

Mass Prayer for World Peace At Vesak Festival in Tokyo

International community residents in Japan and Japanese Buddhists jointly prayed for world peace and for individual happiness of all living beings on earth at a mass assembly gathered to celebrate Vesak Festival at Gotami Vihara in Tokyo on 22nd May commemorating Lord Buddha's Birthday, His Enlightenment and the day of His *Parinibbana* (passing away).



Venerable Sumanasara leading the participants offering worship to Lord Buddha

The first joint Vesak Festival was organized in collaboration with Japan Theravada Buddhist Association (JTBA), and several participating organizations including Nepalese Association of Japan (NAJ), Non-resident Nepalese Association (NRN)-Japan, Milan Club (MC), Sri Lanka-Nippon Budo Association (SNBA) and Japan-Sri Lanka Cultural Exchange Association (JSCEA) at the initiative of Newa International Forum Japan.



Japanese, Myanmar, Sri Lankan and Nepalese at offering worship to Lord Buddha

The festival commenced with *Buddhapuja*, chanting of *sutras* for blessings and a *Sanghika dana* (meal offerings) to eighteen Sri Lankan, Myanmar and Japanese Buddhist monks and nuns in the morning session. All lay participants were also served with free meal including milk-rice and vegetable curry following the tradition, which reminds of the meal offered by a young woman known as Sujatha to the ascetic Siddhartha, who is said have attained to Enlightenment soon after this meal.

The mass assembly in Tokyo attended by over 200 monks, dignitaries, Buddhists and friends of Buddhism gathered in the afternoon, prayed for world peace with chanting by Buddhist monks and nuns led by Venerable A. Sumanasara Mahathero, the chief of the Vihara. The assembly was graced by the presence of



Ambassador of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Karunatilaka Amunugama and Ambassador of Nepal, His Excellency Dr. Ramashananda Vaidya, who also joined in the interaction session on Buddhism, later.

Addressing the gathering, H.E. Ambassador Amunugama said, "Buddha's message of peace has brought all of us together to share a happy way of life. If we follow His Teachings practically, we could always remain happy citizens of the world". Foreign Minister of Nepal, Honorable Ramesh Nath Pandey, in his message



Venerable Suamanasara, H.E. Amunugama, H. E.Vaidya, JTBA President

delivered to the gathering said "Lord Buddha's eternal message of peace and tolerance must guide humanity in the realization of international peace, security and prosperity".

Giving the main Dhamma talk, Venerable Sumanasara Mahathero told the gathering that Buddha's message of peace is for all of us to practice non-violence, show our mercy to all living beings while following the path of wisdom, which will lead us to happiness. He said Buddhism is very simple to follow as it has no prerequisite that you need to become a Buddhist before you study



NIFJ President, Dr..Shakya, Ven.Otani, Ven.Takaoka and Mr. Sato from left to right

Buddha's Teaching nor to believe whatever taught in Buddhism. Citing an episode of a group of blind people, who were asked to identify an elephant by touching whatever part of the body of the animal, Venerable Mahathero said, Buddhism is not something you are supposed to believe in blind. The teaching will awaken you, if you are ready to learn, and argue even against it until you feel confident to follow the path the Buddha has shown us. "Study, practice and follow the path of peace and tolerance yourself, you

will find your happiness. In the same manner, the more individuals practice of tolerance the better the world become a place of happiness and peace, said the Mahathero.

Dr. Iswar Man Shakya, speaking at the gathering reiterated that Nepalese wherever they are, have special duty to promote the message of peace preached by Lord Buddha, who was born in Nepal, while "practicing His teachings ourselves, wherever we are".



H.E.Ambassador Amunugama presenting a Buddha Statue to the Vihara at the Sanghika dana (meal) offered to Buddhist monks and nuns by the lay participants.

Venerable Tatsu Otani of Saitoku Temple, Tokyo and Venerable Shuchu Takaoka, Head of Tokubayashi Temple, Nagoya extended their greetings and blessings to the gathering for a happy and peaceful life.



NIFJ Chapter President thanking the mass assembly praying for world peace.

JTBA President Konishi and NIFJ President Madhav Manandhar welcomed the gathering while NIFJ Kanto Chapter President Suwarn Vajracharya, who jointly hosted the programme with Mr. Sato of JTBA, thanked the gathering for joining to celebrate the Buddha's Birthday and to pray for world peace together with the mass of friends and well-wishers.



Buddhist lanterns. Our youngest participant joining free meal with NIFJ members.

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Bhupi Shrestha and Niraj Buddha Manandhar;
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आजलपा [Jwojalapa] Heartiest Greetings!

Who are we? We are a community that studies, practices and promotes Nepal's Newa culture and language in Japan and contributes to help preserve the heritage in the land of its origin. Our members are comprised of friends from Newa community and both national and international friends of Newa culture.

What do we do? We meet from time to time to chat with friends and admirers of Newa culture; we organize cultural events and social get-togethers by celebrating Nepal's festivals in Japan to introduce Nepal and its culture in Japan.

Nifj Quarterly Newsletter: Since last November in 1125th Nepal Era (2004), we have published a quarterly with news and views and distributed copies free of charge. Started with a two page A4 size sheet, the last edition issued in February 2005 increased into 8 pages. A special volume issued in May this year marking the Buddha's Birthday contained 40 pages with articles on Buddhism and Newa and other Buddhist societies both in Nepal and elsewhere. Free copies are available on request. Please contact NIFJ Kanto chapter office.

Articles about Nepal and its Culture: You are also welcome to share with us your golden ideas in articles of either a short essay, report or even a research paper. Introduce yourself, your own society of Newa or Newa society or world you are aware. Comment about our activities or give us your idea and opinions to promote our organization in Japan.

Nepal Bhasa Classes: Nepal Bhasa classes are conducted at personal levels and needs. If you are interested or would like to introduce a friend of Newa Culuture or language, please contact: 090-2905-0770.

NIFJ T-shirts: We have made T-shirt of a special quality for distribution among our friends. You can share the pride that you

are a Newa, a friend of Newa or an admirer of Nepal Bhasa or Newa Culture. Own a T-shirt. Buy one for you and more for your family and friends to help our activities and projects.

Membership: Membership is open to all, who are interested in sharing the spirit of NIFJ to work together to learn, practice and promote Nepal's Newa culture and language.

If you are interested in 2500 year old traditional culture and would like to be with us sharing your ideas and learning from others, please fill up the application form attached and please either fax or send it through email to either of the addresses below.

What have we done so far? We are still a young Forum started with a small and scattered number of friends living all over Japan by holding the First Convention of Newa community held in Mie prefecture in Japan in August 2003. Since then, we have organized get-togethers on the occasions such as Nepal New Year from the 1123rd Nepal Era. We have organized lecture programmes inviting Dr. David Gellner from University of Oxford, who spoke about "Newa culture and its future" in Nepal Bhasa. Food festivals are other programmes, where Newa traditional foods are served.

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Secretary	Bhupi G. Shrestha
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Advisors	Dr. Ram D. Shrestha Dr. Iswar M. Shakya, Dr. Keshav L Maharjan and Mr. Katoh Syuichi

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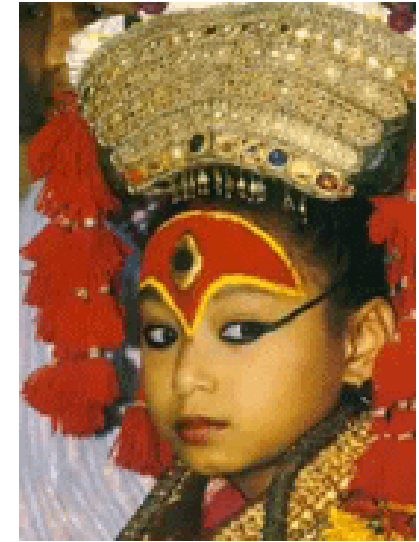
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नवा बुन्ननाद्धिय दवू जापान ネワー 国際フォーラム ジャパン Newa International Forum Japan



MAY ALL BEINGS BE HAPPY WITH THE BLESSINGS OF LORD BUDDHA!

Mass Prayer for world peace marking the Buddha's Birthday on 22nd May 2005 in Tokyo.....Detail inside!



Kumari, the Living Goddess

What are Newa Culture and Nepal Bhasa? Join NIFJ to explore them.

**NIFJ नवा: मी सकसिया मंका दवू ।
द्वः पिं द्विकपिं सकसिगं लसक्स द् ।**