

**THE TODA INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL PEACE AND POLICY RESEARCH  
DIALOGUE OF CIVILIZATIONS FOR WORLD CITIZENSHIP  
BY JAMIE LIPTAN, STAFF WRITER**

**The Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research aims to build lasting bridges of international dialogue and understanding.**

The Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research is a new kind of institute for a new kind of world, a world endowed with expanding channels of communication yet sorely in need of dialogue. Founded by SGI President Daisaku Ikeda on Feb. 11, 1996, the Institute honors the life and work of the second Soka Gakkai president, Josei Toda.

The Toda Institute is an independent, nonpartisan and nonprofit organization committed to the pursuit of peace through peaceful means and a complete abolition of war. In cooperation with other peace organizations that resist injustice and resolve conflict, the Institute aims at maximizing the efforts of peaceful people of all colors and creeds everywhere. In helping to promote peace initiatives at national, regional and international levels, the Institute encourages and proposes concrete strategies that can be translated into action.

The Institute brings peace researchers, policymakers and community activists into communication and collaboration on selected projects in conflict resolution. In an effort to incorporate research into policy, planning and implementation processes, the Institute fosters dialogue among all three types of stakeholders by bringing them into collaborative, learning communities.

Based on its motto of “Dialogue of Civilizations for World Citizenship,” the institute has sponsored conferences in Iran, the United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa, Northern Ireland, Germany, Turkey, the United States and Japan over the past two years. These conferences bring together the world’s foremost thinkers and activists in a variety of fields in an effort to produce research, publications and recommendations that can contribute to the resolution of world conflicts.

In addition to Peace and Policy, the Institute’s journal, a book series resulting from conferences on the theme “Human Security and Global Governance” has reached four volumes.

Josei Toda was a staunch anti-militarist whose uncompromising declaration against nuclear weapons in 1957 became and remains the driving force for peace, justice and education in the Soka Gakkai’s international movement. The Institute works toward what Toda called “global citizenship.”

President Ikeda, in a dialogue with Majid Tehranian, director of the Institute and a professor at the University of Hawaii, said: “Our [SGI] movement focuses on the promotion of peace, culture and education based on Buddhism. To encourage cultural exchange, I founded the Min-On Concert Association and the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum. To promote education, I founded Soka University, the Soka Junior and Senior High Schools and a number of other educational institutions. With the establishment of the Toda Institute, I can now say we have a firm foundation in each area of peace, culture and education.”

The Institute serves the principles for which Toda stood; protection of all human life, safeguarding all of the natural environment and harmonious development of all human

communities. In the new millennium, many new as well as old problems and conflicts plague the world. The end of the Cold War resolved some conflicts but unleashed others. Despite efforts of the United Nations and others, testing and proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons continue. The arms trade has taken on new dimensions. Military expenditures, even among poorer nations, have increased. The arms race has now spread to all regions of the world, augmenting the danger of conflict among ethnic groups within and between countries. Nonviolent intervention and peacemaking are not yet sufficiently developed instruments to be effective in settling disputes. At the same time, specters of hunger, destitution, forced migration, ethnic cleansing and homelessness haunt even advanced nations. The new century dawns with limited prospects on the horizon for achieving a truly peaceful and cooperative international order. The Toda Institute hopes to contribute toward building a practical and durable world peace in the 21st century.

“A Planet Earth torn by the rancor and discord of us and them cannot survive under the emerging conditions of global markets and communications,” says Professor Tehranian. “The challenge before the Toda Institute and all of us is to face these realities and engage in a genuine effort to build some lasting bridges of international dialogue and understanding. It is possible to live in peace, as Gandhi constantly reminded us, if we understand.”

*For more information regarding the Institute's events and publications, please visit its Website at [www.toda.org](http://www.toda.org).*