

SIGNIFICANT DATES
MARCH 16: KOSEN-RUFU DAY
CELEBRATING THE MISSION OF YOUTH
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Kosen-rufu Day is the commemoration of March 16, 1958, when the second president of the Soka Gakkai, Josei Toda, entrusted the responsibility of kosen-rufu—world peace through individual transformation—to its young members and a young Daisaku Ikeda.

On that day, the Soka Gakkai youth division held its first music festival, its “dress rehearsal for kosen-rufu.” Mr. Toda appeared at the event, riding on a litter because he was too ill to walk. Less than three weeks later, on April 2, Mr. Toda died peacefully. In a time and society where youth was mostly powerless, Mr. Toda keenly perceived the organization’s youth as the true leaders of the future.

But above all, what President Toda gave the youth was his confidence. Trust has the power to inspire, give courage and create deep human bonds. It is a vital link between people. It can mean the difference between success and failure.

When Toda gave the 6,000 youth present that day his trust, they responded by surpassing all his expectations. Because his mission was given with a generous spirit by his mentor, a young President Ikeda could embark upon spreading Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism confidently across the globe. Surely, the young Ikeda keenly felt trusted in the depths of his life. The bonds of friendship he shared with Mr. Toda gave him confidence in himself and the vision they shared together for this great philosophy.

Today, youth division members across the country are working to create their own legacy by holding March 16 meetings of their own.

We should remember the significance of the day by supporting the youth as they work to create their own dynamic. The success of our organization now and into the future rests upon the confidence we exude and also extend to others.

I am a member of the youth division, and as SGI youth of 2000, we have the opportunity to take responsibility for our organization, inspiring and encouraging guests with our lives and experiences. We can discover our own personal missions for humanity and become closer friends.

If determined, we can move people’s hearts with compassion, friendship and wisdom. Reaching people’s hearts and minds is the key to our March 16 introductory meetings.

President Ikeda writes, “Rather than thinking ‘How can I improve our results?’, an organization whose leaders constantly rack their brains thinking, ‘How can I let everyone feel joy?’ is a winner.”

Youth is in itself rebirth.

By making room for young people to share their ideas and demonstrate their competence, we polish the SGI diamond, hopefully revealing a brilliance never seen before. Let’s follow the tradition of March 16 and continue to create an organization we are truly proud of!