

To Soto Temples and Centers throughout the World:

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**The First Anniversary of the “The Great East Japan Earthquake”  
- A Request for a Memorial Service and Tolling of Temple Bells -**

It is nearly a year since “The Great East Japan Earthquake” hit on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Due to the vast destruction of the affected areas, it has not been possible to proceed in a timely fashion with the reconstruction and revival of the regions as we would hope. Unfortunately, there are still 300,000 people who are left without homes and forced to live in temporary evacuation homes. There are also the long ranging effects and impact that the nuclear power plant accident has had on the lives of the people in that area.

In these troubled times, Sotoshu has under its slogan 「Meeting All Challenges, Transmitting The Teachings, Supporting All Beings」 been helping disaster victims and temples.

We would like to pay homage and give our most profound thanks to all people who have supported the relief effort.

- For the first memorial service of 3.11, Sotoshu is calling out to all temples and Zen centers to sound their temple bells at 2:46 p.m. on March 11<sup>th</sup>, the exact time the earthquake occurred.
- We ask that your temple or center conduct a memorial service for the victims, and offer a prayer that the revival of the region be as fast as possible.

The devastated areas will need our help and support for a long time. With your help and understanding, we will continue to support and assist in the reconstruction effort.

Sincerely,  
President of Sotoshu



Koichi Sasaki