The Institute of Oriental Philosophy

IOP NEWSLETTER
No. 3
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IOP Newsletter No. 3 covers the news of three main projects (research, academic exchange and publication) carried out between March and December 2016. (Affiliation and title etc. at that time)
On March 19 and 20, the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) held its 31st annual conference at Soka University and the IOP respectively.

Since its inauguration, IOP annual conferences have been held by domestic and foreign researchers, aiming at study of the Lotus Sutra, interreligious and intercivilizational dialogue, solution of humankind issues related to peace, human rights and the environment, and creation of a global civilization etc.

IOP invited Professor Fathali M. Moghaddam as a distinguished guest to the symposium, “Creation of a Global Civilization—Transcending Multiculturalism” held on March 19. Prof. Moghaddam is a professor of psychology and director of the Conflict Resolution Program at Georgetown University’s Department of Government.

Prof. Moghaddam delivered his lecture entitled, “Omniculturalism and Our Human Path”.

In his lecture, Prof. Moghaddam mentioned, “Globalization is driven by unpredictable technological and economic forces. Nobody can predict how technology will develop and how it will change us. These changes are driven not by governments but by unpredictable small groups.”

He also said, “What is new about intergroup contact is the speed at which millions of people now move across continents. As we can see from the refugees coming from the Middle East, the speed of movement is very rapid. People in Southern Europe in particular are finding that millions of outsiders are arriving within very short periods of time. Similarly from South America to North America, tens of millions of people are moving very rapidly.”

Prof. Moghaddam then touched upon the problem of terrorism caused by globalization, representing a new security problem. “Faced with these movements and terrorism, democratic governments are introducing new laws that restrict freedom.”
In this sense, as globalization forces have increased contact, both democracies and dictatorships feel threatened,” he said.

He emphasized the need to rethink politics in order to manage differences at the national and international levels, because traditional policies have been based on assimilation and, more recently, multiculturalism which lead many groups to feel threatened.

“At the international level as well, I believe multiculturalism is highlighting differences too much, and creating problems. That is why I’ve suggested an alternative, that is, omniculturalism. ‘Omni’ means ‘all,’ and omniculturalism highlights human universals. In order to achieve a world where we focus on human commonalities, we have to change,” he said.

Lastly, Prof. Moghaddam mentioned that the abilities to be self-critical, and accept and learn from others, are all valuable qualities of global citizenship. He emphasized the importance of looking for that which we have in common rather than focusing on the things that separate us.

At the symposium, Dr. Yutaka Ishigami, Senior Research Fellow, and Ms. Fumiko Tsutaki, Commissioned Research Fellow of IOP, delivered their speeches, entitled, “Culture and Idea—The Dignity of life as a postulate” and “Issue of Immigration and Refugees and Multiculturalism in Europe.”
On April 2, 2016, “Buddhist Sutras: A Universal Spiritual Heritage — Manuscripts and Iconography of the Lotus Sutra” exhibition was launched along with the commemorative symposium at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The exhibition was organized by the Soka Cultural Association in France, and supported by the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, Russian Academy of Sciences (IOM RAS), The International Academy of Indian Culture, and Dunhuang Academy China. The exhibition was supervised and created by the Institute of Oriental Philosophy and supported by the Institute of Buddhist Studies in France.

The exhibition had broader scope based on items of “The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence” exhibition which the IOP has been holding all over the world. Through the panels and written materials, the exhibition introduced the history of the dissemination of Buddhist teachings and the footsteps of predecessors who dedicated their lives to spreading the message of Buddhism.

It also featured 26 original manuscripts from IOM RAS, including the Gandhari manuscript of the Dhamapada from the 1st and 2nd centuries, and the Sogdian manuscript of the Suka-sutra from the 7th and 8th centuries.

The Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from IOM RAS, which is also known as the Petrovsky manuscript, recognized as one of the ‘diamonds’ of the world’s largest and most valuable Russian collections, was also on display. It first appeared at the exhibition “Lotus Sutra and Its World: Buddhist Manuscripts of the Great Silk Road” held by the IOP in 1998. The manuscript is assumed to have been written in 8th century.

Dr. I. F. Popova, director of IOM RAS, remarked that the original manuscripts, a valuable heritage of humanity, should be shared widely; not only among intellectuals and experts, but also among the general public.

At the opening ceremony after the commemorative symposium, distinguished guests, including Dr. Lokesh Chandra, director of the International Academy of Indian Culture, Dr. I. F. Popova, Mr. Dominique Trotignon, director of the Institute of Buddhist Studies, Mr. Jean-Claude Gaubert, president of the Soka Cultural Association in France, and Dr. Yoichi Kawada, director of the IOP, participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Dunhuang Magao Caves on display
Both our thought and Buddhist teaching emphasize the spirit of peacebuilding based on faith and call for the same points such as respect for others and protection of human inherent dignity. I believe the people of European world can not only get acquainted with Buddhism but also understand its profound humanism through this exhibition. It is significant for them to learn about the origin and the development of Buddhism, as it bases inner value which was lost in European world. Today, we witness terrorist attacks in the name of ‘religion’. When the society faces with such a critical moment, Buddhism will surely play a key role in promoting mutual respect and overcoming fundamental hatred.

Mr. Edmond Lisle (President, Fraternité d’Abraham)

Mr. Dominique Trotignon (Director, Institute of Buddhist Studies)

Although the study on Buddhism is quite active in France, we hardly have opportunity to see the actual manuscripts and even knowledge of their history. I express my gratitude to the Institute of Oriental Philosophy which made the exhibition possible to show extremely precious and beautiful items for the first time in France. I realized that Paris and the Lotus Sutra indeed have a profound relationship. For, Eugène Burnouf started his translation of the Lotus Sutra here, Paris. This exhibition gives us an opportunity to re-realize the meaning of such relationship.

Ms. Ruchira Kanboj (Representative of India to UNESCO)

There is a great significance in holding such wonderful symposium and exhibition at UNESCO. I will introduce this exhibition and hope as many UNESCO ambassadors of each nation as possible to visit.

Commissioner: The Institute of Oriental Philosophy
Organizer: The Soka Cultural Association in France
Supporter: Dunhuang Academy China, the International Academy of Indian Culture, and the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, Russian Academy of Sciences
Collaborator: The Institute of Buddhist Studies
Venue: UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France
Date: April 2-10, 2016
On September 21, 2016, “The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence” exhibition was launched in South Korea. Counting this, the exhibition had shown in 13 countries and territories.

The exhibition was co-organized by the Institute of Oriental Philosophy, Korea JoongAng Daily, and Korea SGI and supported by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Seoul City, the International Academy of Indian Culture, and the Dunhuang Academy, the Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IOM RAS).

At the opening ceremony, Dr. Lokesh Chandra, Director of International Academy of Indian Culture, Dr. Lee Hong-koo, former Prime Minister of South Korea and Executive Chairman of this exhibition, Dr. Park Jae-kyu, the president of Kyungnam University in Masan, participated in the ribbon-cutting, together with approximately 2,500 attendees including Korean politicians, business leaders, scholars and representative members of Korea SGI. During the ceremony, Mr. Lee Hong-koo gave a welcome address and Dr. Lokesh Chandra delivered a commemorative lecture.

On display were some 200 items, the largest number of exhibits ever gathered for a Lotus Sutra exhibition, including duplicated transcriptions of The Lotus Sutra in Ink on White Paper (national treasure) from the Horim Museum, The Lotus Sutra in Silver on Indigo Paper, and Volumes 5-7 of The Lotus Sutra (both important properties) from the National Museum of Korea.

Through the new panels and pictures of UNESCO World Heritages, Bulguksa temple and Haeinsa temple, the exhibition introduced the history of the dissemination of Buddhist teachings on the Korean Peninsula. Bulguksa is said to encompass seven national treasures, including the Seokgatap (Sakyamuni Pagoda), the Dabotap (Many Treasure Pagoda) and the Haeinsa, most notable as the home of the Tripitaka Koreana, the whole of the Buddhist Scriptures carved into over 80,000 wooden printing blocks.

The exhibition also featured duplicates of the Lotus Sutra manuscripts from IOM RAS, including the Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript, known as the Petrovsky manuscript, Gilgit Lotus Sutra Manuscripts from the National Archives of India and the Gandhari manuscript of the Dhamapada from the 1st and 2nd centuries. On display in the section of the Dunhuang Magao Caves, were the replicated murals of Lotus Sutra inside the Cave 85.

The opening ceremony was consecutively reported by Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) and other major Korean media, including Korea JoongAng Daily, Maeil Business Newspaper and Cheonji Ilbo. In the exhibition held till December 21, visitors counted more than 136,000.
The following are the comments shared by some guests:

Dr. Lokesh Chandra (Director, International Academy of Indian Culture)

Korea found its sense of being and eternity sixteen hundred years ago when Buddhism gave her a new meaning. Buddhism laid the basis of Korean civilization. The humane system of morals and aspirations to nobility formed a vivid and tangible order of the society and culture. The high-water mark of Korean civilization was reached under Buddhism.

Dr. Lee Hong-koo (Former Prime Minister of South Korea)

This exhibition is filled with a fragrant message of peace and harmonious coexistence that the Lotus Sutra gives off. Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, founder of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy and president of Soka Gakkai International, is a rare leader with the pacifistic spirit. He shows deep affection for the people of Korea, and above all, he has a profound insight into our country. Taking this exhibition as our turning point, we are determined to bring hope to every single person and contribute to peace in unity.
On November 21, 2016, "The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence" exhibition was launched at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (UNMSM) in Lima, Peru. Peru became the fourteenth for the exhibition in countries and territories of the world. UNMSM, established in 1551, is the oldest academic institution in South America. The exhibition was planned and produced by the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) and organized by Peru Soka Gakkai International (SGI).

On display at the building for the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences were duplicates of the Lotus Sutra manuscripts translated into various languages, panels introducing the history of the dissemination of Buddhist teachings and the Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series conducted by the IOP.

At the grand opening ceremony, some 100 teachers and students attended together with Dr. Jorge Quispe, Director of The Academic-Professional School of Philosophy, UNMSM. Dr. Carlos García, Dean of the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences was also present.

Attending from the same faculty were Mg. Lilia Llanto, Vice Dean, and Dr. Miguel Polo, Professor. During the ceremony, Prof. Miguel Polo shared his view that Buddhism is one of the most important philosophies of life and that understanding Asian history leads to a better appreciation of Buddhist history. He added, "The exhibition delivers the message of the Lotus Sutra, which enhances its literary and spiritual value as well as its historic significance."

Dr. Carlos García also mentioned, "I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who made the exhibition possible. A dialogue with other civilizations is significant for a country with history as rich as that of Peru. There is no doubt that Buddhism has been a major current in the world of religion as its teachings provide an essential foundation for human life."

In the exhibition held till November 26, visitors counted approximately 1,300.

**PERU**
On April 2, commemorating the “Buddhist Sutras: A Universal Spiritual Heritage—Manuscripts and Iconography of the Lotus Sutra” exhibition, the symposium “Dissemination and Reception of Major Teachings of the Buddhist Canon” was held at UNESCO Headquarters. The following are the presenters and the titles of their speeches.

**Session 1: To Middle East**
“Perspectives on Parables of the Lotus and the Gospel” by Dr. Dennis Gira (Honorary Professor, Catholic Institute of Paris)

**Session 2: In India and Central Asia**
“The Lotus Sutra and India” by Dr. Lokesh Chandra (Director, International Academy of Indian Culture)

“Russian Explorations in Central Asia at the Turn of the 20th Century” by Dr. Irina Popova (Director, Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, Russian Academy of Sciences)

**Session 3: In China**
“The publication and distribution context of the first Chinese translations of the Lotus Sutra” by Dr. Sylvie Hureau (Lecturer, École pratique des hautes Études)

“The Reception of Lotus Sūtra Thought in China” by Prof. Hiroshi Kanno (Research Fellow, IOP)

Summary by Mr. Paul Magnin (Emeritus Research Director, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique)

**Session 4: In Japan**
“Lotus and Pure Land” by Dr. Jérôme Ducor (Lecturer, University of Lausanne)

“Lotus Sutra in Japanese Culture” by Prof. Jean-Noël Robert (Professor, Collège de France)
Symposium at University of Oxford:  
“The Possibility of Buddhism for the Future of Humankind”

The following are the presenters and the titles of their speeches:

**Session 1**
“Voices of Freedom: Friendship, trust and liberation in the poems of the early Buddhist nuns” by Dr. Sarah Shaw (Research Fellow, OCBS)

“Women’s Roles and a World Without Nuclear Weapons” by Dr. Toshie Kurihara (Senior Research Fellow, IOP)

**Session 2**
“Mindfulness Meditation and Social Change: from Therapy to Wisdom and Ethics” by Mr. Mark Leonard (OCBS)

“Natural Disasters and Buddhist Organizations’ Activities” by Dr. Katsuaki Onishi (Research Fellow, IOP)

**Session 3**
“A Reflection on the Practice of Compassion in the Theravada Buddhist Meditation Traditions” by Ven. Dr. Khammai Dhammasami (Research Fellow, OCBS)

“Medical Ethics and Buddhism—The issues of death with dignity and the vegetative state” by Dr. Yoichi Kawada (Director, IOP)

Organizers: The Institute of Oriental Philosophy, Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies  
Venue: Wolfson College, University of Oxford (UK)  
Date: April 6 and 7, 2016
Prof. Kato specializes in anthropology of religion and society and comparative civilizations. In 2012, he received the Toynbee-Talbutt Award from the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations. He is currently serving as vice president of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations.

In his lecture, Prof. Kato touched upon the notions of “fact” and “truth,” and remarked that a multidimensional understanding of Islam means to understand the hidden truth. With this attitude, he says, we can realize a sustainable future that includes religions. He also described the original meaning of the Five Pillars of Islam and The Six articles of Faith in Islam, and clarified the notion of Jihad. He commented that the meaning of Jihad is often misunderstood and that there are two types of Jihad. One is a lesser Jihad, which indicates physical conflict, and the other is a greater Jihad, meaning the spiritual struggle of becoming a better Muslim. “People often have a stereotypical image of Islam, but Muslims are taught to respect believers of other religions as well,” he said.

Dr. Kawakubo’s fields of research are the comparative study of civilizations and American literature. While lecturing at Reitaku University, Dr. Kawakubo visited the renowned historian, Arnold J. Toynbee’s residence as an interpreter for Dr. Sentaro Hiroike, then president of Reitaku University. Since that time, he has been conducting research on Toynbee’s book, A Study of History, and remains dedicated to promoting the comparative study of civilizations.

In his lecture, Dr. Kawakubo remarked that Toynbee did not have faith in an abstract existence of a god, but gradually came to believe in an ultimate spiritual reality. Although Toynbee was born into a family that supported the Church of England, he studied various other religions including Catholicism, Protestantism, Judaism, Confucianism and Buddhism. He explored the essence of religion through the study of comparative civilizations. Dr. Kawakubo stressed that Toynbee believed “civilizations are born from religions” and that “the study of civilizations is equal to the study of religions.”
Mr. Kato is a specialist in philosophy, bioethics and environmental ethics. In his lecture, he told the audience, “Today, we consume a dreadfully large amount of natural resources in our daily lives. But what will we do when the oil resources are depleted? What will we do when water is no longer available? In addition to such serious issues, wildlife species are also in decline. Due to such threats, human beings will find it increasingly difficult to sustain life on Earth. If we are able to take care of the resources available now and consume them wisely, we can become sustainable. However, the important thing is to realize this goal.”

Mr. Kato then said, “We human beings have natural needs. Money, however, has completely changed the way we understand our needs. It has made us unnaturally greedy and made it very difficult for us to shed our desires. I believe therefore that religion could play a significant role today in changing this.” He concluded by commenting, “It is not until human beings take up a religion that they can realize the connection between society and nature. We should search for a better way to live our lives by acquiring accurate information. It is religion that tells us how attractive a simple and satisfying life is. Without the spiritual strength to control our desires, there can be no sustainability. Nowadays, we are flooded with information, often more harmful misinformation than we might have been exposed to in previous times. Under such circumstances, in order to acquire trustworthy information, we need to trust others and be trusted by them.”

Prof. Keta serves as president of the Japanese Association for Religious Studies since 2014. She currently specializes in religious philosophy and religious studies. In her lecture, Prof. Keta referred to ‘earth’ as a key concept in literature and religion. She explained, “The earth is the source of every harvest. It is a religious object that finds expression in Greek and Japanese mythology. It is a word that means a specific locality with a boundless expanse.” She added that the earth is the ultimate mother, giving birth to everything and serving as a place that brings together birth and death.

Regarding some of the global issues we face today, she stressed, “We have decided to inhabit the Earth and treat the environment as our own property. In fact, we destroy the environment with our own hands and consume all its resources. Considering these negative aspects, we have to take responsibility for living on Earth. Earth is the earth and vice-versa. It is neither an object to be researched, nor a work of art to be viewed, nor is it a resource to be consumed. The important issue is how we sustain life on Earth with its history of both glory and folly. Religion is indispensable in the search for a way to address this issue differently than we have done so far.”
February 23
Prof. Yoshio Tsuruoka
(Professor, the University of Tokyo)

“Mysticism of John of the Cross: A representative figure of Catholic Spirituality”

June 14
Dr. Keisuke Kawakubo
(Honorary Professor, Reitaku University)

“Toynbee as a Human”

July 12
Dr. Stefan Peter Grace
(Part-time Lecturer, Taisho University)

“Daisetz Suzuki and His Thoughts”

July 26
Prof. Wen Xian Yuan
(Former Deputy Director, GuangDong Academy of Social Sciences)

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Feature 2: The Possibility of Buddhism for the Future of Humankind
From the Second Symposium with the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies

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The Korean edition of Guidebook: Gaideu Bug Beobhwagyeong Jeon — Pyeonghwawa Gongsaeng-ui Mesiji — was translated, edited and published by Hwakwang ShinMun (South Korea). The exhibition itself was organized by the Institute of Oriental Philosophy.

The guidebook covers the contents of the Japanese edition accordingly. It illustrates transcriptions of the Lotus Sutra (national treasure and important property) whose duplicates were displayed on “The Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence” exhibition in Seoul, South Korea (September 21 – December 21). It also introduces the history of the reception of the Lotus Sutra on the Korean Peninsula.
“Buddhist Sutras: A Universal Spiritual Heritage
—Manuscripts and Iconography of the Lotus Sutra”

The French guidebook, introducing the “Sūtras bouddhiques: un héritage spirituel universel” exhibition, was published by Les Indes savants. The exhibition itself was planned and produced by the IOP.

The catalogue was published along with holding of the exhibition held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (April 2 - 10). It contains illustration of all the exhibits which are printed in color, as well as contributions by many researchers such as Mr. Dominique Trotignon, director of the Institute of Buddhist Studies, Dr. Nathalie Monnet, curator of the National Library of France, and Sinologist Dr. Christine Kontler etc.

Toyo Tetsugaku Kenkyujo Kiyō No.32

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