture. In his speech, he noted that what is needed is not that people should learn to love their enemies, but that they should stop hating them. He emphasized that Buddhism has the potential to help mankind survive if it can persuade people to abandon their obsession with righting past wrongs, and instead to

concentrate on purifying one’s own mind and conduct.

Following the keynote lecture, Dr. Suren Rāghavan, Senior Fellow in Political Science at OCBS delivered his lecture titled, “(De) ethnicizing Buddhism for a Globalized World Order.” He stressed that the urgent need for contemporary Buddhism to be able to live above its immediate ethno national identities and engage with issues concerning the whole of humanity.

Dr. Katsuaki Ohnishi and Dr. Mikio Matsuoka, Research Fellows of the IOP, delivered their speeches, titled “Multiculturalism, Post-secularism and the Buddhist Worldview” and “Buddhism and Absolute Pacifism.”

# ISLAMIC-BUDDHIST DIALOGUE

On April 13, 2014, a conference co-sponsored by the IOP, Soka Gakkai Malaysia (SGM) and the University of Malaya's Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) was held at SGM's Wisma Kebudayaan Culture Center on the theme of "Peace and Harmonious Coexistence—an Islamic-Buddhist Dialogue." The event was supported by the Department of National Unity and Integration in the Malaysian Prime Minister's Department.

At the conference, a keynote address was delivered by Y.B. Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Joseph Kurup, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department. In his speech, he acknowledged the need for interfaith dialogues among the many religions in Malaysia as they were imperative in generating mutual understanding and respect among followers of any religions. He added that a dialogue should be sincere with the aim of strengthening the community, rather than serving only one group's own narrow interests. Dr. Mohammad Ismath Ramzy, a Research Fellow at UMCCD, gave a talk from an Islamic perspective.



He noted that peace begins within the individual by ensuring that he or she is peaceful. The moderator, Associate Professor Dr. Faridah Noor Mohd Noor, Director of UMCCD, also highlighted that Islam is a religion of peace and that in order to have peace, there must be peace at the individual level as well as at the societal level. Professor Dato' Dr. Christopher Boey Chiong, Deputy Dean of the University of Malaya Faculty of Medicine, who is also an Overseas Research Fellow of the IOP, gave a speech from a Buddhist perspective. He said that dialogue is the very tradition of Buddhism and all the founders of the world's religions. Genuine dialogue, in his opinion, is the first step to true friendship.



Y.B. Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Joseph Kurup



From left: Dr. Ismath Ramzy, Assoc Prof. Dr. Faridah Noor and Prof. Dr. Christopher Boey

# EXHIBITIONS

“The Lotus Sutra–Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence” exhibition was sponsored by the IOP. While introducing how Buddhism, which originated in India, spread widely across Asia and other parts of the world, the exhibition focuses on the message of peace and coexistence as taught in the Lotus Sutra. To date, the exhibition has toured 12 countries and territories and more than 400,000 people have viewed it.



## Exhibition held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

From February 15 to May 18, the Lotus Sutra exhibition was held at Soka Gakkai Malaysia's Wisma Kebudayaan Culture Center. Malaysia is the first Muslim majority country to host this exhibition. The opening ceremony was attended by 470 visitors and distinguished guests, including YB Tan Sri Datuk Panglima Joseph Kurup, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department and Professor. Lokesh Chandra, Vice-President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. More than 70,000 people viewed the exhibition.



## Exhibition held in Hokkaido, Japan

From October 5 to November 3, the exhibition was held at the Hokkaido Ikeda Hall in Sapporo, Japan. Some 175 people attended the official opening, including Mr. Teng Anjun from the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Sapporo and Mr. Andrey A. Fabrichnikov from the Consulate-General of the Russian Federation in Sapporo. On exhibit were some 150 items including reproductions of Lotus Sutra manuscripts in Sanskrit, Khotan Saka, Uighur, Chinese, Tangut, Tibetan and Mongolian.



## First Exhibition held in Buenos Aires, Argentina

From September 25 to October 6, the exhibition was held at the Universidad del Salvador (USAL). At the opening ceremony, Mr. Daisaku Ikeda, founder of the IOP and president of the Soka Gakkai International, was awarded a commendation from the Universidad del Salvador in recognition of his contribution to the development of Oriental studies and his efforts to spread a philosophy of peace throughout the world.



## Second Exhibition held in Buenos Aires, Argentina

From November 22 to 29, the exhibition was held at the National University of Tucumán (UNT). The exhibition, jointly hosted by the IOP, El Centro de Estudios de Asia y África (The Center for Asian and African Studies), and SGI-Argentina celebrated UNT's 100th anniversary. Alicia Bardónand, chancellor of UNT, and Liliana Palacio, director of The Center for Asian and African Studies, attended the opening ceremony.

# PUBLIC LECTURES

To widely disseminate the results of academic studies, the IOP holds public lectures every fall and invites researchers from many fields such as philosophy and thought, peace, environment, human rights and bioethics. In 2014, the IOP hosted public lecture series under the title, "The Path Toward A Global Civilization."

## “THE PATH TOWARD A GLOBAL CIVILIZATION”



- ◆ Theme: “A Portrait of the Global Civilization: From the Perspective of the Comparative Study of Civilizations and Cultures”
- ◆ Speaker: Dr. Goro Yoshizawa (Visiting professor, Center for the Comparative Study of Civilizations and Cultures)
- ◆ Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014

- ◆ Theme: “A Society Based on Life”
- ◆ Speaker: Dr. Keiko Nakamura (Director General, JT Biohistory Research Hall)
- ◆ Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014
- ◆ Venue: Nippon Seinen Kaikan (Shinjuku, Tokyo)



- ◆ Theme: “Factor five – Towards global sustainability through doing much more with much less”
- ◆ Speaker: Dr. Cheryl Desha (Senior Lecturer on Sustainable Development, Science and Engineering Faculty, Queensland University of Technology)
- ◆ Date: Thursday, October 2, 2014

- ◆ Theme: “The Earth System and Civilization”
- ◆ Speaker: Dr. Takanori Matsui (Director, Planetary Exploration Research Center)
- ◆ Date: Thursday, October 16, 2014



- ◆ Theme: “Global Civilization and the Life Value Economic System”
- ◆ Speaker: Dr. Setsuo Yamaki (Honorary Professor, Toyo University)
- ◆ Date: Tuesday, November 11, 2014

# ACADEMIC EXCHANGES



## A Lecture by Y. Bhg. Datuk Nik Mustapha bin Nik Hassan

- ◆ Title: “Civilisational Approach to Economic Development: An Islamic Perspective”
- ◆ Venue: Hotel Villa Fontaine Shiodome (Tokyo, Japan)
- ◆ Date: June 3, 2014

The Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM) was founded by former Prime Minister of Malaysia Mahathir Bin Mohamad. Y. Bhg. Datuk Nik Mustapha bin Nik Hassan, Director General of IKIM, was a Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, and served as Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management at the International Islamic University Malaysia. In his lecture, he explained that Islam believes that the stability of the whole is contingent upon both the material and spiritual well-being of Man and emphasized that all human beings are interrelated and interdependent, and that religions teach us to be loving and caring toward others. Thus all religions should cooperate and work together to resolve economic disparity.

## A Lecture by Dr. Mohamed Fauzi Yaacob

- ◆ Title: “Embracing Pluralism: A Commentary on an Initiative”
- ◆ Venue: The IOP
- ◆ Date: July 1, 2014



Professor Dr. Mohamed Fauzi Yaacob, Former Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Science, University of Malaya, had been a fellow at Harvard University and London School of Economics and Political Science. In his speech, Prof. Dr. Yaacob introduced an Arabic term, *wasatiyyah*, which is often translated in English as moderation, balance, justice or excellence, and urged that the *wasatiyyah* movement be accepted internationally to avoid religious extremism. He also addressed the importance of promoting dialogue, mutual respect, understanding and acceptance among different religions, cultures, races and ethnicities to foster a more inclusive, sustainable and equitable society.



## A Lecture by Ms. Shobhana Radhakrishna

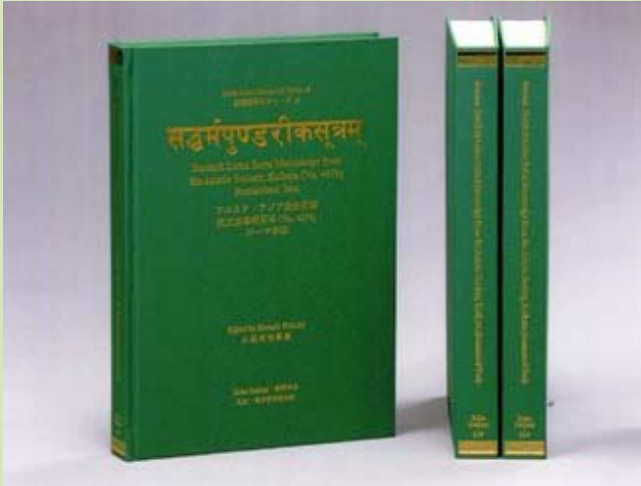
- ◆ Title “Mahatma Gandhi Ethical Leadership and Transformational Change”
- ◆ Venue: The IOP
- ◆ Date: July 1, 2014

Ms. Shobhana Radhakrishna, President of Centre for Gandhian Vision & Values, spent part of her life in Gandhi’s Sewagram Ashram in Wardha and has dedicated her life to the cause of rural development to serve the poor and underprivileged communities. In her lecture, Ms. Radhakrishna stressed how Gandhi demonstrated that non-violence was not a passive, weak force, but an active force full of possibility, and that this force needed to be applied to different fields.



# Soka Gakkai “Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series”

The Lotus Sutra, which from early times has been called “the king of sutras,” is the vital element of humanity’s shared spiritual heritage. In order to study the origin of its philosophy and ascertain its course of development over time, the IOP and the Soka Gakkai have been involved in the publications of the Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series in cooperation with academic institutions around the world. To date, the IOP has published Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Fragments from the Lushun Museum Collection, Facsimile Edition and Romanized Text (1997) and 15 other works.



The romanized text of Sanskrit paper Manuscript from the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, India (No. 4079) is the fourteenth part of the ongoing Lotus Sutra Manuscript series. This record shows that this manuscript was transcribed in 1680 CE, indicating that it is the oldest paper manuscript among those currently accessible. This is the very first Nepalese paper manuscript that marks the beginning of the period of copying paper manuscripts over 400 years after the period of copying Nepalese palm-leaf manuscripts (from ca. the 11th through the 12th centuries). It is thus an important manuscript, which represents the fountainhead of the paper manuscripts that would follow thereafter.

## Islamic Lectures

**From April through July, 2014, the IOP hosted lectures on Islam to promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue. The IOP invited four prominent experts on Islam.**

■ First Lecture:

“Individuality in Islamic Philosophy”

By Dr. Tsuyoshi Kobayashi  
(Lecturer at Meiji Gakuin University)

■ Second Lecture:

“From Plotinus to the Mouth of Barzakh”

By Dr. Horie Satoshi  
(Lecturer at International Christian University)

■ Third Lecture:

“Islam and Buddhism”

By Dr. Shigeru Kamada  
(Professor at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia)

■ Fourth Lecture:

“‘Orthodoxy’ in Modern Sunni Islam: Religious Discourses in Saudi Arabia and Syria”

By Dr. Kenichiro Takao  
(Collaborative Fellows at the Sophia University Institute of Asian Cultures)

# Publications

The IOP publishes *Toyo Gakujutsu Kenkyu (The Journal of Oriental Studies)* as a scholarly publication, along with many other publications, to disseminate the results of its research and to increase its contributions to society.



*Toyo Gakujutsu Kenkyu* vol. 53, No.2 (Published biannually)

This journal covers not only Buddhist thought, but also various current issues related to peace, human rights, women's studies, the environment, bioethics and inter-religious dialogue.



*The Journal of Oriental Studies*, Vol.24 (Published annually)

The first volume was published in July 1987. This is the English language edition of *Toyo Gakujutsu Kenkyu*, from which selected articles are published in English.



*Toyo Tetsugaku Kenkyujo Kiyo (Bulletin of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy)* vol.30 (Not available for purchase)

The first volume was published in December 1985. This bulletin summarizes annual research and projects carried out by IOP researchers.



Guide book: *Hokekyoten--Heiwa to Kyosei no Messeiji (Guide book: "The Lotus Sutra--A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence" Exhibition)*



*Kyoiku--Ningen no Kanosei wo Shinjite--Daijo Bukkyo no Chousen (A Challenge for Mahayana Buddhism)* vol. 9

## Main Publications:

- *Ningenshugi no Hata Wo: Kanyo, Jiji, Taiwa (The Humanist Principle: Compassion and Tolerance)*, by Daisaku Ikeda and Felix Unger (2007)
- *Jinken no Seiki eno Messeiji: Dai san no Sennen ni Nani ga Hitsuyou Ka (Message for the Age of Human Rights: What Does the Third Millennium Require?)*, by Daisaku Ikeda and Adolfo Pérez Esquivel (2009)
- *Heiwa no Kakehashi: Ningen Kyoiku wo Kataru (Humane Education, A Bridge to Peace)*, by Daisaku Ikeda and Gu Mingyuan (2012)





**THE INSTITUTE OF  
ORIENTAL PHILOSOPHY**