

Feature:

East/West in Dialogue: Religious Perspectives on Global Issues in the 21st Century

From Two Symposiums

The following are selections from the theses presented at the two symposiums held by the Institute of Oriental Philosophy.

The first selection is from “East/West in Dialogue: Religious Perspectives on Global Issues in the 21st Century,” the joint symposium held by Wellesley College (United States) and the Institute of Oriental Philosophy at the Wellesley College campus in October 2008. The three main issues discussed at this seminar were: Religion, Conflict, and Community / Religion, Women and Society / Religion and the Environment. Co-hosted with the Boston Research Center for the 21st Century (the Ikeda Center for Peace, Learning, and Dialogue), the symposium commemorated the opening of the college’s Multifaith Center.

Wellesley College boasts a multicultural student body with different traditions and faiths. The purpose of the Multifaith Center is to revitalize the spirituality within higher education that respects diversity.

The second selection is from the symposium held in collaboration with the Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow (Russian Federation) at the institute in September 2008. The main theme of this seminar was the “Buddhist Philosophy in Multicultural Context.” Founded in 1929, the Institute of Philosophy is the primary research center for Russian philosophy studies. As a part of UNESCO Chair (UNESCO Chair Program throughout the world that works to promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue), the academy conducted the symposium that upheld the tenets of the “Philosophy in the Dialogue of Cultures” it actively promotes.