

Foreword

The chief priest of Zenkōji—Temple
Takeshi Kuroda

In view of the end of this century, this year falls on 30th anniversary of the foundation of Yokohama Zenkōji-Temple and also 15th of the Scholarship Foundation. I am filled with deep emotion.

We could have held the memorial ceremony without any accidents in this May. This success is completely due to our supporters' and relatives' efforts, I cannot help expressing my appreciation.

In this April, I visited Tendōji-Temple in China as the memorial event, and then in this November, Wat Paknam in Thailand as of the Scholarship Foundation with over 30 supporters held by the representative Toyoshige Tominaga and the president Hatsue Itō of the women's association.

Wat Paknam is the temple where I trained myself 35 years ago. In this visit, We received hearty welcome by Buddhist priest of the highest order, Phra Mahajama Nighachara, so we could spend wonderful time filled with respects and thankfulness. We visited Buddha Montong after lunch. This was the sacred place where King Bhumibol and his government organized national project to make an institution so as to memorize 2500th anniversary in Buddhist era. We made a field trip to the biggest Buddhist heritage

in this century, “Pali Tibitaka ”, the temple to store sutras. Inside it sutras were scripted to 1418 slabs of marble(each 2 by 1.1 meters) and came back feeling great piety and enthusiastic energy of people in Thailand. I really felt Shakyamuni Buddha’s teachings had deeply took root in this country.

Now, we believe the time has come when Japan learns from the world through teachings of Buddha and appeals to the world. It is our mission of 21st century to pass on teachings of Buddha and Rev. Dōgen exactly to the next generation. Industry and economics have developed unprecedentedly in this century, though on the other hand, we have lost lost of things. We are facing such problems as an aging society with less children, and environmental destruction. I think the future depends on our responsibility, consideration and clarity.

Rev. Dōgen said, “People to learn must be poor, if rich, they loose their ambition”. We, as a Japanese blessed with rich nature, must coexit with it and pass on marvelous Japanese culture to the next generation getting along with our history and tradition. Now we should abide by our original purpose to the last, we must make efforts to bring up talents accepted by the world for not to be isolated. We must try to contribute to the international Buddhist interchange as a place of dispatch of the world. I want to devote my life to the prosperity and the peace of the world.