

NCC Study Center's staff. Dr. Awazuhara graduated from Doshisha University, School of Theology (M.A.), and received recently his doctorate in the field of Mythological Studies with Emphasis on Depth Psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute (USA). The theme of his dissertation is "Beauty Never Dies – Images of Para-Reality in Japan." Mr. Inoue, a retired banker of Sanwa Bank (Yokohama), holds an M.A. from Doshisha University, School of Theology, Kyoto. The theme of his thesis is "The mechanism of enculturation in Japanese Christian funeral services." He also attended the Graduate School of Rikkyo University, Tokyo, and continues his research on problems of enculturation of Christianity in Japan, especially in respect to Christian funeral services.

From March 16 to May 16, the Study Center received Prof. Dr. Jörg Dierken (Hamburg University, Theological Faculty) and his wife PD Dr. Angelika Dörfler-Dierken (Institute for Social Research of the German Army, Strausberg) as visiting scholars. Prof. Dierken pursued research on "Religion and negativity in East and West, especially in respect to the Kyoto School of Philosophy," and Dr. Dierken-Dörfler did her research on "Samurai and the popularity of samurai ethics (*bushido*) in Western countries." Dr. Franz Winter (Vienna University, Religious Studies Dept.) pursued research on "The use of occidental myths in Kofuku no Kagaku" from October 16 to December 9. He gave also a lecture on this topic for the ISJP students.

Visitors

Among the visitor of the NCC Study Center were the following persons: Rev. Stephan Jäger, Prof. Dr. Mohsin Kadivar (Tarviyat Mudaris University, Iran), Rev. Dr. Kubik and members of the (Protestant community) Koinonia, Dr. Preisinger (German Consul from Osaka/Kobe), Rev. Rita Schaab (Germany), Prof. Dr. Henk Vroom (Free University, Amsterdam), and Dr. Christal Whelan.

For more comprehensive and updated informations on the NCC Study Center's activities, publications and the ISJP, please visit our new homepage: www.japanese-religions.jp.

Martin Repp
Associate Director

ISJP Report of the 4. Semester (Fall 2004)

1. Participants

The regular students of the fall 2004 semester were Ms. Christiane Banse (student of theology, Tübingen University), Mr. Martin Engels (student of theology, Heidelberg University), Ms. Verena Kuttich (student of Religious Education (Religionspädagogik), Nürnberg University), and Mr. Philipp von Stockhausen (student of theology, Göttingen University).

The students participating in one class of their choice were: Mr. Melin (Ph.D. cand., Doshisha University; Sweden), Mr. Yokoi (high school teacher, Kyoto), and Mr. Davide Guzzetti (student, Kyoto University; Italy)

2. ISJP Orientation Sept. 21 - Oct. 1

The orientation consisted of the following introductions: Dr. Repp & Mr. Markus Göbl (Ph.D. candidate, Kyoto University): "Living in a foreign culture (problems of cross-cultural communication);" Mr. Markus Goebel: "Basic introduction to Japanese history" and "Introduction to Japanese literature;" Ms. Masayo Repp: Practical advice for living in Kyoto (shopping, etc.); Dr. Repp: Orientation about the NCC Study Center and its library; "Basic introductions to Shinto, Japanese Buddhism, and New Religions."

3. Courses and lectures during the semester (Oct. 5 - December 10):

The following regular (weekly) classes well held:

Shintō by Prof. Yuki (in charge), Prof. Peter Knecht (Nanzan University), and Prof. Ogaki (previously Ise shrine); Buddhism by Prof. Rhodes (Otani Univ., in charge), Prof. Wittern (Kyoto Univ.), and Rev. Teramoto (Jōdo shinshū); Reading a Classic Buddhist Text – *Was ist Religion?* by Nishitani Keiji – by Mr. Matsui; New Religions by Dr. Repp (in charge), Dr. Higashibaba (Tenri), and Mr. Yoshinaga (Maizuru); Japanese Church History by Prof. Hara (Doshisha Univ.), Dr. Higashibaba (Tenri), Prof. Nakamichi (Kwansei Gakuin Univ.), and Prof.em. Robert Fukada (Doshisha Univ.); Theology of Religions: Prof. Jan van Bragt (Nanzan Univ.); Japanese language by Ms. Tochihara

The following extra-curricular lectures were offered:

Prof. em. Hayashi (Kwansei Gakuin Univ.) on "Japanese Philosophy of Religion: Muto Kazuo," Prof. em. Mizugaki (Kyoto Univ.) on "Japanese Theology: the Kyoto tradition (Hatano, Ariga)," Prof. Terazono (Seinan Univ.) on "Takizawa and Ebina – A comparison," Dr. Higashibaba (Tenri) on "Theology of religions from a Tenri perspective," and Dr. Franz Winter (Wien University, Dept. for Religious Studies, at this time Visiting Researcher at the NCC Study Center) on "The use of occidental mythology in a modern oriental religion – The case of Kōfuku no Kagaku (Science of Happiness)." (For more lectures see also the Tomisaka sponsored program in Tokyo, below # 7)

4. Fieldtrips

Shintō: Yoshida Shrine and Shimogamo Shrine (Kyoto), Kasuga and Tamukeyama (Nara).

Buddhism: Shinnyo-dō and Kurodani, Daitoku-ji, Tenryū-ji (Rev. Thomas Kirchner), Nishi Hongan-ji (Rev. Teramoto), Myōshin-ji (Ms. Nishida Kumiko), Mt. Kōya (Fr. Peter Baekelman), Mr. Hiei / Enryaku-ji (Prof. Rhodes), Tōdai-ji and Kōfuku-ji (Nara).

New Religions: Tenri (Dr. Higashibaba), Risshō Kōsei-kai (Mr. Yoshinaga, Prof. Hayashi).

Christianity: Franciscan House and Kirishitan Museum (Kyoto), Myōshin-ji: Namban Bell, Anglican Church in Nara (Rev. Koga). (For more fieldtrips, see also # 7)

5. *Special events*

The ISJP Special Lecture (in Japanese) for fall 2004 was held Nov. 5 by Prof. Terazono (Seinan University) on the theme “Possibilities of a ‘Japanese Theology’? – The case of Takizawa and Ebina.” Members of the ISJP’s Advisory and Executive Committees hosted a supper for the students at the beginning of the semester on Oct. 4.

6. *Internships in local congregations*

During the semester, Ms. Kuttich attended the Korean Church under the guidance of Rev. Yan (member of the NCC Center’s Board of Trustees) and held a sermon in the Sunday school. Mr. von Stockhausen held a sermon in Doshisha Church Oct. 10 (Rev. Saeki), he spent some time in Kyodan churches in Tokyo (Rev. Minami) and Kamakura (Rev. Dr. Arai) in Dec. / Jan. 2005. Mr. Engels held a sermon in Rakuyo Church Nov. 28 (Rev. Fugami); he spent some time in a Kyodan congregation on Sado island (Niigata prefecture) (Rev. Mimura) as well as in the German Congregation in Tokyo in Jan. and Febr. 2005. Ms. Banse spent some time in a Kyodan Church in Chiba Prefecture in Dec. / Jan. (Rev. Gudrun Scheer); she also preached in Muromachi Church (Kyoto) on Jan. 16 (Rev. Higuchi).

7. *Trip to Tokyo sponsored by Tomisaka Christian Center (TCC), Dec.11 - 18*

- Dec. 11: Visit of the MOA Art Museum in Atami and introduction to MOA (Sekai kyūsei-kyō).
- Dec. 12: Sunday service at Shinanomachi church; visit of Meiji Shrine and Yasukuni Shrine.
- Dec. 13: Lecture by Ms. Mira Sonntag on “Mukyō-kai” at TCC, and by Prof. Mark Mullins on “Japanese Indigenous Churches” at Sophia University.
- Dec. 14: Trip to Kamakura (Daibutsu, Hachiman shrine, etc.) guided by Dr. Arai; lecture by Dr. Arai on “Religious education in a multireligious society.”
- Dec. 15 Participating in a theology class of Prof. Oba at Aoyama Gakuin University and conversation with the Japanese students on how to become a pastor in Japan and in Germany.
- Dec. 16: together with Prof. Hayashi Tadayoshi (ISJP representative) visit HQ of Rishō Kōsei-kai (including guided tour, talks, and lunch). Lecture by Rev. Ikeda on “Kyodan (United Church of Christ in Japan) - its history and structure” at TCC. Evening: TCC Christmas party.
- Dec. 17: Visit of the head offices of NCC-J: Rev. (Ms.) Hatazawa, and of Kyodan (United Church of Christ): Rev. Takemae (General Secretary) and Rev. (Ms.) Ueda (in charge for ecumenical relations).

8. *Published reports on ISJP*

“Interreligious Dialogue Can Play a Key Role in the World at Large” by Martin Repp, published in *Risshō Kōsei-kai’s Dharma World* Vol. 31 (2004): pp. 17-19.

“Einübung in den Dialog mit ostasiatischen Religionen. Das ‘Interreligious Studies in Japan Program’ (ISJP) in Kyoto” by Martin Repp published in *Religionen im Gespräch* (RiG) Vol. 8 (2004): pp. 268-272.

Reports on ISJP in Japanese were published in the NCC Study Center’s newsletters, including one reviewing the experiences of ISJP during the first three years since its establishment.

9. *ISJP in the internet*

For more informations, especially on curriculum, application procedure, etc., please visit our new homepage www.japanese-religions.jp.

Dr. Martin Repp
Coordinator

Participating in the “Interreligious Studies in Japan Program” (ISJP) (Fall Semester 2004)

Martin ENGELS

In my report on the “Interreligious Studies in Japan Program” (ISJP) at the NCC Center for the Study of Japanese Religions in Kyoto, I will first introduce briefly the general circumstances such as the living and study conditions, then present some observations concerning my internships, and finally give an evaluation of the program itself.

My living-conditions in Kyoto were extraordinary good. I lived in the assistant pastor’s apartment of the Rakuyo Church which is located at the southeast corner of the imperial palace park. Rev. Fugami’s and the congregation’s openness allowed me insights in urban Japanese church-life already during my studies at the NCC Study Center. After a lecture about the indigenisation of Japanese funeral traditions in class, for example, I was able to experience a Christian funeral in the evening of the same day at church. This close connection between theory and praxis was very good. During my stay, Rev. Fugami and his wife offered me help in many ways. They were largely responsible for the fact that I felt very much at home in Kyoto. In addition, it is also noteworthy that due to its long historical tradition and the vast amount of temples and shrines Kyoto may be one of the best places to run a study program like this. For me the necessity for a dialogue between religions in Japan became obvious quite soon since I lived at the Teramachi-dōri (“Temple street”), with a Shintō shrine and a Buddhist temple in my next neighborhood. This fact already was