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FEEDBACK ON ISO 9001:2000



Seicho-No-Ie religious movement takes ISO 14001 to its heart

The Japan-based Seicho-No-Ie religious movement warned of man's growing impact on the environment as early as 1930 when it was founded by Dr. Masaharu Taniguchi. Now a global organization of some 2,13 million members, with 130 facilities in Japan and 247 branches overseas, environmental respect and conservation remains central to its beliefs. The organization is now systematically certifying its shrines, temples and missionary centres to ISO 14001.



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Seicho-No-Ie¹⁾ ("The Home of Infinite Life, Wisdom and Abundance") is a global religious movement founded in Japan in 1930 by Dr. Masaharu Taniguchi. Our mission is to propagate enlightenment throughout all humankind based on fundamental principles enshrined in the "Seven Promulgations of Light" (see box). The organization consists of about 2,13 million members worldwide, with 130 facilities in Japan and 247 branches overseas.

From the early days, Seicho-No-Ie has warned through its publications and lectures about man's impact on the global environment and the effect on future generations. We have long recognized the value of diversity in the living world and believe that animals, plants and minerals play as important a role in the eyes of God or Buddha as human life itself. The organization maintains that living a life based on such religious attitudes is the key to solving global environmental issues.

Active participation in global environmental protection is central to Seicho-No-Ie policy. To underline such a commitment, we have been

working on ISO 14001 implementation since 2000, with certification of Seicho-No-Ie International Headquarters in Tokyo, and the Seicho-No-Ie Main Temple in Nagasaki successfully achieved in July 2001. The third party auditing and certification processes were carried out by Center For Better Living, System Certification and Registration Center²⁾ (BL-QE). Our subsequent objective is to obtain ISO 14001 certification of ten local missionary centres every year.

In 2001, Seicho-No-Ie also started a fund-raising campaign to support world reforestation by setting up donation boxes at its domestic missionary facilities. This initiative follows fund-raising campaigns to

provide emergency assistance for refugees and the victims of natural disasters through the United Nations High Commission for Refugee and the Japanese Red Cross. In addition, we make regular donations to children in developing countries through UNICEF and help the hungry through WFP via Internet donations.

**Active participation
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The Grand Lecture Tour of Rev. Masanobu Taniguchi, Vice President of Seicho-No-Ie, disseminates the religious, humanitarian and environmental teachings of the movement, and attracts audiences of many thousands during its annual visits to 30 Japanese cities.



Four ways to environmental conservation

The four key areas of Seicho-No-Ie's environmental conservation activities are:

1. Caring for the environment – a lifetime practice

To encourage more people to live an environmentally caring lifestyle, we publish many articles on environmental issues in Seicho-No-Ie magazines. These include Hikari no Izumi (“Fountain of Light”); Shirohato (“White Dove”); Riso Sekai (“Ideal World”), and Seishimei (“Holy Mission”), the Seicho-No-Ie monthly magazine for members.

2. Efforts towards ISO 14001 certification

Seicho-No-Ie will have implemented an ISO 14001-based environ-

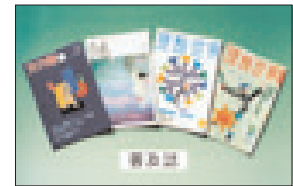
mental management system (EMS) at 30 Spiritual Training Centres and Missionary Centres in Japan by 2003. In this endeavour, we are introducing fuel-efficient and low-pollution vehicles, paperless offices, forestation of Seicho-No-Ie sites, use of renewable energy, adoption of resource and energy saving measures, and reduction of waste.

Our objective is to obtain ISO 14001 certification of ten local missionary centres every year

3. Use of solar power generation and other renewable natural energy sources

We installed 160 Kw solar power generation systems in the Seicho-No-Ie Main

Temple in February 2001 and at the Spiritual Training Centre in April 2001. These systems are jointly operated by NEDO (New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization), a Japanese government affiliate. Similar solar power systems were set up in another six missionary centres in 2001.



4. Collection of contributions for world reforestation

Seicho-No-Ie is involved in the collection of contributions towards world reforestation as a means to prevent global warming and preserve biodiversity.

Implementing ISO 14001

Seicho-No-Ie is probably one of the first, if not the first, religious movement to implement ISO 14000 and successfully gain certification. However, because of the perceived difficulties of auditing and certifying a religious organization, and the lack of previous experience in doing so, several Japanese certification bodies rejected our invitation to carry out the necessary procedures. Nevertheless, BLQE accepted the challenge and we consequently found no problem in operating the standard itself.



Impressive 160 Kw solar power generation systems have been installed in the Seicho-No-Ie Main Temple and Spiritual Training Centre as part of the movement's ISO 14001-linked environmental management policy.

For the Seicho-No-Ie religious movement, environmental respect and conservation begins with protection of the local flora and fauna surrounding the Ryugu Sumiyoshi Hongu shrine at its ISO 14001-certified Main Temple in Nagasaki.



Seicho-No-Ie's ISO 14001 certification was announced to the Japanese media, with strongest interest being shown by the religious newspaper *Chugai Nippo*. We also publicized it on our Internet home page and in the Seicho-No-Ie monthly magazine, *Seishimei*. A vast response was received from Seicho-No-Ie members and the achievement clearly raised their awareness of implementation of ISO 14001 and its implications for environmental conservation.

**We will implement
ISO 14001
at 30 Spiritual Training
Centres and Missionary
Centres in Japan
by 2003**

Advantages of ISO 14001 implementation

As a result of ISO 14001 implementation, awareness of environmental issues has been enhanced significantly among employees and members. Also, it has helped us reconfirm the value of those Seicho-No-Ie teachings that contribute to solving environmental issues. The experience has encouraged us to communicate Seicho-No-Ie teachings

Seicho-No-Ie's beliefs, enshrined in the 'Seven Promulgations of Light'

"The Seicho-No-Ie Truth of Life Movement is a nondenominational movement based on the belief that all religions emanate from one universal God. It is dedicated to spreading the truth that every person is a child of God; therefore, in reality every person is divine in nature and the possessor of all of the creative powers of God.

1. We resolve to transcend all religious and sectarian differences, worship life, and live in accordance with the laws of life.
2. We believe that the laws governing the manifestation of life constitute the path to infinite spiritual growth and that the life within the individual is immortal.
3. We study the creative laws of life and publicize our findings so that mankind may tread the true path to infinite growth.
4. We believe that love is life's nourishment, and that prayer, words of love, and praise are the creative power of the word necessary to manifest love.
5. We believe that we children of God have infinite power and plenty within ourselves and can attain absolute freedom by freely using the creative power of the word.



The Seicho-No-Ie style of Shinsokan meditation.

6. We propagate our doctrines by writing and publishing literature filled with good words, holding classes and lectures, broadcasting on radio and television, and by various other means, so that we may improve the destiny of mankind through the creative power of good words.
7. We conduct actual movements to conquer disease and all other afflictions of life through a right outlook on life, right living, and right education, and thereby establish heaven upon this earth.

more actively and widely. But perhaps most importantly, ISO 14001 implementation has made it easier to work in cooperation with other organizations, and has strengthened our reputation in the environmental field.

In summary, by implementing an environmental management system and having each department set and

review its objectives, we have been able to further reinforce and continuously improve our activities in support of conservation of the global environment. ■

Right, calligraphy of the word "nature" by Pascal Krieger, artwork, *ISO Management Systems*.

