

Nov 16, 2020

Dear Jinhua

Congratulations! It is wonderful news that you have been elected to the Royal Society of Canada. It was over twenty years ago when I met you for the first time. At that time, you were a young Ph.D candidate studying in Kyoto. I read the manuscript of your dissertation and was very excited with the conclusion that some important texts of Tendai esoteric Buddhism were forgeries. The key person of the forgeries was Annen, the greatest scholar on Tendai esoteric Buddhism in Japan and I was just working on Annen at the time. I saw you several times and discussed on the problem. I was very impressed with your sincere and zealous attitude to the research.

After you became an assistant professor at the University of British Columbia, you invited me to a conference at UBC in 2002. At that time, I was the head of the department of Indian philosophy and Buddhist studies at the University of Tokyo and was worried about the vacant post of Chinese Buddhism. When I was talking with you, a good idea struck me that you were the best person for our department. You agreed with my request to teach at our university as an associate professor for a year from 2003 to 2004. It was a good experience for my students to attend lectures by an energetic international scholar. I also enjoyed talking with you on the topics of the history of Buddhism.

I am sorry I have not seen you for a long time probably since a conference in Taiwan. I am very happy to hear that your academic works are evaluated highly and you are honored to become a member of the Royal Society. I am sure you are one of the greatest leaders of Buddhist studies today. I hope I will have a chance to see you again in the near future.

With best regards



SUEKI Fumihiko

Professor Emeritus, the University of Tokyo