

Message from the Chairperson for SOPP 2014

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the tenth annual Symphony of Peace Prayers ceremony at Fuji Sanctuary!

My deepest gratitude goes out to the many prayer leaders, distinguished guests, volunteers, supporters, and all the participants who have gathered here at Fuji Sanctuary and at SOPP events around the world over the past ten years.

The first SOPP ceremony was held at Fuji Sanctuary in 2005. It was a unique and unprecedented event, in which people from different religious and cultural backgrounds gathered in the Prayer Field and prayed with one voice for peace on earth. Since then, the Symphony of Peace Prayers has been held each year in this outdoor Prayer Field, no matter what the weather. Even amidst harsh winds and incessant rain, people have gathered here and continued to offer their earnest prayers for peace. Peace-minded people of all ages have gathered here without regard to age, gender, background, or position, transcending national borders and religious differences to pray intently for peace. Their elevated consciousness and heartfelt prayers are all that exist in this space. When the ceremony is over, the Prayer Field is once again quiet and still. But the prayers offered by everyone here and abroad live on eternally, laying a foundation that is built on year after year.

I know that everyone who has come here to participate in the SOPP has been deeply impressed by the prayer leaders from different faiths, has concurred with their messages, and has felt honored to pray the prayers of each religion. I also know that the prayer leaders themselves have been deeply impressed by the sublime qualities exhibited by each and every one of you. Upon returning home, they have shared their impressions with other peace-minded individuals, and in this way the vibrations of divine consciousness have resonated from Fuji Sanctuary out through the entire world. To date, SOPP events have been held in more than 53 countries, with over 1.1 million people participating worldwide.

It is said that the tenth year marks a turning point, and the SOPP is no exception to this. Thanks to the precious prayers that you have earnestly continued praying these past ten years, in all kinds of conditions—prayers that have transcended all boundaries to create a beautiful, harmonious symphony—with this year's ceremony, the magnificent foundation is at last complete. The prayers of different faiths and traditions are woven together like a brightly colored tapestry, constructing a foundation made from ancient wisdom and original artistry, and filled with a sense of oneness.

What will take place upon this foundation? In 2015, the Symphony of Peace Prayers will enter a new stage. We will establish a new charter that will enliven and inspire each individual in face of the coming era—an era that will

far exceed our imagination and surpass all the fixed notions that we have held until now. This incredible change can be accomplished only upon the foundation built with the energy of your prayers.

In 2015, a document called the *Fuji Declaration* will be unveiled. An international group of leaders in various fields—politics, science, economics, the arts, education, and so on—will discuss how we can construct social systems that are rooted in humanity's essential divine nature, and what kind of world we will create when each individual manifests his or her own primal, sacred consciousness. The results of their discussion will be presented at the 2015 SOPP ceremony at Fuji Sanctuary. Thus, the prayers offered by each and every one of you today will permeate the fields of politics, economics, science, and more, taking tangible form and turning into a shining light that will guide humanity forward.

In the world of the future, a world rooted in humanity's essential sacred nature, people will naturally sense the resonance of their splendid, universal divine consciousness. Next year, we will be standing at the starting line of this new era. This year, we are completing the foundation to make it all possible.

I am truly and deeply grateful to each one of you for your precious, sacred prayers.

May peace prevail on Earth.

Masami Saionji
Chairperson, Byakko Shinko Kai