

NEWSBRIEFS

CALIFORNIA

Sacramento Celebrates Earth Day

With colorful displays showing examples of SGI's involvement in restoring the environment and offering copies of the Earth Charter, youth division members introduced Buddhism to other environmental groups in the Sacramento area on April 26. YMD Mark Kennedy took the stage to offer an explanation of the purpose and goals of the SGI and our involvement as an NGO with the United Nations. Taka Hawk, Maryann Rosario and Marlene Juette staffed the booth and handed out information.

— *ELAINE ZENTNER, Correspondent*

JAPAN

Brazilian University Honors SGI President

On April 29, Rio de Janeiro State University conferred an honorary doctorate and the José Bonifácio Medal upon SGI President Ikeda, founder of Soka University, in recognition of his efforts to promote peace, the dignity of human life and international harmony. Rector Antônio Celso Alves Pereira and Professor João Eduardo Alves Pereira, chief of the Rector's Office, traveled to Tokyo to attend a presentation ceremony held in conjunction with the Soka Gakkai's 4th All-Japan Student Division Leaders Meeting at the Soka University Auditorium in Hachioji, Tokyo.

Previous recipients of honorary doctorates from the Rio de Janeiro State University include world leaders and notables such as South Africa's President Nelson Mandela, UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor and former Portuguese president Mario Soares. Mr. Ikeda is the first Japanese citizen to receive this honor.

— *Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER*

AUSTRIA

SGI President Commended by European Academy of Sciences and Arts

On April 4, SGI President Ikeda, founder of the Fuji Art Museum, was awarded a Gold Medal of Special Commendation by the European Academy of Sciences and Arts in recognition of his outstanding contributions to artistic and cultural exchange. Dr. Felix Unger, academy president, handed the accolade to a representative of the Japanese museum before a gathering of 300 guests at the opening of the "Man Ray — Paintings, Objects, Drawings and Photographs from the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum" exhibition in Salzburg, Austria. The exhibition is being shown with the academy's cosponsorship at the Rupertinum, the city's leading museum of modern art.

— *Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER*

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