

SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE TO THE 50TH CEC SGI-USA: AN IDEAL GATHERING OF PEOPLE

'With your general director at the helm, I hope that SGI-USA will create an ideal, harmonious gathering of people, where each member is cherished,' SGI President Ikeda says.

My heartfelt congratulations on the 50th Central Executive Conference. I understand that this CEC is very important in that you will evaluate all you have done this year for our movement in the United States and envision your activities for next year. I sincerely thank you for all your efforts this year. Please refresh yourselves through this conference and make a fresh start toward the opening of 2001.

SGI-USA has done a superb job centering on General Director Danny Nagashima and Women's Leader Matilda Buck. I extend my greatest respect to the devoted efforts that each of you made this year. With your general director at the helm, I hope that SGI-USA will create an ideal, harmonious gathering of people, where each member is cherished.

Toward this end, I must emphasize that leaders should be united. I hope that you as leaders are always sincere, basing yourselves upon faith and respecting and cherishing every member.

Nichiren Daishonin states, "The bodhisattvas Superior Practices, Boundless Practices, Pure Practices, and Firmly Established Practices represent the world of the bodhisattva within ourselves" (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 366). The utmost qualities that are necessary as human beings and leaders are definitely inherent in each of our lives. Therefore, you, as kosen-rufu leaders, should feel deeply responsible, be dependable and pray strongly.

Please give a sense of security to your members. I also hope that you will inspire them to the point where they can display their capabilities without reservation. The Daishonin says, "If you light the path for others, you will have a clear path before you as well" (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 1598). All you do for the happiness of others will benefit yourselves. Convinced that the essence of the Buddhist teachings exists in the spirit described in this passage, please commence a new phase of your great journey.

I am counting on you for the future of America and the future of world kosen-rufu. I pray for your glory, victory and good health with all my heart. Please convey my best regards to all the members in your respective areas.

Daisaku Ikeda
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