

**SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE TO THE RAISING OUR CHILDREN
CONFERENCE AT THE FNCC
DEVELOP COURAGE TO RESPECT OUR CHILDREN**

'My hope is that all of you develop the courage and compassion to always respect your children as individuals,' SGI President Ikeda says, 'and sincerely, earnestly offer heartwarming encouragement to as many young friends as possible.'

The Raising Our Children Conference was held July 27–30 at the Florida Nature and Culture Center.

I offer my heartfelt congratulations on your unprecedented Raising Our Children Conference. Gathered here today are those mothers, fathers, teachers and youth leaders engaged in raising the children who will develop into great leaders. I sincerely appreciate and honor you who struggle daily to raise and educate our precious children. As a parent, I truly understand all of your hardships. Thank you very much for all your hard work.

Nichiren Daishonin states: "The voice does the Buddha's work" (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 708). My hope is that all of you develop the courage and compassion to always respect your children as individuals and sincerely, earnestly offer heartwarming encouragement to as many young friends as possible. Please be confident that you are opening a great new road toward kosen-rufu as you struggle to discover and develop capable youth in your family through your resolute prayer and action.

The environment surrounding our youth today is by no means bright. Neither are their future prospects. For this reason, I hope that each of you will create the best environment for our children, like a lighthouse of hope illuminating the path toward the future. Through our mystic karmic connections, we encountered the messengers from our future at this time. I ask that all of you, together with me, exert your utmost in encouraging and nurturing them.

Each one of you is a precious pioneer of the great new century. Every day I pray sincerely for your continued good health, happiness and glorious noble life filled with great fortune.

Please convey my warmest regards to those who could not attend today.

Daisaku Ikeda
July 27, 2000