

The Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition Information for Group Participation

What is the Commemoration of Accession?

On June 6, 2014, the Jodo Shinshu Tradition was transmitted to the 25th Head Priest, Sennyō Monshū. The Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition or *Dentō Hōkoku Hōyō*, is conducted standing before Amida Tathagata and Shinran Shonin to formally announce that the newly-inducted Head Priest shall take on the responsibilities as Monshū, following in the footsteps of his predecessors to spread the Dharma on to new generations and embracing the opportunity to spread the Nembutsu teaching to the greater people. It is also a festive occasion welcoming everyone to celebrate the inauguration of the new Monshū.

The 25th Head Priest OHTANI Kojiun (Dharma name: Shaku Sennyo)

- 1977 Born
- 1992 Ordained as a Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha priest
Designated as Shimmon (Heir Apparent to Monshu)
- 1993 Officiated the Installment as Shimmon
- 2000 Graduated, Faculty of Law (Hosei University)
- 2002 Master's program completed, Shin Buddhist studies (Ryukoku University)
- 2003 Honorary President of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Young Buddhist Association
Honorary President of the Scout Leaders' Association
Advisor of the Scouts Association of Japan
- 2005 Credit requirements fulfilled, Shin Buddhist Studies Doctoral program (Ryukoku University)
- 2008 Appointed as Vice Resident Priest of Tsukiji Hongwanji, Tokyo
- 2010 Installed as Special Advisor of the Scouts Association of Japan
- 2014 Appointed 25th Head Priest of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha and Hongwanji Resident Priest
Lecturer at Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin (Central Buddhist Seminary), Tokyo Bukkyo Gakuin (Tokyo Buddhist Seminary), Department of Practical Shin Buddhism Studies (Ryukoku University), and Ryukoku Extension Center Community College

The 24th Head Priest OHTANI Koshin (Dharma name: Shaku Sokunyo)

Appointed as the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Head Priest in 1977 at the age of 31. Services and major observances officiated by Shaku Sokunyo include the following: 400th Memorial for Kennyo Shonin, and Commemoration of Hongwanji's Relocation and Return to Kyoto (1991), 500th Memorial for Rennyō Shonin (1998), and the 750th Memorial for Shinran Shonin (2011–2012). Official visitations to 534 Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha affiliate sub-districts throughout Japan were conducted over a 24-year time span beginning in 1981. He also visited many of the overseas affiliate temples and has made appearances at global gatherings both within and outside of the Hongwanji organization. In addition to his responsibilities as the 24th Hongwanji Monshu, he served as President of the Japan Buddhist Federation, Chair of the Japanese Association for Prison Chaplains, and President of the UN Association Kyoto Branch.

Bibliography (English publications in parentheses)

Ashita ni wa Kogan Arite: Tokyo, Kadokawa Shoten, 2003 (*The Buddha's Wish for the World*: NY, American Buddhist Study Center 2009), *Yononaka An'non Nare—Gendai Shakai to Bukkyo*: Tokyo, Chuo Koron Shinsha, 2007 (*The Buddha's Gift to the World*: NY, American Buddhist Study Center, 2014), *Gu no Chikara*: Bungei Shunju, 2009 (*The Buddha's Call to Awaken*: NY, American Buddhist

Study Center, 2012), *Ima Koko ni Ikiru Bukkyo*: Tokyo, Heibonsha, 2010, *Sukui to Yorokobi* and *Negai no Chikara*: Kyoto, Hongwanji Press, 2011, *Ima wo Ikasarete*: Tokyo, Bungei Shunju, 2014, *Jinsei wa Kachi Aru Hitotoki*: Kyoto, PHP Institute 2015.

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I. Group Participation

A. Commemoration of Accession *Sampai* (Visitors) Center

The *Sampai* Center has been set up within the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha organization as the office in charge of communications with travel agencies who are arranging for Hongwanji-affiliate overseas temples and sanghas' group participation in the Commemoration on the Accession of the 25th Head Priest, Sennyō Monshū.

Main responsibilities of the *Sampai* Center

- Allocate enough seats to each group attending the Commemoration of Accession and its related events
- Oversee operations of the Participants' Rest Area and Parking arrangements
- As the intermediate agency, be informed of the itineraries, means of transportation, and accommodations of each participating group

Contact

<i>Sampai</i> Center	Tel: (81-75) 371-5060 (Japanese only)
	Fax: (81-75) 352-5242
International Center	Tel: (81-75) 371-5547 (English available)
	Fax: (81-75) 371-4070

The following travel agencies have been designated as *Sampai* Center Cooperating Companies, assisting Hongwanji overseas temples and sanghas to participate in the Commemoration of Accession

- Kinki Nippon Tourist (KNT) or Kintetsu International
- JTB International, Inc.
- Tobu Top Tours Co. Ltd.
- Nippon Travel Agency
- Meitetsu World Travel. Inc.

Travel agencies, transportation companies, and or any type of business entity (**other than those listed above**) must be registered as "Assisting Agent" before making arrangements for overseas groups. All necessary forms to be recognized as an "Assisting Agent" may be requested through the International Center who will then forward completed applications to the *Sampai* Center.

Details on the Commemoration of Accession shall be provided to the Assisting Agent once all necessary documents have been submitted and registration has been approved.

B. Outline of group participation

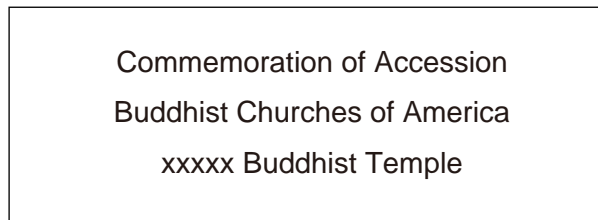
1. Group Naming

Each group will be referred to by the following information:

Temple / Sangha / District name

***Groups consisting of five (5) or less individuals may be automatically registered as individual participation. (To be determined by Sampai Center)**

Sample name tags



2. Application

Applications must be submitted through the respective district headquarters or the Hongwanji International Center where a district office is not available.

3. Service schedule

Services are scheduled daily from 2:00 PM during each session.

A commemorative program tentatively referred to as "Dharma light gathering" is being scheduled for following the service.

4. Seating capacity

2000 seats in total will be prepared within the Hall of Amida Buddha and Founder's Hall.

C. Deadlines

1. Application

Sampai Center will begin accepting applications from **October 1, 2015**

Application deadline: **Six (6) months prior to the day of participation**

- a. It is recommended that application for participation be made for days that have been allocated for overseas districts.
- b. Requesting for dates that are not allocated for overseas districts **must be** made through the affiliate district headquarters.
- c. The following information: (1) acknowledgement notice, (2) itinerary form (to be completed and returned) will be sent to the representative upon confirmation via postal mail or in the form of digital file.

2. Itinerary

Completed itinerary form must be submitted **three months prior** to the day of participation.

3. Confirmation

The following documents: (1) Confirmation letter, (2) delegate name tags, and (3) bus signs, will be forwarded to the International Center **one (1) month prior** to your scheduled day of participation, who will distribute packets to groups upon arrival in Kyoto.

Process Outline

Initial application (must be received by International Center six (6) months prior to participation day)

Overseas district headquarters → Sampai Center

*Japanese application form is available for download on the Hongwanji website

*English version will be coming soon.

Acknowledgement of application

Upon receiving the application, an acknowledgement notice in addition to an itinerary form will be sent to the applicant.

Change in itinerary

Any and all changes should be made by submitting the designated correction form through the International Center.

After changes have been confirmed by Sampai Center, a written confirmation of the alterations shall be sent to the applicant through the International Center.

Submission of itinerary

Must be made three (3) months prior to the participation day

Overseas district headquarters -> Hongwanji International Center -> Sampai Center

Final confirmation in written form

Will be sent to each applicant one(1) month prior to the participation day through the International Center. The document is accompanied by a package of name card for each participant and the group name sticker for bus.

Note: It is requested that application for **Confirmation Ceremony (Okamisori / Kikyoshiki)** be made two (2) months prior to the participation day.

D. Service schedule

1st session	October 1 [*] –8, 2016	*Group participation is not accepted for October 1, 2016
2nd session	October 20–27, 2016	
3rd session	November 4–11, 2016	
4th session	November 18–25, 2016	
5th session	March 7–14, 2017	
6th session	March 7–April 4, 2017	
7th session	April 11–18 [*] , 2017	*Service is conducted at Otani Mausoleum on April 18, 2017
8th session	April 25–May 2, 2017	
9th session	May 9–16, 2017	
10th session	May 24–31, 2017	

Daily schedule

Activities		Place	Notes
5:30	Gates open		Group arrival
6:00			
6:30	Morning service	Hall of Amida Buddha & Founder's Hall	
7:00			
7:30	Confirmation Ceremony	Founder's Hall	
	Various commemorative events	Hongwanji community Hongwanji precinct Hongwanji Ochasho (rest area)	
13:00	Enter temple halls	Hall of Amida Buddha & Founder's Hall	
13:50	Schedule overview Opening remarks		
14:00			
14:30	Commemoration of Accession		
15:00			
15:30	"Dharma Light gathering"		
16:00			Group departure
16:30	Confirmation Ceremony	Founder's Hall	
17:00	Gates close		
17:30			

II. Commemorative events

A. Seating arrangements

- 2000 chairs in total will be set up in the Hall of Amida Buddha and Founder's Hall.
- Seating arrangements will be made in advance.
- Delegates will be guided by Hongwanji staff when entering and exiting the temple halls to avoid congestion.

B. Bus pick-up and drop-off

- Bus pick-up and drop-off shall be conducted in the North Complex (parking lot) or as instructed.
- For more information, please refer to the guide books.

C. Dining and Rest Area

- A temporary dining facility (capacity: 1000 persons) will be built in the North Complex (parking lot) to allow group participants to rest and have lunch.
- The 3rd floor of Monbou Kaikan will also be made available.

D. Lunch

- Groups have the option of making their own lunch arrangements.
- Groups requesting bento lunches prepared by a designated catering company through Sampai Center must indicate so on the registration application.
- Detailed information (caterers, lunch menu and prices, dining location and time) will be announced at a later time.

E. Picture taking

- Locations for group photos will be designated. Detailed information will be announced later.

F. Morning service

- Morning service is conducted daily from 6:00 am.
- Seating is non-reserved during the morning service.
- Bus pick-up and drop-off shall be conducted in the North Complex (parking lot).

G. Donations

- A donation amount has not been fixed. Any donation is greatly appreciated.

H. Memento

- A memento for the Commemoration of Accession is being planned for group delegates.

I. Confirmation Ceremony

1. Schedule

- First sessionFollowing the 6:00 am morning service
- Second session...Following the 2:00 pm Commemoration of Accession
- *Second sessions on **October 1, 2016 and April 18, 2017 will not be conducted.**

2. Application

- Complete and submit KIKYOSHIKI APPLICATION FORM
- Application forms must be collected and submitted as a group and requested to be received at the Hongwanji Reception Department at least 2 months prior to the scheduled day of the Confirmation ceremony via postal mail or fax (075-371-7601). Any additions and cancellations must be made at least 20 days prior to the day of the Confirmation ceremony.

3. Requested Buddhist names

- Complete the CONFIRMATION CEREMONY APPLICATION **NAME REQUEST(内願用)** form and submit to the Hongwanji Reception Department at least two (2) months prior to the requested day of the Confirmation Ceremony. The request form must include the seal or signature of the applicant and kaikyoshi minister to which the applicant is affiliated. Faxed request forms are not accepted.

4. Designated donation

Adults (20 years and older)	Youth (19 and under)	Request for specific Buddhist name
¥10,000	¥5,000	¥10,000 (additional)

- We ask that donations for the Confirmation Ceremony be collected and submitted together with the necessary forms as a group.
- The donation for Confirmation Ceremony is designated as 10,000 yen for adults, and 5,000 yen for youth 19 years of age and under. Those who wish to request a specific Buddhist name are required to make an additional 10,000 yen donation.

J. Participation of ministers

- Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha ordained ministers are welcome to take part in the service within the designated area as *kesshu*, *resshu* or *sogakuin** during the service portion of the Commemoration of Accession by following prescribed procedures, which will be announced later.

**kesshu*: Prescribed number of designated ministers

resshu: Priests who wish to participate in a service, designated to be seated in either the *Yoma* or front part of the *Gejin* areas within the limited seating capacity

sogakuin: Ministers who take part in a service as part of the *gagaku* orchestra

1. Qualifications

- *Kesshu* is required to have *Junsan Kyoka Shinsei* certification.
- *Sogakuin* must be *Tokubetsu Homuin* certified.

2. Robes

- *Resshu* and *sogakuin* must prepare their own attire. The robe of a *resshu* must be appropriate in color according to ministerial rank.
- For *kesshu*, robes and *kesa* will be prepared by Hongwanji.

3. Ground rules

- An orientation will be given one (1) hour prior to the service.
- All ministers must remain dressed in their robes until the conclusion of the "Dharma Light gathering."
- Ministers who are leading a group should appoint a group representative during the service if s/he plans to take part in a service as *kesshu*, *resshu* or *sogakuin*.

K. Organizational Program Department related activities

1. Scheduled events by Hongwanji affiliate organizations

- a. Children and youth events
July or August 2017 (TBD)
- b. Young Buddhist Association
50th Anniversary of YBA Japan (fiscal 2016, TBD)

2. Participation by affiliate organizations

- a. Adult Buddhist Association
October 2016 (tentative)
- b. Buddhist Women's Association
April 2017 (tentative)
- c. *Monto Suishin'in* (lay leaders)
Four days over the duration of the Commemoration Services (dates TBA) with 250 seats reserved for *Monto Suishin'in* delegates during the designated service.

L. Commemorative events

1. Hall of Amida Buddha & Founder’s Hall

*Event schedule subject to change according to Hongwanji annual observances.

- a. Special event for those unable to attend the Commemoration of Accession
A special showing of the Commemoration of Accession will be prepared for those who were unable to attend the Commemoration of Accession or would like to re-experience the Commemoration. (Advance written request required)

The special event will be made available three times in the morning (Mon–Sat) during each session. (Program time: approx. 30 minutes)

Program

Time	Program
As necessary	Registration
5 minutes prior to the service	Guided to seat
1. 9:30 AM 2. 10:30 AM 3. 11:30 AM	Chanting (<i>Sambutsuge</i>)
	Showing of the Commemoration of Accession
	Dharma talk
	Message

- b. Celebratory Ceremonies (Advance written request required)
Various ceremonies celebrating special occasions are conducted upon request.

(1) Weddings and Infant Presentations

While Commemoration of Accession services are in session, ceremony times will be made available Sunday mornings.

(2) Wedding anniversaries and other celebratory ceremonies

Celebratory ceremonies (excluding weddings and infant presentations) will be scheduled into the “Program” for those unable to attend the service (see above for event details)

2. Hongwanji Courtyard

a. Temporary event space

Open to delegates and the general public.

A café serving light meals, Kyoto souvenirs and gifts, a large viewing screen and information desk will be available from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

b. *Ochasho* (rest area)

The following will be conducted:

- Ministers delivering dharma messages in a *Dharma message marathon*
- Consultation desk for questions related to Buddhism (Japanese only)

3. North Complex (parking lot)

a. Dining Area

- Exhibitions related to the Commemoration of Accession
- Souvenir booths

b. Monbou Kaikan

- Exhibitions related to the Commemoration of Accession
- Souvenir booths

- Nursery area
- 4. Shoin & Hiunkaku
 - a. Self-guided tour
 - Shoin guestroom-quarters and Hiunkaku pavilion, both of which are national treasures will be open to delegates during the following hours:
9:00 AM and 12:30 PM
3:30 PM and 5:00 PM
 - b. Commemorative tea ceremony
 - Delegates who have made donations will be invited to the commemorative tea ceremony conducted in Hiunkaku pavilion during the following hours:
9:30 AM and 12:30 PM

5. Hongwanji community
Special Exhibition

Hongwanji and Jodo Shinshu Treasures (tentative title)
Commemoration on the Accession to the 25th Monshu Sennyō

On display will include portraits of previous Hongwanji Head Priests, writings, robes and other related items such as items from the previous Commemoration of Accession, Cultural Assets preserved by Nishi Hongwanji and other Jodo Shinshu temples, and artistic work related to Jodo Shinshu.

Screening of the commemoration conducted in 1933 of 23rd Monshu Shonyō and The Accession Commemorative Celebrations in 1977 of 24th Monshu Sokunyo

Period: September 24 (Sat)–November 27 (Sun), 2016
March 4 (Sat)–May 31 (Wed), 2017
Time: 9:30 AM–6:00 PM
Place: Ryukoku Museum
Admission: ¥500
(Special rate will be available to groups attending the Commemoration)

6. Other
Special limited-time events for Hongwanji affiliates and non-affiliates are underway.

III. Historical sites related to Hongwanji

A. Otani Mausoleum

1. Visitation

a. Office hours

9:00 AM–6:00 PM (Commemoration observance period)

Gates open: 5:30 AM Gates close: 6:00 PM

b. Registration

Special group registration desk will be made available

c. Time frame (approximate)

Visitation only:

- Approximately 45 minutes (excluding time getting on and off bus)
- At least 20 minutes should be added when visiting *Odabisho* (cremation site)

Interring of remains:

- Approximately 60 minutes (excluding time getting on and off bus)

Note: Congestion is anticipated especially during weekends and holidays.

2. Interring of remains

a. *Sodan Nokotsu*: Interring alongside the remains of Shinran Shonin

b. *Muryojudo Nokotsu*: Interring of remains within a designated temple niche

c. *Eitaikyo*: Perpetual Memorial Service

- Information for interring of remains is available upon request by the International Center.

3. Bus parking

- Parking is not available. Bus drop-off and waiting area To be announced.

B. Hino Birth Place

1. Visitation

a. Office hours

9:00 AM–3:30 PM

b. Guide

Ministers will be on-site to share the history of the temple.

Tour route, registration area, and other details will be announced in the *Group Leaders' Handbook*.

c. Time frame (approximate)

- 20–30 minutes (excluding time getting on and off bus)
- At least 20–30 minutes should be added when visiting Hokkaiji Temple. (located next to Hino Birth Place)
- Hokkaiji Temple should be contacted directly in advance for an appointment to visit the temple, as they are not an affiliate of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha.

2. Bus parking

- Limited parking will be available at the adjoining affiliate Nursery facility.
- Special care must be made if bus drop-off and pick-up takes place when school is in session.

- Streets in the neighboring area are very narrow which local bus service routes channel through them. Please instruct your driver to drive slowly with care.

C. Suminobo Temple

3. Visitation

a. Office hours

9:00 AM–3:30 PM

b. Guide

Ministers will be on-site to share the history of the temple.

Tour route, registration area, and other details will be announced in the Group Leaders' Handbook.

c. Time frame (approximate)

20–30 minutes (excluding time getting on and off bus)

1. Bus parking

- A section of the temple precinct will be made available for limited parking.
- Adjoining the temple is Nishi Hongwanji Nursery. Special care must be made if bus drop-off and pick-up takes place when school is in session.