



I recall that fifteen years ago, I had a discussion with the then Daigachi of Ise about Shintoism and the conservation of nature. He regretted that the traditional Japanese concern for the natural environment seemed to have been dulled by post-war materialism and the growth of industrial and urban Japan. I suggested that he might contact ARC to see whether, through the Jinja Honcho, this concern might be converted into practical action.

In 2000 in Kathmandu, Shinto was welcomed as the eleventh faith to join ARC and so began a fruitful collaboration which has grown and developed ever since and has led to this special event at Ise..

I believe that this historic occasion marks the beginning of a new sense of respect and responsibility for the health and well-being of the natural environment in Japan. It is also a celebration of a partnership with the other members of ARC in their combined commitment to care for the future of our world.