

SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE TO THE 1ST CEC YOUTH CREATE THE NEW ERA

'The fresh spirit of young, capable people creates a new era,' SGI President Ikeda says. 'For this reason, I ask that you, as leaders, exert your entire strength into developing youth to be our successors.'

My heartfelt appreciation goes to each of you, the members of the SGI-USA Central Executive Committee, for all your untiring efforts. I am always hearing about your great struggles from SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima. I thank you for your dedication from the bottom of my heart.

Because of you, our Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo will be dedicated on May 3. My profound thanks for your unsparing support. At an opportune time, I promise to pay a visit. I am determined to build the solid, eternal foundation of SUA, which shall be the hope for the world. Together, let us create a new history!

The fresh spirit of young, capable people creates a new era. For this reason, I ask that you, as leaders, exert your entire strength into developing youth to be our successors. When members of the men's and women's divisions set the example through their own actions, trust youth wholeheartedly, pray for their development and cherish them as if they were their own children—only then will the mighty river of kosen-rufu flow with increasing vigor and strength.

I also ask that members of the youth division sincerely respect their seniors in faith while supporting and protecting them. Please fight with all your passion and power, taking all the responsibility upon your shoulders.

When men, women and youth are cheerfully, harmoniously united in their battle against the injustices that obstruct the spread of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism, the hope-filled future of America will unfold.

Above all, the 21st century is the era of America. The center of worldwide kosen-rufu is America, and you are its magnificent creators. I am praying with all my heart that each of you will triumph and lead fulfilling, glorious lives free of any regrets.

When you go back to your respective areas, please convey my sincerest regards to your friends. More than anything else, my wife and I are looking forward to the day when we meet all of you on the soil of our beloved America.

Please take care! To the SGI-USA's eternal glory!

*March 30, 2001
Daisaku Ikeda*