

**SOKA SPIRIT CONFERENCE LOOKS TO FUTURE
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The 1st Soka Spirit Conference, Jan. 27–30, was attended by 182 people who discussed the best ways to clear up the confusion being caused by Nichiren Shoshu. The conference agenda began with a lecture from Greg Martin, in which he pointed out that we should be grateful for this challenge. Buddhism teaches that when we are on the right track, we must face this kind of obstacle, he said. If it hadn't come up, we would have to worry about whether we were practicing correctly or not.

The next section started with a presentation of the nationwide Soka Spirit action plan for 2000 by Robert Uruma, the SGI-USA Soka Spirit coordinator, and then participants broke up into eight discussion groups. Topics included "The Power of Dialogue," "Involving Youth," "Studying the Issue Creatively," "Mobilizing Daimoku," and "How Do We Approach This Issue in America."

The general consensus was that we need to continue to talk with whomever we can, wherever we can, so that everyone deepens his or her understanding of this issue. It was also pointed out by many people that actual proof is the most powerful tool we have in convincing people of the truth.

Other sessions included group discussions on The Power of One, SGI-USA's theme for 2000, and study presentations on the history of Nichiren Shoshu, the Soka Gakkai in the 1970s and the Gohonzon. But of course, the highlights of the conference were found in the many Q-and-A and individual guidance sessions.