

Press Note

January 27, 2014

Prof. Sengaku MAYEDA, Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo and Musashino University and President of Nakamura Hajime Eastern Institute, has been awarded with prestigious Government of India award, 'Padma Shri' in recognition of his contribution to India-Japan relations in the field of literature and education. This was announced by the Government of India on January 25, 2014. The Padma Shri award is given to pre-eminent persons in the fields of art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year and conferred by the President of India at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhawan (President's Palace) sometime in March/April.

Prof. Mayeda is one of the important dignitaries of Japan who have been honored with this award. Earlier Padma Shri awardees include Mr. Taro Nakayama (in 2002 for Public Affairs), Mr. Shoji Shiba (in 2012 for Trade and Industry) and Prof. Noboru Karashima (in 2013 for Literature & Education).



Prof Mayeda's profile

Born on April 1, 1931 at the city of Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture he studied Indian Philosophy, Buddhism, and Sanskrit, esp. Vedānta philosophy with special reference to Śaṅkara under the late Professor NAKAMIURA Haiime at the University of Tokyo and



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In 1962 he started teaching Indian philosophy and Buddhism at the University of Pennsylvania after having conducted his research under the late Prof. T. M. P Mahadevan at Madras University and the late Prof. Paul Hacker at Munster University in Germany. He was appointed Associate Professor of Indian Philosophy in 1973, Professor of Indian Philosophy in 1982, University of Tokyo. After his retirement he was appointed Professor of Indian Philosophy in 1991, and Vice-President, Musashino University in 1994.

He was twice elected President of the Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies in 1991 and 1998, and a member of the Science Council of Japan in 2003. He has long been active in Japan-India international exchange in the capacity of Director of the Indo-Japanese Association; Chairperson of the Japan-India Academic Exchange in Humanities and Social Sciences and a member of the Steering Committee of “Japan-India Friendship Year” of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. He was also active as a member of the Steering Committee of the Federation internationale des societies philosophie for 2003-2008.

He is a recipient of Award from the Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies; Academic Achievement Award of the Nakamura Hajime Eastern Institute; the Japan Academy Award; Excellent Book Award of the Tokyu Kagami Foundation. He is also Honorary Researcher of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China; Honorary Doctor of Literature of the Buddhhasravaka Bhiksu University, Srilanka. He is also awardee of the Buddhagunupakan Kancanakiartigun – Highest Decoration of Excellence from the House of Representatives, Kingdom of Thailand. The Japanese Government granted him the Third Order of Merit with the Middle Cordon of the Rising Sun in 2002.

His chief publications in English are as follows: *Śāṅkara's Upadeśasāhasrī, Critically edited with Introduction and Indices (1973)*; *A Thousand Teachings: The Upadeśasāhasrī of Śāṅkara's, Translated with Introduction and Notes (1979)*; *The way to Liberation: Indological Studies in Japan, ed. by Sengaku Mayeda in collaboration with Y. Matsunami, M. Tokunaga and H. Marui (2000)*; *Path from India, Path from Japan: Lecture Series on India-Japan Relations, compiled by Sengaku Mayeda (2008)*; *Spread and Influence of Hinduism and Buddhism in Asia, ed. by Mayeda Sengaku and Shimoda Masahiro (2010)* and many other books and articles in English and Japanese.

He is now Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo and Musashino University; President of the Ashikaga Gakko, Ashikaga; Director of the Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies; Director of the Association of Buddhist Thought; Councilor of the Japanese Association of Religious Studies; Chairman of the Editorial Committee of the English Tripitaka, Society for the Promotion of Buddhism and the like. He has been devoting himself to promoting the Japan-India cultural exchange as President of the Nakamura Hajime Eastern Institute, Tokyo and Director of the Nakamura Hajime Memorial Hall, Matsue, Shimane Prefecture; Advisor of the Indo-Japanese Association (former Director); Special Advisor of the Sanin-India Association.

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