

## **SGI President Ikeda's New Year's Message Aspiring for Inner Globalization**

NEW Year's Day 1999 — the door of history is about to close on the old century and open on the third millennium — the vast stage of a new century, a new civilization.

People shape history. Ordinary citizens must be its protagonists.

Why did the “people power” revolution of the Philippines succeed? Former Philippine President Fidel Ramos stated unhesitatingly that it was because the people trusted themselves and had faith.

Toward an age when the people are the key players... Toward a world where there is widespread communication among its diverse citizenry... This direction, I believe, will be of prime importance for human society in the twenty-first century.

How many people are there, I wonder, who truly believe that we can change the world through the power of spiritual value?

Uniting philosophy and the people — this is the unparalleled significance of the popular movement of the SGI, which has now spread to all corners of the globe.

Let's look at the world for a moment:

There are so many places and communities on this planet — with its forests, mountains and deserts — that we know very little about. Places and communities that have given birth to unique cultures, religions and peoples.

What is it that links and unites, at the very deepest level, this myriad diversity that almost seems to defy cohesion?

It is none other than our shared identity as human beings.

Everything begins from having respect for human dignity and appreciating the inherent value of each person's life and the wonder of human existence.

Let us so begin our inner quest.

“How should we live our lives?”

“What are life's true values?”

“What is the purpose of our existence?”

We have to say good-bye to a world that deems such questions pointless.

The humanistic teachings of Buddhism forge self-reliant, independent-minded citizens.

Good citizens are those who love both their own country and the world. A strong alliance of global citizens who possess a sound humanistic philosophy will transform the world.

The development of the people constitutes the foundation and framework for human progress.

Rapid globalization is rendering geographical differences virtually meaningless and making the world one.

But external globalization has brought with it serious social ills in the form of chaos, stagnation and the deterioration of indigenous cultural values.

Ours is a movement that aspires for internal globalization — a transformation that begins from within human beings and then develops a vast network of such inner-motivated people.

Let us put down strong roots of faith deep in our lives as we continue to seek to realize our limitless human potential — not from without but from within. And let us sow the seeds of peace in one heart after another, thereby creating a rich blossoming of peace in the

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twenty-first century.

I am absolutely convinced that the unceasing efforts, day and night, you are making toward this end have infinitely profound significance for the future history of humankind.

At this decisive juncture, as we lay the important foundation for the third millennium, let us continue to encourage and support one another and advance toward peace and the happiness for all people.

— With my sincere prayers for the happiness, vigorous endeavors and long lives of all my precious fellow SGI members in 128 countries around the world.

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*January 1, 1999*

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