

Second Feature: Interreligious Dialogue about Christian and Buddhist Civilizations

From Two Symposia in UK and Bulgaria

In autumn 2011, the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) held two symposia in Europe. This issue carries six of the studies (presentations) given during these symposia.

The first symposium, entitled “Lotus Sutra in Contemporary Society,” was held in London on November 23. This symposium was held to commemorate the opening of the exhibition, “Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence” in Great Britain (held in collaboration with the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the British Library’s International Dunhuang Project, the Royal Asiatic Society, and SGI-UK). The displays and panels shown at the exhibition helped to convey the history of the spread of the Lotus Sutra—long known as the “king of the sutras”—its philosophy, and culture in an easy-to-understand fashion. The exhibition contained a number of different corners, such as “Manuscripts of Buddhist Sutras,” “Buddhist Sutras Translated in Numerous Languages,” “Messages of the Lotus Sutra,” “Lotus Sutra, Art, and Culture,” “Literature Related to the Lotus Sutra,” “The Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series promoted by IOP,” and “Multi-lingual Versions of the Lotus Sutra.”

The second symposium, entitled “Interreligious Dialogue about Christian and Buddhist Civilizations” was held on November 25 at the University of Sofia in Bulgaria. This symposium was co-hosted together with the Ivan Dujcev Center for Slavo-Byzantine Studies at the University of Sofia (with support from the Helena and Ivan Dujcev Foundation).

Messages from His Excellency Dr. Lubomir Todorov, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to Japan, and SGI President and IOP founder, Daisaku Ikeda, were given at the symposium. In addition to the approximately one hundred scholars at the symposium, there were also a number of other noteworthy participants, such as Todor Dichev,

former Bulgarian ambassador to Japan, Vera Stefanova, former Minister Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of Bulgaria in Japan, Vasja Velinova, director of the Ivan Dujcev Center for Slavo-Byzantine Studies at the University of Sofia.



The Lotus Sutra exhibition in London