

**SGI ATTENDS 3RD PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS
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A buffet of beliefs, a smorgasbord of spirituality—call it what you will—the third Parliament of the World's Religions, held Dec. 1–8 in Cape Town, South Africa, served up a dizzying display of this planet's religious and spiritual diversity. The SGI for the first time had a significant presence at this interfaith gathering of about 7,000 registrants from 90 countries.

Dr. Tadashige Takamura, Dean of the Faculty of Law at Soka University in Japan, gave an address titled “Applying Buddhist Values in Conflict Resolution.” He was among the religious leaders invited to be on stage for the Parliament's closing session, at which the Dalai Lama spoke.

Soka Gakkai Vice President Toshinori Iwazumi gave a presentation on “Applying Buddhist Values in Building a Culture of Peace.” During a separate presentation, he read excerpts from a poem by SGI President Ikeda.

SGI-USA, meanwhile, displayed its “Children's Rights and Realities” exhibit at the Cape Town Civic Centre. SGI-USA member Malina Moore spoke about both the exhibit and the Youth Peace Committee's Victory Over Violence campaign during one of many dialogue sessions.

In a session on the Earth Charter, I reported on SGI-USA's having held 36 meetings over the past two years to initiate dialogue about this important international initiative.

Throughout the event, Cape Town members assisted in manning an SGI information booth located in the city's largest arena, the Good Hope Centre.

With these efforts the SGI participants fulfilled goals of both the SGI Charter and the Parliament of the World's Religions: working with other religions in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation, seeking to discover new ways to rise to the challenges and opportunities of the new century.