

To Soto Zen Temples and Centers around the World:

23rd of January, 2013

The Second Anniversary of the “The Great East Japan Earthquake”

- A Request for a Memorial Service and Tolling of Temple Bells -

Time moves very fast. We are now approaching the second anniversary of those who lost their lives in the “The Great East Japan Earthquake.”

In the affected areas, the progression of reconstruction has been slower than expected. There are still many people who are forced to live with the discomfort of temporary homes. In addition, the damage caused by the diffusion of radioactive materials from the Fukushima nuclear power plant has had a significant impact on everyone’s lives.

Soto Zen will continue to support and help the disaster victims and temples of the effected areas.

Furthermore, we would like to pay homage and thank temples nationwide, and all other concerned parties, for all the support, reconstruction efforts and volunteer activities in the affected areas.

For the second anniversary of the 3.11 disaster, Soto Zen is calling all temples and Zen centers to:

- **Sound their temple bells at 2:46 p.m. on March 11th, the exact time the earthquake occurred to offer a prayer for the victims and the fast revival of the region.**
- **Conduct the second memorial service.**

It is our hope to dedicate this day, with everyone praying as one, so that our thoughts, prayers and our desire for reconstruction to be as fast as possible, to reach those in deep sorrow, the victims of the earthquake and their families.

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,



Koichi Sasaki
President of Sotoshu