

Foreword

The chief priest of Zenkōji—Temple
Takeshi Kuroda

Zenkōji-Temple held the ceremony of opening of “Yokohama Yasuragi-No-Sato” cemetery last June, which we had waited to have for years. This cemetery involves any kind of nationality, religion, concept and sect. This is located in the part of a hill in Asahi Ward, Yokohama City. We can see the Fuji-Mountain in the west and such a good view that we can't express by any picture, especially in a sunny day, in the cemetery, we have some simple elevators equipped for the people old or handicapped. We wish you to visit once a while. And I appreciate all our supporters' help.

However, although it is said that people who meets should go, I have to tell you sad news. Mr. Kametarou Kotani, Chairman of the Zenkōji-Ikueikai from its start, passed away in Bangkok, Thailand, last July 13. I had got a lot of cooperation from him, also a over-sea-supervisor, for 35 years officially and privately. He was 85years old.

He truly had a strong belief for Buddhism and lenity of “Kobo-Kyusai” for all of ethnic, and he was the man of mercy. I wish him the rest in peace.

Anyway, I'm invited to the 1700th anniversary

which will be held in the mid of this coming November from Shusho Aiin Chief Priest of Tendo-Zenji Temple, Ningpo, China, where the founder of Soto-sect Dogen practiced asceticism and got the truth of Buddhism. We are going to participate in the ceremony with our colleagues.

In this year of the Millennium, we can hear footsteps of the 21st century near. The world has more interest about Buddhism now. It is that the truth of Buddhism agrees with the truth of the nature of the universe. The world is reconfirming that Buddhism is the very true religion. That is why the threat of destroying the earth and environment of the nature is coming up now, and people are seeking the rescue for the heart of Buddhism. Now I think that Japan, a nation of Buddhism, has to observe the truth that Buddha taught, improve a perception and a sense that are common to our neighbors in Asia, and carry on building the wonderful community. We have to realize the better society to get a bright prospect and a comfortable life in the next century and generation, making two Buddhisms, Daijō and Jōza, as one. And I swear to purify myself more and more with a heart to devote "until my body wears down" for peace, fortune and comfort, like in the Tai-Zan mountain, through the friendship between Japan and Asia.