

## The 2nd Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award



### Rev. Thích Tâm Trí (釈心智)

Nationality: Vietnamese

Year of birth: 1978

Position: Chief priest, Daionji temple

President, General Incorporated Association  
of Vietnamese Buddhists in Japan ※

※ Original organization name is Japanese and this  
English name is a provisional translation by NPF

#### 1. Reason for Selection

Rev. Thích Tâm Trí (釈心智) was ordained as a Buddhist monk in Vietnam during her childhood, and later completed a doctorate in Buddhist studies at the International College for Postgraduate Buddhist Studies in Japan. After graduation, she practiced Buddhism at a temple of the Jodo sect, and later founded her own temple, Daionji Temple, in Honjo, Saitama Prefecture, Japan.

Rev. Thick Tâm Trí is deeply concerned about the hardships faced by many Vietnamese living in Japan. Despite Vietnamese technical interns and other Vietnamese residents in Japan constituting the largest group among foreign technical interns in recent years, the reality of their circumstances in Japan remains challenging. Many of them come to Japan after borrowing a large amount of money for their journey and stay. Deprived of the right to change jobs during their stay in Japan, many of them are forced to work long hours without being adequately paid for their overtime work, and are often maltreated and abused at their workplaces. The hardships experienced by these individuals have become severe, encompassing economic struggles, mental health issues, suicide attempts, and tragically, even completed suicides.

Rev. Thick Tâm Trí works tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of Vietnamese residents of Japan, addressing both their material and spiritual needs. She provides assistance to those who lack daily food due to economic hardship. Additionally, she offers counseling and support for both daily life and the heart and soul. Furthermore, she organizes funeral services and transportation for Vietnamese who have lost their lives in Japan. She also extends protection for those who have no other refuge and help for those who need to return home. Moreover, she mediates between trainees and their workplaces. She also provides spiritual support through the Buddhist teachings. Rev. Thick Tâm Trí's relief efforts are diverse and undertaken on a surprisingly large scale. For Vietnamese living in Japan, the reverend and her activities serve as a beacon of hope and a source of strength for physical and spiritual well-being. She and Daionji Temple have garnered extensive coverage in the Japanese media and earned the moniker "Temple of sanctuary for the Vietnamese in Japan."

Although she carries deep pain in her heart for the suffering of the Vietnamese people, she has never ceased her efforts. Encouraging people with brightness and strength, she embodies Buddhist compassion and liberation through devoting her life to this cause. Her activities inspire not only Vietnamese residents but also Japanese, encouraging compassion for others and fostering a desire for peace.

The Niwano Peace Foundation presents this award to Rev. Thick Tâm Trí in recognition that all her activities exemplify the practice for peace rooted in spiritual values that the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award aims to promote.



## 2. Photo



1. She rushes to Vietnamese staying in Japan who is in suffer or trouble, and helps both materially and spiritually. She has a belief: "I will not leave from them in the middle. I will help them until everything is all right for them"



2. Her temple 'Daionji' is called "Temple of sanctuary for the Vietnamese in Japan"





3. An affiliated temple of the Daionji Temple of Saitama prefecture, known as a "Temple of sanctuary for Vietnamese" will soon be built in Tokyo too, by the cooperation of many people both Vietnamese and Japanese. (Photo is at the original Daionji temple)



4. The Vietnamese who were helped by Rev. Tam Tri, and the Japanese who were moved by her compassion and actions, began to take action for the sake of others too.





4. When a predicament arises, she rushes there, wherever it may be. (At a town of Great East Japan Earthquake)



5. Organize relief for disaster victim (Nanao city in Ishikawa Prefecture. The 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake)