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Accomplishment of a Friendship Exchange Program which Allows Japanese Youth to Trace back to China Giving Honor to Jian Zhen's Visit to Japan 1255 Years Ago  
—31 Youth Decided to work as a Bridge between China & Japan—

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<Abstract>

The Jian Zhen Project was kicked off in the Fall of 2007 as the 35th commemorative event recognizing the renewal of diplomatic relations between China and Japan. The two countries have had a strong economic connection, but have not always seen eye to eye in politics. This project encourages a friendly attitude between nations at the local level. Thirty students from 19 Universities (including 6 Chinese students studying in Japan) were accepted into the program. Jian Zhen was a Chinese monk who visited Japan as a missionary 1255 years ago. Before he succeeded, however, he tried and failed five times to reach Japan. The group honored his courageous spirit and took the same route that Jian Zhen did: only they did it the other way around and started in Osaka. They visited temples with a connection to Jian Zhen and had passionate discussions with the students at Yangzhou, Nanjing, Zhejiang, and Fudan Universities. These discussions allowed the students to learn about the other side of China that is not presented via the mass media. The face-to-face communication helped build new, strong friendships between the students of the two countries. The triumph of this program, “重返鉴真之路” was published by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in October, 2009.

<Keywords>

Friendship Exchange between youths in China and Japan, Jian Zhen, Daming Temple, Toshodaiji Temple, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences