

## Dedication Ceremony for Pacific Buddhist Academy High School Future Facilities

I would like to extend my congratulations on this occasion of the Dedication Ceremony for Future PBA Facilities.

The Pacific Buddhist Academy, which opened in two thousand three (2003), has continued to achieve good results. I have also heard, on the other hand, that the students and teachers have been inconvenienced due to inadequate school facilities. I am sincerely pleased that construction of a new school facility will be undertaken as a commemorative project of the Double Commemorative Service.

In today's society, it is truly significant that the school was established with the purpose of realizing "peace education through Buddhism" and the word "Buddhist" is included in its name, "Pacific Buddhist Academy."

Buddhism upholds the high ideals of peace in its tradition, but on the other hand, it has not extended enough influence in actively contributing toward world peace. Nonetheless, interchange among various regions around the world has become widespread, and disputes within a single nation or those involving ethnic or cultural issues transcending the national boundaries have increased today. Thus, it is urgent that we deepen mutual understanding with persons whose opinions are different from ours, and seek ways in which all parties are able to live together.

Now is the time when we should practically apply Buddhist concepts in real society, such as being respectful to religions that on the surface seems difficult to understand, not demarcating or distinguishing between good and bad features because both influence each other and everything has both good and bad aspects, and keeping in mind that the wisdom of all human beings is imperfect and incomplete. Wisdom that has resulted from religious dialogue is, "The security of one party must not be detrimental to others."

I believe that there are likely many difficult issues that remain, but I anticipate that through everyone's cooperation and efforts, PBA can become complete with all necessary and appropriate facilities to provide a positive environment for all students that will allow them to diligently devote themselves to their studies.

September 6, 2009

OHTANI Koshin  
Monshu  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha