

Eco-Temple Community Development Project

2016 Year End Update

In collaboration with the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB) & the Interfaith Climate and Ecology network (ICE)

Zhengjue Temple: Mt. Lianhua, Shandong Province, China

Ven. Miao Hai with his master Ven. Ren Da have been very busy since our first meeting in late January visiting various sites in the INEB/ICE network to do needs assessment and installation of a variety of localized solar energy systems. [See details at bottom of their site](#)



New solar panels at Wongsanit Ashram, Thailand

Socially Engaged Monastic Schools (SEMS), Myanmar

The group has been busy further developing their work in bamboo construction technology and design at three monasteries in northern Myanmar and are also looking forward to creating an “eco-center” for training monks, nuns, and school teachers. [See details at bottom of their site](#)



Monks participating in bamboo treatment training workshop

Won Buddhism Eco-Network: South Korea

The Won Buddhism Eco-Network has achieved its goal set in 2013 of building solar power facilities on 100 of its temples nationwide! See Ms. Eunsook Cho's [complete report](#) on their anti-nuclear and clean energy activities from the INEB/ICE workshop at the IUCN Conference in Hawaii in September.

Sukhavati Eco Temple: Tamil Nadu, India

Gautham Prabhu has done significant work in laying the foundations for the project, locating an Indian ecological architectural firm named BIOM to partner in designing the temple and connecting with Buddhists and civil society groups interested in helping to fund the temple.

[Scroll down for his update here](#)

The Smart Pagoda : Chonburi, Thailand

Phra Sangkom is continuing with the building of the pagoda slated to open in late 2017 and engaging in reforestation and community development based on the late King Rama IX's “sufficiency economy” principles.

[See his updated profile here](#)

East Asia: Anti-Nuclear and Clean Energy News

- Sept. 23: AYUS International Buddhist Cooperation Network (under Office Head Ms. Mika Edaki who helped lead the JNEB Energy Tour in 2015) held a public symposium in Tokyo to promote and support farmers in



Fukushima wanting to develop solar sharing technology and install solar panels on their farmland, much of which is still difficult to develop for commercial farm products. [Permaculture Research Institute](#)

- Oct. 27: Japan's vote at the United Nations last week to oppose a resolution to start talks on a treaty outlawing nuclear weapons is regrettable. It contradicts the nation's long-standing call for the elimination of such weapons as the sole country to have suffered nuclear attacks. [Japan Times](#)
- Nov. 11: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday signed a civilian nuclear cooperation pact with visiting Indian leader Narendra Modi as he pushes to promote exports of Japanese nuclear technology to keep the teetering economy afloat. [Japan Times](#)
- Nov. 22: Vietnam's National Assembly voted to abandon plans to build two nuclear power plants with Russia and Japan, after officials cited lower demand forecasts, rising costs, and safety concerns. [Reuters](#); [Nikkei Review](#)
- Jan. 2015: JNEB's International Project on Energy team visited Taiwan in January 2015 to build solidarity among East Asian Buddhist groups working on these issues. [See the belated full article on anti-nuclear and pro-democracy activism in Taiwan!](#)

Next Gatherings & Site Visits:

Come Join Us!

- Feb 2017: site visits (2): Thailand (Phra Sangkom's Smart Pagoda) & Myanmar (theme: ecological use of bamboo)
- August 2017: Indonesia (3rd ICE conf.) & site visit to Muslim eco mosques
- November 2017: Taiwan (INEB general conf.) & site visit to Zhengjue Temple in China

Inter-religious Climate and Ecology network (ICE) & other interfaith news:

- Sept. 5: Rev. Hidehito Okochi presented on his eco-temple community development work as part of INEB and ICE's workshop on Ethics and Ecology: Faith-based Models for Reconnecting with All Sentient Beings at the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Honolulu, Hawaii. [Visit ICE's webpage here](#)



Ms. Eunsook Cho (speaker) & Rev. Okochi at IUCN

- Sept. 30: The Seoul Catholic Archdiocese's Pastoral Committee for the Environment is proposing to build a solar power generation plant in all its parishes, to use and produce eco-friendly energy by as early as the end of 2017. The project is based on a Memorandum of Understanding between the archdiocese and the Seoul Metropolitan Government in 2013. [UCA News](#)
- Oct. 19: Coordinator Jonathan Watts gave a talk given to the Jesuit Social Center of Tokyo located at Sophia University entitled "Towards Collective Action: A Buddhist View of *Laudato Si*"
- Nov. 10: [GreenFaith](#), one of the oldest religious-environmental organizations in the US, produced [Light for a New Day: Interfaith Essays on Energy Ethics](#) and presented it at the COP 22 conference in Marrakech. It included ["Shift the Power: Buddhist Temple Communities for an Energy and Social Revolution"](#) by Rev. Hidehito Okochi & Jonathan Watts