

Peace Organization Names Award After SGI Leader Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER

The Mahatma Gandhi People's Welfare Trust, an Indian organization dedicated to the promotion of peace, welfare and education, recently announced the establishment of the Ramachandran-Ikeda Award.

The award commemorates the humanitarian achievements of Dr. G. Ramachandran, a direct disciple of Gandhi, and SGI President Ikeda.

Through the award, the Gandhi Trust, which is located in the southwestern Indian state of Kerala, hopes to draw attention to young people and institutions that have realized outstanding accomplishments in the areas of nonviolence, human rights and peace, as well as in the sciences, technology and the arts.

Dr. Ramachandran, who died in January 1995, dedicated his life to translating Gandhi's thoughts and ideals into action.

His accomplishments include founding India's first "village university" in Tamilnadu, serving as a freedom fighter, cabinet minister, member of parliament and editor, and founding numerous institutions dedicated to promoting Gandhi's teachings, including the Mahatma Gandhi People's Welfare Trust. Through his efforts to improve society through education and to promote peace with a focus on youth, he left an indelible mark on the creation of modern India.

In its literature, the Gandhi Trust describes the achievements of Mr. Ikeda as follows:

Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, the president of the Soka Gakkai International, is one of the greatest of the contemporary leaders who have been using education, culture and dialogue diplomacy to unify humanity by creating mutual understanding of our common heritage.... Dr. Ikeda, inspired by the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha, has been adopting Gandhian methods to create a world without war and violence, a world without boundaries — in short a global human family.

In 1995, the Gandhi Trust presented Mr. Ikeda with the Gandhi Peace Award, a special citation commemorating the 125th anniversary of Gandhi's birth.

And in 1988 he received the G. Ramachandran Award for International Understanding from the Development Education National Center, another Gandhian organization.

The first presentations of the Ramachandran-Ikeda Award will be made next year. The names of recipients will be announced annually on Aug. 15, India's Independence Day. And the presentations will be made on Oct. 2, Mahatma Gandhi's birthday.

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