

AROUND THE SGI

Sixty Thousand Visit SGI Anti-Nuclear Exhibition in Argentina

On June 16, the SGI's "Nuclear Arms: Threat to Our World" exhibition opened at the Universidad Nacional del Nordeste (University of the North-East), Corrientes, Argentina. Guests included: University Rector Adolfo D. Torres and Vice Rector Mart'n Edgardo Ayala, and government officials from Corrientes and neighboring Chaco State. To date, more than 60,000 have visited the anti-nuclear exhibit in Argentina; it first showed in Argentina in Buenos Aires in 1997, then in Nequen at the National University of Comahue in February 2000. The exhibition has been designated as an official event by the Chaco Education Agency, Chaco Lower House Assembly, Corrientes Education Agency and Resistencia City.

Five Items from the Victor Hugo House Collection Named National Treasures

The Victor Hugo House of Literature, Bievre, France, founded by the SGI in 1991, celebrated its ninth anniversary June 21. Five items from the museum's collection were recently named national treasures by the French Ministry of Culture by unanimous vote of a 40-member council of historians and other culture specialists. Formerly the Chateau des Roches, originally owned by Hugo's friend Bertin L'Aine (1771-1841) and frequented by influential figures during the Age of Romanticism, the Victor Hugo House contains a permanent collection of approximately 1,900 items of the author's memorabilia.

Italian City Sponsors Lecture: Peace Builders Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., and Daisaku Ikeda

On July 1, Grugliasco City, Turin Province, Italy, sponsored a 30-panel exhibit and lecture on "Peace Builders of the 20th and 21st Century," which introduced the ideals of three pacifists, Mahatma Gandhi of India, Martin Luther King Jr. of the United States, and Daisaku Ikeda of Japan, and their message of peace to the world's citizens. Pointing to the multi-faceted peace activities of Mr. Ikeda, including his ongoing dialogues with world leaders, President Giovanni Salio of the Domenico Sereno Regis Studies Center stated his belief that Mr. Ikeda was the very individual who fulfills the role of a "soldier of peace" with the mission of carrying and spreading the message of peace and nonviolence taught by his predecessors, such as Gandhi and King. One thousand five hundred city residents attended the event at the Grugliasco City Culture Center.

SGI-Hong Kong Chorus Performs at Third Anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to Chinese Rule

On July 2, the SGI-Hong Kong chorus performed, together with 23 other choruses, at a choral recital at the Hong Kong Culture Center to celebrate the third anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of China. The Hong Kong Culture and Art Foundation and the Hong Kong Chorus Association

sponsored the event. The SGI-Hong Kong chorus had also been selected to perform for a televised show at the Hong Kong Culture Center during the historic handover celebrations on July 1, 1997.

SGI Members of French Overseas Departments Attend Study Session at the Newly Renovated Charterettes Center

On June 28 through July 1, SGI-France representatives of the French Overseas Departments—French Guiana, Guadelupe, Martinique and Reunion—gathered for a four-day study session at the newly renovated SGI-France Culture Center in Charterettes, France. Currently, approximately 500 SGI members practice in the French Overseas Departments, and 35 were present at the summer session. Study material included “On Attaining Buddhahood in this Lifetime,” a treatise Nichiren Daishonin entrusted to Toki Jonin, one of his followers. The group also toured the Victor Hugo House of Literature in Bievre.

‘Dialogue on Humanism’ Exhibit Opens at Universidad Columbia del Paraguay

The SGI’s “Dialogue on Humanism: Network of Hope” showed at the Universidad Columbia del Paraguay (Columbia University of Paraguay) from June 26 through June 30. The university, which cosponsored the exhibition with SGI-Paraguay, recognized the exhibit as an official event promoting education of peace and justice. The exhibit introduces universal, humanistic ideals centered on respect for the dignity of human life and SGI President Daisaku Ikeda’s dialogues with world leaders.

Dr. Daisaku Ikeda Library Room Completed at University of Ghana

A library bearing the name of SGI President Daisaku Ikeda was recently completed at the University of Ghana. Vice Chancellor Ivan Addae-Mensah notified Mr. Ikeda’s office of the completion in early May of the Dr. Daisaku Ikeda Library Room, which is housed in the International Students Dormitory. The library is replete with books on various subjects, private reading rooms and computers for extensive academic study and research. In September 1996, University of Ghana and Soka University formalized an educational exchange agreement. Mr. Ikeda received an honorary Faculty of Law doctorate from the University of Ghana in August 1996, and was appointed an honorary visiting scholar in March of last year.

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