

## **SGI DONATES TO RELIEF EFFORTS IN INDIA QUAKE**

A deadly earthquake struck western India on Jan. 26. The Soka Gakkai responded with an immediate donation for those left homeless and injured. A total of \$42,600 was donated to the Embassy of India in Tokyo and to complement this, a further \$17,100 has been donated by the SGI through the Indian organization, Bharat Soka Gak-kai, for the rapid local purchase of medical supplies, food and other emergency relief items.

Mr. Akashi Ouchi, the local coordinator of the SGI in India, is now in Ahmedabad undertaking an assessment of emergency needs. He reports that the scale of the devastation is hard to imagine. "Sadly this country often suffers natural disasters, so our members have developed expertise in the area of emergency relief," he says. "We will do everything we can to alleviate even a small part of the terrible suffering here." Donations of emergency supplies are also being collected at SGI centers in Mumbai (Bombay) and New Delhi.

In past disasters such as the Orissa cyclone in 1999, the Soka Gakkai donated funds and Bharat Soka Gakkai members collected emergency supplies, undertook assessment missions and delivered assistance directly to the affected areas, as well as working in cooperation with agencies based close to disaster sites.

SGI-USA members interested in providing assistance are encouraged to contact the American Red Cross or other reputable agencies in their area. At this time, relief organizations in the United States are requesting financial donations rather than specific supplies.

*Information courtesy of SGI Office of Public Information*