

FORTY YEARS OF LEADERSHIP FOR WORLD PEACE

Daisaku Ikeda is a leading Buddhist philosopher, author, poet and educator. This special issue celebrates the wide-ranging accomplishments of this remarkable individual.

As president of the Soka Gakkai International (SGI), and the founder of several educational, cultural and research institutions, Mr. Ikeda is the recipient of numerous honorary doctorates and awards, including the U.N. Peace Award, the International Tolerance Award of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Rosa Parks Humanitarian Award.

Forty years ago, on May 3, 1960, he became the third Soka Gakkai president. Following in the footsteps of his predecessors, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda, he resolved to share the humanistic philosophy of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism with the world for the sake of peace. On Oct. 2, 1960, he arrived in Hawaii on his first overseas trip toward this aim, the first step in the development of SGI organizations, which are now in 156 countries and territories.