

CARIBBEAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION HONORS SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA

On May 28, the Caribbean Studies Association appointed SGI President Ikeda Honorary President at its 26th General Meeting in St. Maarten. This is CSA's first honorary title in its 27-year history.

Mr. Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister of the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis, attended the general meeting. The "Gandhi, King, Ikeda: A Legacy of Building Peace" exhibition was also shown at the gathering.

Dr. Cora Christian, president of the CSA, said the organization identifies with the philosophy and actions of President Ikeda, which, she believes, provide inspiration for the future development and cultivation of the Caribbean islands.

Dr. Christian remarked further that the organization hopes to continue learning from President Ikeda and the SGI's pacifistic ideals. SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima accepted the certificate on behalf of President Ikeda.

Founded in 1974, the CSA is a professional society that promotes research on the Caribbean. The association's aim, as provided in the preamble of its constitution, is to "foster contact, communication and cooperation among scholars, professionals and other persons interested in the study of Caribbean affairs and concerned about the realities and aspirations of the Caribbean peoples."

Years of colonial rule had divided the Caribbean islands based on adopted languages and lifestyles. In light of these differences, the CSA aims to cultivate solidarity among the countries and territories in the region by advancing dialogue and understanding through academic, educational and cultural exchanges. The organization now has a membership of about 1,100 in more than 55 countries and territories, including prime ministers, government officials, scholars, economists, people in the arts, and human rights activists.

Courtesy of SOKANET (www.sokagakkai.or.jp)