

PREFACE

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Starting from scratch 18 years ago, Zenkoji has grown up to a noted temple in Yokohama.

The favorable growth of the Temple has been owing wholly to the merciful protection of Buddha and the earnest support of the buddhist families and devotees holding close ties with the Temple. As the *Jushoku* of Zenkoji, I have been deeply grateful for thier valuable support. In token of the gratitude and in commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the Temple, the Zenkoji Scholarship Society for Priestly Study Abroad was established on January 15, 1984 to yearly send some priests to foreign countries for study there, with the view to cultivate men of ability who may contribute to the promotion of buddhism as well as to the progress of mankind and world peace. In the first stage, 2 priests were given opportunities to study in Thailand; in the second stage, 2 priests went to the United States and one each to (oneeachto) India and Sri Lauka: and in the third stage too priests to the United Stats and

one each to (Thailand and India, and...) Thailand and India, and one Chinese student to Komazawa University, Japan, for study under the scholarship. A total of 11 priests were awarded the scholarship in the three stages. The priests for the scholarship in the fourth stage are already awarded and in preparation for the time to leave Japan.

With the foundation of the Scholarship Society almost firmly set up for domestic administration, I visited India in March, the United States of America in June, and Thailand in September, in order to pay homage to those host people who have accepted the Scholarship priests from Japan, to ask their further long-lasting support, and to encourage the Scholarship priests studying there. Happily enough, and to our great gratitude, all the host people promised us their support with a good grace.

As a project of a temple, this Zenkoji Scholarship project is really extraordinary. For the administration of this big project, I have entreated the supporters of the Temple out of my excruciating mind, "Please save one mouthful of rice at each of your meals, to propagate Buddhism". My entreaty has been responded to by the pious supporters, who have cut down

on their meals. The way of administering Zenkoji through close cooperation between the temple and the supporters is widely appreciated, as a good example of the administration of temples, not only in Japan but in overseas countries as well. As a matter of fact, I am invited to, and I have decided to attend to make a speech at, the 24th Buddhism Seminar (with the theme, "Buddhism and Asian Societies - (Religious Groups and Messages)" to be held in early December this year at Collège de France, Paris.

Zenkoji flourishes under the protection of Fudōmyōō (*Acala*, the God of Fire), but has not so far had the *Acala's* messengers, *Kongala* Child and *Seitaka* Child. The time at last has come to install the two Children in the Temple, and a Buddhist ceremony on the consecration of the two images is going to be held on November 28, 1987. Greater protection of Fudōmyōō will be on the future of Zenkoji.

The readers are encouraged to have further expectation and support.