

Last July, we visited Republic of Korea, where was long time ago the birthplace of Japanese Buddhism. We offered Tsudo Temple our denominational surplice to be exhibited. I think that was very worthwhile to promote friendly relations between Japanese and Republic of Korea's Buddhism by blessings of our surplice.

Then last November, I was installed as president of Japan Paknam Society, the association of people who practiced asceticism not only at Wat Paknam, but also at the upper part of Buddhist temple. The purposes of this association are to propagate proper understanding of Buddhism, and to promote Buddhist cultural exchanges, those are also the aims of the Zenkoji Scholarship Foundation for Buddhist Study Abroad. I want to contribute to friendship with Thailand's Buddhist colleagues.

Next, I specially want to tell about French nun L. Joshin Bachoux. She practiced asceticism at

Daibosatuzan Zuigakuin in Yamanashi prefecture as the fourth priest of the Scholarship. After returning to France, she endeavored to establish a Zen Buddhist seminary in France, and this July, which will be opened. It is very happy for me to have foothold of Buddhist friendship in far-off European country.

We've tried to broaden the Zenkoji Scholarship Foundation for Study Abroad all over the world. So we published the first volume of essays by 34 priests's manuscript for application to scholarship. This will be the most useful material for the future applicants. We hope promising priests to apply and to obtain the desired results.