

**SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA’S MESSAGE TO THE ARTS DIVISION  
CONFERENCE  
TO INSTILL HOPE IN COUNTLESS PEOPLE**

**‘Your mission is to instill hope in the hearts of countless people,’ SGI President Ikeda tells the Arts Division members, ‘to encourage them toward the correct path of life— one imbued with strength and optimism.’**

*The Arts Division Conference was held at the Florida Nature and Culture Center, May 11–14.*

To my esteemed Arts Division members,

My heartfelt congratulations on your first Arts Division Conference! The amount of joy, hope and courage that you are bringing to countless people through your dynamic, steadfast activities is immeasurable. My deepest appreciation to all of you for your daily efforts.

Nichiren Daishonin states, “One can know the rise and fall of a nation through the sounds of its joys and sorrows” (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 88). In a broad sense, “sounds” here signifies art and culture. The mission of the Arts Division is thus unimaginably profound. Your mission is to instill hope in the hearts of countless people, to encourage them toward the correct path of life— one imbued with strength and optimism.

All of you, the Soka Bodhisattvas of Wonderful Sound, are wondrous, noble and respectable. When you base your lives on faith—earnestly dedicating yourselves to accomplishing your missions, developing good fortune and fulfilling your responsibilities—you will undoubtedly bring forth tremendous strength and wisdom from within. The Buddhist deities cannot fail to protect you.

Those of you who live out your lives for the sake of kosen-rufu together with the SGI and the eternal, boundless Mystic Law will ultimately triumph, without fail. You will develop vast life-conditions infused with fulfillment and satisfaction.

My greatest joy is to see all of you advance serenely, resolutely, fearlessly—as Soka Champions of the Arts.

I continue to send my sincere prayers to each and every one of you, my beloved Arts Division members, so that your future will unfold boundlessly.

Please stay healthy.

*May 2000  
Daisaku Ikeda*