

Courtesy of SEIKYO PRESS



SGI President Ikeda meets with Singapore's President S. R. Nathan at the Istana, the president's official residence, Nov. 23. President Ikeda praised President Nathan for how Singapore is playing an active role in the United Nations today.

PEACE IN ASIA LEADS TO PEACE IN THE WORLD

SGI President Ikeda visited Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong in late November and early December, sharing a message of peace with the people of Asia. Stability in Asia will serve as a model for the peaceful coexistence of ethnically diverse peoples the world over, he emphasized. And this will become the very foundation for world peace, he stated. In his meetings with government officials, academics and SGI members, the SGI pres-

ident decried Japan's atrocities in Asia in World War II and called for great change in the 21st century, in which the "soft power" of culture, spirituality and character must become more powerful than humanity's tendency toward war. See pages 8-11 in this issue for all the details of President Ikeda's trip, including two speeches he gave in university settings: for the University of Sydney on Nov. 24 and the Universiti Putra Malaysia on Nov. 29. **WT**

California State University Welcomes 'Children's Rights'

By AL ALBERGATE
SGI-USA COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIRECTOR

The campus of California State University, Channel Islands, in the City of Camarillo, Calif., played host to the "Treasuring the Future: Children's Rights and Realities" exhibition from Nov. 10-19. This new campus of the California State University, which will officially open in 2002, was the exhibition's sixth stop this year and 21st overall since it's debut in 1996.

Among the guests speakers at the opening ceremony were Mike Morgan, vice mayor for the City of Camarillo, and Ted Lucas, director of California State University, Channel Islands. Also speaking were representatives of several

human rights groups including the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, Free the Children and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, as well as a student from Soka University of America, Calabasas.

In addition, a kid's festival was held for the many children who came to the campus, with games and exhibits. Participants were also treated to food, music and dance performances.

A special treat was provided by Miyoko Matsubara, who came all the way from Japan to share her experience as a survivor of the atomic bomb attack on Hiroshima in 1945. During her speech, she quoted SGI President Ikeda's statement from *The Human Revolution*: "A great human revolution in just a single



Children and dignitaries celebrate at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the 'Treasuring the Future: Children's Rights and Realities' exhibition in Camarillo, Calif., Nov. 18.

individual will help achieve change in the destiny of a nation, and further, will enable a change in the destiny of all mankind."

Smiles were on many faces

and everybody seemed to really enjoy the exhibition and festival. SGI-USA members in the area worked very hard for more than a year to make the

exhibition a success. Positive stories in local newspapers and a television station highlighted their efforts to reach out to the community. **WT**

Photo by GREGORY NAKASUJI

Celebrating SGI-USA's Advancement In 2000

This year, the SGI-USA celebrated 70 years of SGI history with a wide range of activities, from the 'Linus Pauling and the 20th Century' exhibition to the Victory Over Violence project. Many of these events, in which tens of thousands of Americans participated, were spearheaded by the SGI-USA youth, leaders of the future who are learning through these efforts how best to contribute to society as individuals.

Photo by GREGORY NAKASUJI



Dr. Arun Gandhi, founder of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Non-Violence, and Dean Lawrence Carter Sr. of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College encourage a student at a Victory Over Violence event in Puerto Rico, June 8.

Photo by CAROL DIMEFF



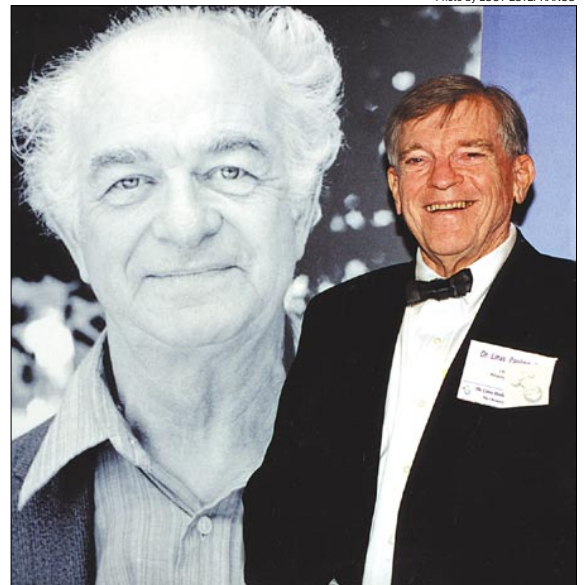
On May 23, an exhibition of SGI President Ikeda's photographs entitled, 'Dialogue with Nature' opens at the Denver City and County building.

Photo by BRANT MILLER



At thousands of locations across the country, such as Sunrise District in San Antonio, Texas, SGI-USA members celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Soka Gakkai's founding.

Photo by LUCY ESTEPHANOS



Linus Pauling Jr. stands near a portrait of his father at the opening of the 'Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century' exhibition at Emory University in Atlanta, Sept. 14.

Do You Have 'Way of Youth' Stories?

People are sharing all kinds of stories with us about *The Way of Youth*. The book is turning out to be a great way for teens to get encouragement about personal problems themselves and to share SGI President Ikeda's philosophy with their friends. And the book isn't just for teens — leaders have found it invaluable resource when giving guidance and parents use it as a starting point for discussions with their kids. We'd

like to know your experience with *The Way of Youth* as:

- Teens
- Parents
- Teachers
- Youth counselors
- Aunts and uncles
- Men and women

We want to hear from you! Please send us a brief (100 words or less) story of your experience, along with your name, address, phone number and e-mail address. Please send to Middleway Press, 606 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90401 or to middlewaypress@sgi-usa.org by Jan. 31. Thanks for your support!

Photo by DIXON HAMBY



More than 365 youth participated the Pacific Northwest Region's Youth Culture Festival in Seattle on Oct. 8, titled 'Global Ambassadors of Peace!'

World TRIBUNE The SGI-USA's Weekly Newspaper

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Photo by JOHN BROOKS



SGI-USA members in Michigan held a weeklong Victory Over Violence Festival at the University of Michigan during the first week of October, including an illustrious list of lecturers a spectacular concert featuring Super Sounds.

Photo by LISA GERLICH



The SGI-USA youth stage a Day of New York Festival with the theme 'The Power of Youth for the New Century,' on June 18 at Union Square Park in New York City.

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS DELAYED

Cody Chants and the four-book set *I Like to Chant*, which are featured in the latest SGI-USA Mail Order Center catalogue, have been delayed. Due to printing and technical problems, these new titles from Treasure Tower Books will not be available until February 2001. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience as we work to get you these exciting new children's books as soon as possible. **WT**

King of Tonga Visits SGI President

The King of Tonga and SGI President Ikeda discuss what kind of leaders are needed for the coming century.

On Nov. 13, SGI President Ikeda received His Majesty King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV and Her Majesty Queen Halaevalu Mata'aho of the Kingdom of Tonga at the Seikyo Shimbun building in Shinanomachi, Tokyo. The royal couple's entourage included Tongan Deputy Prime Minister S. Langi Kavaliku and Labor, Commerce, Industries and Tourism Minister Hulioo Tukikolongahau Paunga.

The royal guests from the South Pacific were warmly welcomed by Soka Gakkai youth division members and visiting SGI members from 55 countries and territories, who were in Japan on a training course.

During the visit, the King of Tonga bestowed a certificate on the SGI leader naming him Honorary Professor of Education of the Tonga Institute of Education and the Tonga Institute of Science and Technology, in recognition of his "outstanding service to peace and education for all peoples of the Pacific." The two institutes are both teacher-training colleges and nearly all Tongan elementary school teachers have graduated from one or other of these schools. Many students from countries throughout the Pacific Rim who aspire to become educators also come to Tonga to study at these institutes.

Delivering the award citation, Deputy Prime Minister Kavaliku, who is concurrently

Tonga's minister of education, introduced President Ikeda's achievements, including his founding of numerous educational institutions such as Soka University and his wide-ranging activities for peace. King Taufa'ahau Tupou then personally presented the certificate to the SGI leader, who expressed his deepest appreciation for the honor bestowed upon him.

Also during the visit, an honorary doctorate from Soka University and the SGI Humanitarian Award were bestowed on King Taufa'ahau Tupou. After Soka University Board of Directors Chairman Hiroshi Okayasu introduced the achievements of the Tongan monarch, President Ikeda presented King Taufa'ahau Tupou with both the honorary degree and the award. In addition, the Soka Women's College Award of Highest Honor was conferred upon Queen Halaevalu Mata'aho.

In his acceptance speech, King Taufa'ahau Tupou said he and Queen Halaevalu Mata'aho were happy to be in Japan and share "a moment of history with you and Mrs. Ikeda amidst the sea of smiling faces and the warm welcome of the Soka Gakkai International and Soka University people." He added that the people of Tonga look forward to developing closer ties of cooperation and sharing with the SGI and Soka University.

King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, 82, is a graduate of the University of Sydney in Australia. He served as Tonga's minister of education and prime minister before acceding to the throne in 1965, after the death of his mother Queen Salote Tupou III. For more than five decades, he has worked to promote education, culture and economic de-

velopment in Tonga. King Taufa'ahau Tupou is well known for his steadfast commitment to justice and peace.

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Following the presentation ceremonies, SGI President and Mrs. Ikeda held a discussion with King Taufa'ahau Tupou and Queen Halaevalu Mata'aho. Mr. Ikeda hailed the Tongan monarch as a

"great king of culture and peace," and expressed his delight at welcoming him into the Soka University community as the holder of an honorary doctorate. President Ikeda also took this opportunity to express his sincere appreciation for the honorary citizenship he and Mrs. Ikeda received from Tonga in February of this year, and to say how humbled he was to have a beach on Tonga's Nongatapu Island named after him in July.

The SGI president said he believes there will be a strong demand in the coming century for leaders who have a genuine love and appreciation for culture and the arts. And he suggested that King Taufa'ahau Tupou—who is also an accomplished composer—would serve as a fine model for future leaders. Mr. Ikeda expressed the hope that further cultural exchange would be developed between Japan and Tonga.

Asked by the SGI leader for a message for the youth and for the sake of posterity, King Taufa'ahau Tupou said that, first and foremost, he hoped young people would study hard, learn from both tradition and the wisdom of the past, and strive to accumulate knowledge. He hoped they would put all they acquire through such efforts to good use for the future.

Turning to the subject of the responsibility of politicians, King Taufa'ahau Tupou stated his conviction that those in public office must never forget for a single moment that they



SGI President Ikeda and his wife, Kaneko, take a commemorative photo with His Majesty King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga and his wife, Her Majesty Queen Halaevalu Mata'aho, at the Seikyo Shimbun Building in Shinanomachi, Tokyo, Nov. 13.

are there to serve the people, nor must they ever think of exploiting their position for personal gain. Education is of paramount importance in raising politicians who are worthy of the people's trust, he said.

A discussion of the history of Tonga then ensued. The SGI leader said he concurred with King Taufa'ahau Tupou's assertion that unless we correctly understand what happened in the past, we cannot make sense of the present. Relating that his mentor Josei Toda, the second Soka Gakkai president, often urged young people to study history, Mr. Ikeda maintained that a correct grasp of history is an indispensable requirement for leaders, and in this respect also, education has a vital role to play.

In the course of their discus-

sion, King Taufa'ahau Tupou said he wanted to engrave a quote from the SGI leader on a Monument to the New Millennium that he will build in Tonga. The purpose of the monument, which will also be engraved with a quote from the king and pay tribute to the friendship between the SGI and Tonga, is designed to serve as a lasting record of the king's meeting with the SGI leader for the sake of future generations. The monument will be in the shape of a sundial, inspired by the fact that Tonga, situated just west of the international date line, will be the first place in the world to greet the dawn of 2001. Plans call for the monument, which will be constructed on grounds belonging to the royal family, to be unveiled on May 3, 2001. WT



SGI President Ikeda has a dialogue with His Majesty King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga at the Seikyo Shimbun Building in Shinanomachi, Tokyo, Nov. 13.



His Majesty King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga makes an acceptance speech upon receiving the SGI Humanitarian Award and an honorary doctorate from Soka University at the Seikyo Shimbun Building in Shinanomachi, Tokyo, Nov. 13.

EXPERIENCE — JASON HART, LONDON, ENGLAND

Standing Up For Justice

Jason Hart tells how faith, practice and study have inspired him to take concrete action toward realizing peace in the Middle East.

At 27, having practiced Buddhism for three years, I began a degree in Hebrew and Arabic. Earlier travels to Israel had sparked a fascination with the Middle East, which grew into a desire to work for peace in this troubled part of the world. My study of Daisaku Ikeda's writings and, in particular, his dialogue with Johann Galtung, entitled *Choose Peace*, led me to understand that achieving lasting peace requires that the sufferings and injustices felt by all parties are fully acknowledged.

As a Jew, I had always been concerned that the Holocaust, and other persecutions of Jewish people, attracted due recognition and sympathy around the world, and believed that this was generally the case. However, to my mind, the expulsion of the Palestinians from their homes in 1948, in order to create a Jewish state, and the subsequent 50 years of exile and oppression, had been largely ignored.

The progress of my studies, from a B.A. in Hebrew and Arabic to an M.A. in anthropology, went hand-in-hand with the development of this conviction. For two summers, I worked as a teacher with Palestinians, and so learned close-up about their unhappy circumstances. Those were not easy times. The West

Bank was still under full Israeli occupation and pitched battles occurred close to the schools where I was teaching. In one place, soldiers, positioned on the roof of a building opposite, kept their rifles trained on my students throughout our lessons. Many of the students had been imprisoned and tortured for their political activities, but their desire to end the occupation of their land and for the self-determination of their people was undimmed. I felt very privileged to teach these earnest young people and to supplement my education in lecture halls and libraries with this first-hand experience.

These two sources of learning — both academic and experiential — provided the foundation and inspiration for me to embark on a Ph.D. However, there was one obstacle: My application for a scholarship had been rejected, compelling me to enroll as a part-time student with the prospect of my studies taking eight years to complete. I spoke to a leader in the SGI-UK who encouraged me to thoroughly check my decision about this course. Over the next months I did this, while balancing various part-time jobs with my college commitments. Feeling convinced, I re-applied the following year and was offered two excellent scholarships. So it was back to university full time. After a further six months, I was ready to begin fieldwork.

I had decided to write my thesis about the lives of children growing up in a Palestinian refugee camp in Jordan: to explore how third or fourth generation refugees come to learn and think about their relationship to a 'homeland' that they

have never seen. To this end, I intended to find a camp where I could live for 18 months and try to integrate myself in the daily life of the community.

For the first two months, I took one small step at a time while applying myself single-mindedly to my Buddhist practice. Officials told me that the camps were very conservative places and that as a single European male, residents would be totally opposed to my full-time presence. However, I strove to make new friends at every opportunity and before long was "adopted" by a wonderful family who made it possible for me to live in their camp.

I knew that, in the understanding of many Muslims, Buddhism is anathema since there is no single, external God. All 50,000 inhabitants of the camp were Muslims and a fair number might have been labeled "fundamentalist." To avoid the risk of confrontation, I therefore decided to keep my own faith a private matter. I had taken with me an Omamori Gohonzon (*Omamori*, literally protection. A miniature Gohonzon which can be carried on the person.) to chant to when alone, and found that I enjoyed practicing like this. My prayers were more focussed and my study much deeper than had often been the case in London. I felt that I was strengthening my connection with SGI President Ikeda; striving to be his representative in a place that he might never visit.

Furthermore, it was a great challenge to find ways to share the spirit of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism with my new friends without naming my faith.

My life in the camp was a fascinating adventure, immeasurably enriched by the warmth and hospitality of my neighbors. However, problems inevitably arose. After a few months, some young men whom I knew vaguely came visiting. They soon began to interrogate me, asking endless questions about London with the aim of revealing that I was lying about my origins. I understood by this that they believed I might be an Israeli spy. This was confirmed when one of them informed me that should he and his friends choose to tell others I was an agent for Mossad, it would spread rapidly throughout the

camp. Another pointed out that I was living in a violent and dangerous place, where people exacted their own justice on those they believed had transgressed. Knowing that the illegal sale of guns was rife, and having heard various stories of extreme violence in the

camp, these were alarming statements. At the same time, I sensed that they were deriving some pleasure from unnerving me in this way.

By the time they left, I was choked with fear and anger. I eventually calmed myself enough to chant and consider the situation. My work and my safety were suddenly on the line. I asked myself repeatedly why I was there. Perhaps it was vanity or stupidity that had brought me to such a place? (I knew that I was more than capable of both!) What should I do about the possible danger? I recalled the time, five years earlier, when I first went to teach in the West Bank. Israeli friends had advised me that this was far too dangerous for a Jew. At that time, I'd responded by demanding in my prayers that all the protective forces existing in the universe work with me. Despite a few hairy moments, I completed the job without any harm. Now, five years later, I felt I had to go one step further: to find out if I was prepared to give my life for what I was doing. What a great opportunity! Through chanting, my conviction grew stronger: I was definitely pursuing my own path toward peace and justice. Although I had always feared physical pain and death, at that point I felt prepared to risk both rather than turn back.

My prayers turned, naturally toward my visitors. I began to gain a keen sense of their intense frustration. These were bright and ambitious young men. However, as impoverished refugees their hopes were endlessly thwarted. I chanted sincerely and without resentment for their happiness. This action



Jason Hart

marked an important breakthrough for me, as I denied myself a retreat into familiar "victimhood." I believe it may be a tendency for some Jewish people, myself included, to perceive ourselves as victims. Although justifiable in terms of the historical record, personal experience has taught me that such self-perception is debilitating and can lead to an unhealthy view of the world. The threats of my Palestinian visitors had certainly prompted me to chip away at my own share of this. Furthermore, struggling to embrace these young men in my heart caused my life to open up — to the extent that I often felt as if my prayers were broad enough to cover the aspirations and the pain of all the residents of the refugee camp. When I reached that stage, I also knew for sure that no danger would come to me and, indeed, it didn't.

I am now back in London writing up my Ph.D thesis. I intend to use this as the basis of my efforts to tell a wide audience about the Palestinian refugees. Some friends have suggested that I must be in denial of my Jewish identity to have become so involved with the "other side." However, through Buddhism, I am now deeply aware that before all else, we are members of the human family. It is a significant aspect of my destiny to have been born a Jew and to be involved in a cycle of victim and victimizer. I am determined to use my Buddhist faith and practice to break this cycle, while taking action to help bring just and lasting peace to the Middle East.

Courtesy of UK Express



Jason with children from the Palestinian refugee camp in Jordan where he lived and worked for 18 months.

Introducing SUA's Information Technology Team

Scott Cowdrey, Director of Information Technology; Geoffrey Westropp, Information Systems Manager; Nanci Lawson, Programmer Analyst; Mark Duffield, Network Analyst; and Derrick Springer, Desktop Specialist

In October 1999, Scott Cowdrey was named Director of Information Technology for Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo. Scott is responsible for all technology applications on the SUA, AV campus which opens for instruction in August 2001. SUA will be a laptop campus, with every student receiving a laptop computer as part of their tuition. The campus has over 3800 computer ports and students will be able to "plug in" almost anywhere at SUA.

The IT staff are dedicated to helping every student, faculty

and staff member utilize new technology for the best learning environment possible.

"Basically our department administers the local network systems, several data servers and provides day to day technical support for desktop systems and applications," says Scott. "In addition, we oversee the installation of all cabling, networking, computer, telephone and multimedia systems at the new campus site."

Scott has worked in computer support services in higher education for about 15 years, with additional years as a graphic arts consultant/developer. He came to SUA from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, where he was Director of Computing Services for three years. Before that he was Director of Computer and Information Technologies at Lewis Clark State College in Idaho and a Managing Partner and Technology Consultant with Visual Advantage in Santa Monica, Calif.

"I started as a library systems analyst at a public state university in Montana and have had director-level responsibilities at the University of Notre Dame



SUA's technology team (l-r): Geoffrey Westropp, Nanci Lawson, Mark Duffield and Scott Cowdrey. Not pictured: Derrick Springer.

and at Montana State University to name just a few," notes Scott. "But in all of these roles I have enjoyed developing and supporting technology services which facilitate the teaching and learning processes."

Scott holds an MS from Montana State University where he majored in Computer Science and minored in Industrial and Management Engineering. He earned his BA from California State University, Northridge, majoring in Environmental Biology and minoring in Behavioral Psychology.

"During my undergraduate and pre-graduate school years I worked in the irrigation and

construction industries, and spent time as a National Park Service Ranger in law enforcement," says Scott.

In addition to Scott, there are four technical support staff in the Information Technology Department at SUA. Geoff Westropp, Information Systems Manager focuses on central server administration and technical database support. Nanci Lawson, Programmer Analyst specializes in PeopleSoft technical service as well as desktop systems support. Mark Duffield, Network Analyst is responsible for most networking systems and phone services. New to the IT Team is Derrick

Springer, Desktop Specialist, providing advanced technical support of Windows NT, 2000 and desktop applications, and assisting with data integration between database applications.

"While each person has a specific area of responsibility, we have some overlap to provide backup when we need it," says Scott. "For instance, Geoff and Mark are also working on the design and installation of various systems at the new campus." **WT**

Jan. 15 Application Deadline for SUA!

By MARILYN GOVE

MANAGER OF RECRUITMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ADMISSION, SUA, AV

Jan. 15, 2001, is Soka University, Aliso Viejo's application completion deadline for Regular Admission. Prospective students interested in admission for Fall 2001 must have all application materials postmarked by Jan. 15. Regular decision announcements will be mailed to all applicants on March 15, 2001.

Currently, more than thirty countries are represented in SUA's culturally diverse and vibrant applicant pool. For more information on SUA please visit our Web site at www.soka.edu. **WT**



A L I S O V I E J O C A M P U S

Send in your own questions, and we'll share the answers!

Question:

I'm trying to apply to SUA before the Jan. 15 deadline, but I still need to take a test (SAT, ACT or TOEFL) and I'm told the scores won't be available until after that deadline. Can I still apply?

Answer:

Yes. As long as you take the required test before Jan. 15, SUA will accept scores from SAT, ACT or TOEFL that arrive after Jan. 15, 2001. Please request a "rush delivery."

Question:

I just decided to apply to SUA

and I'm trying to get all of my application materials together. Do I need to send all of my recommendations in together?

Answer:

No. The recommendations should be sent in directly by the people who are writing them. All of your recommendations do need to be postmarked by Jan. 15, 2001, for your application to be considered for fall 2001.

Question:

I want to go to SUA, but I need to know how much financial aid I will receive in order to make a decision. How do I find out?

Answer:

Financial aid decisions are

not made until after students have been admitted to SUA and have completed their financial aid application (which requires a copy of your parents' 2000 federal tax returns). Depending upon when your parents file their taxes, the financial aid award notices could go out in February or as late as May. If you really want to attend SUA, we recommend applying to SUA (it only costs \$30 online or \$45 by mail) and encouraging your parents to file their taxes early!

If you have questions of any kind about SUA, please send them to SUA@admission@soka.edu or info@soka.edu. We will use this World Tribune column to share our answer with others who might have the same questions.

T Y O F A M E R I C A

Photos by GREGORY NAKASUJI



- Furniture and book stacks are being moved into the Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda Library.
- Landscaping and entry pavers are complete in front of the Ikeda Library.
- A world map floor made of travertine and granite is being installed in the atrium of Founders Hall. **WT**

SUA Book Buy Thrives

By JOHN SHERIDAN
LIBRARY DIRECTOR, SUA, AV

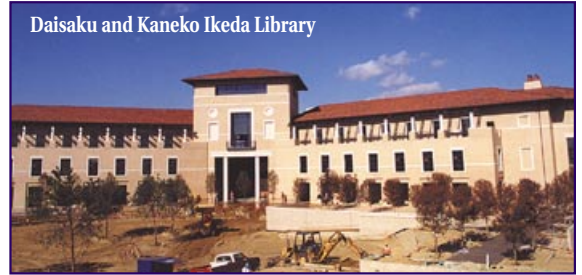
Soka University, Aliso Viejo wishes to thank everyone who has visited the Web site at www.soka.edu to donate a book...or quite a few books! As of Dec. 9, the SUA Book Buy Project reached 1,000 titles donated to SUA's new li-

brary, with a value of more than \$60,000. Already people from 17 states and a number of countries have participated by purchasing a book or books for the library and filling out bookplates with their names or names of loved ones.

This collective generosity is building the foundation of learning materials for SUA's future students. There are

still more than 1,500 books available for donation on the web site and more will be added shortly—so if you would like to participate, please visit our web site, click on the Aliso Viejo campus—and then on the book symbol on our front page.

The SUA Book Buy is a good example of how SUA is using technology to work toward its



Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda Library

goals. In this case, use of the web site for book donations has given a wider variety of sup-

porters a chance to contribute to SUA's library—without shipping costs!

While many people have access to the Internet, we are aware that others do not. Since we are concentrating on getting the campus ready for the students, we are not able to offer other options for book donations at this time. Good and creative ideas and suggestions have been sent in and we will be sure to incorporate as many as them as possible.

Please be patient and once our library is open we will be able to offer more ways that individuals can support the library.

It has been uplifting to see the heartfelt dedications which accompany the book donations. As Library Director, I look forward to affixing those bookplates when we actually put the books on the shelves this spring.

Whenever future students open one of those books, they will see evidence of the worldwide support that SUA has received.

Thanks to everyone who has participated in the SUA Book Buy! **WT**

S U A A T A G L A N C E

	Calabasas Campus	Aliso Viejo Campus
Academic Program	Graduate School	Liberal Arts College
Dedication date	Feb. 3, 1987	May 3, 2001
Degree offered	Master of Arts (MA)	Bachelor of Arts (BA)
Major	Second and Foreign Language Education	Liberal Arts
Concentration(s)	Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)	Humanities; International Studies; Social and Behavioral Sciences
Program duration	1 1/2 years	4 years
Fall 2001 admissions deadlines	April 30, 2001	Jan. 15, 2001 (Regular)
Admissions e-mail	grad_admissions@soka.edu	admission@soka.edu
Admissions telephone	818-878-3717	888-600-SOKA (toll free), 949-389-9500
Fax number	818-880-9326	949-472-3059, 949-362-3775
Web page	www.soka.edu/calabasas	www.soka.edu/homeav.html
Address	26800 West Mulholland Hwy., Calabasas, CA 91302	1 University Drive, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656

SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA TRAVELS TO SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA AND HONG KONG

Photos courtesy of SEIKYO PRESS

Beginning on Nov. 22, SGI President Ikeda visited three Asian countries, meeting government officials, academics and many SGI members, sharing with all his dreams for the fast-approaching 21st century.

SGI leader meets with Singapore president.

On Nov. 22, SGI President Ikeda arrived in Singapore, his third visit, and first in five years. The day following his arrival, Nov. 23, the SGI leader paid a courtesy call on Singapore's President S. R. Nathan at the Istana, the president's official residence. Also present at the 30-minute meeting were the First Lady, Mrs. S. R. Nathan, and the SGI leader's wife, Mrs. Kaneko Ikeda. At the outset of the meeting, Mr. Ikeda declared that he was delighted to meet with "the people's president." President Nathan humbly demurred, saying that the people would decide whether he was deserving of such a title after he had completed his term of office. The SGI leader praised Mr. Nathan's commitment to the belief that "every Singaporean matters" and his consistent efforts in the sphere of enhancing social welfare and the protection of workers.

The SGI leader commented on a speech Mr. Nathan made in September this year at the launch of President Challenge 2000 — the president's personal call to the people of Singapore to develop a stronger spirit of community caring and volunteerism. The Singaporean president had said: "One measure of how far we have progressed and matured as a nation will be the level of our sense of social responsibility. How sensitive are we to the needs of the less fortunate? How prepared are we to reach out to those in need? These are questions we need to ask ourselves as we reflect on our past, and as we look to build our future together."

President Ikeda noted that,

as a person who has experienced hardship and struggle firsthand, Mr. Nathan shows a genuine desire to see those in difficult situations achieve happiness and success. The SGI leader said he was moved by the way the president has transformed all his own hardships into compassion and affection for his fellow citizens.

University of Sydney confers honorary doctorate.

At a special graduation ceremony conducted here on the morning of Nov. 25, for its international students from Singapore and neighboring countries, the University of Sydney, one of Australia's most prestigious institutes of higher education, conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters on SGI President Ikeda. The award was made in recognition of the SGI leader's activities as a global citizen, his promotion of international dialogue transcending religious, philosophical and national boundaries, and his contributions to finding solutions to the issues and challenges that confront global society.

After the graduation ceremony, President Ikeda met with Chancellor Kramer and other members of the University of Sydney. The SGI leader told the chancellor that he would never forget the warm way in which she had interacted with each of the students at the graduation ceremony, and said he keenly sensed her genuine concern for and interest in their future. Chancellor Kramer thanked President Ikeda for his remarks at the ceremony, particularly his comments about the University of Sydney, and asked if she might have a copy of his speech in order to share it with other people at the university. In addition to reiterating his deep appreciation for the honorary doctorate, Mr. Ikeda said he was gratified to see the meaningful exchange being conducted between the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research, of which he is the founder, and Sydney University's Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies.

Chancellor Kramer said that the credit for the exchange between the two institutes goes to Dr. Rees, adding that it was he who first introduced her to President Ikeda's achievements



SGI President Ikeda has a dialogue with (l-r) University of Sydney's Deputy Vice Chancellor Judith Kinnear, Chancellor Dame Leonie Kramer and Dr. Stuart Rees, director of the university's Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Nov. 24.

as a scholar and also his practical efforts to promote peace and to help people around the world. Expressing his humble appreciation, Mr. Ikeda voiced the hope that further exchange could also be developed between the Australian university and Soka University in the future. Chancellor Kramer stated the opinion that such exchange would be very beneficial and meaningful for both schools. Dr. Kinnear concurred, saying that the University of Sydney looks forward to strengthening its ties with Soka University, building on the foundation that has already been laid. The SGI leader said: "It is important to learn from the cultures of other countries. And, in that regard, it is necessary for people of different countries to transcend national borders and work together on all levels for the sake of education. Otherwise we cannot hope to foster broad-minded world citizens." He also remarked that a distorted, closed and narrow education lay at the root of Japan's waging war and invading other nations before and during World War II, and that this must never be allowed to be repeated.

Malaysian University awards honorary doctorate.

SGI President Ikeda arrived in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Nov. 27, following the successful completion of his itinerary in Singapore. This is his second

visit to the Southeast Asian country, and first in 12 years.

The Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia's largest university, conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters on the SGI leader. A special convocation ceremony was held in President Ikeda's honor at the school's Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Cultural and Art Center. Presiding over the ceremony were University Chancellor Tun Haji Hamdan bin Sheikh Tahir, Pro-Chancellor Tan Sri Hashim bin Aman and Vice-Chancellor Tan Sri Syed Jalaludin bin Syed Salim. Some 600 people attended the event, including Universiti Putra Malaysia faculty and students, as well as representatives

of Soka University, SGI and Soka Gakkai Malaysia.

Before the presentation ceremony, President Ikeda met with Universiti Putra Malaysia Chancellor Tun Haji Hamdan. The chancellor, who is also the governor of the state of Penang, or Pulau Pinang, extended an invitation to the SGI leader to visit the state's beautiful Penang Island.

Representatives conference in Malaysia is held.

On Dec. 1, SGI President Ikeda attended a representatives conference with 2,000 SGM members from throughout the country to commemorate 40 years of the movement for worldwide kosen-rufu. The meeting took place at the SGM



A welcome performance is given before the Universiti Putra Malaysia confers an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters on SGI President Ikeda at the UPM Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Culture and Arts Center in Kuala Lumpur, Nov. 29.

Courtesy of SEIKYO PRESS

Culture Center, located in the suburbs of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's capital city. Also present were Mrs. Kaneko Ikeda, SGI General Director Eiichi Wada, SGM General Director Koe Teng Hong and Women's Division Leader Tan Lian Kim, and other SGI leaders.

At the meeting, President Ikeda delivered a speech in which he called on the SGM members to continue advancing together throughout their lives and build within them a magnificent "palace of happiness." A garden party was held on the culture center grounds following the gathering. (The full text of President Ikeda's speech will appear in an upcoming issue of the *World Tribune*.)

SGM has received high praise for its broad-ranging contributions to society from a number of the country's top officials, as well as newspapers and television stations, and other areas of Malaysian society. General Director Koe says that the reason for the Malaysian organization's great success has been the members' sincere and wholehearted efforts and the tremendous development of the youth.

SGI President talks with Malaysian prime minister.

SGI President Ikeda met with Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad on Nov. 30 for approximately 40 minutes at the Prime Minister's Office Complex in Putrajaya. Located about 15 miles south of Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya (formerly known as Perang Besar) is Malaysia's new administrative capital.

Recalling their discussion 12 years ago about the desirability of holding a summit conference of Asian leaders, President Ikeda noted that at the recent ASEAN+3 Summit, a gathering of top leaders of the 10 Association of South East Asian Nations joined by China, Japan and South Korea, significant progress had been made toward realizing Dr. Mahathir's long-standing proposal of holding an East Asian Summit. The SGI leader noted that stability in Asia will serve as a model for the peaceful coexistence of ethnically diverse peoples as well as a foundation for world peace.

President Ikeda commented on the fact that the members of SGM had been privileged to participate in the opening ceremony of the 16th Commonwealth Games, which were held in Kuala Lumpur in September 1998. At the event, which was broadcast worldwide to some 500 million viewers, 5,000 SGM members filled the stands

to perform a spectacular card stunt—creating a huge moving screen where a changing panorama of scenes was depicted by colorful flip cards. The SGI leader expressed his appreciation to Dr. Mahathir for singling out SGM's card stunt for special commendation at a thank-you gathering for those who had participated in the opening ceremony. Mr. Ikeda also thanked the prime minister for later kindly contributing a message for inclusion in a book of photographs published by the SGM organization. In the message, Dr. Mahathir said he took pride in the SGM members' performance, adding that their unity, selflessness and hard work illustrated the will and strength to overcome any difficulty.

In taking his leave, President Ikeda again urged the prime minister to take care of his health—for the sake of peace, for the people of Malaysia, and for the 21st century.

SGI Hong Kong-Macau Executive Conference convenes.

SGI President Ikeda arrived in Hong Kong on Saturday, Dec. 2, on what is his 20th visit to the region. He attended an SGI Hong Kong-Macau Executive Conference at the SGI-Hong Kong Grand Culture Center. In his speech at the gathering, the SGI leader explained that Buddhism is the earth upon which culture and peace flourish, and commended the efforts of the Hong Kong and Macau members, who are widely spreading the philosophy of humanism in their respective communities. (The full text of President Ikeda's speech will appear in an upcoming issue of the *World Tribune*.)

SGI president meets with chief secretary of Hong Kong administrative region.

SGI President Ikeda dined this evening at the official residence of Mrs. Anson Chan, Chief Secretary for Administration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). During the three-hour visit, the SGI leader and Mrs. Chan, who is Hong Kong's second highest-ranking official next to Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa, discussed a wide range of subjects, including the future of Hong Kong and of China-Japan friendship.

Mr. Ikeda was accompanied by his wife Kaneko and two sons, and by SGI-Hong Kong General Director Lee Kong Sau. They joined Mrs. Chan's

husband Archibald Chan and the couple's son and daughter as well as members of Mrs. Chan's extended family, including four of her brothers and their spouses and her famous mother Fang Zhaoling. Mrs. Fang is a noted Chinese calligrapher and painter whose works are currently being shown in an exhibition at the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum, which Mr. Ikeda founded. Director Leung Saiwah of the Hong Kong Leisure and Cultural Services Department, which offered its assistance in bringing the art exhibition to Japan, also attended the dinner with his wife.

After being warmly welcomed by the chief secretary, the SGI leader exchanged greetings with Mrs. Fang, relaying to her the tremendous success of her exhibition in Tokyo. He told her that people are flocking to see the showing out of their profound admiration and respect for her, her work and the way she has lived her life. "The exhibition has a depth that is quite extraordinary," he said, adding, "Your name is renowned throughout Japan." The artist thanked the SGI leader for his kind words. Mrs. Chan also expressed her appreciation for the wonderful exhibition the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum has created to showcase her mother's works, remarking that the 86-year-old artist has been in even higher spirits since returning from its opening in October. Sharing some of the impressions that viewers of the exhibition have sent in, President Ikeda commented that Mrs. Fang's works vividly reveal her character and inner essence, presenting to viewers a seamless fusion of art and the artist's life.

The SGI leader praised Mrs. Chan for earning the people's love and trust through her leadership during the crucial period before and after Hong Kong's transition to Chinese sovereignty, describing her achievements as history-making. Mrs. Chan responded that she is simply a civil servant and that, having served in the position for so long, it is time for her to hand over her responsibilities to someone younger.

Chinese University of Hong Kong honors SGI president.

On Dec. 7, The Chinese University of Hong Kong conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Social Science on SGI President Ikeda. The SGI leader was among four distinguished individuals who received honorary degrees from the university at its 56th Congregation for the Con-



SGI President Ikeda is escorted out by the university chancellor and other dignitaries after the Universiti Putra Malaysia confers an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters on him, Nov. 29.

ferment of Degrees. Mr. Ikeda is the first Japanese to receive an honorary degree from the Chinese school.

Founded in 1963, the Chinese University of Hong Kong is the first university with which Soka University, founded by President Ikeda, signed an exchange agreement in 1975. It has four colleges and a student body of over 13,000.

When President Ikeda's name was called he rose and stepped forward. Public Orator Professor Andrew Parkin then delivered the citation, introducing the SGI leader's life and achievements—from his humble beginnings to his encounter with his mentor Josei Toda to his wide-ranging activities as SGI president. Professor Parkin said: "Dr. Ikeda devotes himself to the education and nurture of young people, working from a strong base—his inspirational concept of revolution from within oneself—encouraging people to become self-reliant individuals as they advance into the 21st century." He ended with a short poem he had composed: "I have heard men cry, / Hatred's venom on their tongues. / But with his heartfelt / words, Ikeda's poetry / turns us from the paths of blood." Professor Parkin remarked privately after

the ceremony that the more research he did on President Ikeda, the more impressed he became, saying that this had inspired him to write the lines of verse that he had included at the end of the citation.

In the 25 years since signing an exchange agreement in March 1975, the two schools have conducted extensive exchange. To date, a total of some 350 students and teaching staff of the schools have participated in the exchange programs under the reciprocal arrangement. President Ikeda has also taken every opportunity to deepen the ties of friendship with the Hong Kong school, making book presentations and proposing the holding on its campus of the Treasures of Japanese Art Exhibition of the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum, of which he is the founder. Over the past quarter century, the SGI leader has also met and conducted dialogues with each successive vice-chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

After the successful conclusion of his itinerary in Hong Kong, President Ikeda and his party returned to Japan on December 8, bringing to a close this most recent overseas trip which also took the SGI leader to Singapore and Malaysia. **WT**

SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S SINGAPORE ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

A New World of Soft Power

SGI President Ikeda explains how the first Soka Gakkai president, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, fought for 'a world in which the "soft power" of culture, spirituality and character inspires a mutual striving toward humanistic excellence and achievement.'

SGI President Ikeda's speech on receiving an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from the University of Sydney, Australia, at the university's overseas graduation ceremony held at the Oriental Hotel in Singapore, Nov. 24.

Congratulations to those who have graduated today. What a wonderful graduation ceremony! I have seen many graduation ceremonies around the world, but never have I been as moved as at today's ceremony.

I was touched by the way Chancellor Dame Leonie Kramer took time to speak with each of you and give you a warm send-off on this fresh departure. It was like poetry, like a work of art, embodying the indivisible bonds of teacher and student that are the heart and essence of learning. I will never forget the picture of intellect and youthful vigor painted by you, today's graduates.

The University of Sydney's coat of arms is wonderful. It incorporates the symbol of the Southern Cross, sparkling with the brilliant romance of our shared dreams. Today's graduates are stars of hope, the first to appear brightly in the unbounded skies of the 21st century.

In the center of the coat of arms is the open book of Oxford, symbolic of world citizens whose intellects integrate the southern and the northern hemispheres as well as East and West. The coat of arms also incorporates the royal lion of Cambridge. Singapore is, of course, the Lion City.

Today's graduates are lions,

who will courageously lead the way in opening a new millennium in human history. I offer my heartfelt prayers that your lives, dedicated to the pursuit of a noble mission, will be crowned with infinite glory and success.

The University of Sydney has played a leading role in creating global peace.

I extend my sincere felicitations on this auspicious graduation ceremony in Singapore, which commemorates the 150th anniversary of the founding of the University of Sydney. And I particularly wish to congratulate the graduates — youthful leaders of the 21st century — who have worked so hard toward this day and also their families, who have encouraged and supported them in their academic endeavors.

It is a profoundly humbling privilege to receive the degree of Doctor of Letters from the University of Sydney. The coat of arms of your university carries the motto "Although the constellations change, the mind is universal." Engraving these inspiring words in my heart, I accept the honor of becoming associated with your esteemed university in this way.

Further, I take this great honor as the occasion to renew my personal determination to work for global peace in the new century. I am profoundly honored and most grateful.

Among the books in my study, I have a volume of Australian poetry. It was, in fact, translated and edited by a Japanese woman who studied and engaged in research at the University of Sydney. Chancellor Kramer wrote a most heartwarming foreword to this book, in which she expresses her delight and highly praises the efforts of this international student. Such generosity touched me as illustrative of the character of Chancellor Kramer, of her profound commitment to the cause of education and literature.

The collection of poems includes one composed by James McAuley, a graduate of the University of Sydney, extolling the rich harvest of life's later years:

*Life is full of returns;
It isn't true that one never
Profits, never learns:
Something is gathered in,
Worth the lifting and stacking*



'Graduates, will you permit me to join your ranks?' SGI President Ikeda humorously asks graduates at the University of Sydney's overseas graduation ceremony held at the Oriental Hotel in Singapore, Nov. 24

Looking back over the history of the University of Sydney, it is impossible not to be moved and impressed by a sense of the extraordinary "returns," the fullness of the "harvest" of a humanistic educational endeavor that has given us so many gifted world citizens in the century and a half since you first commenced classes, in 1852, with a mere 30 students.

Australia today is a multicultural society — one that brings together people from a remarkable range of cultural and ethnic backgrounds. The University of Sydney has played a leading role in creating a vibrant model of a peaceful global society based on a consistent respect for diversity.

I firmly believe that in the new century you will continue to exercise inspiring leadership in the Pacific region, offering proof that the virtues of wisdom, tolerance and dialogue can facilitate the creative fusion and integration of the civilizations of East and West.

Our lives are intimately linked with innumerable people throughout the world.

The father of the philosophy of Soka education, first Soka Gakkai president Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, put his life on the line in his uncompromising struggles against the militarist regime of Japan. Needless to say, it was the forces of this same

regime that invaded and brought untold suffering to the people of Australia and Singapore. Fifty-six years ago, in November 1944, Makiguchi died in prison as the result of his resistance.

In his 1903 work, *The Geography of Human Life*, Makiguchi cites the fact that his favorite woolen jacket is a product of Australia. With such simple and concrete examples, he sought to illustrate the intimate links between our lives and the lives of innumerable people throughout the world, and how much we are supported by others' efforts and endeavors.

At a time when the ideology of imperialism was at its height, Makiguchi urged an awakening to the realities of global interdependence. He advocated a philosophy of altruistic contribution, setting forth a vision of creative coexistence and mutual prosperity that embraced all of humankind.

He also maintained that humanity must move beyond reliance on what we would now term "hard power" — the use of military, political or economic might to dominate others. Instead, he advocated that humanity must aspire toward a world in which the "soft power" of culture, spirituality and character inspires a mutual striving toward humanistic excellence and achievement.

It is thus my belief that one

hallmark of an excellent student is a sustained, continuing love for one's alma mater and a cherished commitment to one's fellow students and alumni.

Today, I have the immense privilege of becoming an alumnus of your proud university. Graduates, will you permit me to join your ranks? Would those of you who generously consent please raise your hands?

Embracing the highest pride at having joined today the distinguished ranks of the alumni of the University of Sydney, I pledge to help further contribute to the esteem and the flourishing of our alma mater in the new century.

One philosopher left these words of wisdom to young people: "Being unwilling to learn is a shame." I have tried to follow these strict words as my motto since my youth. I share these words with you on the occasion of your departure into the next phase of your lives.

Thank you very much. **WT**

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SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MALAYSIA ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

Dialogue Brings Down the Walls Between Us

'Genuine dialogue, rooted in sincere friendship,' SGI President Ikeda says, 'has the power to overcome differences in nationality, to transcend borders and interests, to bring down the walls of separation.'

SGI President Ikeda's speech on receiving an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from the Universiti Putra Malaysia at a special ceremony held at the university, in Serdang, Malaysia, Nov. 29.

Just now, it has been my great privilege to be conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from the Universiti Putra Malaysia, which is advancing toward the grand vision of being a university of the new millennium. I humbly accept this extraordinary honor, filled with a sense of deep pride, gratitude and responsibility. Thank you very much indeed.

It is time to welcome a new century of world peace, human unity and cooperation.

One of Malaysia's foremost poets, Usman Awang, writes these beautiful words:

*Where the continents love him,
where the air embraces him,
his songs overflow with deep
love and peace.*

*Sing of peace with the breath
of life!
Sing in the ear of the newborn
child!
Let it resound to the peak of the
tower
where generals meet and map
their plans!*

*Oh, how beautiful is the full
moon
spreading its bounty over the
lake's expanse!
That is the goal toward which
we aim.*

The time has come for humankind to bid farewell to an old century rent by the explosive, dissonant cacophony of destruction and confrontation. It is time that we welcome a new century that resonates with the

symphonic poetry of world peace, the clear, harmonious tones of human unity and cooperation.

The Universiti Putra Malaysia is boldly leading the world's universities in taking up this challenge, this new mission of higher education in the coming century.

Your esteemed university's sublime educational philosophy encompasses a vision of the future development of all humankind. The Universiti Putra Malaysia positions service as one of the fundamental pillars of university education, co-equal with teaching and research. I was moved to learn this, for I feel that it expresses the solid philosophical and spiritual values of the Universiti Putra Malaysia, with which I am in complete sympathy.

Chancellor Tun Haji Hamdan is a renowned leader in the sphere of education, having dedicated his life to the noble conviction that leadership begins with setting an example. He has stated that teachers must personally demonstrate their service and contributions as professionals and as people sincerely committed to their work.

From my experience of having founded Soka University, I can keenly appreciate the truth of these words. Indeed, they express a core philosophy that should be learned and put into practice not only by educators but by all people in leadership positions.

Our fundamental point of departure should be contributing to people's happiness.

Rabindranath Tagore, the Indian poet and educator, asserts, "In education, the most important factor is an atmosphere of creative activity." The Universiti Putra Malaysia, I am convinced, is brimming with this kind of creative activity.

When Vice-Chancellor Tan Sri Syed Jalaludin visited Tokyo in October, I had the opportunity to ask him the secret of the Universiti Putra Malaysia's extraordinary success and remarkable development. He unhesitatingly attributed it to the university's efforts to make education, which has long been the exclusive domain of the elite, widely available to people in all segments of society. Opening its doors to more people, he said, has been the driving force behind the uni-

versity's development. I was moved by his response.

The key is to return to the most fundamental point of departure — to the importance of contributing to people's welfare, to the development of youth, to the happiness of humankind — and to pool our wisdom and energy, taking concrete action. I believe this applies to all areas of society, and that this is the way to overcome the sense of hopelessness and malaise that has predominated at the century's end.

I understand that there is a Malaysian saying to the effect that if you lose your way, you should return to your original point of departure. This is the kind of wisdom that humanity requires now.

Friendship through education is the powerful defense against all that harms humanity.

Genuine dialogue, rooted in sincere friendship, has the power to overcome differences in nationality, to transcend borders and interests, to bring down the walls of separation. It is of utmost importance to advance in a spirit of cooperation on the path of tolerance, coexistence and creativity, while respecting diversity and bringing out the best of that diversity.

Friendship realized through education, in particular, is the most powerful defense against that which would harm or undermine peace and human happiness. This was the unyielding conviction of first Soka Gakkai president Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, the founder of the philosophy of Soka education, as well as that of his successor, second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda.

The brutal forces of Japanese militarism attacked this beautiful land of Malaysia, launching their invasion a short time before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Our founding president staunchly fought against Japanese militarism and as a result died in prison. Our second president likewise spent two years behind bars, dedicated to the



SGI President Ikeda makes an acceptance speech upon receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from the Universiti Putra Malaysia, Nov. 29.

same cause.

The spiritual legacy of these two men has been inherited by both Soka University in Japan and Soka University of America, which will open as a full-fledged liberal arts college next year. Both universities will treasure our friendship with the Universiti Putra Malaysia, as we strive to create a great path of hope for humanity into the new millennium. I offer you our firmest promise in this regard.

The Austrian writer Stefan Zweig states that when a new generation is inspired with zeal for new work, the world becomes transformed. The color red used in your university coat of arms symbolizes the quest for knowledge, the spirit of pioneering, courage and persistence in confronting challenges. When members of the rising generation — the students of the Universiti Putra Malaysia and Soka University — unite in this courageous spirit, they will, I believe, transform the world.

I close by offering my heartfelt prayers for the limitless prosperity and flourishing of Malaysia, which will shine as a golden crossroads of 21st-century civilization.

And I offer my sincere hopes and best wishes for the continuing development of the Universiti Putra Malaysia and for the eternal glory of each of you, our cherished friends assembled here today.

Terima kasih. ("Thank you" in Malay.) **WT**

The SGI-USA's Weekly Newspaper

General Director
Daniel Nagashima

Publisher
Fred M. Zaitusu
Assistant Publisher
Greg Martin
Editor in Chief
Ted Morino

Managing Editor
Margie Hall
mhall@sgi-usa.org

Associate Editor
Jeff Farr
jfarr@sgi-usa.org

Staff Writers
Stephanie Celano
scelano@sgi-usa.org
Jamie Liptan
jliptan@sgi-usa.org

Contributing Writer
Terry Ellis

Contributing Artists
Stephanie Sydney
ssydney@sgi-usa.org
Linda Eberle

Staff Translators
Jeff Kriger
Shin Yatomi

Contributing Photographers

John Brooks
Carol Dimeff
Lucy Estephanos
Lisa Gerlich
Dixon Hamby
Lynne McAlley
Brant Miller

Photo Editor
Lisa Hollis
marvillisa@cs.com

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READERS COMMENTS

Send to:
Mailbox
606 Wilshire Blvd. PO Box 1427
Santa Monica, CA 90406-9907
or e-mail: wt@sgi-usa.org

SUBSCRIPTIONS

1-800-835-4558
or e-mail: SGIUSUBS@aol.com

FRIENDS FOR PEACE

ffp@sgi-usa.org

SEIZE THE DAY

seize@sgi-usa.org

FINE PRINT

fineprint@sgi-usa.org

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THIS BEAUTIFUL EARTH: PHOTO ESSAY BY SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA



'The Castle of Osaka, the City of People'

The clouds parted; the sun peeked through. Dolphin-shaped ornaments glistened on the roof of the castle tower.

Willow branches swayed in a wind gust that swept down from above.

While talking with several people, I strolled through Osaka Castle Park. There were people fishing from the bank of the moat and middle-aged men on bicycles. It was the season of crimson foliage. Gold ginkgo leaves covered the ground.

On a bench, school children were drawing pictures on paper.

"You are very good!" I said.

They showed me their drawings, and we chatted for a while.

"Are you from Tokyo? I've never been there."

"When you get a little older, please come see me."

It must be the wisdom of Naniwa — as Osaka has been called for centuries — to have this park in the midst of downtown for people to enjoy and relax in. Osaka Castle's main tower was rebuilt in 1931 with donations from the public.

Our Fife and Drum Corps and Marching Band have often used this park to practice, as have other SGI culture-festival performers. As they practice, beads of sweat, sparkling in sunlight, roll down their youthful faces and seep into this ground.

Osaka is a city of ordinary people. Some have called it "the people's capital," in contrast with Tokyo, once called "the imperial capital."

Osaka has long nurtured a culture of challenging authority. People here laugh inwardly at the haughtiness of the powerful or the rigid rules of stuffy bureaucrats; they see things with the sober eye of a realist.

People in Osaka dislike and refuse to kowtow to officialdom. Independent and self-motivated, they rely on their own efforts and strengths. Unfettered by traditional values, they are constantly creating something new.

The energy of ordinary people that gave rise to the flowering of Japanese popular culture in the late sev-

enteenth century is still vibrant in Osaka. People here are frank and casual, unconcerned with conventions and formalities of the past. Good-hearted and generous, they are apt to give what they have worked hard for to others and end up empty-handed, starting from scratch.

Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1536–98), who rose from a humble birth to become chief imperial minister and the de facto ruler of Japan, composed a poem on his deathbed:

*A dewdrop falls and
Vanishes without a trace,
And so is my life.
Even Naniwa's grandeur
Fades like a dream in my dream.*

What did this hero of a turbulent age see before his death? Was it the bottomless chasm of nothingness?

When Hideyoshi built Osaka Castle, it was literally a golden palace. Gold adorned the interior of the main tower. Even the frames of shoji screens and the roof tiles were gold-plated. It was a dazzling display of opulence. One French visitor to Japan at the time is said to have remarked with astonishment at this scene: "The sun on earth has overcome the sun in the heavens!" Hideyoshi built this grand castle to demonstrate his power; but today only shattered remnants of the original structure rest quietly more than 30 feet beneath the ground. The Tokugawa clan, which usurped power from the Toyotomi clan, destroyed and buried it. Upon those ruins, the Tokugawa built the present structure, including the stone base.

The wind that shook the willow branches was now gone. Where it went I could not see. Was Hideyoshi like the wind? Was Oda Nobunaga (1534–82) like fire and Tokugawa Ieyasu (1542–1616) like the earth? [Oda Nobunaga, who overthrew the Ashikaga shogunate and unified more than half of Japan, was killed when one of his retainers rebelled against him. Toyotomi Hideyoshi completed the unification. After his death,

Tokugawa Ieyasu founded the Tokugawa (or Edo) shogunate, which ruled Japan from 1603 through 1867.] History moves on — destructive like fire at times, turbulent like the wind or stable like the earth at others — weaving a seamless tapestry of humanity to the present. Giving the appearance of constancy, but constantly changing, or advocating change while shrewdly scheming to protect the status quo, the agents of history ceaselessly transmigrate through the six lower paths, sometimes loving, sometimes hating, and plotting with shrieks of laughter and streams of tears.

This is why justice must prevail. The righteous must triumph. The chain of suffering and misery must be severed. Ordinary people, looked down upon until today, must fight back and create an era in which they rule with pride. We are their vanguard, and one of our decisive battlefields is Osaka, city of people, and the surrounding Kansai area.

Nobunaga, Hideyoshi and Ieyasu — those warlords of feudal Japan fought for power, but they did not share the spiritual legacy of mentor and disciple. Hideyoshi destroyed the Oda clan, and Ieyasu broke his ironclad promise to protect Hideyoshi's son and heir.

In the constant flux of human history, power is an illusion. So are gold, fame, and even ties of blood. Only through the legacy of mentor and disciple is an eternal history born, leaving the names of ordinary people to shine for ten thousand generations and more.

My mentor loved castles. Therefore, he named himself Jogai, which means "outside the castle," and later Josei, "sage of the castle." He also once gave me the formal name Daijo, "great castle" — words that appear in the Lotus Sutra.

My mentor used to say: "Let's build an impregnable castle!" "The Gakkai must build a great castle of capable people!" His voice still rings in my ears.

With like-minded friends, I poured my heart and soul into building the "Castle of Kansai." My mentor, with whom I was resolved to share life and death, was watching over my efforts, and I wanted to make him happy and proud. The Soka Gakkai in Kansai is a castle of the people that I built with my youthful passion and power. My mentor called it "Chin-chou Castle."

Chin-chou was a walled castle-city in China. The whole city was a fortress. Unlike the castles of Japan, which were designed to protect only the powerful, the castle of Chin-chou existed to protect the entire community and its people.

The base of Osaka Castle is made of half a million stones, large and small, fit together tightly with not a gap between them. The same holds true of our castle of capable people in Kansai; it is unshakable.

We must allow no gap among people — no discrimination or distance. Nothing in this world is stronger than the solidarity of people joined by mutual love and friendship. Such unity is more solid than granite.

In "Record of the Orally Transmitted Teachings," Nichiren Daishonin states, "A great city gate" [in the "Emergence of the Treasure Tower" chapter of the Lotus Sutra] indicates the two phenomenon of body and mind" (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 741). Our life itself, then, is like "a great city gate," a "great castle."

"Castles of arrogance" in this world will eventually fall like rotten fruit from a tree. The great castles of Buddhahood that we are building within our lives, on the other hand, will endure for eternity. The work of building such an inner castle is called "human revolution."

Winds blow, scattering and driving away clouds. "Now Nichiren and his followers chant Nam-myoho-enge-kyo as a great wind blows" (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 742). So long as there is an unhesitating outcry of the Kansai spirit, all dark clouds before us will be swept away, and our magnificent golden castles of victory shall stand even taller!

This is how we have triumphed until today, and so shall we for all eternity.

Our blue sky is high and clear today and ever victorious.

Nineteen in a series