

Tenri Forum 2006

New Frontiers in the Mission



Compiled Speeches & Summaries

Tenrikyo Overseas Department
Tenri, Japan

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Foreword

I feel privileged to write this foreword as one of the few who have been involved in the Forum since the very day its idea was first mentioned. In retrospect, Tenri Forum was indeed a challenge. It tried new approaches to discussing Tenrikyo, exploring freshly what and how to talk about our teaching, how to convey it to others, and how to implement it in our own lives. Instead of just sitting and listening to lectures, the Forum asked its participants to discuss issues together, offering their insights, sharing their experiences, and providing their prospects.

During the three-day Forum, 26 sessions were offered with more than 60 speakers. This volume is the official written record of Tenri Forum 2006 that includes the Forum's entire program. Each section closes with its organizer's summary report. The rich and stimulating insights of the speeches have thus become available beyond the limit of the actual participation in the Forum. Please take advantage of this book to deepen and inspire your thought. If you were a participant, the scripts and pictures may invoke vivid memories.

Like the Forum, this proceeding was prepared by many young followers. On behalf of all involved in the Forum, I would like to extend my special thanks to Takahiko Hayashi, Tad Iwata, Minoru Nishida, Hiroko Okazaki, Iris Saito, Satoko Sasaki, and Keiji Uesugi who proofread the presented papers for publication. They primarily endeavored to maintain each presentation's original tone and style while rendering, some words and phrases differently for the sake of clarity. The final work of formatting and designing the book was done by David Inouye, Burt Iwata, and Sze-Wan Yip whose selfless contribution was remarkable. I am also very grateful for the Forum speakers' cooperation; needless to say, the pages reproduced here reflect the opinions of the speakers and are not meant to represent the official position of the organizing committee. Finally I would like to note with admiration that this publication project was carried out under the auspices of Rev. Takaharu Ichise. Without his continuous concern and effort for it, this proceeding would have never been realized.

In the light of our ultimate goal of the Joyous Life throughout the entire world, the Forum might have been like a tiny stone thrown into a vast ocean. But it did create a wave. This wave can be turned into a massive swell,

Foreword

depending upon our efforts. I sincerely hope this publication contributes to this drive, spreading the Forum spirit wider and inspiring the reader further towards world salvation. Our teaching is the final teaching, and our path is the engaged path. Let us move on.

May Oyasama be with you.

Ikuo Higashibaba

Tenri Forum 2006 Steering Committee Member

November 26, 2008

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Public Symposium

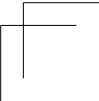
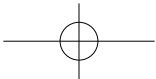
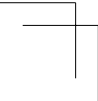
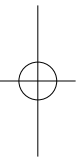
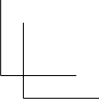
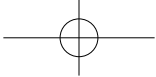
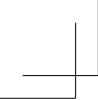
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Greetings from the Director-in-Chief of Tenrikyo Administrative Affairs

I would like to express my appreciation to those who have exerted sincere efforts and used ingenuity, with a solid sense of purpose, to overcome many difficulties in organizing Tenri Forum 2006, which has attracted participants both from overseas and from within Japan. May I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who have come to take part in the Forum.

In 1961, Instruction Two was announced to indicate guidelines for the activities leading up to the 80th Anniversary of Oyasama. That Instruction quoted the following words of Oyasama handed down to us by oral tradition:

God will have purified much of Japan during the seventy-five years following God's descent into this Residence. Thereafter, the name "Tenri-O-no-Mikoto" is to spread toward all corners of the world.

Instruction Two declared that the overseas mission—whose progress had for some time been hampered by the circumstances of the world—was once again to be promoted actively as an endeavor involving the entire Tenrikyo community.

In response to that declaration, our predecessors began making sincere efforts to seize the truth of the season so that the path might grow overseas. During the past forty years or so, the path in South Korea and Taiwan was revived, and so was the path in North America and South America. The mission has also made remarkable advances in Southeast Asia, and Tenrikyo's activities are now unfolding in Europe, Africa, and Oceania, as well.

The path of Oyasama has thus grown and expanded in various parts of the world since the aforementioned Instruction Two. However, it goes without saying that, if we are to expand the path further, we must give greater depth to our understanding and practice of the path so as to ensure that it will be accepted ever more widely by local people.

This path has always used Japanese as the main language of communication. That is, it was in Japanese that Oyasama explained the teachings, which have been pondered and implemented by people who were born and brought up in Japanese culture. Such, essentially, is the way the path has been maintained. Yet the path has now spread to overseas regions. Against this backdrop, we have decided to hold this Forum to provide an opportunity for followers to try

to bring greater depth to their understanding and practice of the path. The present Forum will use English—which is increasingly becoming the common language of the world—as the language in which to discuss how to strengthen Tenrikyo’s efforts to sprinkle the fragrance of the teachings and help others be saved, so that more and more people may be guided to this path.

Unlike forty years ago, there are now more Yobokus who speak English. Besides those whose mother tongue is English, there are growing numbers of people in the Home of the Parent who—based in the Overseas Department, Tenri Seminary, Tenri University, and so on—are capable of conveying the teachings in English. Also, there are other English-speaking Yobokus in non-English-speaking countries and regions in Japan, who are based in churches or homes that are not churches.

We have organized Tenri Forum 2006 while calling upon these Yobokus to participate. Over the next three days, difficulties and concerns involved in spreading and implementing the teachings overseas will be shared, and many issues that should be addressed will doubtless be pointed out. Naturally, the present Forum will not be able to offer answers to all of them; ultimately, the Forum is an attempt. Nonetheless, I would like to see it as an important, epoch-making event along the path to the Joyous Life—which is the path that will save the world and the path that is to continue through all time.

Masahiko Ihuri

Director-in-Chief of Administrative Affairs

Greetings from the Head of Tenrikyo Overseas Department

Having performed Oyasama's 120th Anniversary Service on January 26th, we have designated this year as the "Year of Oyasama's 120th Anniversary," and a countless number of followers are returning to Jiba in droves not only from within Japan but also from abroad with the following slogan: "Let's make Jiba lively with many returnees."

I am truly delighted that "Tenri Forum 2006: New Frontiers in the Mission" is being held with many overseas friends of the path returning and gathering in Jiba in great numbers in such a significant year. I would like, therefore, to extend heartfelt greetings to all of you, participants, in the Tenri Forum: "Welcome home."

Although this Tenri Forum project has been planned and developed with the Overseas Department as sponsor, the actual preparations have gone beyond the boundaries of the Overseas Department and involved many Yoboku and leaders of the path not only from the mainland U.S. and Hawaii but also from other countries, who took it upon their shoulders willingly to promote "Tenri Forum 2006." It is precisely for this reason that I have a great hope that this Forum will serve to shed a new light of hope for the future path of our worldwide mission.

Reflecting this process in the making, the Steering Committee draws its eager members from Tenri Seminary, Tenri University faculty, directly-supervised churches, and from overseas dioceses such as the mainland U.S., Hawaii, Europe and so on. Due to the immeasurable efforts corporately mustered from these committee members who have contributed their rich wisdom and experiences when needed, we are now able to hold this Forum. Therefore, I wish to extend my special thanks to them for their sincere efforts and countless number of hours dedicated for the making of Tenri Forum 2006.

Owing to enthusiastic and persuasive invitations extended by committee members from abroad as well as by those many friends abroad who have given two thumbs up for the purpose of the Forum, participants come not only from English-speaking countries such as the U.S.A., Canada, Hawaii, the U.K. and Australia, but also from countries and regions such as India, Nepal, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, France, Brazil, and Mexico. Added to these

Greetings

friends from abroad are many Japanese participants who studied abroad and acknowledged their deep affinity with overseas countries. Tenri Forum 2006 has become truly international in participant makeup, befitting the subject matters of discussion, which is the worldwide mission.

Even with respect to Tenrikyo history, it is truly epoch-making to hold a Forum with topics and themes that are uniquely Tenrikyo, with many participants boarding and rooming together for 3 days and employing the English language as a medium, all this in such a magnitude and here at Jiba during this seasonable time. As I gaze at the 3-day program, it comes to my mind that the mission for this Forum is to find answers to the question: “How to convey the ultimate teaching to our local communities, to our societies and to the world while pursuing our quest for the parental heart of Oyasama and always upholding the parental intention in our minds.”

It is my earnest wish that you will engage in lively discussions, using the English language to frankly express true feelings and thoughts, and polish each other’s faith and convictions, become better resources yourselves as missionaries with the spirit of valiance and radiance, and resolve to push your way step by step to Oyasama’s ideal. In addition, I sincerely hope that this Forum serves as a catalyst for a new movement for the promotion of the Mission on the organizational level at your church, fellowship, and diocese at large.

On an ending note, I wish to convey my concrete desire that all of you participants develop a lasting friendship of the “brothers among brothers” that behooves us Yoboku and strive to establish a worldwide network of Yoboku who set their eyes on the new and revived frontiers of the mission

Yoshiaki Mihama

Former Head of Tenrikyo Overseas Department

Greetings from the Chairman of Tenri Forum 2006

In 1998, when we celebrated the 200th birthday of Oyasama, Tenrikyo held its exhibition and first dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome. This was followed by the second dialogue in 2002 held in Tenri. After the second dialogue, Rev. Masahiko Iburi suggested that we hold an English-language forum so that Tenrikyo missionaries in the world could assemble together at the Home of the Parent to discuss various issues confronting them in their missionary work. Young staff members of the Tenrikyo-Christian dialogues who provided support work, such as translation, for the dialogue were requested to take leading roles in implementing this unprecedented event.

The Forum's preparation began in January 2004, when the steering committee had its first meeting. I was appointed as the chairperson of the committee, and its administrative office was placed in Tenri Seminary with Ikuo Higashibaba as the administrative director. Although almost half of the committee members lived outside Japan, we were able to maintain close communication through the Internet.

The program and other basic plans of the Forum were completed in November of the same year. In order to carry out a Forum that featured a strong sense of commitment to actual missionary activities in the world, the committee's administrative office was transferred to the Overseas Department, and North-America and Oceania Section Chief Takaharu Ichise was newly appointed as its administrative director. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to both administrative directors for their untiring contribution to the smooth progress of the preparation, and to other committee members for their sincere cooperation. For all of us in the committee, the Forum is an opportunity to repay the support and guidance we received in the course of our spiritual maturity.

I wish to thank you—the participants of the Tenri Forum 2006—for making the commitment to attend this event from various parts of the world. Tenri Forum 2006, held in this seasonal year of the 120th Anniversary of Oyasama, will become a significant cornerstone of our future efforts in spreading the teachings throughout the world. Yet, its true results will depend on how we can make available the fruits of this meeting towards our local



Greetings

missionary endeavors. Although the Forum is carried out in English, its concern is not limited to English-speaking countries and regions, but its issues are related to our mission throughout the world. Tenri Forum is, therefore, a starting point of the new age of the world mission of the Path. I sincerely hope that the fruits of the Forum will be born by our accumulated efforts in the future.

Yoshikazu Terada
Chairman
Tenri Forum 2006 Steering Committee

DAY ONE (July 15, 2006)
Our Resources:
Toward a Better Understanding of Ourselves

1-1

Opening Session

Welcome Address

“What I Expect from the Forum”

Morning Session
Fundamental Resources

1-1-P Plenary Address

1-1-1 Tenrikyo Scriptures
Let us Become More Familiar with the Scriptures

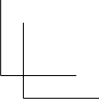
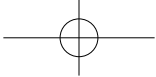
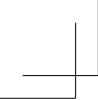
1-1-2 The Service
The Service: An Effective means to Strengthen Faith?

1-1-3 The Sazuke
A Secret Treasure or “Money” to be Used?

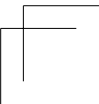
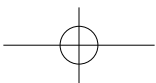
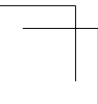
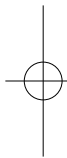
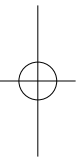
1-1-4 The Truth of Origin
Exploring Ways to Live in Sync with the Truth of Origin

1-1-5 The Divine Model of Oyasama
A Universally Relevant Model Here and Now

1-1-6 Hinokishin
Hinokishin: Its Significance and Impact



1-1



July 15th, Day One Opening Ceremony

Photo Gallery

Tenri Forum 2006

- Day One Photo Gallery -



Rev. Nagao leads the Eight Verses of Yorozuyo



Opening Ceremony M.C. by Rev. Okazaki



Rev. Ichise delivers the Welcome Address



Representative Speeches by
Ms. Dali & Mr. Patterson



Participants singing the Eight Verses of Yorozuyo

July 15th, Day One Section Meetings

Photo Gallery



1-1-P Plenary Address by Ms. Sasaki



1-1-1 *Osashizu*
by Rev. Ichise



1-1-1 *The Mikagura-uta* by
Rev. Fukaya



1-1-1 Participants for Tenrikyo Scriptures



1-1-2 Speakers Rev. Fukaya & Mr. Tsuji



1-1-3 Speakers Rev. Adachi, moderator Ms. Miura, and participants for The Sazuke



1-1-4 Participants for The Truth of Origin



1-1-4 Speakers Mr. Matsuda (left)
& Mr. Yasui (right)

July 15th, Day One Section Meetings

Photo Gallery



1-1-5 Moderator Rev. Fukaya



1-1-5 Discussion on The Divine Model of Oyasama



1-1-6 (from left) Speakers Mr. Mihama, Ms. Yamanaka, moderator Mr. Niwa, and Mr. Iburi



1-2-P Plenary Address by Rev. Okazaki



1-2-1 Moderator Ms. Imoto



1-2-1 Speakers Rev. Irie, Rev. Jeong, Ms. Yamada, and participants for Educating the Young



July 15th, Day One Section Meetings

Photo Gallery



1-2-2 Cultivating Leadership by Rev. Kimura, Mr. Kondo (top), & Rev. Nagao (bottom)



1-2-3 Producing Local Publications & the New Media by moderator Mr. Okada and workshop by participants



1-2-4 Moderator Rev. Iwata (left) & Speaker Rev. Hasegawa (right) on Spreading the Fragrance of the Teachings



1-2-5 Preaching the Sermon by Mr. Morishita



1-2-6 (From left) Participants and speakers Ms. Meyer, Mr. Lewis, Rev. Shirokihara, and Rev. Okazaki

Welcome Address

Takaharu Ichise

(Rev. Ichise served as Administrative Director of Tenri Forum 2006 and is the Chief of North America and Oceania Section of Tenrikyo Overseas Department)

Good morning ladies and gentlemen.

I first want to say, I am filled with excitement and anticipation because, despite your busy schedules, all of you have assembled here today with great interest and concern for the teachings and world salvation. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all of you who have shown your sincerity, by being here today. And now, with much pride, I would like to commence the opening of this historical event, “Tenri Forum 2006.”

Tenri Forum 2006 is designed to ignite in us a new and modern spirit toward world salvation. Society has made quantum leaps in terms of technology and progress. Unfortunately, many issues and problems are still unsolved and plague our communities. This is an opportunity to look more seriously at ourselves, our family lives, our salvation work in our communities, and strive to develop new avenues to advance world salvation. The first step into this 3-day event will begin by studying what Oyasama taught us through the Scriptures and Her life as the Divine Model.

Separation and Cutting: in Tenrikyo, separation and cutting are explained as “the providence of *Taishokuten-no-Mikoto*,” that is, the providence of cutting in general in the world. Up until now, Tenrikyo overseas missionary work has been mostly carried out separately in various countries and regions. This represents the providence of cutting because, although we are all united under the same teachings, there was a need to separate and adjust ourselves to each country and culture. Thus, the need to separate may have been due to historical and cultural reasons, as well as many other aspects. In essence, the purpose of separating the Tenrikyo mission from one large entity into small clusters was necessary for missionaries to adjust to the myriad of challenges we face in our modern age.

However, the time has now come to shift away from our differences and to focus once again on what JOINS us. It is explained as the providence of “*Kunisazuchi-no-Mikoto*,” that is, the providence of joining in general in the

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world. In other words, it is now time to focus on connecting and joining the efforts we have made around the world for the sake of spreading the teachings. We must form better avenues of communication, and we must cooperate with our minds in unison to construct the world God the Parent and Oyasama intended for us.

Presently, the world is still plagued with various family crises that are tearing the fabric of our society. Conflict and violence still continue, hindering our progress towards the Joyous Life. It is essential that we reexamine the joining of families, communities, and countries, and the worldwide joining of Tenrikyo churches, fellowships and members during this Forum to help advance the path of missionary work.

In closing, I would like to remind you all that we all have something special to contribute to this path. We all have a responsibility towards world salvation. Regardless of your experience or knowledge of Tenrikyo, let's open our hearts and discuss, in high spirits, how best to advance the Tenrikyo teachings into new frontiers for the mission.

“What I Expect from the Forum”

Amira Dali

(Ms. Dali serves as President of Love Green Nepal and resides in Kathmandu, Nepal)

OHAYO GOZAIMASU and very good morning!

Today I'm very much happy to attend this unprecedented event organized on the occasion of the 120th Anniversary of Oyasama.

For me, this is the first time to attend and interact with such a big, international gathering. I sincerely thank the organizer of this Forum, especially Terada Sensei to give me the chance to speak in this opening session and also to take part in the experience of the session meetings in the next three days. At this moment I would like to express my gratitude to Rev. Ryoji Omukai and Rev. Dr. Shigeru Matsumoto who have brought me here in today's position.

Tenri has always been a place of inspiration, a place of source of energy to my life and to my family. Without coming back to Tenri and without reporting to “Oyasama” on whatever incidents (both good and bad) that occur in my life, I just cannot catch up to normal pace. So, every time (when something happens), I come back here even for only one day to express my gratitude to God the Parent. Thus, I feel my body and mind are always oriented towards Tenri and fully protected by God the parent.

Now, I'm pretty sure this Forum will benefit me to further deepen my faith, expanding the path of teaching, in the days ahead.

1. Sharing the experiences with the speakers from different countries, I expect to learn the practical things that in turn will be applicable in my country.

2. I would like to update myself in spreading the teaching, keeping in stride with the changes brought by the technological miracles (like IT) and changes in human values as well.

To put it in other words, I expect to learn as a follower of Tenrikyo, what is our responsibility now in the changing context and what is the modality that can be adopted by ourselves to address the upcoming new problems in society, through the application of the teachings of God the Parent.

My humble request to all whoever are present here in this august gathering is, our problems are different in each countries, but since we are all united by the

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teachings of Oyasama, let us share the experiences to face the challenges in the days ahead for the real progress and to materialize the Joyous Life in the real life.

Thank you very much!

“What I Expect from the Forum”

Simon Patterson

(Mr. Patterson is the head of London Sakurai Fellowship which was established in 2000 and resides in London, United Kingdom)

First of all I would like to say how honoured I feel, not only being asked to speak at one of the sessions but also at the opening ceremony of such an important and historic event, as part of the 120th Anniversary of Oyasama.

My Japanese, I am afraid is very poor. I am rather ashamed that after 21 years of marriage to a Japanese woman and over 10 visits to Jiba, I still can't speak it. In fact I have now hired my 9 year old son to be my translator!

When I first came to Tenri 21 years ago, there seemed to be very few people who spoke English, there were few English books and only one family in the UK that was really dedicated to the path.

It was not until I attended the first International *Hinokishin-Tai* in 1989 that I discovered that there were a lot more English speaking Yoboku, particularly from America and Hawaii. This opened up a whole new understanding of Tenrikyo for me. I also met Iburi Sensei who spoke excellent English.

My wife Shinobu's sister, Meiko Nakamura, lives in California at Golden State Church. We have been lucky enough to visit them on several occasions over the years. Each time we have also visited Mission Headquarters in Los Angeles and there I have been able to meet friends that I met during *hinokishin tai*, like Jiro Morishita.

Over the years the world has gotten smaller, with faster flights to Japan and the Internet allowing for the instant transfer of communication and information.

As a non-Japanese speaker to “feel” Tenrikyo was a wonderful way for me to start on the Path, but there is no doubt that to learn and talk about Tenrikyo in my native language brings the whole thing alive.

Oyasama had a vision that Tenrikyo would be spread throughout the world. It is natural that this will take time. We are a fortunate generation who can enjoy healthy lives and do good jobs, we have modern technology to help us, and most importantly perhaps, we speak English, arguably the world's international language.

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English is a mongrel language which is constantly changing and developing. It comes from a mixture of Danish, German, Greek, Latin, and French as well as having words from other languages like Indian. It is truly an international language.

Over the next 3 days we are all going to have a fantastic opportunity to discuss the best way to spread the teachings in the English speaking world and I hope that even those who do not speak English will also benefit from our forum.

Let's all hope that the seeds we plant over the next three days will bear fruit for generations to come, and that future generations will look back at this Forum as a pivotal point in the Path of world salvation.

Thank you very much!