

Fore
word

Praying for World Peace

by the Reverend Hiromichi Konko, Spiritual Leader of the Konko Faith

Happy New Year, everybody! Last year, 2025AD, was a milestone year, because it marked the 80th anniversary since the end of World War II. Although we have just welcomed a new year, the world, where we are living right now, is anything but a peaceful place.

When we think normally, all of us probably agree in unison that we want to live in a world where everybody can smile and get along with each other. If so, then why do humans fight, destroy the nature and deprive many people of their smiles?

By nature, people have capability to give a hand to someone that is in trouble. This is for everybody to be able to smile. It is my firm belief that humans are humans because they get to help others.

My favorite words are "Think globally, act locally." I consider it quite important that we have a broad perspective that allows us to think globally and that we engage ourselves in activities that contribute to our

like this:

"I would humbly like to state that a heart which expresses gratitude towards everybody and everything that takes care of it is a heart that brings about peace." My grandfather, as Konko-sama, kept teaching us, "Base everything upon gratitude." He knew that if each one of us works hard at this goal, we will eventually get to attain a grand prize called "world peace." I would like to let people know about such a sensibility, such a wonderful trait of my grandfather.

Now that I have my own family, I feel like Kami is encouraging me to "establish peace in my home, because it is the very start of world peace." With this in mind, I would like to work hard on letting my children know the importance of peace and (human) lives. When I look at someone and his/her life, I keenly sense the work and blessings of the Universe which does its best to let him/her be alive. The Universe is alive, and this truth is the very beginning of everything's life. My

local community.

What I mean by this is that we should look at ourselves carefully. Yet our "eyesight" should be as broad as possible. With a wide perspective, we should think about what we can do. We should have the (whole) world in our sight.

Some people may say, "Oh, no! I can never contribute to someone or something on a global scale." I, however, think that there is always something we can do for world peace. My grandfather was the Fourth Konko-sama, who worked hard for many years as the Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator of the Konko Faith. He would often say, "To sweep the road right in front of my/our residence is to sweep the road that leads to the world." These words (of my grandfather) are a typical example of "Think globally, act locally." The Fourth Konko-sama studied under a poet, Mr. Utsubo Kubota, and my grandfather made more than 40,000 poems during his lifetime. One of his poems goes

life (your lives too!) is here through the relay of numerous people's lives. If the Universe weren't alive, there would be no water, no air, and no humans could live even for a moment. How long has been the Universe alive and working for all kinds of creatures, maybe for some billion years?

We feel our souls being healed when, for example, we see the flow of a river or a fall in the forest. A river or a fall is a part of the Universe/nature, and our souls are healed by the natural workings of the Universe. Then why are they healed by them? It is probably because the Universe is doing something slowly, very slowly in fact, spending a tremendous amount of time. We, humans, tend to want a result immediately. It, more often than not, can be dangerous. Only Kami/Deity can see/foresee the infinite flow of time from now, and I cannot but hope and pray that all human beings will be on the same page, looking at "peaceful world" together.

The 64th Annual Konkokyo House of Delegates

Discussing the Plans of the Organizational Activities for the Year 2026

The Spiritual Leader of the Konko Faith (Kyoshu Konko-sama) summoned the Konkokyo House of Delegates, which was held from December 2 to 6, 2025. This was the 64th Annual Konkokyo House of Delegates, and the delegates discussed the plans of the Organizational Activities for the year 2026, the budget for 2026 and so on.

The Opening Ceremony was held at the Konko Headquarter's Central Worship Hall. Konko-sama made a summoning address and the Chairperson, the Rev. Shinichi Shimada, made an official reply of acceptance.

The plenary session of the HOD was held at the Grand Meeting Room on the 4th floor of the Konko Headquarter's Administrative Office Building. The Rev. Michio Hashimoto, the Chief Administrative Director of Konkokyo, the Directors of the General Affairs Department, the Outreach Department and the Financial Affairs Department explained the activities for the fiscal year of 2025AD in turn. They made those explanations as the executive members of the



Konkokyo Organization. After the oral reports by the execs, the delegates asked questions, which were followed by answers. 6 proposals were submitted to the 64th HOD, and 5 of those proposals were approved unanimously. As for the proposal about the budget plans for the revenues and expenditures of the general accounting for the fiscal year of 2026AD, it was not approved unanimously.

Because of this, it was decided that the 65th extraordinary Konkokyo House of Delegates would be held by the end of 2025 for a further discussion on this proposal.

The following is the article of Konko-sama's summoning address, the Chairperson's official reply of acceptance.

◆ Konko-sama's Summoning Address ◆



Thank you very much for coming for the 64th Annual Konkokyo House of Delegates.

The Konkokyo Organization is implementing various activities with the Basic Policy, "Let us keep the content of

the Divine Reminder/Tenchi Kakitsuke in our mind and put it into practice. By doing so, let us try to become the (bright) light for world peace and the salvation of all people." I am truly grateful that the Organization and the whole Konko community has been receiving blessings from our Parent Kami on a constant basis.

I sincerely pray that we will all continue to ask for and receive the Sacred Mediation of Ikigami Konko Daijin, give ourselves spiritual training, basing our daily life upon gratitude and receive Kami's blessings so that we can contribute to world peace and the salvation of all humanity.

The incumbent Administration is about to submit the proposal about the budget plans for the revenues and expenditures of the general accounting for the fiscal year of 2026AD to the Congress, and I would like you to have deep, thorough discussions on it.

The Reverend Hiromichi Konko,
the Spiritual Leader of the Konko Faith
December 2, 2025

◆ Official Reply of Acceptance by the Chairperson of the HOD ◆

We thank you very much for summoning us to the 64th Annual Konkokyo House of Delegates.

We are deeply grateful that you pray to our Parent Kami for the whole community of the Konko Faith, world peace and the salvation of all humanity day in, day out.

It is our sincere hope that we will continue to ask for and receive the Sacred Mediation of Ikigami Konko Daijin, give ourselves spiritual training, basing our daily life upon gratitude and receive Kami's blessings, keeping the Konkokyo Organization's Basic Policy, "Let us keep the content of the Divine Reminder/Tenchi Kakitsuke in our mind and put it into practice. By doing so, let us try to become the (bright) light for world peace and the salvation of all people," in our minds.

First of all, we would like to revere and humbly accept your prayers and hopes for the Konkokyo HOD. Second of all, we would like to reconfirm the role of the HOD that it is supposed to offer advice and approval to the Administration so that we will be helpful for the Chief Administrative Director, who takes charge of all administrative matters of Konkokyo and assists the Spiritual Leader of the Konko Faith, who unifies all of us spiritually. And third of all, we all would like to devote ourselves to discussing each of the proposals presented to this year's Annual HOD, being fully aware that each of us is a delegate of the HOD, representing the entire community of Konkokyo.

Thank you very much for your prayers for us.

The Reverend Shinichi Shimada,
the Chairperson of the Konkokyo HOD
December 2, 2025