

**NEXT YEAR'S THEME ANNOUNCED**  
**'YEAR OF TOTAL VICTORY FOR THE NEW CENTURY'**  
**BY TED MORINO**  
**EDITOR IN CHIEF**

SGI Deputy President Einosuke Akiya announced at the 50th Soka Gakkai Headquarters Leaders Meeting held in Tokyo on Oct. 5 that next year's SGI theme would be "Year of Total Victory for the New Century."

In his speech, Mr. Akiya stated, "'Total victory' means victory in every aspect of our movement for kosen-rufu."

SGI-USA will discuss how to implement this theme in America at its Central Executive Conference slated at the beginning of December.

Referring to the direction of the SGI in the 21st century, Mr. Akiya mentioned: "May 3, 2001, signifies a point from which we will go on to complete our climb of the first mountain of kosen-rufu—a fierce challenge that our mentor has been spearheading for us for the past 40 years—and make a new departure to scale the next one in the 21st century. Our new departure denotes the commencement of a new cycle of the second seven bells for the worldwide promotion of kosen-rufu. (See the Sept. 8 *World Tribune* for detailed information about the seven bells.)

"It is the mission of the SGI to put into action this passage from *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*: 'If Nichiren's compassion is truly great and encompassing, Nam-myoho-enge-kyo will spread for ten thousand years and more, for all eternity' (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 736). We will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Soka Gakkai on Nov. 18 this year. Our next major milestone is the year 2030, which will coincide with the 100th anniversary of our organization's establishment. Aiming toward that day, let's make a fresh, dauntless start in fulfilling the great cause of the Soka Gakkai."

Mr. Akiya encouraged all present: "The tolling of the first seven bells marked a great record of victory after victory on the part of our mentor, SGI President Ikeda, who has realized every dream that our second president, Josei Toda, entertained for kosen-rufu. The time has finally come for us to show with the spirit of lion kings, proof of winning in every one of our endeavors for kosen-rufu. Only when we win completely can we say we are his true disciples. A truly determined person can definitely tap wisdom, courage and limitless ability from within. Victorious disciples enable the first of the second seven bells to ring."

Mr. Akiya concluded that the dynamic practice of dialogue and the development of capable people in each community would be the key to bringing about complete victory in the new era of the kosen-rufu movement.