

**FLORIDA AND CARIBBEAN LEADERS DISCUSS ‘THE POWER OF ONE’  
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The theme “The Power of One” easily struck a chord with the 140 leaders from Florida and the Caribbean who gathered at the Florida Nature and Culture Center in January to set their direction for the year 2000. In contrast to a large-scale general meeting, the activity took the format of a series of seminars that described how new attitudes and actions make leaders more effective.

Joy Relph Arnell from St. Maarten said that the gathering “reminded me that everything begins with me. Sometimes, we have a tendency to wait around for others to do something first. While teamwork is important, ‘the power of one’ means how each one of us will make an impact in creating kosen-rufu.”

“In Antigua, we have to learn how to stand alone,” said Patricia O’Grady, who is originally from the United Kingdom but moved to the island country of Antigua some years ago. “It took me four-and-a-half years just to get a telephone installed, simply because the infrastructure didn’t exist. That’s why I appreciate being able to read SGI President Ikeda’s guidance. He inspires me as one who practices what he says. This gathering reinforced what I have always believed: One must become happy first, then when you have the success of knowing you can break through your problems and deadlocks, sharing the practice with others becomes natural. To me, ‘the power of one’ is the example I set in the community. Am I a good, valuable member of my society, in my relationships with my work partners and with other members? If I am not happy with my life, there is something I need to look at and change.”

Ms. O’Grady’s thoughts echoed the final words by Sheilah Edwards, SGI-USA vice general director, about the behavior and attitude of leaders. “We need to carefully listen and observe,” she said. “This way we will understand what’s going on in a person’s life. The most important thing to bring with you on home visits is your heart. As a leader, you can’t solve another person’s problem for them. You don’t have the power. What you can do as a leader is chant with them for the quickest solution.”