

Commemorating the 120th Birth Anniversary of Rev. Nikkyo Niwano
and the 20th Anniversary of the Nikkyo Niwano Memorial Museum

Carrying Forward the Spirit of Nikkyo Niwano

Building Trust and Shared Flourishing in a Divided World

An International Dialogue Bringing Together Leaders
from Around the World and the Next Generation



September 19, 2026
19:00–21:00 JST



ONLINE
SYMPOSIUM
(Japanese / English
Simultaneous Interpretation)

◆ FREE ADMISSION

◆ REGISTRATION REQUIRED

SPECIAL PANELISTS



**Bishop
Gunnar Stålsett**
Bishop
Emeritus of Oslo



NORWAY



**Dr. Vinu
Aram**
President, Shanti
Ashram,
Co-Moderator, Religions
for Peace



INDIA



**Bishop Munib
Younan**
Bishop Emeritus
of Jerusalem



PALESTINE



**Hon. Ela
Gandhi**
Founder,
Gandhi Trust



SOUTH AFRICA



**H.E. Din
Syamsuddin**
Chairman Emeritus,
Ulama Council



INDONESIA



**Dr. William F.
Vendley**
Secretary General
Emeritus,
Religions for Peace



UNITED STATE OF
AMERICA



**Mr. Yasushi
Akashi**
President, United
Nations Association
of JAPAN,
Former UN Under
Secretary General



JAPAN

Coordinator
Rev. Kyoichi Sugino

President, Gakurin Seminary,
Director, Chuo Academic Research Institute,
Director, Nikkyo Niwano Memorial Museum



Emerging Global Youth Leaders
Gakurin Seminarians



ABOUT THIS SYMPOSIUM

At a time when humanity faces war, polarization, social fragmentation, and ecological crises, global leaders in religion, peacebuilding, and international cooperation join young leaders to explore pathways toward renewed trust, shared flourishing, and a more peaceful world.

ORGANIZERS

Gakurin Seminary/Chuo Academic Research Institute
Nikkyo Niwano School for Global Leadership



Nikkyo Niwano

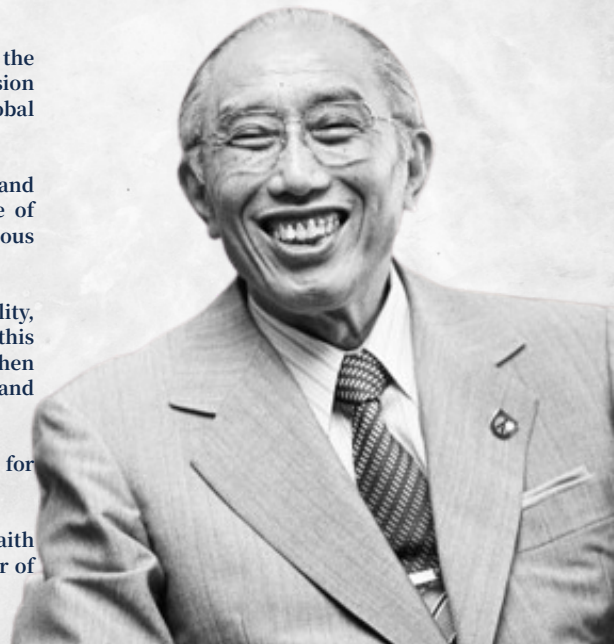
Nikkyo Niwano (1906–1999) was a distinguished Japanese Buddhist leader, thinker, and the founder of Rissho Kosei-kai. Grounded in the teachings of the Lotus Sutra, he articulated a vision of faith centered on the dignity of life, coexistence, and dialogue, redefining the social and global role of Buddhism in the postwar era.

Internationally, Niwano is especially renowned for his leadership in interreligious dialogue and peacebuilding. In 1970, he played a pivotal role in the founding of the World Conference of Religions for Peace, creating an unprecedented global platform for cooperation among religious leaders across traditions, cultures, and political divides.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to humanity through religion and spirituality, Niwano was awarded the Templeton Prize in 1979—becoming the only Japanese recipient of this prestigious global honor. The award affirmed his conviction that religious wisdom, when embodied through dialogue and cooperation, can offer concrete responses to the moral and spiritual challenges facing the modern world.

Niwano's conviction that cooperation across religious and cultural boundaries is essential for peace has become increasingly relevant in addressing today's global challenges.

Nikkyo Niwano's legacy continues to inspire global efforts in peacebuilding, interfaith cooperation, and ethical leadership, serving as a living testament to the transformative power of spiritual values in public life.



Start Time in Your Country

※All times shown are local times.

※All times are subject to local daylight saving regulations.

 Norway Oslo Saturday, September 19 12:00	 India New Delhi Saturday, September 19 15:30	 Palestine Jerusalem Saturday, September 19 13:00	 South Africa Johannesburg Saturday, September 19 12:00	 Indonesia Jakarta Saturday, September 19 17:00	 United States of America New York Saturday, September 19 6:00	 Japan Tokyo Saturday, September 19 19:00
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WHY THIS DIALOGUE MATTERS TODAY

Humanity faces growing challenges: war, polarization, distrust, religious tensions, and climate crises.

This symposium brings together globally respected leaders in religion, peacebuilding, and international cooperation to explore how trust, dialogue, and shared values can help shape a more peaceful future.

Program (Tentative)

- ◆ Opening Remarks
- ◆ Global Dialogue
Trust, Peace and Shared Flourishing for the Future
- ◆ Q&A and Discussion
Dialogue among Religious Leaders from Around the World
Moderator:
Rev. Kyoichi Sugino
President, Gakurin Seminary /
Director, Chuo Academic Research Institute
- ◆ Closing Remarks

Program Information

- Date & Time:** Saturday, September 19, 2026
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM (JST)
- Format:** Online
- Participation Fee:** Free of Charge
Advance Registration Required
- Organizers:** Gakurin Seminary
Chuo Academic Research Institute
Nikkyo Niwano School for Global Leadership

Contact: Daiju Group, Gakurin Seminary

-  daiju@kosei-kai.or.jp
-  +81-428-31-3161
-  <https://www.gakurin.jp/>

Registration

Registration Deadline: Friday, September 18, 2026, 12:00

Please register using the URL or QR code below.

The Zoom access information will be sent to your registered email address upon registration.

<https://www.gakurin.jp/en/news/1762/>

