

SOKA GAKKAI YOUTH MAKE REFUGEE DONATION

In response to the anticipated outflow of ref-ugees from Afghanistan as a result of ongoing military attacks, the Soka Gakkai Youth Peace Conference donated \$100,000 to the Japan–Korea Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Oct. 10.

“It is feared that as many as 1.5 million people may be forced to become refugees during the harsh winter season,” said Soka Gakkai representative Hideki Sakomoto. “We hope our donation can help provide shelter and assistance to some of them.” UNHCR figures show that there are already more than 3.5 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran.

The donation was made from funds collected in the Soka Gakkai’s 21st Refugee Relief Campaign. Since 1981, youth members have conducted regular fundraising campaigns that have raised more than \$10.8 million in donations for UNHCR and non-governmental organizations working to assist refugees. The Soka Gakkai’s aim is not only to provide basic necessities, but to empower refugees to become self-sufficient.

SGI President Ikeda states: “In any war, the greatest victims are always ordinary citizens, especially women and children. The SGI has long supported UNHCR’s efforts to protect and rebuild the lives of refugees and displaced persons, people who have been forced by violence and fear to flee their homes. Their long-term needs must be addressed.”

Courtesy of the SGI Office of Public Information