

A close-up photograph of yellow lily flowers with prominent stamens, set against a blurred green background. The flowers are the central focus of the image.

No. 4

The Institute of Oriental Philosophy  
**NEWSLETTER**



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IOP Newsletter No. 4 covers the news of three main projects (research, academic exchange and publication) which The Institute of Oriental Philosophy carried out in 2017. (Affiliation and title etc. at that time)

## Message for IOP Day (February 4)

# Dialogue: A Way of Attaining the Truth



Dr. Axinia D. Djourova

Corresponding Member, Bulgarian Academy of Science  
Professor, Sofia University

Soka Gakkai International (SGI) President Daisaku Ikeda envisaged the establishment of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) as an academic institute for research into oriental wisdom when he visited Buddhagaya in India on February 4, 1961. IOP researchers and staff hold a gathering on February 4 every year to commemorate the day as IOP Day. In 2018, Dr. Axinia D. Djourova, Corresponding Member of the Bulgarian Academy of Science and Professor, Sofia University, delivered a congratulatory message to the IOP (as summarized below). Dr. Djourova and President Ikeda began their first dialogue in 1982, published by the IOP in 1999 as *Utsukushiki shishi no tamashii* [The Beauty of a Lion's Heart]. A new dialogue 'Awakening a Great Revival of Our Humanity' appeared in the IOP periodical, *Toyo Gakujutsu Kenkyu* [The Journal of Oriental Studies] (Vol.56 No.1 and No. 2) in 2017.

Just before the beginning of the new year, 2018, I received copies of *The Journal of Oriental Studies* containing 'Awakening a Great Revival of Our Humanity', the new dialogue between Soka Gakkai International president and founder of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy, Daisaku Ikeda, and me. I cannot express the delight I felt at receiving these copies.

One of the greatest and the most fortunate moments of my life was my meeting with President Ikeda in 1982. Since then, President Ikeda has kindly offered me the opportunity to exchange opinions on topical issues of our time with him. *The Beauty of the Lion's Heart* was published as a result of this spiritual contact and the assistance and efforts of the IOP. I am also sincerely grateful to the IOP for publishing the second dialogue in *The Journal of Oriental Studies*.

During his visit to Bulgaria in May 1981, President Ikeda was conferred an honorary doctorate by Sofia University. However, I knew little about him at that time. Mr. Todor Dichev, the Bulgarian Ambassador to Tokyo, gave me some books that contained dialogues between President Ikeda with Arnold Toynbee, Andre Malraux, Aurelio Peccei and others, to prepare me for my meeting with President Ikeda in April 1982.

Three months later, when I was back in Bulgaria, President Ikeda proposed the idea of publishing our dialogue. Having read his dialogues with other savants, I realized the significance of our continued contact and the responsibility it placed on me.

After the meeting in 1982, we continued our dialogue in writing for over ten years. This engagement reminds me of one Latin saying, *Audator at altera pars* (Listen to the other). It is beneficial for parties to attain the truth through listening to the opinions of 'others', even if their viewpoints are not in agreement during their dialogue.

Our dialogue was first published (in Japanese) in 1999 and the Bulgarian translation appeared the following year. In addition to being repeatedly republished in Bulgaria, the dialogue was brought out as part of an omnibus volume, entitled *Disquieting Insights of the 21st Century*, that also contained President Ikeda's dialogues with Arnold Toynbee and Aurelio Peccei. This did not happen by chance. Some of the global issues discussed in the dialogues became a reality. For instance, economic issues are now posing a threat to the long-coveted solidarity of the European Union (EU).

President Ikeda gave me a chance through the dialogue for discussing issues such as the geopolitical challenges that the EU faces. I would like, once again, to stress my good fortune in having encountered such a responsible person as President Ikeda and sharing views on global issues with him. It is also such a great honor to be in contact with the IOP researchers and staff who made these dialogues possible.



Symposium on "Interreligious Dialogue about Christian and Buddhist Civilizations" at Sofia University (Bulgaria, 2011)

Moreover, the Center for Slavo-Byzantine Studies "Professor Ivan Dujčev" at Sofia University has maintained close, professional and personal relationships with the IOP over several decades. This enabled us to organize a joint symposium in 2011, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the IOP's conception by President Ikeda and the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Center of Slavo-Byzantine Studies.

The year 2011 witnessed the direst natural calamities in Japan. I shall never forget the way the people of Japan faced and went through the adversity, to emerge stronger and wiser for their recovery. It is certain that these accumulated experiences will impart resilience to all of us against difficulties and will deliver hopes of a better future. I believe that the IOP has a significant role to play in establishing a better future.

# The 32nd Annual Conference

## “Global Challenge Facing Humanity and Buddhism”



Dr. Noranit Setabutr giving his lecture. From the right, Ms. Oshima, Dr. Yamamoto, IOP Director Kirigaya, and Dr. Pataraporn Sirikanchana

On March 19 and 20, the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) held its 32nd annual conference at Soka University and IOP respectively.

At the conference, marking the 55th anniversary of its founding, domestic and overseas research fellows gathered to have significant presentations and active discussions on various themes including the Lotus Sutra, interreligious and intercivilizational dialogue, and addressing issues related to peace and human rights, and the environment.

IOP invited Dr. Noranit Setabutr and Dr. Pataraporn Sirikanchana from the World Buddhist University (WBU) in the Kingdom of Thailand as guest speakers to the symposium, “Global Challenge Facing Humanity and Buddhism” held on March 19. WBU was founded as an academic institute to advance the study of Buddhism and has facilitated an academic exchange with IOP since 2002.

Dr. Noranit, Acting Rector of WBU, delivered his keynote address entitled, “Buddhism and Peace” as follows:

As our contemporary world has been globalized, people can easily get along with each other. In spite of such human bonds, why does opposition still occur and turn into conflict and war?

In fact, the whole world is caught up in many kinds of conflicts and wars that simultaneously occur, such as the wars in Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine. These conflicts and wars are actually caused by human beings and continue to exist. We should halt conflicts before they escalate. How can we do this? As a Buddhist, I often think of Lord Buddha’s teachings.

One such teaching was that of the four noble truths (*dukkha, samudaya, nirodha* and *maggā*). I believe that we can apply these to bring about peace.

If the trauma of war can be thought of as *dukkha* or suffering, we must search for *samudaya* or the cause in order to practice *nirodha* or cessation. It is only then that we will achieve *magga* or the means of liberating us from suffering.

War is caused by human beings. That is to say that war is initiated by leaders. Therefore, leaders should make sure not to lose sight of what is good when their judgement is clouded with self-interest and emotion. To solve the challenges facing humanity, it is necessary for leaders to take responsibility for establishing peace and "ten virtues" including gentleness and self-control. Only then can we start paving the way to peace.

At the symposium, Dr. Pataraporn, Vice-Rector of academic affairs at WBU, gave her lecture entitled, "The Spirit of Environmental Preservation in the Buddhist Teachings". Dr. Shuichi Yamamoto, Senior Research Fellow, and Ms. Kyoko Oshima, Research Fellow of IOP, also delivered their lectures entitled, "Perspectives of Mahayana Buddhism on the Destruction of Nature: Evaluating the Value of Nature" and "A Future without Nuclear Weapons—Thoughts from the Standpoint of Buddhist Principles of Peace—."

In conjunction with the symposium, IOP held research meetings on March 19 and 20.



Dr. Noranit Setabutr on Buddhism and Peace

### **March 19**

"The Cause of Evil and the Order of the Universe in the Theology of Thomas Aquinas" by Dr. Tatsuya Yamazaki (Research Fellow, IOP)

"Cultural acculturation and religious movements in postwar Japan" by Dr. Katsuaki Ohnishi (Research Fellow, IOP)

"Causes of Problems and the Future Forms of Coexistence in the Recent Middle East and Turkey" by Dr. Hideki Iwaki (Commissioned Research Fellow, IOP)

"Hope and courage in Arabic poetry during the Arab revolution in Cairo 2011—The poems of Ahmad Fuad Nejm—" by Dr. Francesca Maria Corrao (Overseas Research Fellow, IOP)

### **March 20**

"Artificial Intelligence and Religious Belief" by Dr. Kenichi Maegawa (Research Fellow, IOP)

"Factors of the Rise and Fall of the Palmyrene Empire" by Prof. h.c. Katsuhisa Yamada (Commissioned Research Fellow, IOP)

"Physiological bases for the emergence of my conscious experience and technologies for reading and manipulating of the contents of consciousness" by Dr. Masahito Nemoto (Commissioned Research Fellow, IOP)

"Consideration on suicide trends among Japanese citizens from the viewpoint of public health, especially of mental or behavioral health" by MD Chikara Yamaguchi (Commissioned Research Fellow, IOP)

"Group-complexity and Self-complexity in Educational Settings: Proposal of Formulas and a Framework for Categorizing Practice" by Prof. Yuichi Toda (Commissioned Research Fellow, IOP)

"Comparative Analysis on *Lolita* (Vladimir Nabokov) and *the Horse of Diane* (Shinichi Makino)—From the Motive of Diane Point of View—" by Dr. Mitsunori Sagae (Commissioned Research Fellow, IOP)

For the academic exchange agreement between the World Buddhist University (WBU) in the Kingdom of Thailand and The Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP), an MOU signing ceremony was held on May 3, 2017 at the Headquarters of Soka Gakkai Thailand (near Bangkok). Dr. Noranit Setabutr, Chairman of the WBU Council, and Mr. Akira Kirigaya, Director of IOP, attended the ceremony with other concerned members (See picture).



After the Oxford Center for Buddhist Studies and Center for Civilizational Dialogue, University of Malaya, WBU is the 10th institution which IOP has concluded academic exchange agreements with.

"Global Challenge Facing Humanity and Buddhism" held in March, 2017. It is highly expected that this agreement will drive both institutions to continue their active exchanges in the future.

To date, WBU and IOP have affirmed their commitment to advance Buddhist studies through events including the symposium

At the ceremony, Dr. Noranit expressed his wishes to advance together in search of the wisdom that Buddhism brings forth.

## China: Courtesy Visit to Dunhuang Academy



On July 27 and 28, 2017, IOP delegates made a courtesy visit to Dunhuang Academy in China (See picture).

The Academy conferred President Ikeda a certificate of Honorary Research Fellow in recognition of his contributions to protecting and introducing Dunhuang's valuable relics to the world. In addition, the Academy has been providing various materials and relics as a supporter for "The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence" exhibition which IOP plans and organizes.

SGI President Ikeda, founder of IOP had interacted with the Honorary Director Chang Shuhong and the First Director Duan Wenjie for a long time.

The current Director Wang Xudong expressed his heartfelt welcome to the delegates and deep appreciation to IOP for the interaction as well as expected further development of both institutes. Moreover, it was confirmed that the Academy would join the Lotus Sutra exhibition as a co-organizer with full efforts for its success.



**Held in 16 Countries and Areas  
Viewed by 800,000**



# Lotus Sutra Exhibition

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 display's IOP's research on the Lotus Sutra, and introduces its teachings and the history of its dissemination in simple, easily assimilable language.

Full support by the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, the Russian Academy of Science, the Dunhuang Academy 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 edited the guidebook to the exhibition that has been published in four languages: Japanese, English, Korean and Chinese (simplified and traditional characters). To date, the exhibition has attracted 800,000 viewers in 16 countries and areas of the world, including India, Nepal, Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand, Japan, the United Kingdom, Spain, Brazil and Argentina.





## “The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence” Exhibition

On May 3, 2017, “The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence” exhibition was launched at the Headquarters of Soka Gakkai Thailand in Nonthaburi near Bangkok of Thailand, a Buddhist country in Southeast Asia. The exhibition was planned and produced by The Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP), and co-organized by the Ministry of Culture (Thailand), the World Buddhist University and the Soka Gakkai Thailand.

On display were approximately 160 items. Through the panels and video, the exhibition introduced the history of dissemination of Buddhist teachings. It showed that Mahayana Buddhist teachings transmitted from India and Western regions to East Asia including China, the Korean Peninsula and Japan, as well as Southeast Asia including Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia.

The exhibition also featured the Petrovsky Sanskrit manuscript and Gilgit manuscript of the Lotus Sutra as well as sutra manuscripts in Pali (all duplicates). Moreover, treasured items presented from academic institutions around the world to Soka Gakkai International President Ikeda, founder of IOP, were also exhibited. On display in the section of the replicated Dunhuang Magao Caves, were the murals of the Lotus Sutra inside Cave 85 and the entrance of Cave 96 (a nine-story building). With such appealing layout and design, viewers enjoyed the visual exhibition of the Lotus Sutra.

**Guest Comment**

**Mr. Vira Rojpojchanarat**

It is a great pleasure to attend "The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence" exhibition as an organizer.

As its main responsibility, the Ministry of Culture commits to protect, inherit and develop the religion, art and culture of Thailand. Therefore, to fulfill that responsibility, it is significant for us to co-organize the worldwide exhibition of the Lotus Sutra with Soka Gakkai Thailand. The exhibition gives people of Thailand the best opportunity to learn the philosophy of humanism which the Lotus Sutra explains and deepen their understanding. Moreover, the exhibition makes it possible to protect religion and spread a sublime culture that emphasizes coexistence and harmony. It will definitely drive us to establish a good society, equip people with virtues, and bring about harmonious integration. These points are also in line with future vision of Thailand which was proposed by Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha.

It is my hope that Soka Gakkai Thailand which indomitably spreads "good and virtue" in Thai society will make this exhibition a great success under the name of the Ministry with each co-organizer. (Minister of Culture, Thailand)

**Planner:** The Institute of Oriental Philosophy  
**Organizers:** The Institute of Oriental Philosophy, Ministry of Culture (Thailand), World Buddhist University and Soka Gakkai Thailand  
**Supporters:** Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, the Russian Academy of Sciences, Dunhuang Academy and International Academy of Indian Culture  
**Venue:** Headquarters of Soka Gakkai Thailand (Nonthaburi, near Bangkok)  
**Date:** May 3 – June 28, 2017



Grand opening ceremony with guests

At the opening ceremony, Mr. Vira Rojpojchanarat, Minister of Culture, Dr. Noranit Setabutr, Chairman of World Buddhist University Council, and Mr. Nisit Chansomwong, Governor of Nonthaburi, participated in the grand ribbon-cutting, together with approximately 650 guests and representatives of Soka Gakkai Thailand. The opening ceremony and the exhibition were reported by NBT (National Broadcasting Services of Thailand), TV3, TV5 and other Thai media, including Thaipost, Matichon, Daily News, The Kurunthep Trakij and Siam Turakij. In the exhibition, the viewers counted 125,000.



Students keen attention to a staff



Theravada Buddhist monks as viewers



## **“The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence” Exhibition**

On October 1, 2017, “The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence” exhibition was launched at The Arts House (old Parliament) in Singapore. The exhibition was organized by The Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP), the Dunhuang Academy and the Singapore Soka Association (SSA). Thanks to the first co-organization with the Dunhuang Academy, the exhibition became much richer in the content than before. Moreover, the continued support of the International Academy of Indian Culture and the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, Russian Academy of Sciences, made it possible to display over 150 items. Singapore is the 16th country to host this international exhibition.

At the opening ceremony, Mr. Baey Yam Keng, Parliamentary Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Prof. Zhang Yuanlin, Chief Librarian and Director of Dunhuang Academy, and Mr. Zhao Xiurong, Research Assistant of the Academy, participated with 250 guests including representatives of SSA, other academics and leaders in politics, finance and education. Singapore has multiplicity of ethnic groups including Chinese, Malays and Indian as well as religions including Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Taoism and Hindu, thereby languages. According to its national characteristics, the exhibition was prepared with the bilingual panels in both English and Chinese as well as multilingual Buddhist scriptures. The full effort of the Dunhuang Academy made the section of replicated Dunhuang Mogao Caves more attractive. After the entrance of a nine-story building, a symbol of the Caves, over the ceiling were the replicated murals depicting the teachings of the Lotus Sutra inside Cave 85. Due to its popularity, the exhibition was also held at the Headquarters of SSA. It attracted 62,000 viewers in total.



The Arts House, venue of the exhibition



Imitative painting of Mogao Cave gifted by Dunhuang Academy at opening ceremony



Guests viewing brightened panels of 'seven parables' on replicated cave walls



Many pupils and students with smiles

## Guest Comments

### Mr. Baey Yam Keng

May peace and harmonious existence last forever in multi-racial and multi-religious Singapore. May the message of this exhibition spread far in Singapore and the world. (Parliamentary Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth)

### Mr. Kwok Kian Chow

The Lotus Sutra exhibition indeed makes us feel real and gives us a great opportunity to understand the history of Buddhist dissemination in simple words. I believe the exhibition to convey such a significant message to people and exercise our wisdom. It really matters how we convey and spread the spirit of the Lotus Sutra over our whole society. The section of introduction to academic exchanges on the Lotus Sutra teaches us various kinds of ways to understand the wisdom of the Lotus Sutra. It is sure that such academic research can bring universal values to human beings and will continue further in the future. The exhibition not only introduces the heart of peace and harmony embedded in the Lotus Sutra but also awakens the 'spirit of coexistence' inherent in every one of us. (Director of Wee Kim Wee Center, Singapore Management University)

**Planner and Producer:** The Institute of Oriental Philosophy

**Organizers:** The Institute of Oriental Philosophy, Dunhuang Academy and Singapore Soka Association

**Sponsors:** Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of Russian Academy of Sciences and International Academy of Indian Culture

**Venue:** The Arts House and Headquarters of Singapore Soka Association

**Date:** October 1-25 and November 1-18, 2017



## “Buddhist Sutras: A Universal Spiritual Heritage” Exhibition

On October 21, 2017, the tour exhibition of “Buddhist Sutras: A Universal Spiritual Heritage” was launched at Centre Culturel Bouddhique de Rennes in northwestern France.

The exhibition has broader scope into Buddhism itself based on items of “The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence” exhibition. The Institute of Buddhist Studies in France collaborated in producing the panels with the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP). On April, 2016, the exhibition was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris and attracted over 7,000 viewers. It featured 26 original manuscripts from the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences, including the Petrovsky Sanskrit manuscript. Commemorating the exhibition, the symposium “Dissemination and Reception of Major Teachings of the Buddhist Canon” was held. Dr. Dennis Gira (Honorary Professor, Catholic Institute of Paris), Dominique Trotignon (Director, The Institute of Buddhist Studies), Dr. Lokesh Chandra (Director, International Academy of Indian Culture), Dr. Irina Popova (Director, Institute of Oriental Manuscripts) and others gave their speeches.

The Centre Culturel Bouddhique de Rennes, an organizer of the exhibition, was established in 2011 to provide opportunities for the general public to expose to Buddhism through its culture and practices, and to develop the exchanges of West and East. At the center, people join activities of Buddhist practice and meditation courses organized by some associations.

On opening day, many guests attended the commemorating seminar entitled, ‘Values That Buddhism Expresses’ with presentations given by Mr. Dominique Trotignon on Buddhist Sutras, Mr. Pham Quang Lê (Former Vice-president of Drukpa Paris Association) on Buddhism in Vietnam and Dr. Bertrand Rossignol (Overseas Research Fellow of IOP) on the Lotus Sutra.

The visitors counted 700 for a week in the exhibition which daily paper Ouest-France reported, thereby received a great response.

**Planner and Producer:** The Institute of Oriental Philosophy

**Organizers:** Centre Culturel Bouddhique de Rennes, The Institute of Oriental Philosophy and Soka Cultural Association in France

**Sponsors:** Dunhuang Academy China, Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of Russian Academy of Sciences and International Academy of Indian Culture

**Collaborator:** The Institute of Buddhist Studies

**Venue:** Centre Culturel Bouddhique de Rennes

**Date:** October 21-29, 2017



# “For Solidarity of Peace in East Asia”



## Dr. Lee Soo-sung (Former Prime Minister of South Korea)

Dr. Lee Soo-sung, known as a politician with philosophy, served as Prime Minister of South Korea and president of Seoul National University. Having received his LL.D., he wrote many books and articles on criminal law and criminal policy. In 1999, he had a dialogue with Soka Gakkai International (SGI) President Daisaku Ikeda, founder of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy, on various topics including culture, education and peace. In 2016, Dr. Lee assumed executive chairman of “The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence” exhibition held in Seoul.

His special lecture “For Solidarity of Peace in East Asia” was held at CongreSquare (Nakano Ward, Tokyo) on October 8, 2017. In his lecture, Dr. Lee first referred to life as a precious foundation of peace. He stressed, “It is a miracle that a human comes into this world. Each and every one of us is irreplaceable and precious.” Based on his engagement in the Lotus Sutra exhibition, he told the audience, “The Lotus Sutra expresses that each one of us has inherent Buddha-nature. You are not the only one who is special. All humans live as precious beings. Therefore, we all should not be arrogant to anyone but humble to every single person in front of us.”

In addition, Dr. Lee touched upon the history that Korea was annexed by Japan. He said, “Once a war breaks out, one has no choice but to kill the other. Although South Korea and Japan have original brotherhood, the history of two nations tells many complicated affairs. Everyone has to understand what happened in the past. We should not take wars and conflicts as small matters.” He expressed his expectations by commenting, “While there are diplomatic discords among South Korea, China and Japan, President Ikeda is awarded by many cities and institutions of South Korea and China. As long as I know, there is no one who is greater than him in the world. It is my sincere wish that, in respect for leaders like President Ikeda, a movement of hope and solidarity will spread in waves over the world.”

# Public Lecture Series: “Bioethics and Religions”

**Lecturer:** Dr. Kaoru Aoyagi  
(Associate Professor, Niigata University)  
**Date:** October 31, 2017  
**Venue:** TKP Ichigaya Conference Center  
(Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo)  
**Theme:** Bioethical Issues in Islam



Dr. Aoyagi specializes in religious studies and history of Islamic thought. To date, The Institute of Oriental Philosophy has interacted with her through the lectures on marriage in Islam (2010) and principles and practices of Islamic mysticism (2012) as well as the seminar on bioethics (April, 2017).

In her lecture, Dr. Aoyagi mentioned that it became necessary for the general public to build its consensus on medical technology influencing the dignity of life. She introduced that the bioethics emerged as a new discipline to bridge the public and medical front from late 1960s and to 1970s. Then, touching upon the outlines of bioethics and Islam, she explained the detailed bioethical issues in Islam such as fertilization and abortion, assisted reproductive technologies and terminal care.

Regarding death as one of the most essential matters, Dr. Aoyagi added, “In Islam, death does not always scare Muslims but functions as a passing point. What Islam teaches rather is to overcome the scare.” She concluded by stressing, “Muslims take the way how the prophet Muhammad lived as a model in their real life. For them, to base the teachings of Islam is equal to live their ‘good life’.”

**Lecturer:** Prof. Katsuhiko Kohara  
(Professor, Doshisha University)  
**Date:** November 14, 2017  
**Venue:** Umeda Sky Building (Osaka-shi, Osaka)  
**Theme:** The Past, Present and Future of the Ethical Issues on Scientific Advancement and Life: Referring to Discussions in Christianity



Prof. Kohara is a specialist in Christian theology, religious ethics and comparative study of monotheistic religions. The Institute of Oriental Philosophy has interacted with him since IOP invited him for his lecture ‘Women in Christian World’ in November 2011.

Prof. Kohara mentioned that recent development of technology and science brings about a stereotypical value which makes it difficult to tell good and evil and to make a bioethical judgement. He said, “What we should do is to respect for diverse values. We are supposed to show to choose the best from among optional matters. It is more important to have a binocular vision of Japanese traditional view of life as ‘bond’ and Western view of life as ‘individual’.”

In conclusion, he pointed out that contemporary view of life deals with a life which is not gifted but produced or chosen. He showed his expectations by commenting, “It is important to cherish love of accepting a gifted life rather than changing, controlling or choosing a life, isn’t it? There is a need to center a sense of value and ethics that function as appropriate base in evaluation of life.”





**Lecturer:** Dr. Norio Yamamoto  
(Associate Professor, Juntendo University)  
**Date:** November 30, 2017  
**Venue:** TKP Ichigaya Conference Center  
(Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo)  
**Theme:** Buddhism and Bioethics

Dr. Yamamoto specializes in virology and infectious disease medicine and also serves as a commissioned research fellow of The Institute of Oriental Philosophy. As part of projects related to The Institute of Oriental Philosophy, Dr. Yamamoto contributed his article to *Daijo Bukkyo no Chousen* [A Challenge for Mahayana Buddhism] (2010) and had charge of an open class organized by University of Hachioji College Community.

In his lecture, Dr. Yamamoto first outlined the Buddhist view of life from the standpoint of 'Ten Worlds', 'nine consciousnesses' and 'dependent origination'. He stressed that all life represents fundamental life of the universe and possesses the ultimate life of Buddha. Then, he explained about embryonic stem (ES) cells and induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells for 'regenerative medicine' through his own research.

He remarked, "If human life is regarded as the ultimate, naturally, human life should not be utilized for the certain purpose. While it is hard to fix the moment that human life begins in the ontogenetic process, embryonic dignity should be taken into consideration as the embryo has a potential of life."



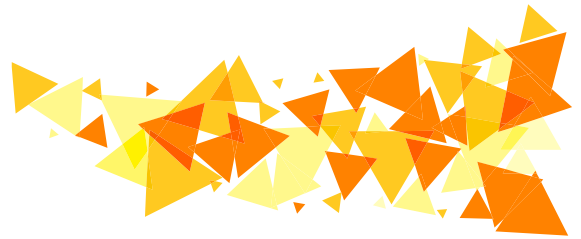
**Lecturer:** Prof. Masaru Ikezawa  
(Professor, The University of Tokyo)  
**Date:** December 5, 2017  
**Venue:** TKP Ichigaya Conference Center  
(Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo)  
**Theme:** Bioethics in China

Prof. Ikezawa currently specializes in Chinese religion, ancestral worship, and death and life studies and also writes many articles on Confucianism. In his lecture, Prof. Ikezawa first introduced the basic concept of bioethics and exemplified the bioethical stream in the United States, Germany and Japan for comparison with that in China.

He said, "A bioethical view first appeared in the United States. Even before the appearance, medical ethics existed for the medical profession in the form of codes. Outlining the bioethics in Germany and Japan, he stressed that the manner of bioethics can differ according to the culture and the tradition.

In old China, medical ethics was established based on Confucian ethic and Buddhist views. The medical treatment was generally justified by 仁 (*ren*, benevolence) and non-killing which a Confucian scholar/doctor should realize. Prof. Ikezawa concluded that 全体 (*quan ti*, all) is a key concept of Chinese bioethics and its meaning varies from people to a nation. "The term may have been used in the Confucian way, but more important is to understand in which context the term is used," he said.

# Other Lectures



## ◆Lecture on Islam

February 21 : "Ontology of Avicenna and Medieval Europe" by Prof. Shiro Yamauchi (Professor, Keio University)

## ◆Lectures on Society and Religion

April 8 : "Assisted Reproductive Technologies in Islam with Special Reference to Shias" by Dr. Kaoru Aoyagi (Associate Professor, Niigata University)

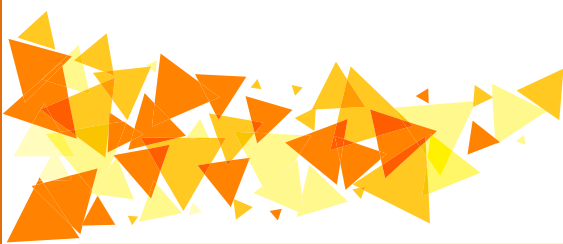
July 22 : "Assisted Reproductive Technologies in Iran" by Dr. Sachiko Hosoya (Fellow, Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)

September 26 : "Christian and Buddhist Logical Structures for Expressing 'Wisdom' with Eckhart's Interpretation of '*Et flores mei fructus*' (Sirach) as a Key" by Prof. Teruhisa Tajima (Professor, Waseda University)

October 14 : "On Confucian Bioethics" by Prof. Masaru Ikezawa (Professor, The University of Tokyo / Director, Center for Death and Life Studies and Practical Ethics)

November 18 : "Bioethics and Christianity" by Prof. Kenji Doi (Professor, Kwansai Gakuin University)

December 21 : "On Welfare, Punishment and Warfare in Mahayana Buddhist Sutra: How the Ten Virtues are Practiced as the Form of Kingship?" by Dr. Tsunehiko Sugiki (Associate Professor, Hiroshima University)



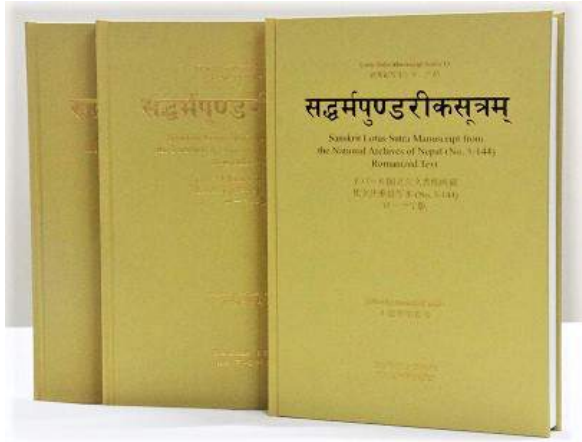
## Lectures open to Hachioji citizens

April 15 : "Reading Historical Documents of the Gohojo Clan: Hachioji from Sengoku to Edo" by Ou Kobayashi (Commissioned Research Fellow, The Institute of Oriental Philosophy)

July 15 : "'Optimism' as a Key to Vigor: An Encouragement to Living in a Positive Way" by Prof. Haruo Magari (Commissioned Research Fellow, The Institute of Oriental Philosophy)

August 12 : "Physician-Patient Ethics: What to Inform, What to Know" by Dr. Ryo Chonabayashi (Research Fellow, The Institute of Oriental Philosophy)

# Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the National Archives of Nepal (No. 5-144), Romanized Text (2017)



The Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) and the Soka Gakkai have been involved in publishing the Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series since 1994. The series include facsimile editions and romanized texts of manuscript such as Gilgit manuscript and Petrovsky Sanskrit manuscript of the Lotus Sutra (as listed below). These help promote Buddhist studies, in particular further studies of early Mahayana Buddhism centering on the Lotus Sutra. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the National Archives of Nepal (No.5-144)* is the 17th publication of the series.

The manuscript begins with *Rāhulabhadrasya Saddharmapūṇḍarīkastavaḥ* (Rāhulbadra's Tribute to the *Saddharmapūṇḍarīkā*) on folio 1 (missing) and ends with folio 120, which includes a part around the beginning of chapter 26, "Encouragements of the Bodhisattva Universal Worthy." Folio 121 and those thereafter are missing. The folios preceding 120, however, are not all in good condition. Many are seriously damaged, and some are missing.

As a major characteristic of this book, along with the N3 manuscript and its Romanized text, four different copies of the Gilgit manuscripts (ca. seventh century) and 15 divergent copies of the Nepalese palm-leaf manuscripts (ca. 11th-13th centuries) were also carefully examined. After the frequency of text accordance between N3 and the other manuscripts was confirmed with a multivariate analysis technique, the data was finally rendered into graphs.

## List of Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series (Not for Sale)

- 1 Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Fragments from the Lüshun Museum Collection, Facsimile Edition and Romanized Text
- 2-1 Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the National Archives of Nepal (No. 4-21), Facsimile Edition
- 2-2 Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the National Archives of Nepal (No. 4-21), Romanized Text 1
- 2-3 Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the National Archives of Nepal (No. 4-21), Romanized Text 2
- 3 Fragments of a Manuscript of the *Saddharmapūṇḍarīkasūtra* from Khādaliq
- 4 Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscripts from Cambridge University Library (Add. 1682 and Add. 1683), Facsimile Edition
- 5 Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the University of Tokyo General Library (No. 414), Romanized Text
- 6 Xixia Version of the Lotus Sutra from the Collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Science
- 7 Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland (No. 6), Romanized Text
- 8 Manuscrit sanscrit du Sūtra du Lotus de la Société asiatique (No. 2), Texte romanisé [Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the Société Asiatique (No. 2), Romanized Text]
- 9 Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the British Library (Or. 2204), Facsimile Edition
- 10 Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from Cambridge University Library (Add. 1684), Romanized Text
- 11 Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the British Library (Or. 2204), Facsimile Edition
- 12 Gilgit Lotus Sutra Manuscripts from the National Archives of India, Facsimile Edition
- 13 Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscripts from the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Facsimile Edition
- 14 Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the Asiatic Society, Kolkata (No. 4079) Romanized Text
- 15 Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the National Archives of Nepal (No. 5-144). Romanized Text

# Publications

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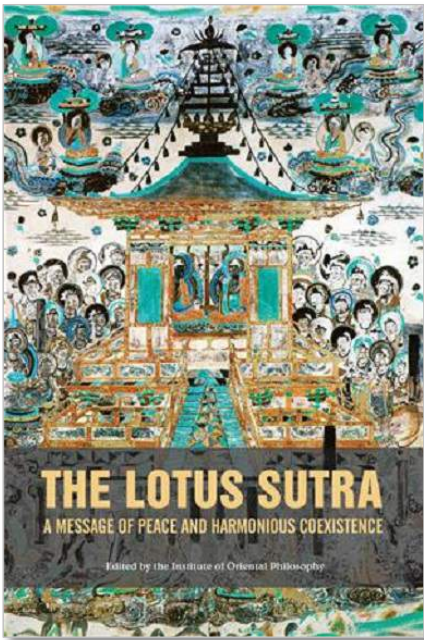
(subtitles abbreviated)

**IOP Research Works**

# Publications

## English Edition of Guidebook:

### *The Lotus Sutra — A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence*



First Edition: July, 2017

Published by Eternal Ganges Press Private Limited (India)

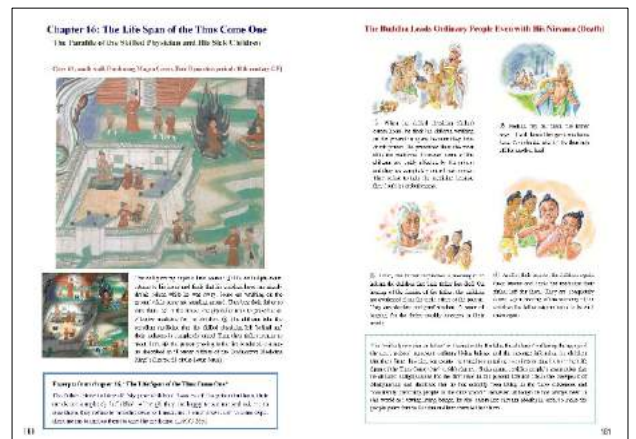
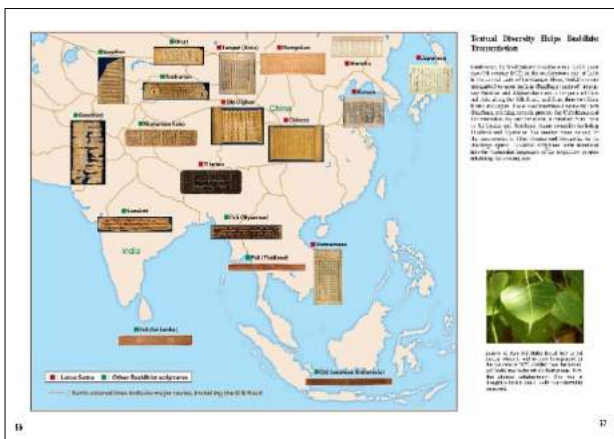
The English edition of the guidebook, "The Lotus Sutra — A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence" was finally translated, edited and published by Eternal Ganges Press. The publication covers the exhibition which has been planned and produced by the Institute of Oriental Philosophy.

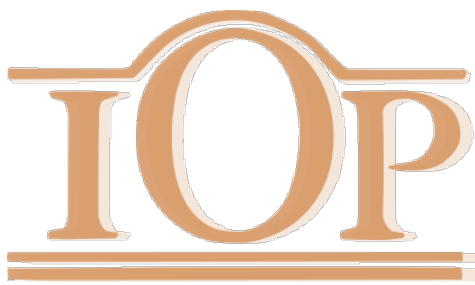
The guidebook was already published in Chinese (simplified and traditional characters) and Korean after Japanese. The content of English edition was reedited based on displays and panels of the renewed exhibition. With full colored images and simple words, the guidebook explains how the Lotus Sutra has been embraced by many kinds of people as well as what the Lotus Sutra expresses. Focusing on the Lotus Sutra, it illustrates the Buddhist history and introduces the imitative paintings of the Dunhuang Mogao Caves. This book is recommendable as an introductory guide for study on Buddhism.

#### Contents:

History of the Transmission of the Lotus Sutra (Chapter 1) / Buddhist Texts in Many Languages (Chapter 2) / Dramatic Discovery and Preservation of Manuscripts (Chapter 3) / Visual Depictions of the Lotus Sutra in the Dunhuang Mogao Caves (Chapter 4) / The Message of the Lotus Sutra (Chapter 5) / Materials Related to the Lotus Sutra Presented by Academic Institutions (Chapter 6) / Words from the Lotus Sutra (Chapter 7)

The guidebook is available from the website of Eternal Ganges Press (<https://goo.gl/5pfUHn>).





**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 us at: [iop\\_info@iop.or.jp](mailto:iop_info@iop.or.jp)

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

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

