

BULLETIN
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Nagoya, Japan
15 May 2002

Lectori benevolo!

THE BIG EVENT for the Nanzan Institute this year was the 11th Nanzan Symposium in our series of interreligious dialogues, held 11–13 March on the theme “Religion as a Social Problem.” The first article in our issue is a brief synopsis of this three-day meeting, which provoked a fervent discussion among the participants, including scholars of religious studies, journalists, and lawyers. Next, Okuyama Michiaki presents two examples of religious nationalism in modern Japan. James Heisig gives a thoughtful account of the state of interreligious understanding in Latin America, based on his five-month lecture tour during the summer of 2001. Finally, we again present a report on “religion in the news” during the past year in Japan. As with last year, a report by Maekawa Michiko appeared in the journal *Gendai shūkyō* 『現代宗教』 (March 2002), and she kindly agreed to an English translation in our *Bulletin*. This arrangement promises to become a regular feature.

The issue closes this year with fond farewells to two close colleagues—Takeuchi Yoshinori and Thomas Immoos—who passed away recently. Both were strong supporters and deeply admired *senpai* of the Institute, and both will be sorely missed.

The Japanese *Bulletin* 『南山宗教文化研究所研究所報』 (*Shohō*) this year has quite different contents, including the “Orientation” given at the Symposium by Robert Kisala, a lengthy report on William James by Hori Masahiko, and the reports given at a “book review” meeting where three scholars (Itō Masayuki, Hayashi Makoto, and Okuyama Michiaki) reviewed Shimazono Susumu’s new book on “Post-modern New Religions,” including the response by Shimanono. The Japanese *Shohō* is also available free on request, and both *Bulletins* can be viewed as PDF files on the Institute web site:

<http://www.nanzan-u.ac.jp/SHUBUNKEN/publications/>

Each of the reports in this issue reflects our continuing commitment to interreligious dialogue and the importance of understanding religion and its role in society. This importance was underscored by the tragic events of last fall, continuing into this year, and with no end in sight to ongoing tragedies where religion plays a central role. We can only hope and pray that our work will in some small way contribute to an interreligious understanding that will help alleviate further tragedies.

Paul L. SWANSON
DIRECTOR

Calendar of Events

April 2001–March 2002

2001

- 6 April Dr. Richard Seager of Hamilton College, Robert Eppsteiner of the Boston Research Center for the Twenty-First Century, and Sumimoto Tokihisa, Director of Research for Soka Gakkai International, came to the Institute to discuss Dr. Seager's current research project on Soka Gakkai.
- 9 April Tiziano Tosolini arrives to spend a year at the Institute studying Japanese philosophy and the Kyoto School.
Dr. Hendrik Vroom, professor of religion at the Faculties of Theology and Philosophy of Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, arrives to spend three weeks at the Institute, continuing his research on interreligious dialogue and the idea of God in Buddhism.
- 19 April Okuyama Michiaki attends an international conference on "The Spiritual Supermarket: Religious Pluralism in the 21st Century" at the London School of Economics (19–22 April), where he gives a paper on Ōe Kenzaburō and Murakami Haruki (see *Bulletin* 25).
- 20 April Word arrives that the Institute (with Robert Kisala as representative) has received a scholarship from the Ministry of Education (¥15,200,000 over three years) to support the undertaking and analysis of a "Values Study Survey" in Japan.
- 22 April Victor Hori arrives to spend three months at the Institute to work on his book *Zen Words*.
- 19 May Erin McCarthy of St. Lawrence University arrives spend a few weeks at the Institute to conduct research on Watsuji Tetsurō.
- 21 May Copies of Jim Heisig's new book, *Philosophers of Nothingness*, arrive from the publisher, University of Hawai'i Press.
- 26 May An EGSID meeting is held at the Nanzan Institute, attended by representatives from the NCC Center, Sophia University, and Oriens Institute. A research report was given by Martin Repp on "Hōnen and the Structure of Religious Reformation."
- 28 May Dr. Claire Wolfteich, assistant professor at Boston University School of Theology, visits the Institute to discuss the project on "Church and Theology in the Contemporary World."
- 31 May A colloquium is held with Yamaguchi Hiroshi 山口 広 on the debate on the "Guidelines on Religious Activity" prepared by the Japan Lawyer's

- Association. This is the fourth in a series of colloquia leading up to the 11th Nanzan symposium. 26 persons attended.
- 8 June The 16th in a series of seminars for local scholars of religion is held, with a paper by staff member Hirashima (Okumura) Misa on Christianity and Ethnic Identity in Malaysia. 16 persons attend.
- 11 June Gereon Kopf arrives at the Institute to spend several weeks of research.
- 16 June Robert Kisala, Watanabe Manabu, and Okuyama Michiaki attend the annual conference of the Japanese Association for the Study of Religion and Society in Tokyo.
- 23 June Robert Kisala and Clark Chilson attend the annual meeting of the Asian Studies Conference Japan at Sophia University, where they present papers for a panel on “Hidden Religiosity.”
- 29 June Paul Swanson attends the annual conference of the Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies at the University of Tokyo (29 June–1 July), where he presents a paper on issues of translating Buddhist texts.
- 2 July The 2001 English *Bulletin* 25 and Japanese 『所報』 11 arrive from the printers.
- 5 July Okumura Hiroki gives an in-house seminar on his research, reading a paper “The Development of the Stories behind the Kośāmbi Debates over the Precepts.”
- 6 July Paul Swanson attends the “International Symposium on Historical and Buddhist Sources in Japan” in Tokyo (6–9 July), sponsored by the Historiographical Institute of The University of Tokyo.
- 17 July Piet Hut, Professor of Astrophysics at the Institute for Advanced Study, School of Natural Sciences in Princeton, drops by for lunch and a lively discussion on science and spirituality.
- 19 July Richard Payne, Dean of the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Mountain View, CA, visits the Institute to discuss the Nanzan Guidebook project.
- 23 July Paul Swanson and Watanabe Manabu attend the 20th annual conference of the Japan Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies (23–25 July) in Kyoto.
- 3 August Scott Schnell, of the University of Iowa, visits the Institute to discuss a possible future research stay at Nanzan.
- 27 August *Religion and Social Crisis in Japan: Understanding Japanese Society through the Aum Affair*, edited by Robert J. Kisala and Mark R. Mullins, arrives from the publisher (Palgrave).
- 10 Sept. Jim Heisig returns from a year’s research sabbatical in Barcelona, Spain, and a five-month lecture tour in Latin America.
- 14 Sept. Paul Swanson, Robert Kisala, Watanabe Manabu, and Okuyama Michiaki travel to Kyūshū for the 60th annual conference of the Japanese Association for Religious Studies held at Kurume University (14–16 September). The annual meeting of the advisory board of the *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* is convened during this conference. Papers are presented by Kisala, Watanabe, and Okuyama.

- 17 Sept. Okuyama Michiaki leaves for 10 days in Romania at the invitation of the Institute of Philosophy of the Romanian Academy, where he presents a paper on Mircea Eliade at an international symposium on "Mircea Eliade in Eternity."
- 21 Sept. Dr. Liu Xiao-feng, Academic Director of the Institute of Sino-Christian Studies in Hong Kong, and his wife visit the Institute to discuss ways to cooperate in inter-religious dialogue in Asia.
- 24 Sept. Robert Kisala participates in a symposium on "The Mission and Role of the Church in a Pluralistic Society" at the annual meeting of the Japan Catholic Theological Association, held at Sophia University.
- 27 Sept. Paul Swanson travels to Taiwan at the invitation of Hua Fan University to be the keynote speaker at the 4th Conference on T'ien-t'ai Studies sponsored by the Association of the T'ien-t'ai School (27–30 Sept.).
- 1 Oct. Dr. Jean-Noël Robert, Directeur d'études at the École Pratique des Hautes Études, Sorbonne, visits the Institute for lunch and editorial consultation.
- 1 Oct. Dr. Brian Mooney, Head of the School of Philosophy and Ethics in the College of Theology at The University of Notre Dame, Australia, begins a three-day stay at the Institute to discuss ethical issues and the problem of suicide in Japanese Shinto and Buddhism.
- 14 Oct. Robert Kisala travels to India to attend two weeklong conferences: a symposium sponsored by Aspamir, the SVD Asian-Pacific Association of Mission Researchers, in Mumbai (15-19 October), and a colloquium on "The Church in Mission: Universal Mandate and Local Concerns," called to mark the Silver Jubilee of Ishvani Kendra (24–28 October).
- 15 Oct. James Turner, Director of the Erasmus Institute, University of Notre Dame, visits the Nanzan Institute to initiate contact and discuss ways of possible cooperation in the future.
- 19 Oct. A colloquium is held with Fujita Shōichi, photojournalist, on the theme "From 'Freedom of Religion' to 'Freedom of Spirit': My Experience of Reporting on Cults," the fifth in a series of colloquia leading up to the 11th Nanzan symposium. 17 persons attend.
- 26 Oct. The 17th Seminar for local scholars of religion is held, with a paper by Itō Masayuki of Aichi Gakuin University on "Global and Local Aspects of the New Spiritual Culture: A Look at the Osho Rajneesh Movement." 11 persons attend.
- 8 Nov. A colloquium is held with Yumiyama Tatsuya, associate professor at Taishō University, on the theme "Between Religion and 'Cults'," the sixth in a series of colloquia leading up to the 11th Nanzan symposium. 17 persons attend.
- 15 Nov. Paul Swanson, Robert Kisala, Watanabe Manabu, and Clark Chilson travel to the United States to attend the annual conference of the American Academy of Religion in Denver (16–20 November). Watanabe and Kisala

- present papers at a special topics forum on “Religion and Society after the Aum Affair.”
- Nov. 25 Jim Heisig leaves for Europe to deliver a special lecture in Amsterdam to the Porticus Foundation.
- 26 Dec. Paul Swanson attends the 48th annual CORMOS meeting in Kyoto (26–27 December).
- 27 Dec. Shimazono Susumu is invited for a formal discussion of his new book, *New Religions in the Postmodern Age: The Undercurrents of Spirituality in Contemporary Japan*. Prepared responses were read by Itō Masayuki and Hayashi Makoto of Aichi Gakuin University, and Okuyama Michiaki of the Nanzan Institute. 16 people attend.
- 2002**
- 13 Jan. Paul Swanson travels to Osaka to give a lecture on Buddhism at a symposium of the Xaverian Missionaries, and then to Tokyo to attend a meeting of the Organizing Committee for the Tokyo Symposium on “Science and the Spiritual Quest.”
- 15 Jan. Maria De Giorgi of Seimeizan visits the Institute for a four-day stay to pursue her research on Buddhism and interreligious dialogue.
- 17 Jan. A colloquium is held with Ashida Tetsurō, professor at Kōnan Women’s University, on the “Iesu no Hakobune and Aum Shinrikyō: Between ‘Understanding’ and ‘Misunderstanding’,” the seventh in a series of colloquia leading up to the 11th Nanzan symposium. 20 persons attend.
- 24 Jan. Kim Seung Chul, Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute, gives an in-house seminar on his research topic, “Korean Christianity: Self-understanding and Interreligious Dialogue.” 11 people attend.
- 28 Jan. Watanabe Manabu travels to Osaka and Tokyo to give talks on “Reflections on the ‘Cult’ Problem” at the headquarters of Shōkoku-ji (28 January), and “Religion and Education among Young People” at the Catholic Center of Sophia University (30 January).
- 22 Feb. Paul Swanson, Robert Kisala, and Clark Chilson travel to Tokyo to attend the “English-language Scholarly Periodical Publishing in Japan Workshop 2002” sponsored by *Monumenta Nipponica* at Sophia University.
- 1 March Watanabe Manabu travels to Atlanta, Georgia, to attend a meeting of the American Academy of Religion “Committee on International Connections.”
- 11 March The 11th Nanzan Symposium on the theme “Religion and Social Problems,” begins, with 14 panelists and over 50 participant observers attending the three-day event.
- 17 March Jim Heisig and Paul Swanson begin a two-week journey to New York, Barcelona, and Venice, where, together with Institute Research Associate Tiziano Tosolini, they deliver papers at the University of Ca’ Foscari.
- 23 March Nagatani Chiyoko arrives to begin a two-year stint as a post-doctoral Junior Research Fellow.

- 24 March Robert Kisala leaves for a short trip to Korea to discuss the Value Studies survey and the possibility of conducting a similar survey in Korea.

Other visitors included:

2001

- 13 April Claudia Romberg, Ph.D. candidate and research fellow at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam.
- 14 May John Harding, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Pennsylvania.
- 28 May John F. Griffin, financial analyst.
- 7 July Yamabe Nobuyoshi, Kyūshū Ryūoku Junior College.
- 21 August Dr. Thomas Hentrich, a German theologian based in Montreal, Canada.
- 13 Sept. Ian Reader (Religious Studies, Lancaster University) and his wife, Dorothy.
- 5 Nov. Dr. J. Preisinger, Generalkonsul der Bundesrepublik Deutschland.
- 14 Dec. James Mark Shields, Ph.D. candidate, McGill University.

2002

- 13 Jan. Higashibaba Ikuo of Tenri University.
- 11 Feb. Prof. Doyen Philippe Capelle, Président de la Conférence Mondiale des Institutions Universitaires Catholiques de Philosophie, and Faculté de Philosophie of the Institut Catholique de Paris.
- 6 March Mizuno Tomoharu, Curtis Rigsby, and Kevin Lim, all currently at Kyoto University's Center for Philosophical Research.