

AROUND THE SGI

Uruguay Issues Stamp Commemorating SGI's 25th Anniversary

On Oct. 2, the Oriental Republic of Uruguay's Postal Service unveiled an official stamp commemorating the 25th anniversary of the SGI in Montevideo, Uruguay. The Republic presented SGI President Daisaku Ikeda with a commendation in recognition of his leadership of the SGI and its peace activities. The stamp, designed by E. de Ogueta, features reliefs of first and second Soka Gakkai presidents, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda, respectively, and the SGI logo. The stamp can be viewed on Uruguay Postal Service's home page, at

www.correo.com.uy/filatelia/frames/index_ingles.htm.

Engraved Rock Dedicated at Tobong SGI Peace Park, Seoul, Korea

On Oct. 10, a rock monument engraved with a portion of an epic poem by SGI President Ikeda was unveiled at Seoul's Tobong SGI Peace Park. The park was officially entrusted to SGI-Korea's care in April of this year by the Tobong District of Seoul, South Korea. The park covers 51,774 square feet and is filled with 200 luxuriant maidenhair trees planted in the spring by local SGI-Korea members.

SGI Human Rights Exhibition Opens in Italian City

On Sept. 16, the SGI's human rights exhibition "Toward a Century of Humanity — An Overview of Human Rights in Today's World" opened at Castel Senese, built by the Medici family in the Middle Ages, in Grosseto City, Italy. The exhibition displays photographs and facts on the history of human rights, violations of freedom of thought, religion and expression, and the rights of women, children and displaced people. Approximately 400 guests came to the opening, including Grosseto's mayor and other government officials. The exhibition, supported by the United Nations Information Center (UNIC), has traveled to five cities where 77,000 have viewed the exhibition.

SGI Children's Exhibition Opens in Wolfratshausen, Germany

On Sept. 13, the SGI "World Boys and Girls Art Exhibition" opened in Wolfratshausen, Germany. The exhibition includes 150 drawings and paintings by children of 100 countries and regions, as well as 250 by local children. Approximately 300 guests, including Wolfratshausen's mayor, attended the opening. This is the second showing in Germany, following a November 1999 showing in Hamburg.

SGI-France Holds Music Festival

On Oct. 1, SGI-France youth hosted a music festival in Paris. About 4,000 people

participated in the festival, held in the afternoon and evening. Approximately 300 youthful performers staged a colorful cultural performance that included choruses, ballet and a fife-and-drum corps. SGI President Daisaku Ikeda sent a message, asking the young people to blaze a trail with passion and hope for a human renaissance in the new millennium. Andre Fage, the co-founder of the Val de Bièvres Photo Club, was among the guests.

Four Thousand SGI-Peru Youth Sponsor Music Festival

On Sept. 24, SGI-Peru youth sponsored a music festival commemorating Soka Gakkai's 70th anniversary, the SGI's 25th anniversary, and the 40th anniversary of Oct. 2, World Peace Day. SGI President Ikeda began his worldwide journey for peace on Oct. 2, 1960. The theme song for the festival, "Song of Victory," is a Japanese pop-tune written by Okinawa-based singer Alberto Shiroma, originally from Peru. Four thousand youth gathered for the event at an outdoor theater in Lima, Peru.

*Courtesy of SOKANET
(www.sokagakkai.or.jp)*