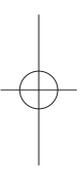


## Editorial

The present issue of *Japanese Religions* is dedicated to the memory of Professor Yuki Hideo (1926-2012), who served as Director of the NCC Center for the Study of Japanese Religions from 1985 to 2003. His death means a grave loss for his family, friends, students, colleagues, and dialogue partners, in Japan as well as abroad. During the time of his active service he had become nothing less than the most trusted Christian in Japan's multi-religious world.

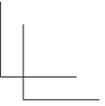
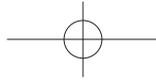
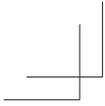
Already in 1996, Dr. John C. England, the great promoter of Asian theology and scholar of Asian church history, suggested to "collect and publish the writings of Yuki-sensei." (Private letter from February 12, 1996) Naturally, this should have happened during his lifetime; unfortunately, however, we could not realize such a project up to now. His recent death must provide the opportunity to publish at least a small collection of his articles in English.



This volume of *Japanese Religions* begins with obituaries which portray Prof. Yuki's personality and his achievements in religious studies and interreligious dialogue respectively cooperation, and his contributions to the church in Japan and worldwide. The second part of this volume consists of English articles by Prof. Yuki with a wide range of themes characteristic of his work. This section starts with two articles on political and social issues, namely the Japanese emperor system and the law for religious corporations. Next, one article deals with the problematic new religious group Aum Shinrikyō, and another with the problem of religious education. Then, three articles deal with interreligious dialogue and joint worship among religions, the latter being a controversial subject debated in Christian circles. An interview with Yuki Sensei about his views on Christianity and Japanese culture and a select bibliography conclude his contributions to this issue.

The themes treated do not comprehend all the subjects of Yuki Sensei's research and involvement, but the articles may be somewhat representative of the major themes he dealt with. The bibliography shows the broader scope of his concerns as scholar and Christian. My hope is that in the future more of his articles will be translated into English and other languages, and that research on his work will bring to light his important contributions to religious studies, interreligious dialogue respectively cooperation, and socio-political concerns in Japan and internationally.

The main section of this volume is followed by Tobias Eckerter's report about his training as a Zen monk at Manpuku-ji. Such an intensive interreligious encounter grew out of his previous participation in the Interreligious Studies in Japan Program (ISJP). Since Yuki had established this study program at the NCC Study Center in 2002, Eckerter's report can be read as fitting homage to this great pioneer in interreligious understanding and cooperation in Japan. The volume is concluded by six reviews of books relating to religions in Japan, past and present.



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I would like to specially thank the contributors to this issue, including the book reviewers. I would like to thank Dr. Ugo Dessí for kindly taking the time to translate one of Prof. Yuki's articles. I would like to thank Dr. Galen Amstutz for patiently and professionally correcting the English of quite a number of contributions of the present issue. Last not least, I also would like to thank Prof. John Dougill for correcting the English text of an article, Dr. Hillary Pedersen for securing and editing the book reviews, and Dr. Ichikawa Sadataka for the desk top editing of JR.

Martin Repp

