

## WORLD PEACE IKEDA AUDITORIUM TO GET A NEW FACE

The World Peace Ikeda Auditorium in Santa Monica, Calif., is getting a new face! Beginning in spring 2000, the World Culture Center (located at 525 Wilshire Boulevard), which moved across the street to the SGI Plaza at the end of 1998, will undergo reconstruction. A blue-green-tinted glass-enclosed lobby, intended to resemble both a globe and a wave in shape and color, will replace the existing structure. Its unique design by a local Santa Monica architect will make it a signature building within the community and provide a stunning entranceway into the World Peace Ikeda Auditorium.

The reconstruction will also include repairs to and remodeling of the auditorium itself.

The new two-story structure and accompanying landscape will add a graceful note to the design of the 1,100-seat auditorium, as well as to the surrounding community. With its adjacent conference rooms and translation booths, the auditorium will be available for international, national and some local SGI-USA activities, including cultural events, seminars and symposia. It is anticipated that there will be events of interest to the general public.

Reconstruction of the World Culture Center, which sustained extensive seismic damage in 1994, are expected to last about a year, and a grand opening celebration is slated for May 3, 2001.

—STEPHANIE CELANO