

## SGI-USA MEN'S LEADER TARIQ HASAN—NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE WITH THE HEART OF A LION

I would like to extend my best wishes and a very Happy New Year and a very Happy New Century to all SGI-USA members. I believe we have arrived at one of those rare moments that is filled with both historical significance, given the many key anniversaries of kosen-rufu events being celebrated this year, and great potential for a turning point in the life of each member.

In his landmark poem to the men's division written on March 26, 1999, President Ikeda says:

*My friends in the men's  
division,  
It is vital that you win in  
society  
And in the workplace,  
That you form bonds of  
trust and  
Friendship with many others,  
That you be a citadel that  
provides a  
Happy haven for your family,  
And that, with vigorous good health,  
You triumph in the arduous struggles of  
Daily life!*

To win in every area of life — society, workplace and family — is a great challenge. But I believe we can accomplish it once we approach it with the determination that since my mentor has the heart of a lion, I must also have the heart of a lion. As the newly appointed SGI-USA Men's Division leader, I am determined to be the first to practice this guidance.

Since the theme for this year is "Raising the Curtain on the 21st Century — The Year of Youth," I would like to ask the men's division to also reach out to the youth division and help raise our successors. In his guidance given to SGI-USA on Feb. 17, 1990, President Ikeda said: "To actively promote young people of outstanding ability to positions of responsibility and allow them to give free rein to their potential accords with the spirit of Buddhism. It is also the spirit of the SGI, and it ought to be the spirit of each member—organization."

Uniting with our new general director, Danny Nagashima and new women's leader, Matilda Buck, I am ready to challenge this year "with earnestness and sincerity, with courtesy and daring," as President Ikeda has recently asked us to do. With a great prayer for each member's good health and prosperity, I am looking forward to meeting many of you this year.

Once again, a very Happy New Year!