

Noto Peninsula Earthquake Donation – Sōjiji Soin

On January 1, 2024, a severe earthquake of magnitude 7.5 shook the northwest coast of Japan. This quake caused serious damage in many areas, including Ishikawa Prefecture. At least 230 people were killed and more than 1,000 people sustained injuries as a result of the powerful quake on New Year's Day. Half of the deaths were recorded in the port city of Wajima on the Noto Peninsula. A huge fire destroyed numerous houses there.

The Zen monastery Sōjiji Soin (Wajima City, Monzen) was not spared either. Numerous buildings and various parts of the monastery complex were significantly damaged. Important buildings such as the Main Hall (Daisodō), the Buddha Hall, etc. were spared from collapse. However, the Hōshun-in Temple, which is also located within the complex, was completely destroyed. Significant damage occurred, including the complete destruction of the "Zen-etsu-ro" corridor connecting the temple gate and the Kōshakudai. In addition, tiles fell from the roofs of various buildings, lanterns fell, and the stone pavement of the sidewalk was torn up.



"Zen-etsu-ro" corridor



Taihōkan



Stairway in front of Main Hall (Daisodō)



"Hakusan" well

A total of around 46,000 houses were destroyed by the tremors on New Year's Day. Several thousand people are still living in emergency shelters and many places still lack running water. The aftershocks caused a power and water outage, forcing the monks of Sōjiji Soin to leave the monastery and

live in an evacuation center. It is still impossible to return to the monastery as many buildings are in danger of collapsing due to the violent vibrations.

Sōjiji Soin Monastery was previously destroyed by an earthquake in 2007, but thanks to the cooperation of temples and believers across the country, it was reopened after 14 years of reconstruction. After all the long years of reconstruction, it hurts all the more that the monastery was once again affected by this tragedy.

The clean-up work has already begun. However, it takes a very long time for helpers and relief supplies to reach their destination because many roads are still damaged. In addition, the monastery is home to numerous state-registered cultural assets. For this reason, before debris can be removed, a detailed investigation of the damage and possible emergency renovation must first be carried out.

A donation account was set up for the reconstruction of the Sōjiji Soin monastery. Monetary donations are the most effective way to help the monastery and the monks. At the same time these donations help to preserve an important part of Japanese cultural and religious history.

ACCOUNT:

1. BANK NAME	THE HOKKOKU BANK, LTD. (0146)
2. SWIFT CODE	HKOKJPJT
3. BRANCH NAME	MONZEN BRANCH (325)
4. BENEFICIARY'S ACCOUNT NO.	1 4 4 7 4 9
5. ACCOUNT TYPE	SAVINGS ACCOUNT
6. BENEFICIARY NAME	DAIHONZANSOUJIISOIN
7. BENEFICIARY'S ADDRESS	1-18 Monzen, Monzen, Wajima, Ishikawa 927-2156 JAPAN
8. BENEFICIARY'S TELEPHONE NUMBER	+81-0768-42-0005