

NEWSBRIEFS

JAPAN

Soka Net Unveils Chinese Web Site

A Chinese page of the Soka Gakkai of Japan's Web site (Soka Net) went live on Feb. 11. Japanese and English versions are also available on the World Wide Web. The Chinese page offers basic information on the Soka Gakkai, and more in-depth information will be made available as it is translated. Soka Net is located at www.sokagakkai.or.jp.

UNITED KINGDOM

SGI-UK, SGI President Recognized by UNHCR

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the SGI of the United Kingdom and to SGI President Ikeda (in absentia) at the 24th SGI-UK General Meeting in London on Feb. 2. Addressing the 2,500 local SGI-UK members who gathered at the Barbican Centre for the event, Hope Hanlan, representative of the UNHCR for the United Kingdom and Ireland, acknowledged the organization's constant support of the UNHCR. She thanked the group for extending a solid network of trust and joy throughout the country. SGI-UK General Director Ricky Baynes accepted the award on President Ikeda's behalf.

— *Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER*

SOUTH KOREA

South Korean City Recognizes SGI President

In commemoration of Jan. 26, the 23rd anniversary of the SGI's founding, the South Korean city of Pohang conferred a certificate of commendation upon SGI President Ikeda (in absentia) in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in promoting peace for the sake of humanity. Pohang, with a population of 530,000, is well known for its steel industry. The city also presented the SGI of South Korea with a plaque honoring the organization's steadfast efforts to raise environmental awareness. The conferral ceremony took place on Jan. 24. Both awards were accepted by KSGI General Director Park Jae Il.

— *Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER*

TEXAS

Houston YWD Members Graduate to WD

Seven young women's division members joined the women's division during the Houston area's first-ever YWD graduation ceremony, held on Jan. 17. Speaking at the ceremony, Margaret Miller, the area women's division leader, emphasized the importance of women advancing together and striving to embody the spirit of compassion, wisdom and courage.

— *MAUDE O'DONNELL*

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