

**SGI President Meets With Peruvian Educators**  
**Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER**  
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SGI President Ikeda, founder of Soka University, and his wife, Kaneko, met this evening with guests from Peru's Ricardo Palma University at the Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall. Rector Iván Rodríguez Chávez, Office of University Extension and Social Advancement Director Manuel Pantigoso Pecero, Office of University Relations Director Alfonso Jaguande D'Anjoy and Professor Margot Santa Cruz Oré traveled from the South American country to present the SGI leader with honorary doctorates from Ricardo Palma University and the Association of Doctors of Education of Peru.

Rector Rodríguez mentioned that the "Nuclear Arms: Threat to Our World" exhibition, cosponsored by Ricardo Palma University and the SGI this past June, attracted an unprecedented 60,000 viewers during its one-month showing at the Lima school. Dr. Pantigoso, a poet, leading literary critic in Peru and member of the Peruvian Academy of Letters, commented that while he himself is a poet of words, Mr. Ikeda is a poet of action.

Meanwhile, Dr. Jaguande expressed his desire to begin lectures at Ricardo Palma University based on the ideals put forth by the SGI leader, saying that he would like to have as many people as possible know about the latter's philosophy. He is currently writing a book about President Ikeda.

Turning to the Inca Empire, the group discussed the ancient fortress city of Machu Picchu in the Andes Mountains northwest of Cuzco. Remarking that the Incas were technologically advanced, President Ikeda observed that their civilization, which began in the 13th century, expanded rapidly because of their policies of compensation and redistribution. The university rector confirmed that the Incas advanced peacefully, negotiating with neighboring tribes. Consequently, in only 50 years, their civilization reached across the entire Andes region. He also said that the Incas highly valued young people.

In response to Mr. Ikeda's question on the effects of the Spanish conquest of the Incas in the 16th century, Dr. Rodríguez explained that Spanish control brought dramatic changes to the Andean region, as it forced the Incas to adopt a new culture, religion and language. During the 300 years of Spanish rule, the native population of Peru declined by as much as 90 percent. On the other hand, the university rector continued, the mixing of the native Peruvians with the Spanish created the mestizo, resulting in a new culture that has thrived for some three centuries.

The SGI leader then brought up the Nazca Lines, a gathering of giant animal figures and geometric forms scratched into the surface of several desert mesas north of Nazca in southern Peru. The figures, which include straight lines, triangles, spirals, a bird, a monkey, a spider, and flowers, are hundreds of feet in length and therefore cannot be discerned from ground level, but are visible from the air. When and why they were created remain a mystery. There are many theories regarding their purpose. Dr. Rodríguez believes that they probably served as a calendar, while Dr. Jaguande commented that the lines suggest a culture that loved peace and strove to live harmoniously and joyfully.

Confirming that there is a long history of friendship between Peru and Japan, President Ikeda expressed his hope that these two "neighbors of the Pacific" would develop a bond as great as the ocean that connects them.

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