

## SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA TRAVELS TO SOUTH KOREA

SGI President Ikeda and his wife, Kaneko, visited South Korea's Cheju National University on May 17. The SGI leader was conferred an honorary doctorate for his contributions to world peace and the advancement of learning and culture. President Ikeda spoke of the great cultural debt Japan owes Korea, saying that if Japan learns from Korea, it will be on the path to peace and prosperity. But if Japan becomes arrogant, it will fall into ruin, he said. (See President Ikeda's speech, p. 6.)

That evening, the university hosted a dinner for President Ikeda at a hotel in Cheju City, and Mrs. Ikeda was presented with the university's first-ever Award of Highest Honor. President Ikeda said that he and Mrs. Ikeda were dedicating this honor to the mothers of South Korea and all the mothers of the world. He praised the mothers of the world for continuing to make valiant efforts each day to improve society.

On May 18, President Ikeda in turn hosted a dinner for university officials and faculty. He shared with them the greatest pride of his youth: that he had fully supported and protected his mentor, second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda, even giving up his own dream of going to university when his mentor faced severe hardships.

To make up for this sacrifice, President Ikeda explained, his mentor tutored him privately in a wide variety of subjects. This went on almost every morning for 10 years. President Ikeda said that he feels the honor he received from the Korean university is entirely due to his being a graduate of "Toda University."

President Ikeda met with SGI of Korea members on May 19 for a commemorative photo session. He encouraged them: "All of you are great leaders of the 21st century. To the women, I ask that you give thought to the question 'What is happiness?' and become people who are truly happy and fulfilled — each and every one of you! And I ask you, the men, to gain a sound understanding of the essence of society and Buddhism and achieve success, becoming victors in life — each and every one of you! I want to thank all of you for your tireless efforts!"

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