

The Best People We Can Be

A general meeting was held Feb. 21 at the Hong Kong SGI Grand Culture Centre. SGI President Ikeda offered words of encouragement.

The fundamental teaching of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism is that your heart matters most. You, my beloved friends of HKSGI, embody that spirit. You have shining hearts — they glow with your sincerity and blaze brightly with your courageous faith. There is not the slightest doubt that such a noble spirit will bring boundless virtues and blessings, as well as lasting prosperity, to you and your families. It will crown you champions of life and good fortune.

All of you are so friendly and supportive of one another. You are all equal as the Daishonin's disciples — there is no discrimination among you. You possess the strong, profound unity of true comrades linked heart to heart in your commitment to strive for kosen-rufu.

This unity is not forged by coercion or obligation. I wish to commend your efforts most highly by stating that Hong Kong's solidly united Soka family is a model for the entire world.

Throughout the Goshō, we see the Daishonin lauding the efforts of individual followers. I hope all of you will emulate this spirit and offer distinct praise to your fellow members who exert themselves earnestly and valiantly.

And when something needs to be addressed or pointed out to someone, use your wisdom and compassion to guide them in the right direction. Please become exemplary leaders, so that everyone can advance even more joyfully and vigorously on the path of human growth and development.

It is especially heartening to see the phenomenal growth of Hong Kong's youth division. HKSGI has developed a huge river of capable people.

The source of the SGI's progress, development and victory will forever lie in raising outstanding members. As the Daishonin writes, "Since the Law is supreme, the Person is worthy of respect; since the Person is worthy of respect, the Land is sacred" (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 264).

This lifetime will never come again; it is precious, irreplaceable. To live without regret, it is crucial for us to have a concrete purpose and continually set goals and challenges for ourselves. It is equally important that we keep moving toward our specific targets steadily and tenaciously, one step at a time.

Faith enables us to secure ultimate victory. It enables us to live our lives with vigor and joy, and strive to improve ourselves — to become the very best people we can be. Moreover, faith enables us to walk through life with complete assurance and confidence, unafraid of anything.

In closing, I declare: Long live glorious Hong Kong! Long live all of you, my dear friends, Bodhisattvas of the Earth who have appeared here in Hong Kong!

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