

This is the thirteenth anniversary of the late Rev. Syoten Iwamoto who initiated this temple. On February 7, we had an honor of having Rev. Iwamoto of the Kichijoji Temple, Tokyo, solemnly administering a memorial service, remembering how much we owed to the late priest. On the same occasion, we held the seventh annual award ceremony for the newly-chosen priests who would study abroad in 1991. Since one of the chosen is my young colleague, I attended his ordination held in Bangkok on March 31.

Then on May 28, we had a pleasure of conducting the ceremony of enshrining a newly-made substitute Fudomyo. Earlier we had commissioned the statues of Bhaisajya-guru and Amitabha/Amitayus, which were to wait on Mahavairocana-tathagata, the main image enshrined in our Fudoden Hall. Through these ceremonies we pray that each member of the congregation may enjoy peace and tranquility now in this life and an appropriate reward in the next life. May we also pray for growth of all temples and shrines.

Among the three well known temples in South Korea, the Tsudo Temple is outstanding as a repository of the Buddhas ashes brought from China during the Tang dynasty. As part of its project to display to the Korean Public various priest robes from all over

the world, the temple has requested a donation of a priest robe of the sodo—sect in Japan. A priest robe has had important functions in the past. Priests considered it extremely important to wear their robes whenever they practiced their disciplines in their hope of attaining nirvana. It is said that a lady in the evening who danced with a priest robe for fun later turned into a devotee. Some cities were also patterned after priest robes. Thus, one of the epithets of the Buddha is to wear a priest robe and endeavor to practice the buddhist ways. The robe is also said to bring blessings to the public. Along with Rev. Sato and Mr. Azuma, I visited the Korean temple and presented a robe with a hope that the robe will help to propagate the Buddhas teachings and contribute to friendships with the Korean Buddhist colleagues.