

D.C. YOUTH ATTEND NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE ON HAP

April 9–11, six youth division members from Washington, D.C. Region attended the National Youth Conference on the Hague Appeal for Peace held at American University. The conference was sponsored by the World Federalist Association and the Center for Global Peace in order to promote the HAP Conference in the Netherlands. Attended by more than 150 youth from around the world, the D.C. conference featured workshops, lectures and break-out sessions that focused on how to further develop the roles of ordinary citizens and civil societies in the furthering of the international peace movement.

By participating in the youth conference, all of the youth division members walked away with a fresh, new determination to work for peace in their own lives and in society. In particular, one young women's division member, Sahana Dharmapuri, was inspired by participating in a panel discussion on local activism. She spoke about the advantages of using soft power to resolve conflict, stating: "You only have to touch one person's heart with the message of peace. The most effective way of getting your position across is through dialogue." Paul Schienle, a young men's division member from Arlington, Va., said that the conference inspired him to "jump-start my mission to practice international conflict resolution."

After the conference, the SGI delegates met to discuss what they could do to further the development of Washington, D.C. Region's participation. It was decided that study should form the basis of their efforts to promote and enhance each member's knowledge of Nichiren Daishonin's perspective on peace. In addition, each individual made a personal determination to further his or her role in the advancement of a global peaceful society.

— *DAVID JORAY and
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