

**SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE TO THE STUDY DEPARTMENT
CONFERENCE AT THE FNCC
AN UNPRECEDENTED ERA IS UPON US**

'Because all of you have been thoroughly pursuing these two ways of practice and study,' SGI President Ikeda says, 'this Buddhism is spreading throughout the entire world, and an unprecedented era in the history of kosen-rufu is now upon us.'

The Study Department Conference was held at the Florida Nature and Culture Center, April 20–23.

My Dear SGI-USA Study Department Conference participants,

Thank you very much for attending this conference at the Florida Nature and Culture Center. Taking time amid your busy schedules to travel such a long distance could not have been easy. You are each a precious friend to whom I want to express my heartfelt respect.

In “The True Aspect of All Phenomena” is the famous passage “Exert yourself in the two ways of practice and study. Without practice and study, there can be no Buddhism. You must not only persevere yourself; you must also teach others. Both practice and study arise from faith. Teach others to the best of your ability, even if it is only a single sentence or phrase” (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 386).

To “exert ourselves in the two ways of practice and study” is the correct course to follow for those who wish to maintain a direct connection to Nichiren Daishonin. And it is we of the SGI who have been acting exactly as this Gosho passage teaches. Because all of you have been thoroughly pursuing these two ways of practice and study, this Buddhism is spreading throughout the entire world, and an unprecedented era in the history of kosen-rufu is now upon us.

You who have dedicated yourselves to study know the standard for determining true and false, right and wrong in the realm of Buddhism. Based on this knowledge, please persist in proclaiming the truth and defeating falsehood by thoroughly engaging in “study for the sake of practice” and “study for the sake of the struggle.” I hope that, in this way, you will guide and encourage all of your fellow members.

How praiseworthy are all of you who, in this evil age of the Latter Day of the Law, are spreading the True Law! How limitless and boundless your benefit will be!

I am praying earnestly each day for the growth and success of all of you, my precious, precious friends. Please convey my warm regards to your families and your fellow members when you return home.

*April 20, 2000
Daisaku Ikeda*