

## **SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MAY 3 ENCOURAGEMENT SINGLE-MINDED PRAYER AND CONCRETE ACTION**

**'First, start with single-minded prayer,' SGI President Ikeda says. 'Then, follow through with concrete action to make those prayers come true.'**

*SGI President Ikeda's guidance at a conference held May 3, Soka Gakkai Day, in Tokyo with representative leaders.*

Sharing that from the time of his youth he has always striven to actualize the dreams and vision of his mentor, Josei Toda, SGI President Ikeda said: "A person's true worth shines in the achievements he or she leaves behind. The crucial thing is that you take earnest action—not just putting on a pretense of effort while making others do all the hard work. A great history of kosen-rufu can only be achieved by waging a passionate, all-out struggle.

"First, start with single-minded prayer. Then, follow through with concrete action to make those prayers come true. If you do so, your Buddhist practice will be a bright example of faith manifesting itself in daily life and faith leading directly to happiness. To the extent that you work hard and undergo difficulties for kosen-rufu, you will create beautiful memories and an immortal history, and be praised by the Buddhas and bodhisattvas in the 10 directions."

President Ikeda also said: "Please always be cheerful, and love and support your fellow members. To strive as a champion of kosen-rufu until the very end, just as Nichiren Daishonin teaches—this is faith, this is the Soka Gakkai spirit."

Specifically addressing the youth, the SGI leader said: "The 21st century is the Century of Youth. I ask that the youth stand up and take on the entire responsibility for kosen-rufu."

Soka University of America President Daniel Habuki and Vice President for Administration Arnold Kawasaki were present at the conference, and President Ikeda voiced his high expectations for the ongoing development of the university, which on May 3, 2001, will open a full-fledged liberal arts campus in Orange County, Calif.