



IOP
NEWSLETTER
No. 2

The Institute of
Oriental Philosophy

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IOP Newsletter No. 2 covers the news of events and books published between March and December 2015.

30th Annual Conference

On March 21 and 22, 2015, the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) held its 30th Annual Conference at Soka University and the IOP respectively.

Since its inauguration, the IOP Annual Conferences have been held with the aim of achieving a global civilization through the study of various topics including the Lotus Sutra, interreligious and intercivili- zational dialogue, peace, human rights and the environment.



Professor Dato' Dr. Christopher Boey



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Faridah Noor (Left),
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Raihanah Abdullah (Right)

CELEBRATING its 30th anniversary, the IOP invited Associate Professor Dr. Raihanah Abdullah, deputy dean of Humanities Research Cluster, University of Malaya, and Associate Professor Dr. Faridah Noor, Centre for Civilisational Dialogue, University of Malaya (UMCCD) as distinguished guests. A symposium was held in the afternoon of March 21 on the theme, “Intercivilizational Dialogue: Toward the Mutual Understanding of Buddhism and Islam.”

In October 2012, the IOP and UMCCD co-organized a joint symposium titled, “Intercivilizational Dialogue towards Peace, Harmonious Coexistence and Sustainability” held at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The IOP and UMCCD signed a MoU in the presence of Malaysia’s former Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, who also gave a keynote address at the symposium.

In February 2014, the exhibition “The Lotus Sutra – A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence” was held at Wisma Kebudayaan SGM (SGM Grand Culture Center) in Kuala Lumpur. During this period, the IOP, UMCCD, Department of National Unity and Integration, Prime Minister’s Department, and Soka Gakkai Malaysia jointly organized a conference on the theme of “Peace and Harmonious Coexistence — an Islamic Buddhist Dialogue.” Through these exchanges, the IOP and UMCCD have been promoting mutual understanding between Buddhism and Islam.

At the recent symposium, Dr. Raihanah delivered her speech titled “Gender Equality in Islam.” In her speech, she noted that the concept of equality between men and women is emphasized in the Qur’an, and it serves as the foundation of policy and legal provisions,

including Islamic Family Laws that have been promulgated in several Islamic jurisdictions. Nonetheless, this concept has often been misunderstood.

She stressed that discrimination against women needs to be eliminated, and that the basic human rights, economic and social status of women in contemporary society must be guaranteed.

Dr. Faridah Noor, a linguist, analyzed the language features of the Lotus Sutra's fifth chapter, "Parable of the Medicinal Herbs" translated by Burton Watson. In her presentation, she focused on the language of impartiality in the Lotus Sutra and shared her understanding of the principal of co-existence in the parable, which is that people of different backgrounds, status and gender live together in harmony while respecting each other's rights. She commented that the concept of equality exists both in Islam and Buddhism and that it is vital for them to hold open dialogues so that we can co-exist and share our enriching qualities with each other.

Other presentations given at the symposium include:

- "Dialogue Between Islam and Buddhism in Medicine" by Professor Dato' Dr. Christopher Boey Chiong Meng, deputy dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya and IOP overseas research fellow
- "Gender Equality in Buddhism in the period of Buddha" by Dr. Toshie Kurihara, IOP senior research fellow
- "Harmony and Coexistence in Islamic Philosophy — The Emanation-Theory in al-Fārābī's *The Excellent City*—" by Dr. Tatsuya Yamazaki, IOP research fellow.

In conjunction with the symposium, the IOP held research meetings on March 21 and 22. The programs of the meetings are as follows:

March 21

- "On Belief Succession of New Religious Group in Japan" by Dr. Sunao Taira, IOP research fellow
- "Nietzsche's Theory of Life and Makiguchi's Theory of Value" by Prof. Jiro Oguma, IOP commissioned research fellow
- "From Coexistence to Conflict: Changes in and Collapse of Coexistent Systems in the Ottoman Empire" by Dr. Hideki Iwaki, IOP commissioned research fellow
- "The good for the community in Islam and Buddhist perspectives, a comparative analysis" by Dr. Francesca Corrao, IOP overseas research fellow

March 22

- "*Kyogen* Illustrations and Paintings in Edo Period—Through them, what we can see about *Kyogen*" by Dr. Michiko Fujioka, IOP commissioned research fellow
- "Some Remarks on "Ten Such's" in the Second Chapter of the *Miaofa lianhua jing*" by Dr. Ken'ichi Maegawa, IOP research fellow
- "Aiming at the development of a new cosmology—Considerations Based on the *Mūlamadhyamakakārikā* (Nāgārjuna's Middle Way)—" by Assoc. Prof. Hiroshi Aoki, IOP commissioned research fellow
- "Nichiren's *Esho-funi* View and Trial Approach to Forest Conservation" by Dr. Akira Hiratsuka and Prof. Kenzo Wakae, IOP commissioned research fellows
- "Prevention of the Bullying Cycle and Belief in Fairness" by Prof. Yuichi Toda, IOP commissioned research fellow

Exhibition

The Lotus Sutra—

A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence

“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 500,000 people have viewed it.

Exhibition held in Taipei, Taiwan



From January 25 to April 10, the exhibition was held in Taiwan for the second time at Changhua Culture Center of Taiwan Soka Association. The first exhibition was held at Zhi Shan Culture Center in Taipei in 2013. On display were photographic panels of the renowned Dunhuang Murals and other pieces including reproductions of Lotus Sutra manuscripts in various languages and of the Soka Gakkai Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series.

To coincide with the opening of the exhibition, the Traditional Chinese language edition of *Guidebook: "The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence" Exhibition* (translated and edited by Chin-Shuan Cultural and Educational Foundation) was published on January 26.

Exhibition held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan



From May 2 to July 19, the exhibition was held at the Fongshan Cultural Center of the Taiwan Soka Association in Kaohsiung City. At the opening ceremony, Wu Lien-shang, President of National Kaohsiung Normal University, delivered a congratulatory address. He referred to the crisis of “The Clash of Civilizations” facing the contemporary world, and emphasized that the causes of such a crisis are rooted in the human heart. “In order to harmonize people’s hearts to prevent such clashes, and to fuse the eastern and western worlds, the spirit of the Lotus Sutra is vital” he said.

At the ceremony, together with Prof. Hung and President Wu, Ping Yu, Director of the Graduate Institute of Adult Education, National Kaohsiung Normal University, Tseng Tzu-wen, head of the Civil Affairs Bureau, Kaohsiung City Government, Chao Pei, Dean of Department of Marketing and Distribution Management at National Kaohsiung First University of Science and Technology, and Chao Lin, General Director of Taiwan Soka Association, participated in the ribbon-cutting.

Exhibition held in Hong Kong



From May 3 to 25, the exhibition was held at the SGI Hong Kong Culture Center. Hong Kong is the place where the exhibition was initiated in November 2006.

Compared to the first exhibition, the second one has improved both in quality and quantity, in parallel with the research conducted by the IOP.

At the venue, panels introducing the history of the transmission of Buddhism are set in six different areas, and more than 80 exhibits related to Buddhism are on display. The Facsimile Edition of the Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscripts from the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences and a panel of Dung Hung Wall paintings, an archive of Buddhist art, are also open to public inspection.

The exhibition also features renowned contemporary sinologist Professor Jao Tsung-I's calligraphies including, *Nyo Renge Zaisui* [Like a lotus flower floating on the water], which is written in the Lotus Sutra. In his speech, he expressed his high hopes for the Lotus Sutra Exhibition and said, "Those manuscripts are the results of the efforts of many nameless champions. They are not only archeological materials, but also the crystallization of the wisdom, faith and hope of numerous individuals. I feel the great vitality of human beings from each and every character on the manuscripts." He continued, "I hope the message of peace and co-existence will continue to spread and that many more people will come to understand the wisdom of the Buddha."

Exhibition held in Taoyuan, Taiwan



The exhibition was held for the third time in Taiwan at SGI-Taiwan Taoyuan Culture Center.

The opening ceremony took place on August 15 2015 in order to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The delegates who participated in the ribbon-cutting at the opening ceremony included Taoyuan Mayor Cheng Wen-tsan, Chuang Hsiu-mei, Taoyuan city commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs, Chen Chiming, curator at the National Taiwan Museum, Pao-yao Lin, Emeritus Professor of the Department of Fine Arts at the Taipei National University of the Arts, and Chen Ching-hsiang, Professor of Department of History at the Chinese Culture University

The exhibition had continued through November 8, and more than 54,000 people visited there during the opening period. Prestigious newspapers, *The China Times* and *Taiwan Newspaper*, also reported on the highlights of the exhibition.

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

In 2014, the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) hosted the lecture series, “The Path Toward a Global Civilization.” In order to find solutions to the myriad problems facing modern society, we divided them into three categories of “environmental problems,” “political, social and economic issues,” and “crisis of the human spirit” and attempted to find a way to realize “coexistence between humans and nature,” “harmonious coexistence among human beings,” and “transformation of the human spirit.”

To disseminate universal values respected by all people, the IOP extended last year’s theme and hosted five lectures in September and October, 2015.

Lecturer: Dr. Ryosuke Inagaki (Honorary Professor, Kyushu University)

Venue: Acros Fukuoka (Fukuoka City)

Date: September 8, 2015

Theme: Wisdom and Self—A Dialogue Between Buddhism and Christianity



Professor Inagaki graduated from the University of Tokyo and obtained his PhD from the Catholic University of America. He has taught at Nanzan University, Kyushu University, Fukuoka Jo Gakuin University, Nagasaki Junshin Catholic University and several other universities. To date, he has translated publications by Thomas Aquinas, the prominent theologian of the Medieval Period, including the *Summa Theologiae*.

In his lecture, Professor Inagaki touched upon the relationship between *wisdom* and *self*. He remarked that the ultimate goal of life is to be happy and that happiness is something that all people wish for. He stressed that, in order to achieve happiness, people need to strive to find themselves. “The act of knowing cannot be understood only in a scientific way. As we transform knowledge into wisdom, we can transform this one-sided view of *knowing*.” He added that “In Latin, the word ‘wisdom’ includes the meaning of savor, thus polishing knowledge and savoring the truth is the actual meaning of wisdom.”

Lecturer: Prof. Naoshi Yamawaki (Honorary Professor, The University of Tokyo/Dean of Faculty of Biochemistry, Seisa University)
Venue: TKP Ichigaya Conference Center (Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo)
Date: September 17, 2015
Theme: Public Philosophy of Religion
—Toward Interreligious Dialogue



Professor Yamawaki graduated from Hitotsubashi University and received his PhD from the University of Munich in Germany. He has taught at Tokai University, Sophia University, and the University of Tokyo. He is specialized in public philosophy and the history of social thought.

In a lecture, he emphasized that public philosophy should not be mere hollow theory but should rather be considered in various areas such as politics, economics, education and religion. He stressed that faith needs to be understood as universal public activities, and religion's public philosophy should serve to bond "us" and "others." Professor Yamawaki further remarked that public philosophy is something that accepts differences in other religions and that creates public good and values in an unequal society. He added that believers of any religions should not be fundamentalists or relativists who insist on their own view of things.

Lecturer: Dr. Shuntaro Ito (Honorary President for Life, The International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations/ Honorary Professor, The University of Tokyo)
Venue: TKP Ichigaya Conference Center (Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo)
Date: September 29, 2015
Theme: Transition Stage of Civilizations — The Past and the Future of Humanity



Dr. Ito graduated from the University of Tokyo and obtained his PhD from the University of Wisconsin in the U.S. To date, he has taught at the University of Tokyo, the University of Copenhagen, and Universität Tübingen in Germany.

In his lecture, Dr. Ito suggested that there had been five stages of civilization, which he referred to as: 1) the anthropic revolution, 2) the agricultural revolution, 3) the urban revolution, 4) the spiritual revolution, and 5) the scientific revolution. Contemporary society is now facing the sixth transition, which he calls "the environmental revolution." He stressed that humanity should start thinking about which path to travel from now, and emphasized the importance of peace and coexistence with nature.

Lecturer: Prof. Yutaka Ishigami (Professor, Soka University / Senior Research Fellow, The Institute of Oriental Philosophy)
Venue: TKP Ichigaya Conference Center (Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo)
Date: October 15, 2015
Theme: The Power to Build the 21st Century
 –Learning from Wisdom of Socrates and Kant



Professor Ishigami is a specialist in Philosophy and Ethics. He was the dean of the faculty of literature at Soka University, and from this year, has been serving as a senior research fellow at the Institute of Oriental Philosophy. He has been leading a study on Arnold J. Toynbee and a comparative study of civilizations.

In his lecture, Professor Ishigami remarked that the act of thinking is soft power that nurtures mankind, but to suppress the act of thinking by violence is defined as hard power. Socrates connected people by the power of words, and Kant made human beings respect worthy as subjects of autonomy. He also stated that both Socrates and Kant perceived the eternity of life and sought the happiness of humanity based on this awareness. "Their views and thoughts on mankind provide many suggestions for solving myriad problems facing the contemporary society."

Lecturer: Dr. Monte Cassim (Director, Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritumeikan University / Professor, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University)
Venue: Umeda Sky Building (Osaka city)
Date: October 29, 2015
Theme: The Relationships Among Life, Art, Scientific Technique



Dr. Cassim is from Sri Lanka. He is a specialist in architectonics and urban engineering and obtained his MA from the University of Tokyo. He has served as a dean at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University and as vice president of Ritsumeikan University. Currently, he is the director of Kyoto Museum for World Peace, and is actively engaged in issues related to peace, education and the environment.

Dr. Cassim started off the lecture by saying that *life* is the most essential theme of which the Institute of Oriental Philosophy has dealt with. He then questioned why human beings hate and avoid each other rather than trying to support each other. As a scientist, he has examined many forms of life starting with microorganisms. Through those experiences, he learned that life itself is vigorous and always does its best to survive in the circumstances it finds itself in.

Intercivilizational and Interreligious Dialogues

To enhance the understanding of diverse religions around the world, the IOP organized initiatives on inter-civilizational and interreligious dialogue by holding lectures on Eastern Christianity, Catholic theology and Islamic studies.

On Eastern Christianity

February 17

Dr. Kyoko Nakanishi
(Research Fellow, The Graduate School of Humanities at the University of Tokyo)
"From Nicaea to Chalcedon: the Christological Controversy and Church Politics in the Late Antique East"

April 9

Dr. Masaki Omori
(Honorary Professor, Nanzan University)
"The Meaning of the Hesychastic Controversy – Gregory Palamas and the Theology of the Eastern Church"

June 9

Dr. Rei Hakamada (Postdoctoral Fellow, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science)
"Life and Death in Orthodox Christianity"

June 23

Prof. Yoshihiro Kon
(Honorary Professor, University of Yamanashi)
"Dionysius Areopagita"

July 28

Prof. Shigeki Tsuchihashi
(Professor, Chuo University)
"The Spirituality in the Eastern Christianity"

On Catholic Theology

September 1

Dr. Naoko Sato
(Director, Institute of Medieval Thought / Professor, Sophia University)
"'Credere' and 'Intelligere' in Augustine's *De libero arbitrio II*"

October 1

Dr. Junichi Iwamoto (Senior coordinator, Translation Section at Japan Bible Society)
"Rationality of Faith – Communality of Modern Catholicism"

October 27

Prof. Dr. Hisao Miyamoto
(Professor, Tokyo Junshin University)
"Overcoming the Radical Evil"

December 10

Prof. Dr. Kohei Shibamoto
(Part-time Lecturer, Sophia University)
"The Theological Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas"

On Islamic Studies

December 8

Prof. Dr. Yasushi Tonaga (Director, Japan Association for Middle East Studies / Professor, Graduate School of Kyoto University)
"Some Aspects of Sufism: the Notions of Fana"

“Society and Religion” Research Meetings

The Institute of Oriental Philosophy has invited experts from various fields of thought, religion and philosophy while also hosting lectures and discussion sessions for research fellows.



May 15

Dr. Shuntaro Ito
(Honorary President for Life, The International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations/ Honorary Professor, The University of Tokyo)
“Nishida, Whitehead and Prigogine – Linkages among their Thoughts on ‘Becoming’”

May 20

Dr. Tsuyoshi Kojima
(Professor, The University of Tokyo)
“Accepting Neo-Confucianism in Japan”



July 30

Prof. Naoshi Yamawaki
(Honorary Professor, The University of Tokyo/ Dean of Faculty of Biochemistry, Seisa University)
“Rethinking the Role and Significance of Public Philosophy”

October 13

Dr. Haruko Okano (Former President, Seisen University)
“View of Women in Christianity —Its Virtual image and Reality”



November 4

Dr. Tsuyoshi Kojima
(Professor, The University of Tokyo)
“The theory of Li-Ch'i and the theory of Mind in Neo-Confucianism”

Lecture

Lecturer: Associate Professor Dr. Raihanah Abdullah, dean of Humanities Research Cluster, University of Malaya
Date: March 22, 2015
Venue: Nippon-Seinenkan (Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo)

DR. Raihanah is Dean of Humanities Research Cluster at the University of Malaya (UM) and Associate Professor at the Department of Shariah and Law, Academy of Islamic Studies, UM. Her research areas are Islamic Family Law, Islamic Law and Gender, and Islamic Law and Society. She is currently engaged in research on the role of women in building peace and harmony.

To date, Dr. Raihanah has been promoting exchanges between the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue, the University of Malaya (UMCCD) and the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) including the joint symposium, “Intercivilisational Dialogue Towards Peace, Harmonious Coexistence and Sustainability” held in October, 2012. Prior to the public lecture, she presented a lecture entitled “Gender Equality in Islam” at the IOP’s 30th Annual Conference on March 21 at Soka University.



Women and Youth in Civilizational Dialogue

In the public lecture titled, “Women and Youth in Civilizational Dialogue,” she referred to the negative stereotypes of Muslims that have spread in contemporary society and said, “I stand here hoping to present to you an alternative image — and image that is less typical, less stereotypical, an image that portrays difference, and at the same time also seeks coexistence.” She stated that women and youth in the Islamic world suppressed by the aforementioned negative images. Therefore, for Islamic civilization to be able to soar again, they must be allowed to speak for themselves.

Dr. Raihanah also touched upon the recent tragic events in history including colonialism, conflicts and wars, and stressed the necessity to utilize dialogue for the sake of civilizational coexistence. In closing, she expressed her wish that the continued collaboration between UMCCD and the IOP would facilitate the successful outcomes of the initiatives for dialogue and peace in the near future, and that Malaysia and Japan become examples for the international community in civilizational dialogue.

Al Fatihah—The Opening Chapter of the Quran

Lecturer: Dr. Shihab M. A. Ghanem and Dr. Waddhah S. Ghanem

Date: June 6, 2015

Venue: Soka University (Hachioji City, Tokyo)

ON June 6, 2015, the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) organized a lecture titled, “Al Fatihah—The Opening Chapter of the Quran” by Dr. Shihab M. A. Ghanem and Dr. Waddhah Ghanem held at the Central Tower of Soka University.

Dr. Shihab M. A. Ghanem is a poet, translator and scholar from Dubai, UAE. To date, he has published over 50 books, including 14 collected poems in Arabic, a collected poem in English and 20 collected poems translated from English to Arabic and Arabic to English. Dr. Ghanem also directed and worked on the Arabic edition of SGI President Ikeda’s book, *Fighting for Peace* (Dubai, 2014). He carries out research on Al Fatihah togetherwith his son, Dr. Waddhah S. Ghanem.

In his speech, Dr. Shihab Ghanem presented some similarities between Nichiren Buddhism and Islam. He mentioned that, as Buddhism also suggests, Islam proposes the idea of the eternity of life, the equality of all life, and emphasizes the importance of harmony and coexistence with other religions. He further explained that in Islam Jihad does not refer to war or combat but rather to an inner struggle with oneself.

Following his speech, Dr. Waddhah Ghanem gave a summary of Al Fatifah, which is the opening chapter of the Quran. He explained that Al Fatifah has multiple names such as



Dr. Shihab Ghanem (Center), Dr. Waddhah Ghanem (Second from right)

“The Mother of the Quran,” “The Seven Oft-repeated Ones,” “The Complete One,” “The One that Suffices,” and “The Curing One,” indicating that it is the most essential part of the Quran. He also mentioned that Al Fatifah praises and appreciates Allah as the source of absolute and infinite mercy and recognizes Allah as king, master, or sovereign on the Day of Judgement.

In a question and answer session, Dr. Waddhah Ghanem commented that mankind was created as a collective and that we cannot live on our own, which is why Islam teaches us to contribute to society. Therefore, whatever is good for society is considered good for individuals.

To the question of the meaning of prayer in Islam, Dr. Shihab Ghanem replied that through prayer, we can directly communicate with Allah and cleanse ourselves. Dr. Waddhah said that God created a spirit and gave it to man. In this sense, we all have God’s spirit, and all human beings are therefore equal.

Building Resilient and Sustainable Societies: Lessons from Gandhi and Dr. Ikeda



Lecturer: Dr. N. Radhakrishnan
Date: June 18, 2015
Venue: Sendai City Welfare Plaza
 (Sendai City)

Dr. N. Radhakrishnan presented a lecture titled, “Building Resilient and Sustainable Societies: Lessons from Gandhi and Dr. Ikeda” in Sendai, Miyagi prefecture on June 18, 2015.

Prior to the lecture, Dr. Radhakrishnan and his wife visited Ishinomaki city in Miyagi prefecture, an area severely damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011. He was explained how high and far inland the tsunami reached at that time.

In his lecture, Dr Radhakrishnan said, “My wife and I went to Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture. The area had been devastated by the tsunami that hit there four years earlier. What we saw there brought tears to our eyes. It was heart-wrenching and would have been very difficult for anyone not to weep upon seeing what we witnessed there, even after four years of reconstruction. ‘Gambaro! Ishinomaki.’ (Don’t give up, Ishinomaki!) I learned from this expression how the local people faced their problems with courage, and how they stood up and fought for justice. I was reminded that we humans can face any problems we may encounter with courage, conviction, and the inner fortitude that resides in each of us.”

Dr. Radhakrishnan elaborated on the thoughts and actions of Mahatma Gandhi and SGI President Ikeda and said that the way they interpreted social change and individual capacities have very interesting similarities. He said, “Gandhi and SGI President Ikeda have stressed the importance of educating, trusting and empowering women so that we can create a world without war and hatred but with harmony, tolerance, and respect value of harmony in human survival. Harmony is needed within individuals as well as for peace in society. Ultimately, it acts like a beacon for world peace.”

Appeal of Oriental Wisdom—The Spread of Research on Daisaku Ikeda’s Philosophy in Chinese Academia

Lecturer: Dr. Wei Lixin (Guangdong University of Foreign Studies)

Date: August 6, 2015

Venue: TKP Ichigaya Conference Center (Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo)



Professor Wei Lixin earned his PhD in history at Jinan University. His fields of research are Sino-Japan Buddhist Culture and the History of Japanese Buddhist Thought. He is a Senior professor at the East Asia

Research Center, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (GDUFS) in China, Vice-president of the Chinese Society for Studying Japanese Philosophies, and Chairman of the China Japanese History Association’s Committee for Ancient History. As the first director of the Daisaku Ikeda Research Institute of Jinan University at GDUFS, he has presented insightful research on SGI President Ikeda’s thoughts and philosophy, the founder of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP).

At the lecture, he remarked that research and symposiums on SGI President Ikeda’s thoughts and philosophy in Chinese academia have steadily increased over the last ten years.

Professor Wei expressed his respect toward SGI President Ikeda for proposing the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan in the 1960s when the political climate between the two countries was strained. He also emphasized the historical significance of the proposal, and quoted Zhou Enlai’s comment that “When you drink water, think of its source.”

Furthermore, he referred to SGI President Ikeda’s philosophy and said, “His philosophy is what China should take as a model in fostering a harmonious culture and society.” He expressed his belief that Daisaku Ikeda’s philosophy, which stresses the importance of protecting the dignity of life and respecting each individual, would surely be understood and accepted in China in the future.

He also remarked that SGI President Ikeda’s messages are the crystallization of oriental wisdom, which draws on the Lotus Sutra to solve myriad problems facing contemporary society. In this spirit, he said, research on Daisaku Ikeda’s philosophy will continue to spread in China.



A Philosophy of Peace, Unity, and Hope in Contemporary Society—SGI President Ikeda’s Dialogue on the Wisdom of the Lotus Sutra



Lecturer: Prof. Carlos Manuel Rua
(Director, Escuela de Estudios Orientales)
Date: October 12, 2015
Venue: TKP Ichigaya Conference Center
(Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo)

Professor Carlos Manuel Rua graduated from the Universidad del Salvador, Argentina and obtained his PhD in bioethics from the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina. He also serves as a director of Escuela de Estudios Orientales (School of Oriental Studies), Rev. Padre Ismael Quiles S. J.

In his lecture, Prof. Rua commented on the “The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence” exhibition held in Argentina in September 2014, saying that through the exhibition, he was able to have a direct encounter with the Buddhist tradition and the profound teaching of the Lotus Sutra. He expressed his appreciation for being able to learn about the core spirit of Buddhism through the writings of Nichiren and the Lotus Sutra manuscript, which has been

translated into various languages. He also praised the value of the Lotus Sutra and said that it is a priceless gem in the vast universe of a Buddhist canon and is the highest teaching within a collection of eighty thousand teachings. He commented that the nature of the Lotus Sutra remains unchanged over time, but is expressed with incredible diversity in a range of infinite possibilities. The Lotus Sutra teaches that the most supreme life condition can be expressed in every single moment of life. “World peace can be realized by the small efforts that each of us make every day. The spirit of the Lotus Sutra teaches us to take concrete actions for the happiness of all people,” he said.



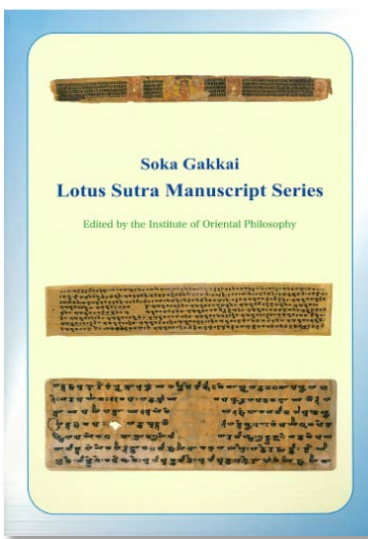
Professor Rua (Third from left)

On September 25, 2014, the Lotus Sutra Exhibition was held at USAL.

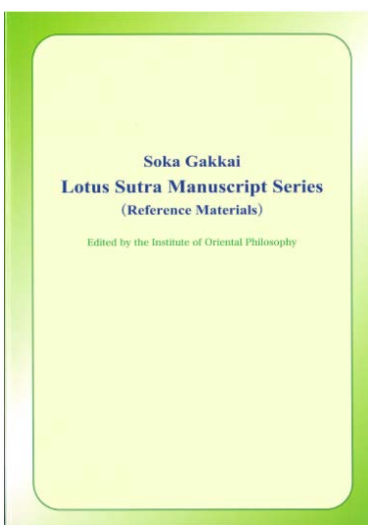
At the opening ceremony, Mr. Daisaku Ikeda, founder of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) and president of the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) was awarded a commendation from Universidade Salvador in recognition of his efforts to spread a philosophy of peace throughout the world.

The Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series

The Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) published an introduction to the project, "Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series," which has been carried out by the IOP at the request of the Soka Gakkai. The article includes: "Purpose of the Publication," "Three Lineages of Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscripts," "Three academic Achievements of the Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series," "A Long-term Perspective," and "Overview of the Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series." The last portion, "Overview," refers to each item's content, background, significance and type of publication.



Soka Gakkai Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series (Not available for purchase)



Soka Gakkai Lotus Sutra Manuscript Reference Materials (Not available for purchase)

Purpose of the Publication

Promotion of Buddhist studies centering on the Lotus Sutra

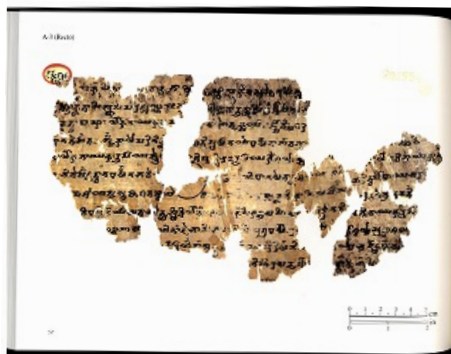
Since 1997, in cooperation with various institutions from around the world that preserve precious Lotus Sutra manuscripts, as well as prominent experts and scholars, the IOP and the Soka Gakkai have been involved in publishing the Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series, including facsimile editions and romanized texts, which help promote Buddhist studies, in particular, studies of early Mahayana Buddhism centering on the Lotus Sutra. From 1997 to 2014, 16 items have been published in the form of a manuscript series.

Part of the background leading up to this series was the fact that the president of the Soka Gakkai International and founder of the IOP, Daisaku Ikeda, was presented with several precious reproductions and microfilms of the Lotus Sutra manuscripts by various institutions and individuals.

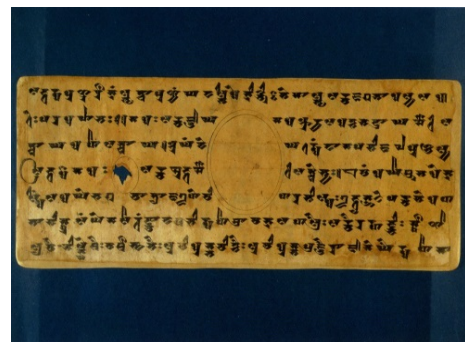
Regarding the critical editions of the Sanskrit Lotus Sutra, among the pioneering works that have been published to date are the Kern-Nanjo edition (1908-1912), the Wogihara-Tsuchida edition (1934-1935), and the Dutt edition (1935). From the contemporary standard of the discipline, critical editions 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.

List of the Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series

1. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Fragments from the Lushun Museum Collection, Facsimile Edition and Romanized Text* (1997)
- 2-1. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the National Archives of Nepal (No. 4-21), Facsimile Edition* (1998)
- 2-2. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the National Archives of Nepal (No. 4-21), Romanized Text 1* (2001)
- 2-3. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the National Archives of Nepal (No. 4-21), Romanized Text 2* (2004)
3. *Fragments of a Manuscript of the Saddharmapuṇḍarīkasūtra from Khādaliq* (2000)
4. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscripts from Cambridge University Library (Add. 1682 and Add. 1683), Facsimile Edition* (2002)
5. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from University of Tokyo General Library (No. 414), Romanized Text* (2003)
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 Sciences* (2005)
7. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland (No. 6), Romanized Text* (2007)
8. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the Société Asiatique (No. 2), Romanized Text* (2008)
9. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the British Library (Or. 2204), Facsimile Edition* (2009)
10. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from Cambridge University Library (Add. 1684), Romanized Text* (2010)
11. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the British Library (Or. 2204), Romanized Text* (2011)
12. *Gilgit Lotus Sutra manuscripts from the National Archives of India, Facsimile Edition* (2012)
13. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscripts from the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences (SI P/5, etc.), Facsimile Edition* (2013)
14. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the Asiatic Society, Kolkata (No. 4079) Romanized Text* (2014)



Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Fragments from the Lushun Museum Collection, Facsimile Edition (1997)



Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscripts from the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Facsimile Edition (2013)

International Academic Exchange

“The Essence of the *Lotus Sutra*—the Teaching that Makes the Best Out of Everything”



On August 16, a symposium commemorating the opening of the exhibition “The Lotus Sutra—Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence” was held at SGI-Taiwan Taoyuan Culture Center. Distinguished speakers included Prof. Pao-yao Lin from Taipei National University of the Arts, and Prof. Chen Ching-hsiang from the Chinese Culture University.

Dr. Mikio Matsuoka, research fellow of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) delivered a lecture entitled, “The Essence of the Lotus Sutra—the Teaching that Makes the Best Out of Everything.”

In his lecture, Dr. Matsuoka said that people in modern society were able to learn valuable philosophy from the *Lotus Sutra*, the teaching which is said to have been established more than 2,000 years ago. He introduced the Buddhist principle of the “true aspects of all phenomena” and explained that all living and non-living beings equally possessed this invaluable nature within itself. In conclusion, he stressed the importance of respecting the diverse cultures and traditions of each and every country and region while striving to share universal values.

The “Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series” booth was set up at the Japanese Association for Religious Studies (JARS)



The 74th Annual Conference of JARS was held from September 4 to 6 at Soka University (Hachioji City, Tokyo).

To disseminate the research results, the IOP ran a booth to show the Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series at the venue. Since 1997, in cooperation with various institutions, experts and scholars from around the world, the IOP and Soka Gakkai have published 16 manuscript items.

Publications

The IOP publishes *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 [The Journal of Oriental Studies] vol. 54, No. 1



Feature: The Path Toward a Global Civilization From Public Lecture Series

- A Portrait of the Global Civilization – from Viewpoints of Civilizational Journey
 Goro Yoshizawa
 To Build the Society Respecting Life Keiko Nakamura
 Cosmic View of Civilization Takafumi Matsui
 Global Civilization and Economic System Oriented Toward “Life Value”
 Setsuo Yamaki

From Lecture Series “Societies and Religions”

- The Twenty-First Century World: As Seen from the Perspective of the History of Civilization Yasuaki Onuma

From Public Lectures

- Women and Youth in Civilizational Dialogue..... Raihanah Abdullah
 Luther and Nichiren—Religion Reformers at Two Different Ends of the World
 Michael von Brück

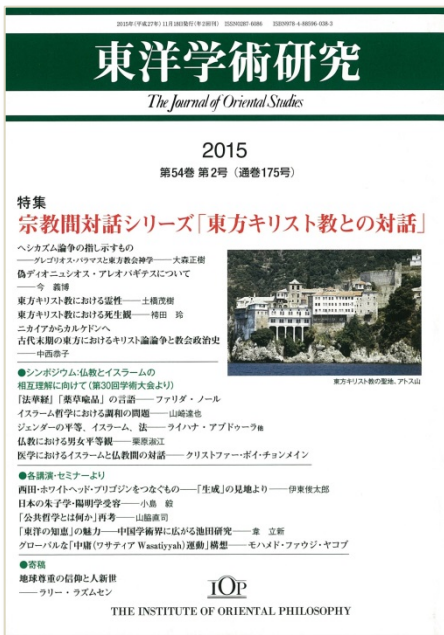
Contribution

- A Comparative Analysis of Daisaku Ikeda’s and Dewey’s Perspectives on the Growth of Students Yuan Qinglin

On the Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series

- Purpose of the Publication
 Three Lineages of Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscripts
 Three Academic Achievements of the Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series
 A Long-term Perspective
 Overview of the Lotus Sutra Manuscript Publications

Toyo Gakujutsu Kenkyu [The Journal of Oriental Studies] vol. 54, No. 2



Feature: Dialogue with Eastern Christianity

- The Meaning of the Hesychastic Controversy
 —Gregory Palamas and the Theology of the Eastern Church Masaki Omori
 Dionysius Areopagita Yoshihiro Kon
 The Spirituality in the Eastern Christianity Shigeki Tsuchihashi
 Life and Death in Orthodox Christianity Rei Hakamada
 From Nicaea to Chalcedon: the Christological Controversy and Church Politics in the
 Late Antique East Kyoko Nakanishi

From the Symposium “Intercivilizational Dialogue:

- Toward the Mutual Understanding of Buddhism and Islam”**
 The Language of Lotus Sutra’s Parable of Medicinal Herbs Faridah Noor Mohd Noor
 Harmony and Coexistence in Islamic Philosophy
 —The Emanation Theory in Al-Fārābī’s *The Excellent City* Tatsuya Yamazaki
 Gender Equality, Islam, and Law
 Raihanah Abdullah, Asadullah Ali, Siti Aminah Hamid
 Gender Equality of Buddhist Thought in the Age of Buddha Toshie Kurihara
 Dialogue Between Islam and Buddhism in Medicine Christopher Chiong-Meng Boey

From Lectures

- Nishida, Whitehead and Prigogine—Linkages among their Thoughts on “Becoming”
 Shuntaro Ito
 Accepting Neo-Confucianism in Japan Tsuyoshi Kojima
 Rethinking the Role and Significance of Public Philosophy Naoshi Yamawaki
 The Appeal of Oriental Wisdom—The Spread of Research on Daisaku Ikeda’s
 Philosophy in the Chinese Academia

- Wei Lixin
 Global Movement of Moderates or *Wasatiyyah*: A Commentary on an Initiative
 Mohamed Fauzi Yaacob

Contribution

- Earth-Honoring Faith and the Anthropocene Larry Rasmussen

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The Challenge of Global Transformation--Humanity and the Environment (2)

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From the Symposium in conjunction with the 30th Annual Conference of the IOP

Gender Equality, Islam and Law

..... Raihanah Abdullah, Asadullah Ali, Siti Aminah Hamid

Gender Equality of Buddhist Thought in the Age of Buddha Toshie Kurihara

The Language of Lotus Sutra's Parable of Medicinal Herbs..... Faridah Noor Mohd Noor

Harmony and Coexistence in Islamic Philosophy—The Emanation Theory in Al-Fārābī's *The Excellent City*— Tatsuya Yamazaki

Dialogue Between Islam and Buddhism in Medicine....Christopher Chiong-Meng Boey

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Civilisational Approach to Economic Development: An Islamic Perspective

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Global Movement of Moderates or *Wasatiyyah*: A Commentary on an Initiative

..... Mohamed Fauzi Yaacob

Contribution

Earth-Honoring Faith and the Anthropocene..... Larry Rasmussen

From Public Lectures

Luther and Nichiren—Reformers at Two Different Ends of the World

..... Michael von Brück

Factor Five—Towards Global Sustainability through Doing Much More with Much Less

..... Cheryl Desha

The Traditional Chinese language edition of *Guidebook: "The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence" Exhibition*



Translated and edited by Chin-Shuan Cultural and Educational Foundation (Taiwan). The Traditional Chinese language edition of Guidebook: "The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence" Exhibition was published in January, 2015. The exhibition itself was organized by the Institute of Oriental Philosophy.

The guidebook, all of which is printed in color, introduces the contents of the exhibition. The Chinese edition was translated and edited by the Chin-Shuan Cultural and Educational Foundation. The contents include a history of the transmission of the Lotus Sutra, manuscripts translated into various languages, as well as the Soka Gakkai Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series and Buddhist works of art.

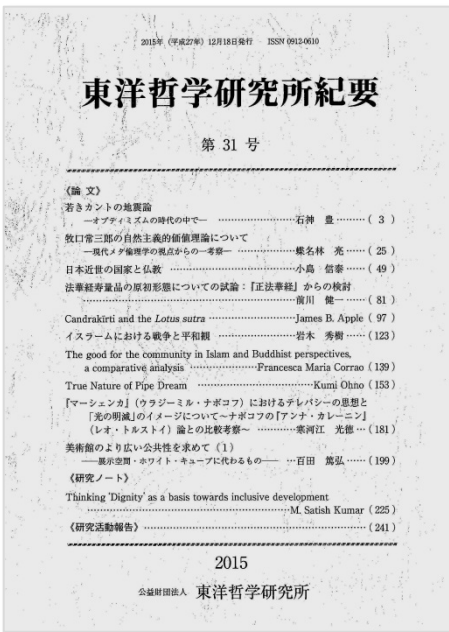
Publications

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