

## MEMBERS OF PHILADELPHIA REGION HOST FIRST KOREAN–JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE MEETING

After reading SGI President Ikeda's description of the historical enmity between Japan and Korea in *The New Human Revolution*, Philadelphia pioneer member Stan Ohnishi decided to do something to change the situation. To break down the feelings of distrust between Korean and Japanese people, he organized an exchange meeting, the first of its kind, which took place April 18 at the Philadelphia Community Center.

The event, attended by about 100 members from the Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia regions, was a joyful occasion in which members shared experiences and performed. SGI-USA Senior Vice General Director David Kasahara personally apologized to the Korean members for the suffering inflicted on their country by Japan during World War II. He stressed that this meeting was a fresh start.

Mr. Kasahara also spoke about the fact that society today has the tendency to take life lightly. Even if we are happy now, the suffering of others in other parts of our planet — like the suffering of those in Kosovo — will eventually affect all of us. We cannot escape the suffering of others in our environment, he emphasized. Therefore, our individual happiness and world peace cannot exist without others achieving their happiness. "Your efforts for kosen-rufu now will make the next century a century of life," Mr. Kasahara concluded.

— *WANDA PEACOCK and  
CLAUDE LOMDEN*