

**PHOENIX HOSTS 'DIALOGUE WITH NATURE'  
BY COLLEEN STONE  
PHOENIX CORRESPONDENT**

The beautiful Phoenix City Hall Atrium was transformed into a magnificent gallery for "Dialogue With Nature," an exhibition displaying the photographs of SGI President Ikeda. The arched three-story glass atrium, with its polished terrazzo floor, was the perfect setting to present this remarkable collection of photographs, taken during President Ikeda's years of travel for world peace, to the community of Phoenix.

In presenting the exhibition, SGI-USA members in Phoenix hoped to increase public awareness of the beauty and blessings of the planet and the importance of humanity's role as caretakers of the Earth.

At the opening ceremony on May 29, Michael Kelly, assistant to Phoenix Mayor Skip Rimsza, welcomed everyone and praised the exhibition as the largest and finest ever presented in the atrium. He commented about the artist's sensitivity and insight revealed in the images.

Securing the atrium as the exhibition site was accomplished through the support of Phoenix City Councilman Cody Williams. Councilman Williams remarked that City Hall was the citizens' building, and spoke of the hundreds of people that pass through the atrium for business or to just linger in its beauty for a few moments of solitude. He added that Phoenix was honored to be among the major cities worldwide to host this exhibition.

Arizona State Senator Edward Cirillo was moved by the beauty and depth of the exhibition's images, saying, "This artist's worldwide mission is to light the way to a future which will protect the Earth and its beauty, moving all people to recognize that they are all members of one family."

SGI-USA General Director Emeritus Fred Zaitso read a message of congratulations and appreciation from President Ikeda, and the SGI-USA's Arizona Cactus Chorus entertained the crowd with the song "Circle of Life."

Two additional special receptions were held during the two-week showing, one for the Interfaith Action Coalition and another for SGI-USA members and guests.