

NEWSBRIEFS

Members in Hawaii Rally To Save the Sho-Hondo

The voices of hundreds of Hawaii's SGI-USA members rang out loud and clear in protest: "Don't destroy the Sho-Hondo!" The rally, held June 14 at the Hawaii Culture Center, was a point of departure as Hawaii took the lead in hosting the first summer rally to express indignation over Nikken's demolition of the Grand Main Temple (Sho-Hondo).

A stirring slide presentation depicted the history of the Sho-Hondo and historic events held there. Members spoke about their experiences regarding the Sho-Hondo and the sincerity of the millions of members who contributed funds to construct the Sho-Hondo, which was meant to last for centuries as a place for people worldwide to work for world peace.

— MINAKO NAKAJIMA & JOANNE TACHIBANA, Correspondents

Women's Symposium Held in Louisiana

At the June 28 North Louisiana Women's Symposium, more than 30 women encouraged one another with great experiences of personal victory and two wonderful presentations (on relationships and the ten worlds). The participants made a fresh determination to address life's challenges through the practice of Buddhism, instead of giving in to the notion of "I've fallen into Hell, and I can't get out!"

An impromptu dance session to "We Are Family" ended the occasion, leaving members with enough *joie de vivre* to dance and carry on the entire way back to Leesville.

— KIM THOMPSON, Correspondent

SGI President Meets With Brunei University President

On June 30, SGI President Ikeda met with University of Brunei Darussalam Vice Chancellor Abu Bakar at Soka University in Tokyo. The University of Brunei Darussalam and Soka University signed an educational exchange agreement in 1995.

On this, his second meeting with Vice Chancellor Abu Bakar, Mr. Ikeda entrusted his guest with a new poem he composed for Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, who has worked for peace in his country and throughout Asia for the more than 30 years since his accession to the throne at age 21.

Noting that the former sultan, father of the present sultan, Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien, was a highly acclaimed poet, President Ikeda recited some lines of the late sultan's poetry and expressed his deep sympathy with their message that hard work and persistence are important.

— Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER

Title: Women's Symposium Held in Louisiana

Subject: World Tribune 07/24/98 n.3201 p.3 WT980724p03

Author:

Keywords: Brunei Conferences Events Hawaii Held International Issue Louisiana Meets Members

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