

SOKA GAKKAI LAUNCHES WIESENTHAL EXHIBIT

On Sept. 12, the exhibition “I Am My Brother’s Keeper: The Life and Times of Simon Wiesenthal” opened to the public free of charge for four months at the Soka Gakkai Toda Peace Memorial Hall in Kanagawa, Japan. The exhibition, developed by the Simon Wiesenthal Center—the acclaimed Jewish human rights organization based in Los Angeles—and sponsored in Japan by the Soka Gakkai, is being shown outside the United States for the first time.

The exhibition consists of photographs, documents, written reflections and memorabilia of Simon Wiesenthal, 92, the Jewish architect who survived the Nazi Holocaust to devote his life to bringing Nazi war criminals to justice. Having lived through repeated threats on his life, including a letter bombing in 1982, he remains committed to numerous human rights causes. Mr. Wiesenthal’s work has been cited for fostering international condemnation of all war crimes in general, serving as an impetus to the founding of a United Nations agency that finds and arrests war criminals.

“We wanted to show Japanese viewers how a single person, despite daunting adversity, actually bettered the world,” says Masanori Otaka, director of the Soka Gakkai’s Office of Activities for Peace and Culture.

The exhibition is the second collaborative effort between the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Soka Gakkai. The first took place in 1994, when the two groups launched the Japan exhibition of “The Courage to Remember: Anne Frank and the Holocaust,” an ongoing program that has traveled to 51 cities and attracted some 1.7 million visitors. A third collaborative exhibition, to be sponsored by the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum, is slated to open in Japan next year.

Courtesy of SGI Office of Public Information