

History of Doshisha and New Visions

The turbulent history of modern and contemporary Japan is etched in the 150 years of Doshisha. Just two years after the removal of the signs prohibiting Christianity in 1873, Doshisha English School opened in Kyoto with two teachers (Joseph Hardy Neesima and missionary Davis) and eight students. The school initially faced criticism from conservative citizens and religious world of Kyoto as an “alien presence” unfitting to Kyoto. During the wartime when loyalty to the state was strongly required, demands of withdrawal of Christian principles came from both within and outside of the school, jeopardizing its existence as a school.

Now that the institution has survived the difficulties over years, we recognize in gratitude and awe that the present Doshisha exists because of the hard work of our predecessors, and that our alumni have been working and making contributions in various fields.

As we reflect on the history of 150 years, we reaffirm our determination to learn from our past, identify where we stand at present in comparison to the past, and remain a challenger who creates a new future that is not just a continuation of the present. We can spread the idea of conscience across society only if we continue our endeavor of “knowing together and changing together” without taking its tradition of 150 years for granted. Here we introduce our new visions to give shape to this endeavor.



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