

**THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION
'SECURING THE FOUNDATION'
VOLUME 8, CHAPTER 1, PART 7-8**

On May 3, looking back over his first three years as president, Shin'ichi Yamamoto says, 'I have striven in accord with the Daishonin's teaching "Life is limited; we must not begrudge it. What we should ultimately aspire to is the Buddha land."'

After the announcement of new leadership appointments at the May 3 Headquarters General Meeting, the former Hong Kong Chapter leader, Ikuyo Oka, returned the chapter flag to President Shin'ichi Yamamoto, who then presented it to the new chapter leader. Flags were also presented to the Hawaii and Seattle chapters, both of which had been established in January.

Next, Vice General Director Eisuke Akizuki announced the organization's activities and goals toward the seventh memorial (sixth anniversary) of second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda's death. This was followed by determinations from representatives of each division.

First, Student Division Leader Goro Watari pledged to increase the division's membership to 20,000 and to bring them together under its crimson and navy flag.

Newly appointed Young Women's Leader Michiyo Watari took the podium next and began speaking energetically of her hopes and goals: "I have been entrusted with the great responsibility of leading the young women on this auspicious occasion commemorating the third anniversary of President Yamamoto's inauguration. This is a time for fresh advancement. I am determined to muster all my strength and devote myself entirely to kosen-rufu!"

She next introduced the first of two new mottoes for the young women: "Establish unshakable faith."

A life without roots is like a floating weed being tossed about on the waves; it is easily swayed by the trends of the times and by personal weakness. A person who lives this way will be set back when faced with harsh trials. Faith, Michiyo stressed, is the very root that grounds us. And it begins and ends with chanting daimoku.

She then introduced the second motto: "Lifelong learning."

There is no growth or progress for those who do not strive to cultivate their minds. A saying goes, "A life without learning is base." In particular, for those who aim to become leaders of the next generation, study is not only the greatest right but also a duty.

Michiyo further expressed her hope that the young women would especially pour their energies into studying the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin—the basic foundation for life—and make the Buddhist philosophy of life their personal philosophy.

Next to speak was Kenshiro Ishikawa, the young men's leader. He reported on the first European young men's general meeting, held in Paris in April. He also spoke of a new surge in the spread of the Daishonin's Buddhism around the world that was being powered by youth. Emphasizing the need for many more capable young people to bolster this great progress, he voiced his hope that the young men would do their best to raise such youth in many fields of endeavor.

In closing, Ishikawa said: "The Soka Gakkai is the body from which capable individuals are fostered. It is a vast ocean of people, and only by diving in and getting actively involved can we develop ourselves into individuals as strong as gallant orca whales.

“We, the young men, will build a solid organization. We will stand at the front lines of our activities for kosen-rufu and become pillars of support to all the members while waging a great struggle to rebuild society.”

Following the resolutions by youth representatives, Katsu Kiyohara addressed the gathering on behalf of the women.

She began speaking proudly of their energetic efforts: “I wish to affirm that the women are the motivating power and driving force of the Soka Gakkai’s activities to build a peaceful society. Has it not been the women who have introduced the Daishonin’s Buddhism to those suffering from illness who have been abandoned even by their doctors? Have they not gone time and time again to visit families suffering in poverty to teach them Buddhism?”

“In their own families, they give courage to their husbands who are worn out from working to put food on the table. And they are the ones raising their children to be capable individuals who will shoulder the Soka Gakkai’s movement in the future.

“Mr. Toda used to say that kosen-rufu would be accomplished by the efforts of women. The fact that more than half of the entire Soka Gakkai membership is women is clear proof of his conviction.

“That is why, I believe, President Yamamoto treasures the women’s division, and why he wrote the editorial ‘To the Women’s Division’ for the March issue of the *Daibyakurenge*.”

Touching on Shin’ichi’s message, Kiyohara called on the women to forge open a road leading to the revitalization of society. As pioneers of true women’s liberation, she declared her hope that they would excel in their chosen fields—be it in the media, arts, education or any other area of endeavor.

Shin’ichi was pleased and reassured to see each division pledging its commitment to fresh progress while utilizing its unique capabilities, each burning with strong determination for the realization of kosen-rufu.

Next came greetings from a vice general director and other leaders, followed by President Yamamoto’s speech.

The members applauded thunderously in anticipation of Shin’ichi’s impassioned words marking a fresh start on this significant third anniversary of his taking the helm of the Soka Gakkai.

Shin’ichi’s voice resonated clearly throughout the auditorium: “It has been through the kind help and support of the board of directors, the other leaders and the members that, despite my inexperience, I have been able to bring our movement to where it is today. I have striven in accord with the Daishonin’s teaching ‘Life is limited; we must not begrudge it. What we should ultimately aspire to is the Buddha land’ (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 214). I thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

Joyful applause filled the hall.

Shin’ichi continued: “Now I engrave in my heart once again the following words of the Daishonin: ‘This I will state. Let the gods forsake me, let all persecutions assail me. Still I will give my life for the sake of the Law’ (WND, 280).

“With your cooperation, I am determined to continue to take the lead in the next step of our efforts for kosen-rufu, aiming toward April 2 next year—the seventh memorial of Mr. Toda’s death—as well as next May 3.”

Shin’ichi’s call for further advancement was a lion’s roar. Once again, the Nihon University Auditorium erupted in applause, and it did not subside for some time.

Daisaku Ikeda appears in the novel as Shin’ichi Yamamoto. The events take place in 1963.