

## AROUND THE SGI

### **Toda Peace Institute Sponsors Human Security and Global Governance Conference on Cyprus This Month**

From May 27 through 29, the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research will host “International Security and Cooperation in West Asia,” in Nicosia, Cyprus, in collaboration with the Center for World Dialogue. The Toda Institute’s Human Security and Global Governance (HUGG) project seeks to alleviate tensions between democracies and hegemonies with respect to problems of global governance and human security. The May conference on Cyprus is the second of three conferences. HUGG I took place in Okinawa in February 2000, and HUGG III is planned for 2001 in Moscow.

### **SGI-Taiwan Youth Host Festival for Peace and Culture**

On May 6 and 7, SGI-Taiwan youth held a peace and culture festival with the theme, “Renaissance! Creating a New Century of Peace With the Spirit of Revival.” With a sincere desire for Taiwan’s full recovery from the devastating earthquake that ravaged the country in September 1999, 10,000 SGI-Taiwan youth performed in the music festival, as well as guest performers from various performing arts genres and the Chinese Culture University’s orchestra. The musical extravaganza was covered by five major newspapers as well as seven television stations. Two television stations aired the show live.

### **‘The Lotus Sutra and the Silk Road’ Opens in Wolfenbuettel, Germany**

On May 5, “The Lotus Sutra and the Silk Road” opened at the Herzog August Library in Wolfenbuettel, Germany. The 30-item exhibit includes rare and ancient Lotus Sutra manuscripts in Sanskrit, Chinese and other languages, from the collection of the Institute of Oriental Studies (IOS), St. Petersburg Chapter of the Russian Academy of Science. The exhibit, one of the most extensive collections of Eastern religious texts, traces the development of the Lotus Sutra over the centuries as it traveled along the Silk Road and the journey of Buddhism eastward toward Asia.

### **Saipan Chapter Established; Northern Mariana Islands Honor SGI President and Mrs. Ikeda**

On May 3, Saipan Chapter was newly established as part of the SGI-USA, and includes members on Saipan and Tinian Islands. Mr. Joseph O’Rayeh and Ms. Leann Zweber were appointed chapter leaders. On May 3 and 4, Saipan and Rota Islands of the Northern Mariana Islands presented SGI President Daisaku Ikeda and Mrs. Kaneko Ikeda with honorary citizenships. On May 2, Tinian Island commended them for their myriad contributions to peace.

### **SGI’s ‘World Boys and Girls Art Exhibition’ Opens in Caracas, Venezuela**

On May 4, the SGI’s “World Boys and Girls Art Exhibition” opened at the Venezuelan Education Ministry’s exhibition hall in Caracas, the capital of Venezuela. Artwork by 200 Venezuelan children, as well as 300 paintings and drawings by children from 161 countries and regions, are displayed. The Venezuelan Children’s Orchestra performed at the opening, which was aired on local television stations and reported in national and local newspapers. The exhibit is designated as an official state event of the Education Ministry,

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and is co-sponsored by the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry and Education Ministry, Venezuela Central University, Carabobo University and the SGI. Miranda State and 25 other organizations are supporting the exhibit. More than 600 guests, including Venezuelan Education Minister Hector Navarro Diaz, attended the opening.

### **SGI-Hong Kong Sponsors Lecture on Daisaku Ikeda and Contemporary Chinese Writers**

On April 16, Dr. Sun Lichuan, vice general editor of Cosmos Books, Hong Kong, presented a lecture titled “Dr. Ikeda and Lu Xun, Ba Jin and Jin Yong – A Dialogue With Chinese Literary Writers of the Century” at the SGI-Hong Kong Culture Center. Dr. Sun explained that Mr. Ikeda and these three contemporary Chinese writers share a love of people, and each one took up his pen on behalf of ordinary people. Dr. Sun is also the translator for *Quest for a Bright New Century*, a dialogue between Hong Kong literary scholar Jin Yong and SGI President Daisaku Ikeda published by Cosmos Books.

### **SGI’s Amazon Exhibit Opens in Londrina, Brazil**

On April 14, the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) exhibit, “Symbiosis and Hope: The Amazon—Its Environment and Development,” opened at the Londrina Catuai Shopping Center. The exhibit illustrates the contributions of the Amazon rain forests to the global ecosystem and promotes humankind’s harmonious coexistence with the earth through non-destructive, sustainable economic development. More than 250 guests attended the opening, including educators and government officials. To date, the exhibit has received over 150,000 visitors on its Brazil tour.

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