



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT: 33RD WORLD JODO SHINSHU COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING

When: September 24-25, 2015

Where: Honzan, Kyoto, Japan

Participants: Governor Takao Honda, International Affairs
Vice Governor Kosho Takeno, International Affairs
Rev. Tokiko Hikida, Director of the International Center
Bishop Kodo Umezu, Buddhist Churches of America (BCA)
President Kent Matsuda, BCA
Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, BCA Jodo Shinshu Center
Bishop Tatsuya Aoki, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada
Bishop Gikyo Kajiwara, Sul-Americana Da Seita Jodo Shinshu Honpa Hongwanji (Brazil)
Rev. Tetsuei Somayama, Brazil Kyodan Vice-President
Bishop Eric Matsumoto, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
President Pieper Toyama, HHMH
Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, HHMH Executive Assistant to the Bishop

Agenda: Reports

Honzan Reports

- Commemoration Services on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition
- Ten Year Plan
- Nepal Earthquake Relief
- 2015 Kiyoshi and 2016 Tokudo Ordination
- International Ministerial Orientation Program (IMOP)
- Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course
- European Sanghas

Agenda: Business

Old Business

- Strategic Planning – Hawaii
- Development of the Hongwanji International Office – BCA

New Business

- Review Hongwanji Administrative Staff Overseas Training Program – Canada
- Review Kaikyoshi Program In Japan – Canada
- Restart Overseas Ministers and Lay Leaders Honzan Seminar – Hawaii
- Request for an Overseas District Joint Event at the Commemoration – Hawaii

Observations and Comments:

The two most significant developments at this year's Coordination Council meeting were:

1. The unveiling of the Honzan's World Wide Ten Year Plan
2. The development of an International Office to be located overseas.

Ten Year Plan

The main objectives are:

1. Contribute to social concerns based on Buddhist principles.
 - a. Enrich ties within the Buddhist community and strengthen connections with organizations both within and outside of the temple organization.
2. Live a life of compassion with others.
 - a. Fulfill ministerial duties as ordained ministers.
 - b. Lay members live with wisdom and compassion transmitting the Nembutsu to the next generation.
 - c. Develop welcoming temples for members and newcomers.
3. Solidify the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha foundation.
 - a. Review the role of each organization within temples.
 - b. Maintain financial stability.
 - c. Consider making facilities available to answer the needs both within and outside of the organization.

The most interesting aspect of Honzan's Ten Year Plan is that it echoes much of what Hawaii is doing. A review of Honzan's Ten Year Plan and Hawaii's initiatives clearly indicate that the issues we face here in Hawaii are shared throughout the world Jodo Shinshu community, and that whatever we learn here is important to share with the world as temples work on common problems.

International Office

The Ten Year Plan includes an allocation to establish an International Office outside of Japan. Overseas district Bishops and presidents discussed the possible activities such an office could undertake, and Rev. Kuwahara of BCA has been charged to draft an outline of the International Office's mission, organization and personnel, finances, and schedule of development and implementation. It was noted that the office would bring together, coordinate, and share in a much more effective manner the many activities overseas districts are already engaged in. In addition, it will be a driving force in shaping Jodo Shinshu's response to the issues facing the international community.

Conclusion

The one thing that became clear to me as I participated in the discussions is that the globalization of Jodo Shinshu has begun. The small steps to make Jodo Shinshu, a once Japanese-based religion, into a responsive world religion are being taken. And it appears that Hawaii is a part of that journey.

Submitted by:
Pieper J. Toyama, President

ARRIVAL OF THE NEW MINISTER

HHMH recently welcomed the new minister, Rev. Joshin Kamuro, on October 1, 2015. Rev. Joshin Kamuro is originally from Kumamoto Prefecture in Japan. After graduating from Ryukoku University with the Bachelor's Degree of Shin Buddhist Studies in 2001, he worked at the EKŌ-House of Japanese Culture in Düsseldorf/Germany from 2001 to 2006. He returned to Japan in 2007 to further his study at Ryukoku University and completed his Doctoral Program on Shin Buddhist Studies in 2014. He participated in the IMOP program in 2014 during which time he visited HHMH for the Internship Program. Rev. Kamuro is currently having the New Minister's Orientation under the supervision of the Executive Assistant to the Bishop, and he will be assigned to Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Associate Minister as of December 16, 2015. Rev. Kamuro is married with Mrs. Minako Kamuro and they have one son, Yuma Kamuro who is 8 years old.

Rev. Joshin Kamuro said, "My first stay in Hawaii was in 2000, when I was 20 years old. I received training at the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as part of the Overseas Ministers' course of Ryukoku University. That experience was wonderful and unforgettable. I have met many ministers who are devoting their lives to propagating the Jodo Shinshu teaching. This training was my starting point for aiming to be an overseas minister. Then, last year I returned to Hawaii to take part in the 12 day internship as part of the International Ministerial Orientation Program of Hongwanji. This year, at the beginning of this month I



arrived in Hawaii as a new overseas minister, at last. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Bishop Matsumoto who gave me this precious opportunity to work for the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as an overseas minister. I'm very happy to be here, and I'm really glad to be able to share the Buddha Dharma with everyone in Hawaii. My wife and son will arrive in Hawaii from Osaka, Japan at the end of November. We are really looking forward to seeing all of you!"

2015-2016 SOCIAL CONCERNS FUND DRIVE

We celebrate gratitude in the month of November. The Thanksgiving holiday and the Eitaikyo observance are reminders of the countless blessings in our lives and how we live deeply connected to the world around us. It is in this spirit of gratitude that we begin our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive.

Through the generous contributions of Sangha members, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is able to support worthy organizations and programs with funding to continue their work in our community. Your support also allows us to provide compassionate action during times of disaster and the ability to respond to social issues affecting our community.

Because of your commitment to promoting the Buddhist values of compassion and loving-kindness, we are able to lend our support to such organizations as Project Dana, The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii, Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii, Family Promise of Hawaii and the various food banks on each island. We were also able to raise over \$38,000 to help support relief efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Nepal last April.

Because of your kokua over the years, we have also been able to help with recovery efforts after natural disasters and assist members of our Sangha affected by misfortune and other emergency situations. We have also been able to establish the Golden Chain Grant program that promotes compassionate action through community service. Your generosity directly helps those in need and promotes a more humane world.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Please make all checks payable to **(your temple)**. The suggested donation is the cost of just one meal per person. Any donation you are able to give will make a difference in the lives of others. Your help is needed to continue our mission of sharing the Dharma through compassionate action. Mahalo!

Committee on Social Concerns
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

PEACE ON YOUR WINGS - Los Angeles, Mainland Premiere

We are pleased to report that the original musical inspired by the life of *Sadako Sasaki*, *Peace on your Wings*, North America Premiere Shows in Los Angeles were highly successful. *Peace on your Wings* did 3 shows at Aratani Theater which has an 880 seat capacity at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center in Los Angeles on Friday, September 18 and Saturday, September 19, 2015. The daytime show was sold-out and the 2 night shows also had large attendances. All 36 cast members performed magnificently. A full orchestra (which included 6 musicians from Hawaii) played the beautiful original music. The newly designed set and wonderful sound crew greatly enhanced the performances. *Peace on your Wings* received standing ovations from the audience at every show. They also received many positive comments from attendees.

Peace on your Wings started as a Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii 125th Anniversary project based on an idea of having a musical that would travel the State of Hawaii by Bishop Eric Matsumoto and the brilliance of Ohana Arts' Founders, Jenny Taira, Laurie Rubin and Cari (Taira) Lee. Thanks to many Honpa Hongwanji temples, ministers and members' support, *Peace on your Wings* Premiere on Oahu and also the Neighbor Island Tours were successfully completed. This Los Angeles Tour was not a Hongwanji project. Ohana Arts, Japanese American Cultural & Community Center in partnership with Helen Bing presented this North American (Mainland) Premiere. However, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii still supported *Peace on your Wings* LA Tour as a major supporter. Gratitude to Kauai Hongwanji Council and Hawaii Island Hongwanji Council, Hawaii Federation of BWAs and other district and temple BWAs and other Hongwanji related organizations including Hongwanji Members who personally made contributions to support *Peace on your Wings*. *Okagesama de*, the message of world peace by Ohana Arts' *Peace on your Wings* could reach audiences on the Mainland. Thank you very much for your support of *Peace on your Wings* and world peace!

(Yoshiko Umitani – HQ)

