

# Okayama University Japan x SDGs Virtual Global Circuit Academic Seminar



Zoom Webinar

February 2, 2021: 17:00 ~ 19:00 (JST), 08:00~10:00 (UTC)

A Monk's Story: How Buddhism Influences my Life Choices and Permeates Japanese Culture

Lecturer: Zenryu Owatari

Language: English

Registration Information: Please access to the following website.  
<http://campus-asia.ccsv.okayama-u.ac.jp/en>

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# Zenryu Owatari

(with Ava Richardson)

Special Guest Speaker for Okayama University

*“A monk’s story; how Zen-Buddhism influenced my life choices and permeates Japanese culture”*

**Date:** Tuesday, February 2nd, 5:00pm (Japan Standard Time)

**Abstract:** Join Zenryu Owatari to learn about his unique journey into a monk’s life. He will share the story of how and why he became a monastic monk in America, to his current path as an organic farmer in Kyoto. Topics to be covered will include Zen Buddhist philosophy and teachings, a brief history of Buddhism in Japan, and how Zen Buddhism has influenced Japanese culture and society. Zenryu will also share how he incorporates Zen Buddhist teachings into his everyday life practice.



**Biography:** Zenryu Owatari was born in Japan but moved to Los Angeles as a young adult to live a monastic life at his Zen-Buddhist Temple for over 20 years. He helped build the temple and train disciples in the teachings of Zazen Meditation, Hatha Yoga, Hindu teachings, and Zen Buddhism. He was also the “Tenzo Osho”, the head chef of the temple with a passion for traditional vegan Japanese temple cuisine called, “Shojin Ryori”. Zenryu considers himself a lifelong religious practitioner. Facebook: @HelloFarmOrganics

**Biography:** Ava Richardson is a Canadian-trained organic farmer and elementary school teacher. She moved to Japan to gain experience teaching at International Baccalaureate schools. For 13 years she has been teaching and farming with her husband, Zenryu. She incorporates organic food production and environmental education into her classroom as often as possible. She will be assisting Zenryu with his presentation.

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