

The Federation of New Religions of Japan (*Shinshuren*)

Mission

The Federation of New Religions of Japan (FNRJ) was established after the end of World War II with the goal of reviving spiritual values and ethics in post war Japan. As a unified coalition of new religious organizations of Japan, its mission is to help realize world peace and to further promote the happiness and welfare of humankind.

Through interreligious dialogue and cooperation and supporting the freedom of expression of all faiths and spiritual traditions, the FNRJ strives to fulfill its fundamental tenet:

“Let us Realize a World of Peace and Religious Freedom.”

There are four main principles that stem from the fundamental tenet. Those are: 1. Interreligious cooperation. 2. Freedom of religion. 3. Separation between state and religion. 4. Faith for all people.

Looking at the world today, we can see that society is being seriously challenged by the various crises of nuclear armament, economic development, human rights and environmental degradation. In order to address these issues, the FNRJ is actively involved in many programs and efforts in the areas of nuclear disarmament, human rights, sustainability, and development. The three underlying themes of these efforts are based on its fundamental tenet, and are as follows:

“Let us protect religious freedom”

“Let us promote interreligious cooperation”

“Let us contribute toward world peace”

Background

The Federation of New Religions of Japan was founded in October 17, 1951 by Nikkyo Niwano, the co-founder of Rissho Koseikai, the second largest Buddhist organization of Japan.

His belief in the role of religions in realizing a peaceful world was confirmed after he was invited to attend the second Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church in 1965. Five years later, he initiated the first conference of the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP) in Kyoto as the managing director of the Federation of New Religions of Japan.

There are 69 religious and faith based organizations that are members of the FNRJ. The current spiritual head of Sukyo Mahikari, Kohoh Okada is a board member of the board of directors of FNRJ.

For more information please visit the website of FNRJ (Japanese) at:
<http://www.shinshuren.or.jp/index.php>

The website for Rissho Koseikai at:
<http://www.rk-world.org/peace/coop.aspx>