



No. 8

The Institute of Oriental Philosophy
NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER No. 8 covers the news of research projects which the Institute of Oriental Philosophy carried out from April 2021 to March 2022. (Affiliation and title etc. at that time)

Introduction

The Institute of Oriental Philosophy

Founder: Daisaku Ikeda (President of Soka Gakkai International)
Director: Akira Kirigaya

History

On January 27, 1962, the Institute of Oriental Studies was founded in Shinjuku ward, Tokyo, for the sake of clarifying the relevance of Buddhism and other world religions in the modern world. The institute was recognized as a nonprofit foundation under Japanese law in December 1965, at which time the name was changed to the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP). On November 18, 2010, the IOP was recognized as a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation under Japanese law.

Objective

The IOP is dedicated to advancing scholarly inquiry into Buddhism and other world religions to clarify their universal value, to integrate them into humanity's rich spiritual heritage in the modern age and to solve myriad problems facing humanity today.

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Congratulatory Messages for the 60th Anniversary since the Foundation of the IOP

The Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) was founded on January 27, 1962 by President Daisaku Ikeda, with the purpose of advancing the research of Eastern philosophy, notably the outstanding thoughts and philosophy of Buddhism. Through promoting interdisciplinary research across various academic fields, the institute aims to contribute in the effort to overcome the myriad problems of humankind. The year 2022 marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the IOP. The following are congratulatory messages we received from intellectuals around the world with whom the IOP has forged friendships.



Institute of Oriental Philosophy's Great Contributions to the Development of China-Japan Friendship and Cultural Exchange

Zhao Shengliang

**(Secretary of the Party Committee, Former Chairman of the
Academic Committee of the Dunhuang Research Academy)**

Coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan, we are pleased to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy. I hereby respectfully extend my warmest congratulations to your institute on behalf of the Dunhuang Academy. I would like to pay great tribute to the entire staff of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy.

At the inception of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy by Mr. Daisaku Ikeda, he advocated the contribution to peace and happiness of mankind with the spirit of Buddhism. Since then, the Institute of Oriental Philosophy has been committed to presenting goals and undertakings for solving real-world problems facing human society, which have served as a good example, through in-depth philosophical study on oriental thoughts, especially in Buddhism. The achievements have attracted public attention. "*The Journal of Oriental Studies*" published from your institute has always been the basis of oriental thoughts, academic philosophy research, and exchange, in which the international community expresses interest. Your staff's serious attitude toward study and insatiable spirit of inquiry have deeply impressed me.

Your institute and our academy have maintained a good cooperative relationship for a long time. In 1980, Dunhuang Academy's first president, Chang Shuhong, and Mr. Daisaku Ikeda held a conversation, and had an extensive discussion about Silk Road and Dunhuang Art as well as various issues about world peace. Since then, our academy and your institute have established a



profound friendship and started exchange and cooperation. In 1985, Mr. Duan Wenjie was our academy's president. During that year, a special exhibition, "Treasures from Dunhuang, China," was organized by the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum where extremely valuable historical artifacts, such as handscrolls discovered in Dunhuang, were exhibited for all sectors of Japan. Thereafter, international academic symposiums were held many



'The Lotus Sutra — A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence' exhibition held in Singapore, was co-hosted (for the first time) with the Dunhuang Research Academy (October 2017). Representatives of the Academy who attended also gave a lecture.

times, all of which were strongly supported by Mr. Daisaku Ikeda and your institute. In 2012, during the period when our academy's president Fan Jinshi, participated in the "Dunhuang/Silk Road International Academic Symposium," she visited the Institute of Oriental Philosophy and your institute donated valuable books and materials related to the Lotus Sutra to our academy. In October 2017, at the "The Lotus Sutra — A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence" held in Singapore by your institute, our academy sent experts to deliver related lectures. In September 2018, the Dunhuang Academy and the Institute of Oriental Philosophy jointly held the "Dunhuang and the Lotus Sutra Academic Symposium," which was very productive. After the meeting, both parties signed a memorandum of cooperation and exchange.

Looking back, Mr. Daisaku Ikeda and Soka Gakkai as well as the Institute of Oriental Philosophy have provided great attention and support for the Dunhuang Academy's grotto conservation and research work in which they have made enormous contribution to the development of China-Japan friendship and cultural exchange. I firmly believe that in the new era, our exchange and cooperation will continue as ever. Our academy hopes to continuously deepen cooperation and go hand-in-hand with your institute. We sincerely wish that your institute will achieve further progress and brilliant results in each of your undertakings. We also wish that each activity for the 60th anniversary of the establishment of your institute will be a complete success.



Expectations for Continued Research and Development of the Lotus Sutra, the King of All Sutras

Jia Huixuan

(Professor and Founding Director of A Society for the Research of Daisaku Ikeda in Beijing University)

First of all, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to everyone on the 60th anniversary of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy.

Looking back, I felt a deep connection with the institute. I remember the warm welcome I received from the institute every time I visited Soka University. I have been blessed with the opportunity to hear your research outcomes at the institute, and I was particularly impressed by your research and collections of Lotus Sutra manuscripts, the king of all sutras. I would like to also express my heartfelt gratitude for giving me a tour of the institute.

My most vivid memory of the exchanges with the institute was in October 2004. During a picturesque autumn with clear skies and beautiful weather, the institute and A Society for the Research of Daisaku Ikeda in Beijing University in China jointly held the international forum "Prospects of Eastern Ideas in the 21st Century" in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of Dr. Ikeda's first visit to China. Attendees from China as well as myself were able to acquire new knowledge through the theme and deepen our understanding. I would like to take this opportunity to again express my gratitude and thank you for your donation of the institute's journal "*The Journal of Oriental Studies*."

In one of the ancient Chinese ways of counting years, 60 years is referred to as one cycle, after which the cycle starts again (it is called 周而復始 in Chinese). In other words, it also means that development continues without stopping. Thus, it is a very good sign that your institute has reached the end of its first cycle. I extend my heartfelt congratulations.

Let's take a further step forward towards the highest level! I wish for the Institute of Oriental Philosophy to further prosper and evolve in the future.





From Asia to the World—Contributions to Religious and Cultural Understanding Through Lotus Sutra Research

Gopa Sabharwal

**(Former Vice Chancellor of the University of Nalanda,
Associate Professor of the University of Delhi)**

In January 1961, Soka Gakkai president Daisaku Ikeda took his first step towards fulfilling his mentor's determination to realize kosen-rufu in Asia, based on the westward transmission of Buddhism as prophesied by Nichiren Daishonin.

The hallmark of this first journey into Asia was a grand vision, determination and conviction that was not hampered by realism but was backed by earnest action to achieve the Daishonin's prophecy. The highpoint of that trip was the visit to Bodhgaya and the interning of the commemorative items in the grounds of the Mahabodhi temple, the site of Buddha's enlightenment - the first step towards realizing kosen-rufu in Asia. Walking the land that the Buddha had traversed was a deep and overwhelming experience. Having made the vow for kosen-rufu in Asia and the world, the responsibility for charting the way ahead lay entirely on Ikeda's young shoulders.

Having experienced first hand the varied living cultures in all of the destinations of this trip, Ikeda understood the need for Asian cultures to understand each other and the varied religious philosophies that prevailed in different countries. He realized that such understanding was absent in Japan. Even before he returned to Japan, Ikeda articulated to his group his idea of forming an Institute which could be devoted to the study of the Lotus Sutra and its dissemination. On his return to Japan what we now know as the Institute of Oriental Philosophy came into being.

In the past 60 years the Institute has expanded its academic footprint to include not just research on the Lotus Sutra but also to forge academic linkages, host symposia and public lectures and maintain a robust publishing programme. It has become a leading institute of philosophy and research and also developed an enviable library collection. By continually expanding its activities and outreach, and through its journal, the Institute is contributing to cultural awareness and understanding.

I wish the Institute of Oriental Philosophy and those connected with it all the very best for the future and hope to see the Institute become a leading global centre of research.



Dialogue and Research Based on the Spirit of Tolerance that Brings Peace

Felix Unger
(Honorary President of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts)

It gives us a great pleasure congratulating the Institute of Oriental Philosophy to its 60th anniversary. This is indeed a long period in our lives. The institute is serving Soka Gakkai International and in sense of complementing the ideas of Soka Gakkai. This Institute has been founded by president Ikeda and he has to be congratulated that this anniversary is reflecting his constant endeavours giving Soka Gakkai also a philosophic back-up.

Whats the specific on this institute:

This institute is focusing and propelling interreligious dialogues as well as the forming out of his tolerance which is indeed very difficult and necessary in our times. The European Academy of Sciences and Arts had the pleasure of having contact during the last 30 years, and both institutions agreed that it is very important to propel tolerance.

During the last 30 years we had many dialogues and discussions, especially a recall of all the interreligious dialogues performed in Tokyo and in Salzburg. Those discussions have always been born out of a great mutual understanding forming a spirit, which is based on the endeavours of president Ikeda. Tolerance gives an enourmous important ingredient in our society and is nurtured in the understanding of the religions among, where the interreligious dialogues gives an instrument having a proper understanding. In reality there is not too much difference between the religions.

Together we had many meetings there was one outstanding in Milan, the proceedings have been entitled in the booklet "siamo umani"/"we are human" and this is a basic formulation of what we both think about tolerance.

The term "siamo umani"/"we are human" is such as important because this is a key note message, what president Ikeda and I formulated. Alone the title expresses a basic philosophy of our both institutions, which reflects and formulates our endeavours and I am convinced that the



institute of philosophy is giving constantly a great impact of further development. I hope that this fruitful discussions will continue, so that a new book in the direction of "we are humans" can be edited.

This book is also very important understanding religions, especially, when we consider, that religions are a form of behaviour and this is an endeavour of our both institutions.



President Unger gave a lecture titled '*Ethics in Medicine — Perspectives of a Cardiac Surgeon*', at the symposium 'Medicine and Religion' co-organized by the Institute of Oriental Philosophy and the European Academy of Sciences and Arts (June 2012, Shinjuku, Tokyo).

What is the key- issue? It is a question of listening to the other and to understand my opposite. I am pretty sure, that it is not so difficult to find positions where religions agree and show us in which direction we have to walk. President Ikeda and I developed wonderful discussions on this topic and I recall our last meeting in Tokyo bases of the booklet "we are human". Finally there are such interreligious dialogues and with the help of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy there is a better reach out for better understanding and to reach out for peace.

Tolerance is a basic ingredient for peace keeping and to develop peace in our daily lives. How important it is we see when we are reading the newspapers. There are many conflicts matured by misunderstanding tolerance. And therefore such endeavours are so important in developing roots leading to permanent peace. The daily live makes it so difficult thinking in terms of peace. It means to reach this goal, finally we have to distress our agressions to our neighbours and to bring all the neighbours to fruitful discussions.

Therefore this institute is such as important because here we find elements which we could find for developing peace on our whole world. We need the input of this insitute very much and we hope in future more discussions developing tolerance as a basis for our peace. We wish the institute for the next 60 years all the best and we hope, that with our input we can insist this institute reaching its final goal.



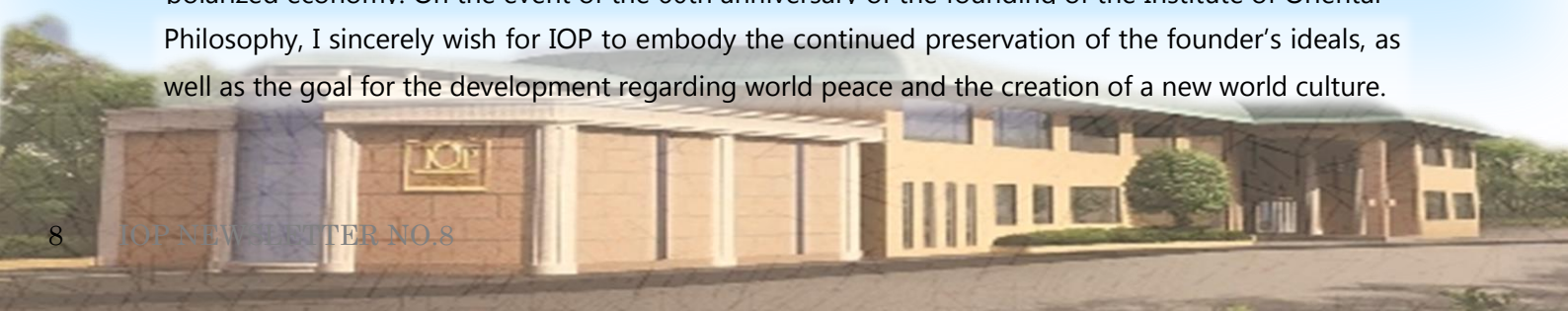
A Congratulatory Remark on the 60th Anniversary for the Institute of Oriental Philosophy

Chae Young Kim
**(Professor of Sogang University, Former President of the
Korean Association for Religious Studies)**

To Director Akira Kirigaya and those affiliated with the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP), I would like to extend my sincerest sentiments of congratulations for the 60th anniversary of IOP foundation. To my understanding, IOP is a product of the founder Daisaku Ikeda's vision. Through his excursions to India to promote world peace, he studied oriental philosophy, cultures, and peoples. From these studies, he felt that spreading the wisdom of the Lotus Sutra to the world was of the utmost importance, and on this basis, he founded IOP. I think this reflects the founder's intent to transcend the diverse religions, peoples, and cultures, and construct a peaceful global society. I am also convinced that in the midst of the undying effort of the founder's plan of the creation of IOP, that it has been successful in yielding tremendous academic results.

My first encounter with the Institute of Oriental Philosophy was during my tenure as the president of Korean Association of Religious Studies in 2016. At that time, IOP hosted an event regarding the Lotus Sutra, to which I received an invitation. During my talks with officials from IOP, not only did I discover their humanistic value and tradition, but forged a treasured friendship. Furthermore, in 2018, I had the honor of giving a humble lecture regarding the founder's life and works within the framework of religious psychology. Through these experiences, I began to naturally take an interest in the founder, and this interest grew into more in depth research regarding him. During my lectures, I stated that the founder possessed an optimistic conviction in regards to humanity being unable to overcome difficulty.

Furthermore, through visiting IOP and meeting with the people, I felt very strongly that not only has this institute continued the tradition of the founder's ideals, but that this preservation of tradition has become the driving force of the institute. In addition, I felt that this basis has become something that can transcend the differences between religion and culture whilst expand the notion of coexistence as world citizens. I am certain that this aspect will be the key to resolving problems that humanity is facing today; problems such as climate change, the proliferation of contagious diseases, and a polarized economy. On the event of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy, I sincerely wish for IOP to embody the continued preservation of the founder's ideals, as well as the goal for the development regarding world peace and the creation of a new world culture.





The Ceaseless Contributions to Quenching Humanity's Thirst for Knowledge

Noranit Setabutr
(Chairman of the Thammasat University Council)

It is a great pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) on its 60 years of continued success in integrating universal religious values into humanity's rich spiritual heritage to address many of the world's important challenges. Since its inauguration by Soka Gakkai International President Daisaku Ikeda, IOP has been exemplary in demonstrating how interreligious dialogues foster trust and, ultimately, cross-cultural peace.

In the VUCA+ world, where humanity inevitably encounters major global challenges which are transnational in nature, the diverse platform aspired by President Ikeda endows leaders with trans-institutional solutions. Clearly, collaboration among key leaders, cultural figures and scholars from virtually all regions of the world along with their shared vision of "dignity of life" have paved avenues for countless peace proposals.

In addition, IOP's scholarly research and global exhibitions on the Lotus Sutra have bolstered its mission of being the "rich reservoir for wisdom" through its devout dedication to quenching humanity's thirst for knowledge. Notably, international support for "The Lotus Sutra – A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence" exhibition not only magnificently disseminates the teachings but also clearly displays its universal significance. Furthermore, online public lectures and international seminars on online platforms organized by the IOP are highly commended among global audiences.

For the past decades, impactful research and worldwide collaboration initiated by IOP under President Ikeda's guiding principles have crucially served global citizens in the pursuit of perpetual peace. I earnestly look forward to IOP's future achievements.

The IOP's 35th Annual Academic Conference

Symposium Theme:

Faith and Reason in the 21st Century — Perspectives on the IOP Founder's Lecture 'Scholastic Philosophy and Modern Civilization'



From the upper left are, Dr. Naoshi Yamawaki, Prof. Emeritus at Tokyo University and Seisa University President; Mr. Masaru Sato, writer and Visiting Prof. at Doshisha University; Dr. Tatsuya Yamazaki, IOP research fellow. From the bottom left are, Mr. Akira Kiriyama, IOP Director; and Mr. Eiichi Tsutaki, IOP commissioned research fellow and conference MC.

The 35th annual academic conference of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy was held online on May 29th and 30th, 2021. The conference provides the opportunity for IOP domestic and overseas research fellows to share their research on the Lotus Sutra and other fields, including inter-religious and inter-civilizational dialogue, peace and human rights, and addressing issues on the environment and so on. All presentations were conducted on themes based on each speaker's respective specialization and research area.

On the first day, May 29th, a symposium was conducted on the theme "Faith and Reason in the 21st century — Perspectives on the IOP Founder's Lecture 'Scholastic Philosophy and Modern Civilization'". In light of the pressing tasks facing humanity, as we try to respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the following passage from the founder's lecture was taken as the point of departure of this symposium: "Perhaps no other age in history has lost the religious spirit to the extent that ours has; and no other age in history has been in greater need of salvation.... We must be aware that our most pressing tasks today are to establish a philosophy that can cope with and take the

lead in the current situation and to found a new religion as the basis of that philosophy." IOP Director Mr. Kiriyama gave some opening remarks, followed by the presentations. Below are excerpts from each speaker's presentation:

● 'Immanence and Transcendence in Faith — From Medieval Scholastic Theology to the Lotus Sutra Thought' (Tatsuya Yamazaki, Research Fellow at the IOP)

In his lecture 'Scholastic Philosophy and Modern Civilization', Dr. Daisaku Ikeda states that the motive of Scholasticism was to demonstrate the consistency between religion and philosophy, and between faith and reason. Moreover, he also describes how a subtle swing occurred in this motive when Thomas Aquinas emphasized the superiority of faith over reason by declaring the primary truth of God to exist beyond the reach of reason. In *The Record of the Orally Transmitted Teachings (Ongikuden)*, Nichiren Daishonin states, "This one word 'believe' in the phrase 'able to believe and understand it even for a moment' is the cause and the seed that make possible the acquisition of all types of wisdom." According to the Buddha's wisdom, darkness and enlightenment are one. If this wisdom is referred to as faith, this (passage)

may point to the indivisibility of faith and intellect. Nevertheless, for us human beings who live in this world framed by the concept of time, faith is nothing but a ceaseless struggle with our own internal darkness.

● 'Josef Lukl Hromádka's Understanding on Human Being' (Masaru Sato, writer and Visiting Professor at Doshisha University)

This presentation examines the salient features of Czech Protestant theologian Josef Lukl Hromádka's perspectives on human beings, and thereby provides a basis for dialogue in the theological context between Christians and those of different faiths, including atheists (those who reject religion altogether). Hromádka asserts that sincere actions and dialogue based on love for our neighbor creates an opportunity for repentance. A commonality is found between this point and the idea shared within the Soka Gakkai that faith manifests in action. Hromádka also states that the forces of evil grow when human beings abuse others in order to fulfill self-serving needs; when confronted by this evil, Christians have a duty to fight against it. Perhaps these statements of Hromádka serve to shake open inflexible minds in order to make dialogue possible. This approach is similar to the Soka Gakkai's act of *Shakubuku*, which involves widely sharing the teachings of Buddhism. This symposium shows that we are starting to live in a time where academic approaches are adopted to understand the philosophy of the IOP's founder Dr. Ikeda.

● 'Faith and Reason in Inter-religious Dialogue and Academic System' (Naoshi Yamawaki, Professor Emeritus at the University of Tokyo and Seisa University President)

Such attitudes and thoughts must be avoided, observed to an extent in any religion, where believers consider the fundamentals and scriptures of their religion to be absolute and beyond historical boundaries, and reject other religions considering them as fallacy. Instead, if a believer who commits to some religion is fully conscious of the 'historical regulations' of their religion and scriptures, and explores not only 'differences' from other religions but also 'commonality' through dialogue and other means, then such an attitude is probably

the desired state of faith compatible with reason and is appropriate in modern times. The positive religious legacies of human history should not be underestimated. It is safe to say that religion has a positive legacy that should be carried on even today in that it has given hope and the courage to live to those in despair. In our excessively secularized modern society, inter-religious dialogue is as important as ever to free people from the superficial reality and encourage each individual to contemplate the meaning of their mortal existence. However, while promoting inter-religious dialogue today in the 21st century, it is likewise necessary, that religions remember and reflect on their past negative heritage (such as witch hunting or the Inquisition in Catholicism) and make sure never to repeat them. How to envision and establish the kind of academic system that is rooted in religion is a major challenge for many scholars who, regardless of their religion or sect, sympathize with IOP founder Dr. Ikeda's thoughts.

A panel discussion followed the presentations; all participants joined in a lively exchange of questions and answers.

Research Presentations: 2nd Day (5/30)

- The Ten Worlds of Tiantai Zhiyi within Atiśa's Stages of the Path (James Apple, Overseas Research Fellow)
- A Study on the Genesis of Makiguchi's Theory of Value (Takao Ito, Research Fellow)
- The course of the Sustainable Development Goals as Learnt Through the Lecture 'Scholastic Philosophy and Modern Civilization' (Koshichiro Mitsukuni, Commissioned Research Fellow)
- On the Bulgarian Edition of the New Djourova-Ikeda Dialogue (Yumi Ninomiya, Research Fellow)
- Revisiting Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov's "Russian Writers, Censors, and Readers" (Mitsunori Sagae, Commissioned Research Fellow)
- The Gap between Teacher Training and Its Practice in Schools (Toshiki Okubo, Commissioned Research Fellow)
- A Study of Human Suicide — Focusing on the Social Brain Developed by the Human Species (Chikara Yamaguchi, Commissioned Research Fellow)



“The Lotus Sutra—

A Message of Peace and

The Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) plans and puts together ‘The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence’ exhibition, which has been touring the world since 2006. The exhibition displays IOP’s research on the Lotus Sutra, and introduces its teachings and the history of its dissemination in simple, easily assimilable language. As pillar of exhibition activities initiated by Soka Gakkai International President Ikeda, the IOP has conducted ‘The Lotus Sutra and Its World: Buddhist Manuscripts of the Great Silk Road’ (1998-2000), ‘The Lotus Sutra Manuscripts: The World’s Spiritual Heritage’ (2003-04), and ‘The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence’ (2006-present). In parallel, the ‘Buddhist Sutras: A Universal Spiritual Heritage—Manuscripts and Iconography of the Lotus Sutra’ exhibition (2016-present) is also held for the public.

‘The Lotus Sutra and Its World: Buddhist Manuscripts of the Great Silk Road’, the very first Lotus Sutra exhibition of the IOP, was launched in 1998 with 47 treasured items including original Buddhist manuscripts and woodblock prints in 14 languages. Selected out of the approximately 100,000 artefacts in the collection of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IOM RAS), these items were displayed for the first time in Japan. The exhibition finally grew into the far larger and more comprehensive ‘The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence’ exhibition with many more precious items on display.

Full support by the IOM RAS, the Dunhuang Academy China and the International Academy of Indian Culture has made it possible to display facsimiles and replicas of the Lotus Sutra manuscripts and replicate the Dunhuang Mogao Caves along with other various Buddhist items and materials. The exhibits include the Petrovsky Sanskrit manuscript of the Lotus Sutra which seems to have been copied in the eighth century and the Gandhari replicated manuscript of Dharmapada which seems to have been copied from the first to second centuries. Moreover, the exhibition shows imitative paintings of flying beings in Mogao Caves, duplicated Dunhuang materials of the Lotus Sutra, replicas of iron pens and birch bark used for copying and other objects. On display, are approximately 160 items. The IOP also edited the guidebook to the exhibition that have been published in four languages: Japanese, English, Korean and Chinese (simplified and traditional characters).

Based on the idea of “visualizing the Lotus Sutra”, the exhibition attracted 900,000 visitors in 17 countries and territories of the world as of 2019: Japan, India the land of Buddhism’s birth, Nepal the birthplace of the Buddha, Thailand where Theravada Buddhism took root, the Islamic cultural area of Malaysia, and others in Asia, Europe and Latin America (see table). To date, Lee Soo-sung (former prime minister of South Korea), Vira Rojpojchanarat (Minister of Culture, Thailand), Jao Tsung-I (emeritus professor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong) and Burton Watson (English translator of the Lotus Sutra), many guests and representatives from every section of society have visited to the exhibition.

Held in 17 Countries and Territories of the World
Viewed by 900,000 Visitors

Harmonious Coexistence

The following are comments shared by some of the guests:

I viewed a variety of Lotus Sutra manuscripts. These are the best materials through which we can develop our understanding of the spirit of Buddhism and spread the message of the Lotus Sutra all over the world. (Carlos Manuel Rúa, director of Escuela de Estudios Orientales, Universidad del Salvador, Argentina)

This is a historic exhibition that clearly shows the universal nature of Buddhism and makes it a part of the spiritual heritage of humanity. (Mushirul Hasan, director general of the National Archives of India)

List of host countries and territories, and years of 'The Lotus Sutra —A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence' exhibition

1	Hong Kong	2006-2007, 2015
2	Macau	2007
3	India	2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
4	Spain	2009, 2012
5	Nepal	2010
6	Brazil	2010, 2011
7	Sri Lanka	2011, 2013
8	United Kingdom	2011
9	Japan	2012, 2013, 2014
10	Taiwan	2013, 2015
11	Malaysia	2014
12	Argentina	2014
13	South Korea	2016, 2018
14	Peru	2016
15	Thailand	2017
16	Singapore	2017
17	Indonesia	2019



Madrid, Spain (2009)



Singapore (2017)



Kobe, Japan (2012)



Nonthaburi, Thailand (2017)



Sao Paulo, Brazil (2011)



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2014)



Taoyuan, Taiwan (2015)

Online Public Lecture Series

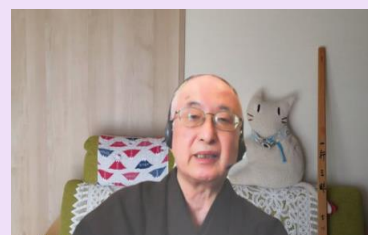
The Lotus Sutra Exhibition and Its World —Philosophy and Transmission

- ◆Lecturer: Yohei Furukawa (IOP Research Fellow)
- ◆Date: November 20, 2021
- ◆Method: Limited YouTube Live Streaming
- ◆Theme: From the Early Buddhist Texts to the Lotus Sutra:
The Path to the Universalization of Buddhism



Dr. Furukawa stated that while early Buddhist scriptures were transmitted within Indian traditional Buddhism (Early Sectarian Buddhism), the Lotus Sutra represents the scriptures of Mahayana Buddhism. He further explains that a link is found between the two, given that the Lotus Sutra was developed and established through the process of reinterpreting the traces of Shakyamuni expounded in early Buddhist scriptures. In addition, he stated that, "The message of the Lotus Sutra that 'anyone can attain Buddhahood' conveys that we all possess an inviolable dignity. By interpreting this message as the dignity of life, the IOP has developed movements such as the Lotus Sutra Exhibition, so that the universality of the Lotus Sutra's teachings would permeate widely throughout society. The founder of the IOP, President Daisaku Ikeda, has always stressed on the relevance of the Lotus Sutra in modern times during his many dialogues with world intellectuals."

- ◆Lecturer: Fumihiko Sueki (Prof. Emeritus at the University of Tokyo)
- ◆Date: November 27, 2021
- ◆Method: Limited YouTube Live Streaming
- ◆Theme: The Lotus Sutra and Its Successors — From India to Japan



Dr. Sueki argued that the Lotus Sutra is a scripture that can be understood through the Bodhisattva's way of life, pointing out that Bodhisattvas are important in that they pursue the happiness of not only oneself but also others. He explained that after the Buddha's passing his disciples continued to seek the way by which the Buddha became a savior and the outstanding traits he possessed, and it was through this process of seeking and questioning that the Bodhisattva's practice took shape. In addition, Dr. Sueki touched upon the practice of almsgiving (Skt *dāna*) out of the *six pāramitās*, stressing further that while the other five practices can be conducted on one's own, almsgiving required the existence of others in its practice. He states that although the purpose of a Bodhisattva's practice is the attainment of Buddhahood, the heart to pursue the happiness of both oneself and others and to focus on the act of practicing together with others is more important. Therefore, the Lotus Sutra expounds that all living beings are Bodhisattvas, and it teaches that the practice of the Bodhisattva's way of life is carried out through the Buddha's power.

“The Lotus Sutra — A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence” exhibition, planned and executed by the Institute of Oriental Philosophy, opened in 2006 (details of the exhibition are shared on pages 12–13). In 2021, commemorating the 15th anniversary of the Lotus Sutra Exhibition, the IOP held an online public lecture series reflecting on the exhibition’s academic significance and contents, and discussed the factors behind the Lotus Sutra’s transmission in East Asia. Approximately 2,000 viewers joined from both within and outside Japan.

◆Lecturer: Masahiro Shimoda (Professor at University of Tokyo, Graduate School)

◆Date: December 4, 2021

◆Method: Limited YouTube Live Streaming

◆Theme: Buddhism as Scripture

— To the Lotus Sutra, and from the Lotus Sutra



In his lecture, Dr. Shimoda stated, “Although scriptures are physical objects, they can also be viewed as things that inspire dynamic growth in oneself. As Buddhism acknowledges both the power and limitations of words, a back-and-forth exchange between wisdom and practice is essential.” He further remarked that the IOP’s Lotus Sutra Exhibition provides a space to explore the scripture. Attendees can then transmit the lessons they learned to their respective communities, like ‘centripetal’ and ‘centrifugal’ forces. Touching on the historical background depicted in Buddhist scriptures, Dr. Shimoda explained that we come in contact with the Lotus Sutra through others, thus the transmission by people is indispensable in encountering the Buddha. He added, “In this regard, and to my understanding, all are equally treasures. Regardless if it is in China, Japan, or Tibet, a devotion to the three treasures is a general principle, and according to the Buddhist view, what we encounter is not separate from the Buddha.”

◆Lecturer: Shobha Rani Dash (Professor at Otani University)

◆Date: December 18, 2021

◆Method: Limited YouTube Streaming

◆Theme: Scripture Worship as Seen Through Manuscript Studies



Dr. Dash described the various types of manuscripts (paper, birch bark, palm leaf, etc.) and their methods of production. Her lecture mainly covered topics such as ‘palm leaf manuscripts and people’s faith observed through field work conducted in India, Thailand, and Sri Lanka’, ‘the Lotus Sutra and scripture worship’, and ‘the ways of offerings described in the Lotus Sutra and the benefits that can be obtained’. Dr. Dash explains that the reason why many manuscripts are still preserved to this day is because the practices of scripture offerings bore religious significance and the sutras were transmitted accurately across time. She added, “We are able to see the manuscripts of the Lotus Sutra today because of someone’s dedicated care and their wish for the next generation to treasure these manuscripts in the same way. We must accept them with gratitude, and not take for granted. To not view them simply as inheritance; but understanding their underlying significance we bear the significant responsibility to pass on their message to future generations.”

IOP Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series Exhibited at the National Palace Museum in Taiwan

'The Arts of the Lotus Sutra' exhibition opened at the National Palace Museum in Taiwan on January 29, 2022 (see image, exhibition running until July 17, 2022). A total of 19 items donated to the museum of the 'Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series' were displayed (see image below).



The exhibition reflects on the Lotus Sutra that was inscribed based on Shakyamuni's philosophy of universal enlightenment, and the vast influence it had on the art and culture of East Asia. The exhibition is divided into three sections of 'Preface' (introduction to the Lotus Sutra), 'Revelation' (theme of the Lotus Sutra and its art), and 'Transmission' (dissemination and propagation of the Lotus Sutra), with each section exhibiting relevant cultural objects and materials.

Regarding the exhibit of the manuscript series, Wu Mi-cha, Director of the National Palace Museum states, "It is an honor that we are able to add such valuable items in the National Palace Museum collection. I would like to pay tribute to the outstanding foundational work that was undertaken with such broad vision under the leadership of Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, founder of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy."



With the cooperation of institutes and researchers around the world that possess collections of the Lotus Sutra manuscripts, the 'Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series' was published in order to contribute to the research of early Mahayana Buddhism, with emphasis on the Lotus Sutra (details of the IOP 'Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series' are shared on page 17).

To date, the IOP has published a total of 19 items, including the *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Fragments from the Lüshun Museum Collection, Facsimile Edition and Romanized Text* (1997) to *A Critical Edition of the Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Based on Gilgit-Nepalese Manuscripts (C3 Collated Text)* (2019), and provided them to researchers across the world.

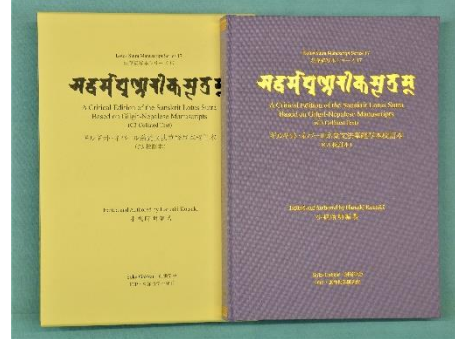
These efforts materialized as 'The Lotus Sutra — A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence' exhibition, planned and executed by the IOP. Adopting the concept of an exhibition where visitors can "see the Lotus Sutra with their own eyes", exhibitions in Taiwan were held in a total of four cities; in Taipei in 2013, and in Kaohsiung, Changhua, and Taoyuan in 2015. About 120,000 visitors viewed the exhibition.

IOP

Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series



Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series



A Critical Edition of the Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Based on Gilgit-Nepalese Manuscripts (C3 Collated Text)

In cooperation with various institutes from around the world that preserve precious Lotus Sutra manuscripts as well as prominent experts and scholars, the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) and the Soka Gakkai have been involved in publishing the 'Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series', including facsimile editions and Romanized texts, which help promote Buddhist studies, in particular further studies of early Mahayana Buddhism centering on the Lotus Sutra.

The project was launched in 1994 and 19 items have been published as the manuscript series from 1997 to 2019 (not for sale). Part of the background leading up to this series was the fact that the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) President Daisaku Ikeda, founder of the IOP, was presented with several precious reproductions and microfilms of Lotus Sutra manuscripts by various institutes and individuals.

Regarding the critical editions of the Sanskrit Lotus Sutra, among the pioneering works that have been published to date are the Kern-Nanjo edition (1908-1912), the Wogihara-Tsuchida edition (1934-1935), and the Dutt edition (1953). From the contemporary standard of the discipline, critical editions that are more precise and reliable are required to enable future research efforts. One of the purposes of the series publications is to provide basic data for editing such new critical editions.

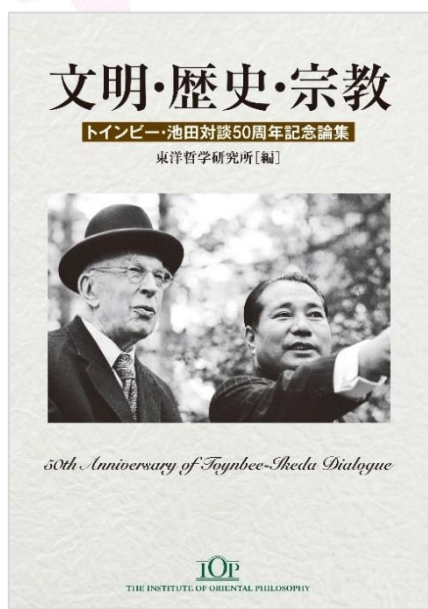


Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscripts from the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Facsimile Edition (2013) (SI P/5 is also known as the Petrovsky Manuscript.)

Civilization, History, and Religion

Collection of Essays in Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Toynbee-Ikeda Dialogue

1,980 yen



In May, 1972, on the outskirts of London, a dialogue was conducted between IOP founder, SGI President Daisaku Ikeda and historian Dr. Arnold J. Toynbee. Their dialogue lasted for 40 hours over a span of 10 days, including their exchange the following year. Their discussion touched upon the common problems mankind faces in 'personal and social life', 'political and international life' and 'philosophical and religious life', viewed from the standpoint of the basic human being, nature, environment, education, health, welfare, universe, war, life and more. These discussions were later compiled into a book and published with the title *Choose Life*.

Now, after half a century since the dialogue was conducted, the Institute of Oriental Philosophy created its fifth study project on 'Civilization Studies' and has been holding study groups. On this significant occasion of the 50th anniversary of the dialogue, the IOP published a collection of academic papers that summarizes this research.

Totetsu Modern Translation Series

With regards to the genealogy of the Lotus Sutra's transmission, the commentaries and teachings of Zhiyi and Zhanran of China, and Saicho of Japan had an immense influence on future generations. These teachings continue to be important Buddhist literature that support the fundamental theories and concepts of the teachings of Nichiren who carried on the work of transmitting the Lotus Sutra.

These works originally written in classical Chinese are recorded in the complete Buddhist canons such as the *Taisho Shinshu Daizokyo* (Taisho Revised Tripitaka). Translations of these original texts into modern Japanese language was carried out by the IOP who have compiled the translations into the work known as the 'Totetsu Modern Translation Series' (*Totetsu* is the Japanese abbreviation for the Institute of Oriental Philosophy). To date, translations of *The Profound Meaning of the Lotus Sutra* (1)(2), *Annotations of The Profound Meaning of the Lotus Sutra* (1) and *A Clarification of the Precepts* have been released. The fifth book of the series, *Annotations of The Profound Meaning of the Lotus Sutra* (2) (translated and annotated by Dr. Hiroshi Kanno and Dr. Hideyuki Matsumori) was newly published in November 2021.



Publications

Toyo Gakujutsu Kenkyu (Journal of Oriental Studies) Vol.60 No.1



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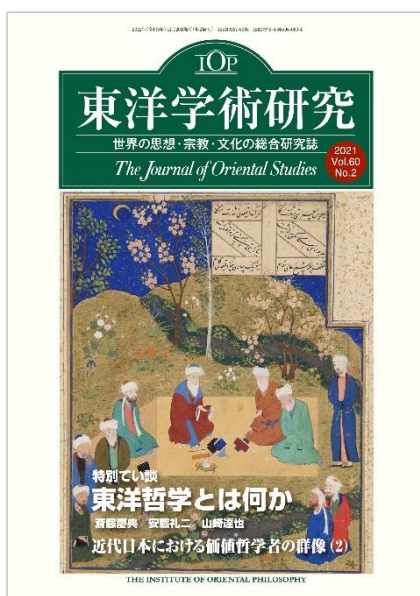
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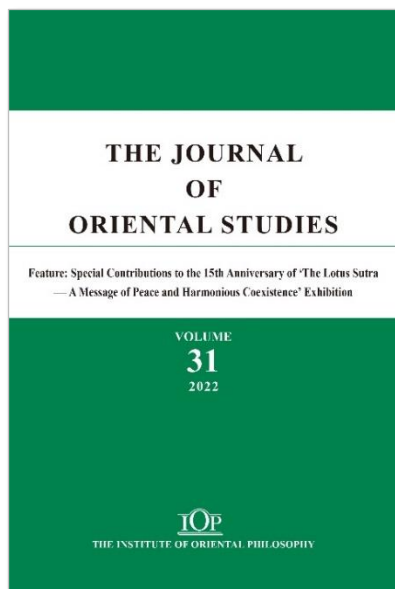
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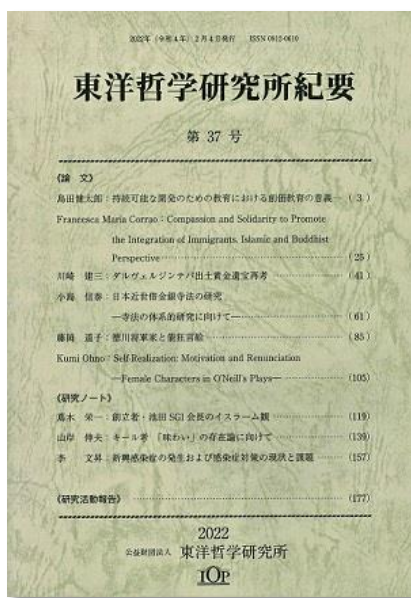
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