

ENTRANCE EXAM HELD AT 134 LOCATIONS

The SGI-USA Study Department's Entrance Exam was held at 134 locations from Japan and Guam to the Caribbean Islands on April 30. A total of 1,839 members took the test, which focused on Nichiren Daishonin's life, the Soka Spirit and three important letters written by the Daishonin—"On Attaining Buddhahood in This Lifetime," "The Real Aspect of the Gohonzon" and "Happiness in This World."

SGI-USA Study Department Leader Eugene Hirahara explains that "the Entrance Exam has a great tradition in the Soka Gakkai. Whatever difficult circumstances the Soka Gakkai has faced, it has always returned to studying the Daishonin's teachings.

"Even when President Toda died, on April 2, 1958—and many people were predicting the organization's demise—an Entrance Exam was held just six days later. This is an important activity for our new members to get started on the correct path of Buddhist practice, from the very beginning learning how to put the Dai-shonin's teachings into action for themselves and others."

The next Entrance Exam, which will be based on the same material studied this year, is scheduled for April 2001.

Mr. Hirahara emphasizes that toward next April's Entrance Exam, what's most important is the leaders' determination to study with new members. As SGI President Ikeda says in a recent essay: "Leaders who are genuinely committed to realizing kosen-rufu will read the Goshō every day, even if only a line or a paragraph, and make it a living part of themselves. I also hope that the youth division members, in particular, will study the Goshō thoroughly, as they strive to achieve their goals. I have found that those who don't tend to be shallow and frivolous. Study is the marrow of the SGI. Unless we are armed with compassion and an understanding of the principles of Buddhism, we cannot carry out kosen-rufu" (May 5 *World Tribune*, p. 8).