

International U.N. Group Extends Membership to the SGI
COURTESY OF SGI NEWSLETTER
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The Executive Committee of the World Federation of U.N. Associations voted unanimously today to inaugurate the SGI as a member association. The federation's rare decision to grant membership to a non-U.N.- sponsored organization is in recognition of the SGI's wide support of the United Nations and its continuous endeavors to promote peace, culture and education.

Commending the SGI's activities, WFUNA President Hashim Abdul Halim recalled his meeting with SGI President Ikeda in September 1997 in Tokyo, saying that he firmly believes that WFUNA and the SGI share common goals. Executive Committee Vice Chairperson and WFUNA U.S. representative Ved Prakash Nanda asserted that working with an organization such as the SGI, which possesses a large membership of optimistic, spirited young men and women, would be a great asset for WFUNA.

Vice Chairperson Xie Qimei, president of the U.N. Associations of China, also voiced his support, explaining that the SGI has developed strong ties with many cultural organizations in China. Recounting his meeting with Mr. Ikeda in Japan during the 1970s, WFUNA Vice President Yadav Prasad Pant, former Nepalese ambassador to Japan, acknowledged that the SGI has contributed significantly to international refugee aid and cultural and educational exchange. The Executive Committee's Israeli representative, Rena Shashua-Hasson, affirmed that the SGI has done much to educate people about human rights, citing the "Courage To Remember — Anne Frank and the Holocaust" exhibition realized by the SGI in cooperation with the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Founded in August 1946, just nine months after the establishment of the United Nations, WFUNA has grown to include 77 member associations all over the world.

As a pioneering non-governmental organization, it is devoted to upholding the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter and to promoting public awareness and understanding of the activities of the United Nations and its agencies.

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