

# Nichiren Shu News

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1

## Let Us Reach 'the Stage of Purity and Good'

By Honorable Rev. Nisso Uchino  
Archbishop of Nichiren Shu  
Chief Abbot of Minobu-san Kuonji

At the beginning of the New Year, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the constant services and contributions you are rendering to Minobusan, the Founder's mountain. At the same time, let me pray so that as you greet the New Year, even a small portion of the difficulties you may face in adverse situations, will be removed.

I also appreciate the holding of a grand party in September to commemorate my assumption of office in May as the 52nd Chief Abbot of Nichiren Shu and the president of Rissho University.

Looking over the world situation, we find uneasiness is growing in wide-ranging sectors of society, be it medicine, commodity price, welfare, education and so forth. Even the news reports seem to incite the social uneasiness.

Under these circumstances, I remember

a phrase of the Lotus Sutra. It says in the sutra, "Anyone who reads and recites the sutra in the future will be a true son of mine. He will live on the stage of purity and good." (Chapter XI: The Appearance of a Stupa of Treasures)

Although we are unenlightened, a virtuous mind of good will arise, but because we are unenlightened, it will soon disappear. We are unable to retain it. However, having faith in the Lotus Sutra, getting rid of delusions,

becoming and continuing to be a man of good will, we will be able to reach the stage of purity and good.

I wish not only Minobusan, but Japan, the entire world and the universe will become such a place of purity and good. I will do whatever I can to realize this ideal.

Nichiren Shu is now promoting the Rissho Ankoku and Odaimoku Kechien Campaign. It aims at realizing a peaceful society in which people respect each other. I ask for your great support and cooperation.

(Tr.K.S.)



Archbishop Nisso Uchino



Chief Administrator Shobin Watanabe

## Year of Stepping Forward

By Rev. Shobin Watanabe  
Chief Administrator of Nichiren Shu

Happy New Year to you all! The first phase of the Rissho Ankoku and Odaimoku Kechien Campaign originally proposed by the late Rev. Tansen Iwama, the Chief Administrator in 2005, is scheduled to wind up in coming March.

During this period, "Visit the Founder's Mountain," "Ceremony to mark the 750th anniversary of the presentation of the Rissho Ankoku-ron," "The Special exhibition of the Treasures of the Lotus Sutra," and other special events were successively held with an aim of "sowing the seeds of the odaimoku, the belief in the Lotus Sutra, throughout the country and overseas."

In the second phase of this campaign, our efforts will be directed toward the sprouting, growing, and flowering of the sown seeds of the Odaimoku.

An opinion survey shows that the religious consciousness of the Japanese remains poor. According to the survey, only 26 percent of the people answered that they believe in religion. However, 49 percent answered that they do not think the religious consciousness of the Japanese is low.

This means, I think, faith in "gods and buddhas" is thought as religious consciousness by the Japanese while faith in a particular religion is something different. The concern of the Japanese for the word, "religion," is distinctively low. On the other hand, 90 percent answered affirmatively when they were asked if they revere their ancestors (souls of ancestors as they might have thought).

It is the mission of us, the Buddha's messengers, to cultivate religious-mindedness among people.

Nichiren Shonin teaches us all that those who have a firm belief in the Buddha's teaching are required to "endeavor themselves and cause others" to practice the two ways of practice and learning with undaunted resolve.

The second phase of the campaign, the period raising the sown seeds, lasts four years until March 2015. While promoting the activities of the campaign, we should not forget our Founder's determination to realize the land of the Buddha by "establishing the True Dharma" even at the risk of his life.

Our Founder states that we should know, "There is no Pure Land other than the very place where the practitioner of the Lotus Sutra resides." (Shugo Kokka-

ron: A Treatise on Protecting the Nation)

Going hand in hand with the devotees of Nichiren Shu, we are determined to wage an energetic campaign throughout the country and strive for the realization of a peaceful society, keeping in mind our Founder's words, "Endeavor oneself and cause others to practice

the two ways of practice and learning."

Let me close my New Year message by making a vow that each one of us promotes the campaign of "Rissho Ankoku and Odaimoku Kechien" by pulling ourselves together to realize the great aspiration of our Founder.

(Tr.K.S.)

## The Year of the Rabbit (Hare)

By Rev. Shinko Matsuda

According to the Chinese zodiac calendar, this year, 2011 is the year of the Rabbit (Hare). The attributes of the Rabbit consist of: being a good friend, graciousness, kindness, sensitivity, compassion and stepping forward,

(a rabbit never steps backwards). Let us strive to incorporate these attributes into our daily lives and continue to spread the seed of Buddhism, compassion and kindness to others.

May you always be surrounded by the infinite love and compassion of the Buddha!

### Calendar

#### December 2010-January 2011

- December 8 : Jodo-e (Enlightenment Day) commemorating the day when the Buddha attained Enlightenment
- December 31: New Year's Eve Service; Bell ringing ceremony held throughout Japan
- January 1 : Memorial service for Nichiji Shonin, one of the six main disciples of Nichiren Shonin
- January 13 : Minobusan Opening Ceremony for the New Year at Kuonji Temple
- January 21 : Memorial service for Nichiro Shonin, one of the six main disciples of Nichiren Shonin

By Rev. Tsuoh Yokoi

# Buddhism and International Society

By Rev. Kanshu Naito, Ph.D.

## Buddhism and America

We cannot help directing our attention to Buddhism in America when we think of "Buddhism and International Society." It goes without saying that America is in every respect one of the countries which has the biggest influence in the world.

What is more, America is closely related to Japan. However, it seems difficult for me who specializes in English and American literature, to write about Buddhism and America. It is a fact that I have been to America several times and visited about twenty out of the fifty states. However, I am puzzled about what and how to write about this big country, because I am doing research activities scarcely related to Buddhism in America, although I have some knowledge about American literature



Rev.  
Kanshu Naito

and culture. When we want to get some information these days, one of the quickest ways is to use the Internet. We can get many kinds of information on the web site. So I tried to search for information with words such as "Buddhism" and "America," and could access more than two million kinds of data instantly. I at once noticed that there are many discussions as follows: In his Inaugural Address, President Barack Obama repeatedly emphasized American tradition and mentioned religion in America, "For we know that our patchwork

heritage is a strength, not a weakness. We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus, and non-believers. We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth," but he did not refer to Buddhism. Why did he ignore Buddhism? That is the question.

Another subject is about Tiger Woods, a golf player. After his illicit love affair, he said he is a Buddhist because he confessed he would reform himself according to the teachings of the Buddha. I think that it is not necessarily bad that the movements of Buddhism become topics on the Internet, even though they are unfavorable.

It must be quite important and useful to objectively understand how Buddhism is accepted in America, when we think of the present situation of Buddhism and how Americans recognize it on the theme,

"Buddhism and America." Needless to say, I presume that quite a lot of pioneers already did missionary activities and excellent studies in this country. So it may be inappropriate for me, who has little direct relation to overseas propagation, to discuss such a big theme "Buddhism and America," but I would like to try to look at this subject from the cultural and historical viewpoint by using as many available references and materials as possible.

First, let's take a brief look at the cultural aspects of American history. Since it is good for the readers and myself to have a mutual understanding, it is not irrelevant to have a little knowledge about American history from the spiritual point of view. We will take a glimpse at the history of America's beginning in the next issue. (to be continued)

## Horinji Shanti Stupa Dedication Ceremony

By Rev. Shodo Ando

A special service commemorating the inauguration of the Vishwa Shanti Stupa was held on Thursday, November 25, 2010 at Nichigatsuzan Horinji Temple in Sarnath, Varanasi, India. Sarnath is the sacred place where the Buddha gave his first sermon and is in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The grand ceremony was officiated by Nichiren Shu Chief Administrator, Rev. Shobin Watanabe, accompanied by more than 25 venerable priests from Japan. Also an auspicious kito service was included in the dedication ceremony.

Nichigatsuzan Horinji was established by the diligent efforts of the late Rev. Hojo Sasaki and Rev. Myojo Sasaki who believed that Buddhism which was born in India, came to Japan and spread throughout the land. It was time now for Japanese Buddhism (Odaimoku) to return to India and spread throughout the country. Horinji was the first Nichiren Shu temple (other than in Japan) to be established in Asia.

The first phase of the construction project was to build a temple and living quarters. The second phase which included the construction of the Shanti Stupa began in 2003 but due to many problems acquiring property from the Indian government and the lack of funds, the progress was very slow and it has still not been entirely completed.

However, Rev. Myojo Sasaki stated that she was determined to sacrifice her life in order to complete this phase of the project. With contributions from temples and supporters throughout Japan, the Shanti Stupa was finally completed last year. The impressive stupa is 27 meters high and 25 meters wide and contains a sculpture of the Buddha by a local sculptor, including some ashes of the Buddha within. A special gate reconstructed from the Sanchi heritage of Madhya Pradesh state and two Ashoka pillars were also constructed on the premises for this project. The second phase of the project still continues with the goal of building a vocational and technical education facility and a medical clinic plus more accommodations.

For the dedication ceremony Hindu, Sikh, Islam, and Christian religious representatives assembled to hold a

joint prayer and dedication service. The Governor of Uttar Pradesh, His Excellency Banwari Lal Joshi, addressed the function and said it was the pride of the city to be able to dedicate this stupa carrying the message of peace across the world. He said that India was the birthplace of Buddhism and the preaching of the Buddha at Sarnath had shown the path of peace and humanity to the world. He also said that this stupa would spread the message of peace for centuries to come.

Rev. Giken Kimura (Myokoji Temple, Hokkaido) who has been managing Horinji in Rev. Myojo Sasaki's place said, "I hope all who pray in front of this stupa will receive peace in their heart. Also I would like Horinji to become a facility for young priests to study and practice Buddhism."

Unfortunately, Rev. Myojo Sasaki was not able to attend this ceremony due to problems with her health. She hopes to return to India this year to hold a memorial service for the late Rev. Hojo Sasaki (*Tr.S.S.*)



Several venerable priests from Japan in front of the Stupa



Religious representatives from five religions join hands with Rev. Eiyu Ishii



Chief Administrator Shobin Watanabe with Governor of U.P. Mr. B.L. Joshi

### Rev. Kanno Preaches (10)



**I always expound the Dharma equally to all living beings. I expound the Dharma to all living beings just as the rain waters all the earth.**  
(Chapter V: The Simile of Herbs)

#### Rain

Please remember the phrase, "... just as the rain waters all the earth." Many of you remember the experience of watering your garden or planters on hot summer days.

By digging the soil, you may often find the water supply is not enough even if you think your watering is sufficient. You may find only the surface is wet. The ancient people used to say, "When you water plants, do it with the greatest care."

The effect of rain coming down from the sky is different. Even if it is a light rain, it soaks the soil deeply. It can be claimed as the difference between artificial work and heavenly blessings. The Buddha's teaching is like this.

My preaching, the preaching of an inexperienced priest, is far different from the Buddha's teaching. It is as different as artificial rain is from the rain of natural blessings. The Buddha saves us with His compassion which reaches deeply into the bottom of our heart. It is gracious, and it is precious. (Rev. Nisso Kanno, head priest of Kaichoji Temple, Shizuoka)



# Small Talk on Various Topics of Buddhism (4)

By Rev. Gyokai Sekido, Ph.D

## Sakyamuni Buddha and His Disciples

Sakyamuni Buddha had ten great disciples. They are venerables such as Sariputra, Maudgalyayana, Aniruddha, and Ananda. Sariputra, well known for his intelligence, was born as a Brahmin's son. He first followed Samjaya (one of the six non-Buddhist teachers). He died while Sakyamuni Buddha was still alive. Maudgalyayana, well known for his supernatural power, was born also as a Brahmin's son, who became a disciple of Samjaya. He was later converted to Buddhism through the exhortation of his friend Sariputra. Sariputra and Maudgalyayana each had one hundred disciples, all of whom also became followers of Sakyamuni Buddha after the conversions of their masters.

In chapter 2 (Expedients) of the Lotus Sutra, Sakyamuni Buddha arose tranquilly with insight of samadhi and addressed Sariputra, "Profound and immeasurable is the wisdom of the Buddhas. The gate to their wisdom is hard to enter and difficult to understand." Then Sariputra aware of



Rev.  
Gyokai Sekido

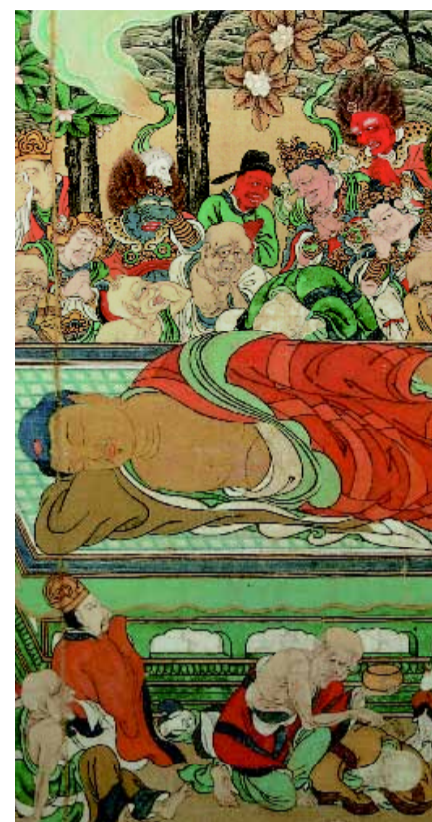
the confusion of the assemblies and himself, addressed to Sakyamuni Buddha, "Please explain it." But Sakyamuni Buddha said, "If I explained this matter, the assemblies in all the worlds would be astounded" and did not explain the teachings. He entreated it three times, and Sakyamuni Buddha refused it three times. Sakyamuni Buddha began to explain the teachings of "Sho-ho Jisso" (all phenomenal things are themselves the ultimate reality) through such polite ceremonies.

Many Bodhisattvas, gods and goddesses, disciples, kings and followers, and animals drawn in the picture of "The Passing of Buddha into Nirvana," grieved over the death of Sakyamuni Buddha. Aniruddha was one of the elder disciples who managed the Buddha's funeral. He dozed in front of Sakyamuni Buddha when he was a beginner of the practice. Sakyamuni Buddha scolded him severely.

After that he made a vow not to sleep, and he lost his sight as a result. But, he finally opened his eyes and saw the mind's heart with insight and was renowned for his divine eyesight.

Aniruddha told the attendants about the saddest moment when Sakyamuni passed into Nirvana. Then, many attendants began to cry in a loud voice. There were many who felt sorry, lost their mind, struck their head and breast, and cried.

After Ananda entered the Buddha's order, he constantly attended to the Buddha for more than 20 years, and committed all his sermons to memory. Therefore he was renowned as the first and foremost in hearing the sermons. When Aniruddha told that Sakyamuni Buddha passed into Nirvana, Ananda felt sorry, and lost his mind, fell like a dead person on the ground. Aniruddha nursed Ananda, gave him pure water, and helped, him to get up. He said, "There are precious Buddha teachings. We should repay our obligation to the Buddha," and encouraged Ananda to regain his right mind. After the Buddha's Nirvana, Ananda recited the sermons which were later compiled as a collection of sutras.



"The Passing of Buddha into Nirvana" preserved at Ishikawa Prefecture Myojo-ji

## Nichiren Shu Italy Renkoji

By Rev. Shoryo Tarabini

The year 2010 has been quite a busy year for us since moving our temple from the comfortable outskirts of Milano to the more out of the way and snowy Piemontese countryside - an hour from Milano, Torino, Genova, and just 2 hours from the French border.

As mentioned in my previous report, this year has witnessed membership growth in Italy and other western European countries, widening its sphere throughout Europe and even onto the African continent.

On 5th September 2010, Mr. Gabriel De Luca donated a loft of his home to establish the first Nichiren Shu Dojo in Lleida (outside of Barcelona), Spain, and it was also on this day that we formally established Nichiren Shu España.

In addition to major Buddhist events such as Obon, Oeshiki, Jodo-e etc.. every week we conduct in depth studies on: the Threefold Lotus Sutra, the Sublime Writings of our Founder Nichiren Shonin and basic Buddhist concepts. We regularly hold Shodaigyo and monthly Samugyo (clearing the temple in service to the Buddha) as a way to further cultivate Buddhism within our faith, practice and daily life.

It has been interesting to note that as our membership grows, a number of growing pains have also arisen. These are actually happy problems and welcome challenges which we are all working together to resolve so that Nichiren Shu might grow even further and spread deeper roots throughout the European continent.

What are these problems? First of all, it is the overall distance not only within each country, but country to country which often makes it physically and financially difficult to gather all the members in the temple at one given time. Everyone tries to come on a regular basis, when they can. But in the case of distant members, often due to the high expense, this means visiting the temple

only once or twice per year. In an attempt to alleviate this problem, I also try to visit the various areas and countries on a regular basis, but that is never enough to truly foster a sense of community, while strengthening and deepening each individual's faith and understanding of Nichiren Shu Buddhism. So we hold monthly and bi-monthly meetings over Skype with all the European groups and broadcast special events on our internet television station called Nichiren Shu TV, or on YouTube and Facebook. In addition, recently our Roman members created for us Nichiren Shu Radio to compliment our television broadcasts.

The other major problem as one might imagine, is language. Each country has its own language. And to be honest, outside of the UK and some northern European countries, English might be understood more widely than it was a few years ago, but as far as Buddhist study is concerned, if materials are not written or presented in each country's own language, only a limited few are able to fully understand the teachings. Therefore everything must be translated. We do not have the luxury to open up an English book and just start reading and studying it together. We must prepare everything ourselves. We cannot use any of the rich array of English language Buddhist materials that NBIC has worked so hard to put out. Consequently, many members in France, Luxembourg, Spain, Italy, and Poland work together with me to translate many of these and other materials into Italian, French, Spanish, and Polish.

As a result of this second more serious "problem", however, we are very happy to announce that in commemoration of Nichiren Shonin's 790th birthday on 16th February 2011 (according to Japanese counting tradition), we are now working to publish our first edition of the Nichiren Shu Liturgy in Spanish; the Muryogi Sutra (the Sutra of Innumerable Meanings - first sutra within the Threefold

Lotus Sutra) and a collection of Nichiren Shonin's writings in Italian, together with the re-launching of our website Nichiren Shu Europa which will first be opened in Italian, but soon to be followed in French, Spanish, and English. These three publications will be a first for Nichiren Shu.

However, in the case of the Italian language Threefold Lotus Sutra, it will be a first also for the entire Italian Buddhist community as well. Up until now, the SGI published their version of Kumarajiva's 28 chapter Lotus Sutra while another version based on the Sanskrit text in 27 chapters was translated and published by Biblioteca Universale Rizzoli in 2001. After the release of the first volume of the Muryogi Sutra, this two-year translation project will continue on to finish translating into Italian not only the 28 chapters of the entire Lotus Sutra but also the closing sutra of the Kan Fugen Bosatsu Gyoho-Kyo (Observing the Dharma Practices of Bodhisattva Fugen Sutra). The entire Threefold Lotus Sutra currently exists only in English, Dutch, German, French, and Spanish by an array of publishers, however an Italian version up until now was never released.

Our work here in Europe will not stop here. From the 23rd to the 25th of April, the first French General Pilgrimage to Renkoji with a 3-day retreat will be held. In the Springtime, Daiseionji Temple in Germany is scheduled to host the 2nd European Nichiren Shu Believer's Conference.

On 10th-11th September, the official Grand Opening Ceremony of Guhozan Renkoji Temple in Cereseto, will be held together with celebratory cultural events which will be opened to the general public and a one-day conference for all visiting Nichiren Shu members, believers, and followers. During the ceremony, we are also hoping to be able to have a Gagaku concert and Wasan sung in both Japanese and Italian. We look forward to being able to host many visiting Nichiren Shu ministers from Japan and the USA. Furthermore, four temples in Japan have told us that they have also begun to organize a pilgrimage to lend strong support to Renkoji and the

European members. All of our members and believers are now working in earnest to prepare for this most historic event with the determination not only towards its success, but also that it will foster a new era for Nichiren Shu throughout our continent and beyond. Renkoji members from all over Europe and Africa will come together at one time and in one place, for the very first time just to celebrate this important event and shared our faith with the many priests and believers from Japan and the USA. We are all truly excited about being able to host such a special event, and look forward to warmly welcoming everyone to our temple of Renkoji.



Rev. Tarabini with Renkoji members



Renkoji members in front of the Gohonzon



Members volunteering work for the temple



# Temple Events

## Nichiren Mission of Hawaii

By Bishop Shingyo Imai

### Three Objectives to Achieve in 2011

Happy New Year! I would like to share my New Year's resolution with you to achieve three things for the Nichiren Mission of Hawaii. First, I would like to put my effort into reorganizing the Young Buddhist Association of the Nichiren Mission. Recently, the Fujinkai (women's association) has been very active under its chairperson, Mrs. Yoshiko Imai, assisted by vice-chairpersons, Mrs. Grace Yagi and Mrs. Carol Nagano and the other Fujinkai members. It is very taxing for the Fujinkai to thoroughly support all the events we have within the year, so I would like to re-establish the Young (Spirit) Buddhist Association of the Nichiren Mission. The YBA would be in charge of planning and execution of events throughout the year.

This would be done with cooperation with other internal organizations such as our Board of Directors, Bon Dance Committee, Fujinkai and the Sunday School. I envision the YBA taking a leadership role in the planning and support of our Mission's New Year Party, picnic and entertainment after the Shin-Bon Service and Moon Festival. My hope is that many members will join YBA no matter how old they are because YBA means "Young (Spirit) Buddhist Association."

My second objective is the realization of a Buddhist liturgy or service that is completely in English for those who do not understand Japanese. Of course, we will still perform services in the Japanese style. We, as ministers, will remain flexible depending on the needs of our members, whether they prefer to hold their memorial services, funerals, weddings, and blessings in English or Japanese. I am particularly interested in making a few changes to the English liturgy, such as the "Verses for Opening the Sutra" and the "Four Vows". With the input of Rev. Eisei Ikenaga, who was brought up in Hawaii, I have better understanding of how native English speakers feel concerning specific English translations of Buddhist liturgy that have been translated through the years by Japanese-speaking ministers.

My last resolution is to keep

working towards the celebration of the 100th anniversary of our Nichiren Mission of Hawaii that will be held in 2012. In celebration of the 100th anniversary, I propose to hold a special opening ceremony for the establishment of a Japanese Cultural School here at the Nichiren Mission to help in spreading Buddhist values among people in Hawaii, especially for children.

Needless to say, I cannot achieve any of these objectives by myself without your cooperation. This Nichiren Mission is your place to practice Buddhism. Please don't hesitate to speak up or take action if you think you can contribute something for the betterment and advancement of our Mission. We can do it only if we are united in one spirit; that is the guidance of our Founder, Nichiren Shonin.

Let us be united in one spirit so that we may achieve these three objectives for our descendants' happiness.

## Honolulu Myohoji Temple

By Rev. Josho Yamamura

New Ofuda and Omamori (for the house and car) have been prepared and will be available for purchase from January 1. The name "Myohoji" will be inserted on it. Myohoji has made their own T-shirts with the sumie design of the Myohoji Busshari Tower on it designed by Mrs. Hisae Shouse.

A charity concert by tenor Josho Yamamura accompanied by pianist Ms. Beebe Freitas and dance performance by Ms. Keiko Fujii, will be held on Saturday, January 29, from 6:30 p.m. at the Honolulu Myohoji Hall. Admission is free and the concert is open to all.

## Nichiren Buddhist Temple of Charlotte

By Rev. Ryusho Jeffus



Rev. Jeffus blessing the Bhutanese refugees

We just had a wonderful series of services here at Myohoji. We literally 'rang' in the New Year by having a Ceremony of Bells. Prior to midnight

everyone was given a bell to ring. Then at midnight, we chanted the Odaimoku once and then everyone rang their bell. We continued doing this 108 times. I recorded this and it sounds really nice! Everyone really felt moved by the slow and contemplative pace of the chanting and ringing bells. In the morning we had our first service of the year which concluded with everyone writing on an ema (prayer board) which we hung outside.

I was invited by refugees from Bhutan to conduct a service and blessing for their Buddhist community. This afternoon I gave blessings and amulets to over 200 Bhutanese as they all chanted the Odaimoku to the sound of four of our temple members beating the uchiwadaiko. It was really a fantastic opportunity to share the Odaimoku and help others. Almost all of those present today have been in the United States less than a year and have undergone many changes in their lives. It was a truly humbling experience.

## Nichiren Buddhist Kannon Temple of Nevada

By Bishop Shokai Kanai

Hoshimatsuri and Setsubun service will be held on Sunday, February 6, from 10:30 a.m. Setsubun means "to divide the seasons" in Japanese. It is the eve of spring according to the Japanese zodiac calendar. The actual day of Setsebun is February 3.

During the service, those born in the year of the Rabbit will toss roasted soybeans to the congregation to chase away evil spirits. Those who were born in the year 1999, 1987, 1975, 1963, 1951, 1939, and 1927 are all born in the year of the Rabbit.

According to the Chinese calendar, this is the year of the Rabbit and the Seventh Star which denotes Evening, Fall, Money and Pleasure. This means that there will be a lot of coming and going of money. Please be careful on how you spend your money. The location of the star also indicates that it is wise to avoid living and moving your business either to the east and/or the west.

## Ryuguji Celebrates 11th Anniversary

By Noriko Tsubonuma  
Nichirensyu News Co., Ltd.

The 11th anniversary of Ryuguji Temple at Kamptee, Maharashtra state, India was held on Sunday, November 21, 2010. This temple was built with the support of Ms. Noriko Ogawa,

an ardent Nichiren Shu follower from Japan. She had been active in building schools, orphanages and medical clinics to help the people in need. She believed that the road to happiness was to chant the Odaimoku and spread the teachings of the Lotus Sutra. The property on which the temple was built is owned by the father of Ms. Sulekha Kumbhare, former Minister of Environment of Maharashtra state.

Every November, on the day of the full moon, a special anniversary service is held. This year the ceremony was

officiated by Ven. Nichiyu Mochida head of the Nichiren Shu International Fellowship Association, accompanied by Rev. Nichii Watanbe, Rev. Seiko Ito, and several other venerable priests from Japan.

Over 100,000 attendees crowded the temple premises to join in the service and chant the Odaimoku in unison. Eleven years have passed since "Namu Myoho Renge Kyo" was introduced to this region. The Buddha's wish for the happiness of all mankind has rooted itself in this land.



Priests from Japan in front of Ryuguji Temple



Rev. Nichiyu Mochida officiating the ceremony



Priests and attendees fill the Main Hall

## Nichiren Shu News

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