Excellencies, thy holiness Swami Suhita Nanda and Swani Medhasananda, distinguished guests.

On this historic occasion of completing one year commemoration of Swami Vivekananda’s 150th Birth Anniversary, on behalf of all teachers at The Institute of Sathya Sai Education Japan, I offer my most loving and prayerful salutations at the Divine Lotus Feet of Swami Vivekananda. It is by Divine Co-incidence, that in the 150th Edition of Sairam news published in May 2013, the ISSE teachers have written on the glory of Swami Vivekananda marking his 150th Birthday. My first contact was in 1978 when late Mr. H. Gajaria and myself met Mr. Rao, who was a pioneer in spreading Swami’s message. I was very fortunate to be blessed by being able to assist in the rebuilding of the present Shrine in Zushi.

In my humble efforts, whenever I have had a chance to introduce Indian thought, I have always introduced Swami Vivekananda at the Exhibitions, in books, and lectures as one of India’s greatest treasures.

The teachings of Swamiji are deeper than the ocean and wider than the sky. The only way one can pay tribute to Swamiji is to actually put into practice his teachings in our very own life. As a educationist, I have taken to heart and put into practice myself, as well given to schools and colleges in Japan Swamiji’s most important message, on education, which is “Vidya without Sraddha is futile”. Vidya or education’s ultimate purpose is to know the science of the self, for which Sraddha, that is perseverance, pain and sacrifice is absolutely essential. Young men and women of the present day do have abundance of Sraddha or perseverance. But unfortunately all their sraddha is diverted to reading novels, seeing movies, being continuously connected to internet, radio TV and other entertainment of gambling etc. This misplaced sraddha has resulted in the youth’s physical debilitation and mental corruption, with the result that the young have not only lost faith in God but in themselves too. Many responsible leaders of Japan and many responsible members of the Japanese education and media have said the youth of Japan have lost their strength, vision and hope which has to be vigorously followed up to build the new strong and powerful Japan, Vidya with Sraddha is the only way to success for the youth.

The 39 years of short but glorious years of swamijis life, was a golden period for all of humanity, as he wrote a treasure of literature on Hindu philosophy and learning.

In these 150 years, thousands have been corrected and straightened, advised and admonished, sheltered and rehabilitated, clothed, fed and educated, nursed and cured, guarded, guided and transformed every day all over the globe.

O my dear Divine swamiji, how greatly indebted are we to you. Our heads bow low in gratitude at the lotus feet of swami vivekananda.

We pray to you, o compassionate one, kindly accept our humble tributes and pranaams on this holy occasion.

Ever at thy lotus feet,

Institute of Sathya Sai Education

Ryuko Hira

Sunday, 25th May 2014

Seisen University