

HONGWANJI

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

Official N

Japanese edition office: Hongwanji Shimpo Press
English edition office: Hongwanji International Center

Published on the tenth of every month
Horikawa-dori, Hanaya-cho Sagaru, Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto 600-8351, J.
Gakurin-cho, Higashi-nakasuji, Rokujo-sagaru, Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto 6

Foreigners to Receive Tokudo

Four foreigners affiliated with Taiwan *Kaikyōchi* (Regional District) and Mexico *Kaikyōchi* will participate in the June Tokudo Session, which will be held from June 6-16, 2001. They are Ms. Lai Ping Oi and Ms. Ho Kwun Sum of Hong Kong, Mr. Chen Song Fu from Taiwan, and Mr. Koichi Todaka of Mexico. They arrived in Japan on May 21 and just completed a tokudo pre-session program which was conducted for them at the Hongwanji International Center from May 23. Rev. Zuikaku will accompany them as their interpreter during the Tokudo Session at the training center located in the Nishiyama Betsuin compound.

Taiwan Regional District received official designation on February 13 of this year as one of the Hongwanji's mission areas, and Rev. Chen I Hsin has been appointed administrator of its district office.

NEWS IN BRIEF

First Year Memorial for Lady Yoshiko Ohtani

The Hongwanji is planning to conduct a First Year Memorial (一周忌 *isshūki*) in honor of the late Lady Yoshiko Ohtani on June 21 and 22.

Rev. Kakehashi, Dispatched Lecturer to Hawaii

Every year, the Hongwanji dispatches special lecturers to the overseas districts, and this year, the lecturer who will go to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is Hongwanji scholar (勤学 *kangaku*) Rev. Jitsuen Kakehashi. Rev. Kakehashi will visit Hawaii for eight days, from June 1-8, and a portion of his schedule includes a ministers' seminar at Kona and a public lecture and Sunday Service at Hilo Betsuin.

BCA / IBS Study Tour 2001

As one of the IBS's activities, with cooperation by BCA, a study tour group

Gaikokujin Bōmorikai to be organized Ass'n of Foreign Women of Japanese Temples

Japan has been changing and more and more foreigners are visible on traditional Japanese positions every coming year. The process of internationalization, however stimulated by the leaders of Japan, has shown some spontaneous currents.

Currently, there are some resident ministers (*jūshoku*) of temples in Japan whose spouses (*bōmori*) are foreign-born citizens. Those women, who have come to live in very traditional Japanese conditions due to their choice, are pioneers, who face a quite difficult situation. Not only do they have to learn quickly the Japanese language and culture, but also they have to deal with religious matters. In fact, those Japanese families with foreign *bōmori* experience some emotional and practical difficulties of adjusting to such a situation.

It may be possible that in the relatively near future, the Hongwanji will have a number of resident ministers thinking internationally and understanding the Shinshu teaching from both a Western and Eastern viewpoint due to their natural bilingual education.

Such a process of internationalization, which has come as a result of international marriage of Hongwanji ministers, may be however welcomed as a good opportunity for enhancing the way the Nembutsu teaching is promoted. A group of foreign *bōmori* are attempting to establish an association that will contribute to such a mutual understanding between Shinshu members of Japan and Shinshu members of other nationalities who reside in Japan

and overseas. dhist teaching in South Korea. Kim had voiced his desire that he wanted to go to Japan to further his studies in Shinshu, and Rev. Tetsujin Sakurai, resident minister of Shokoji Temple in Saeki-ku, Hiroshima, with whom Kim has had a long friendship, offered his cooperation so that Kim could realize his dream. Sakurai bestowed him with a scholarship and is giving him guidance on living in Japan. Sakurai said that because he, too, would like to see as many people as possible in Korea and Japan realize the joy of living

and overseas.

Membership will be open to non-Japanese female residents of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha temples in Japan who have received ordination and are working as *sōryo* (minister) or *bōmori*. However, special consideration will be given to ladies of Buddhist temples who wish to support the organization and who are fluent in English, regardless of their nationality. The only language that the Association will use is English.

Included in their plans are supportive activities to introduce the Jodo Shinshu doctrine and culture to new foreign ladies of the temples, as well as any consultation for their families, and an annual three-day seminar for studying and discussing the teaching in English. The seminar will be held in conduction with a major Jodo Shinshu event, such as Hoonko or *Gotan'e* (Shinran Shonin's birthday) at Honzan and accompanied, if possible, with the visitation of historically famous Buddhist sites. A newsletter will be published or circulated on the Internet for better communication among the members. A first meeting is scheduled for September 25-27 at the Hongwanji International Center.

In addition, they hope to provide mutual help for understanding the temple environment, [general] Buddhist culture, and Jodo Shinshu doctrine and tradition, and also access to available English sources of Shinshu text.

For more information, contact Rev. (Mrs.) Myoshu Agnes Jedrzejewska, *bōmori* of Korinji Temple 光輪寺 in Yokohama.

mented that his studying of Buddhism is progressing because he had already many of the Buddhist concepts while in Korea and that he is able to read and write *kanji* (Chinese characters). However, he is still in the early stages of conversational Japanese and so he makes sure that he has his books [and dictionaries] wherever he goes.

Since going to Kyoto in order to study Buddha Dharma was difficult for many people because of economic reasons, Shinshu Gakuryo (school) was established in 1906. Later, the Bukkvo Gakuin was