

SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE TO THE 2ND CEC THE JOY OF FAITH

'The essence of Buddhism lies in the joy of faith,' SGI President Ikeda says. 'In other words, being able to truly enjoy ourselves reflects the essence of Buddhism.'

Many congratulations on the holding of your Central Executive Conference, bursting with the breeze of advancement and expansion. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all your efforts this year.

None of the efforts you have made for kosen-rufu are in vain. Only by overcoming obstacles does the true worth of a practitioner shine. To the degree that you challenge yourself to climb the mountain of kosen-rufu, overcoming obstacle after obstacle, you will accumulate more "treasures of the heart." As leaders of America, please lead lives of composure, based upon the great conviction that faith is the source of infinite hope.

In his writings, Nichiren Daishonin states, "I praise myself, for I cannot hold back the upsurge of joy in my life" (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 334). The essence of Buddhism lies in the joy of faith. In other words, being able to truly enjoy ourselves reflects the essence of Buddhism. Fully enjoying your devotion to the Mystic Law, brimming with confidence, please always be cheerful in spreading the seeds of happiness across your country and constructing a truly peaceful paradise in this land of freedom and justice, this land of America.

When America advances, the world, too, advances. When America is healthy, so is the world. I hope you will advance steadily together with me for the next 10 years toward a courageous victory.

I am praying for your good health, long life, happiness and great victory in your endeavors for the sake of the Law. Please convey my most sincere regards to your comrades in your respective locales.