

NEWSBRIEFS

FLORIDA

First Language Group Conference Held at FNCC

The 1st SGI-USA Korean Language Conference was held at the Florida Nature and Culture Center, Feb. 26–March 1. It was the first conference held by a language group at the Fort Lauderdale facility. Three other language groups are scheduled this year — Spanish, Chinese and Japanese. The 187 participants gathered from throughout the country ranged in age from 24 to 81 years old. Two leaders from the SGI of South Korea also attended.

CHINA

SGI President Attends SGI of Hong Kong Meeting

SGI President Ikeda, on his first visit to Hong Kong since its return to China, attended an SGI of Hong Kong Conference held at the Hong Kong Grand Culture Centre on Feb. 15. President Ikeda said that Hong Kong's reversion to its homeland means that Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism now exists in China. The SGI has made a reality of the westward transmission of Buddhism, he said, which the Daishonin prophesied in the letter "Remonstrations with Bodhisattva Hachiman" when he said that the Buddhism of the sun is destined to emerge from the East and then illuminate the West.

— *Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER*

CHINA

SGI President Meets Macau Government Official

SGI President Ikeda met with Dr. Jorge H. Rangel, secretary for Public Administration, Education and Youth Affairs of Macau, at the Hong Kong Exhibition Centre in Wanchai on Feb. 17. Secretary Rangel has played a pivotal role in paving the way for the Portuguese territory's smooth return to China next year. Like Hong Kong, Macau will become a special administrative region after its return in December 1999. Located about 60 miles west of Hong Kong, Macau consists of two islands and a peninsula.

— *Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER*

CHINA

Soka University Confers Honorary Doctorate

On Feb. 19, SGI President Ikeda, along with Soka University President Kinno Suke Komuro, other university officials and SGI of Hong Kong members, welcomed renowned Chinese painter and calligrapher Madame Fang Zhaoling to the Hong Kong Grand Culture Centre for the conferral of an honorary doctorate from the university. The SGI leader congratulated the 84-year-old Madame Fang on recently winning the 1998 Louise Cartier Award of Excellence, a prestigious Hong Kong award for outstanding achievement in art and culture. He praised her for serving as a continuing source of inspiration for countless people with her unflagging energy and zest for life.

— *Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER*

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