

**SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE TO THE  
1ST SOKA SPIRIT CONFERENCE AT THE FNCC  
YOUR VICTORY IS AMERICA'S VICTORY**

**'The victory of each one of you is a victory for America,' SGI President Ikeda says. 'Your courage will contribute greatly to the development of kosen-rufu in the United States.'**

*The 1st Soka Spirit Conference was held at the Florida Nature and Culture Center, Jan. 27-30.*

To my dearest, most respected SGI-USA Soka Spirit participants: My sincerest thanks for all the efforts you have been making day in and day out. Even if no one notices or praises your admirable, courageous struggles, Nichiren Daishonin, the founder of this Buddhism, is most assuredly observing you, watching over you and praising you.

The victory of each one of you is a victory for America. Your courage will contribute greatly to the development of kosen-rufu in the United States. So please score a complete victory in everything you do this year, with a sense of triumph, brightness, enjoyment and good cheer.

I am constantly praying for the good health and great happiness of each of you, whom I treasure, and for the happiness of your families and friends.

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*The conference participants responded to President Ikeda's message by agreeing on the following Soka Spirit Pledge: "We, the participants of the 1st FNCC Soka Spirit Conference, pledge to lay down our lives to courageously protect the Soka Gakkai spirit, to be victorious against the enemies of human justice and to be a beacon of hope for all humanity."*