

**THAI NEW YEAR'S DAY CELEBRATED  
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Some 200 Thai SGI-USA members and a number of guests from the community celebrated Thai New Year's on April 16 at the San Fernando Community Center in Panorama City, Calif. SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima joined this auspicious occasion to encourage the Thai members in faith and share SGI President Ikeda's vision for the future of the kosen-rufu movement in America and the world.

The celebration included the singing of a traditional New Year's song, an explanation of the basics of the practice, a performance of Thai classical music, a traditional ceremony to pay respect to elderly people and a colorful drum show.

Charlie Janlekha, a chief coordinator of the Thai group, said of the gathering: "It is my great joy that we could make a fresh start today toward May 3, 2001. It is our dream to someday invite President Ikeda to a Thai event in the United States. We will continue to show proof of our growth through our sincere efforts in propagating Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism in our community."