

## **NEWSBRIEFS**

### **SGI President's Visit to the Philippines**

#### **Soka University Honors Philippine President**

A ceremony to confer an honorary doctorate from Soka University upon President Fidel V. Ramos of the Republic of the Philippines was conducted Feb. 12 in the Malacanang Palace in Manila. SGI President Ikeda and his wife, Kaneko, joined Soka University President Kinnoyuke Komuro and other university officials for the presentation. Since his inauguration as president in 1992, Mr. Ramos has made education one of his foremost concerns in the ongoing development of his country.

In his acceptance speech, he said: "It is a great honor for me to accept this honorary degree from Soka University on behalf of my country and people. This special recognition affirms the bonds of friendship between Japan and the Philippines and the importance each country attaches to education and the future of its youth." He also paid tribute to President Ikeda's vision in founding Soka University as "an institution dedicated to developing capable and civic-spirited people with excellent judgment, a strong sense of purpose and a keen international perspective manifested by the promotion of peace for all of humankind, and a continuing exchange among educational, cultural and political leaders from around the globe."

#### **SGI President Talks With Former Univ. President**

At the SGI of the Philippines Executive Conference held in Manila, Feb. 12, SGI President and Mrs. Ikeda spoke with guests Dr. Jose V. Abueva, former president of the University of the Philippines, and his wife, Maria Socorro. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the signing of an exchange agreement between Soka University and the University of the Philippines.

#### **Special on SGI President Airs on Philippine TV**

A 30-minute television special titled "Knight of the Rising Sun — A Portrait of Daisaku Ikeda," was aired throughout the Philippines during prime time on Feb. 13. Highlighting the life and achievements of SGI President Ikeda, the documentary was broadcast in conjunction with the conferral of the first Rizal International Peace Award on the SGI leader earlier in the week.

#### **SGI President Honored by Philippine City**

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the promotion of culture on a global scale, SGI President Ikeda received an honorary citizenship from the Philippine city of Tagaytay on Feb. 14. Tagaytay, which is located about 30 miles south of Manila, is home to the SGI of the Philippines Grand Culture Center. SGI Vice President Hiromasa Ikeda accepted the honor on the SGI leader's behalf.

*— Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER*