

## SGI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR NEW YEAR'S GONGYO MEETINGS

To my most respected and esteemed friends, fellow members of the SGI throughout the world, Happy New Year and congratulations on the commencement of this significant year, which we have resolved to make the start of the 21st century! I hope you are greeting today in high spirits, filled with hope and courage.

In the Gosho, Nichiren Daishonin states: "The moon moves from west to east; this is a sign that the Buddhism of India, the land of the moon, will spread toward the east. The sun rises in the east; this is an omen that the Buddhism of Japan, the land of the sun, will return to India" (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 589). The Daishonin also declares: "It is certain that widespread propagation (of the Law) will eventually be achieved throughout the entire world" (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 816).

We of the SGI have made a reality of the Daishonin's predictions — both of the westward transmission of Buddhism and the worldwide propagation of the Mystic Law — right down to the letter. Had it not been for the SGI, his words would have been made a lie.

As members of this great organization of justice that has inherited the Buddha's will and decree, you are working selflessly to spread the Mystic Law across the globe. You are most certainly Bodhisattvas of the Earth who have volunteered to be born here in this world and this time. You are infinitely noble and precious children of the Buddha.

As a result of your tireless efforts, the SGI movement has now spread to 128 countries and territories, growing from a tiny trickle into a mighty river irrigating and enriching the land. I wish to express my deepest respect for your unceasing hard work and energetic efforts.

Not only are you accumulating immeasurable good fortune and benefit, but your achievements will shine brightly in the annals of Buddhism. I am confident that all Buddhas throughout time and space will praise you, and that, as protective functions of the universe, they will guard you, your children and all of your descendants into eternity.

In the Gosho "Repaying Debts of Gratitude," the Daishonin proclaims, "If Nichiren's compassion is truly great and encompassing, Nam-myoho-renge-kyo will spread for ten thousand years and more, for all eternity..." (MW-4, 272). There is no need for us to be impatient or proceed with unnecessary haste. The most important thing is that we put down roots in society and make valuable contributions to our communities and countries as outstanding citizens.

Please advance joyfully and harmoniously, solidly united in spirit and purpose. Let us each give a powerful performance in our respective roles, as we act out the epic, real-life drama of kosen-rufu in this world.

I am always praying earnestly that you, my dear friends throughout the world, will enjoy good health and long, fulfilling lives and shine as millionaires of happiness. My very best to you all!

*Daisaku Ikeda, SGI President*  
*January 1, 1999*