

Education — Mark of Humanity

On July 23, shortly after 11:00 a.m., SGI President Ikeda, founder of Soka University, paid a surprise visit to a classroom of students who had just finished taking their end-of-semester exam on modern Japanese industrial history, at the university's Hachioji campus in Tokyo. He looked around the classroom and offered words of encouragement to the students present. A summary of his remarks appears below.

- Education is the distinguishing mark of humanity. Among all the animals, only human beings can receive an education. What is important in life is creating value and realizing peace. The basis for this is education.

- Exams are a form of training that allow you to develop your mind and your forbearance. What matters is that you never give up but continue making efforts. It's important that, even if you get a bad grade, you have the spirit to try harder next time. If you didn't do well today, there's always next time. And if you don't do well next time either, there's always the time after that. It's important to have the tenacity to keep challenging yourself time after time after time. Your entire life is a process of strengthening your mind and your endurance.

- In life, you have to decide what you will do and then make efforts to achieve it. If you don't, you'll end up unhappy and frustrated. How much you grow as a human being and strive to achieve your wonderful goals and dreams will determine whether you head toward self-improvement or decline. Education exists for us to become happy, to succeed and to lead brilliant lives.

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