

DISCUSSION HELD ON REVIVING PRINT CULTURE

On July 14, SGI President Ikeda and Dr. Henry Indangashi, chairman of the Writers' Association of Kenya and vice chairman of the Kenya Oral Literature Association, discussed literature at the Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall in Hachioji. Observing that television and other visual media are rapidly supplanting print culture, President Ikeda expressed his concern about the debilitating effect this may have on people's powers of imagination.

He also said that the preponderance of violence in the media could incite people—youth in particular—toward violent behavior. The SGI leader argued that the revival of print culture holds the key to the restoration of humanism in society. Dr. Indangashi, who teaches literature at the University of Nairobi and is currently a visiting professor at Soka University in Tokyo, acknowledged that many middle-class youth in Kenya were moving away from reading and that youth from poor families cannot even afford to buy books.

In addition to discussing Kenya's traditional literature and current literary trends, Mr. Ikeda and the scholar covered Japanese authors and movies that are well known in Kenya. Plans are under way for an ongoing discussion between President Ikeda and the Kenyan scholar to be published as part of the "Dialogue on World Literature" series in Ushio, a Soka Gakkai-affiliated cultural magazine. In the future, they want to discuss such topics as Africa's oral literature, Ernest Hemingway's short story "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" and the writings of Kenyan author Ngugi Wa Thiong'o and Nigerian Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka, a friend of President Ikeda.