

SGI President Talks With Soka Schools Officials
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It is vital, SGI President Ikeda said at a Soka Schools conference on Jan. 25, for teachers to always have the welfare of their students uppermost in mind, just as leaders have to make the people's happiness their highest priority. Both teachers and leaders should never be self-centered.

President Ikeda also stressed that teachers must never use their students, nor SGI leaders their members, as means for achieving their own ends. Rather they should make their students or members their purpose and serve them wholeheartedly.

It is crucial for leaders to put aside their egos and strive to elevate their life-conditions, the SGI leader added. This will contribute to others' happiness and confident growth. The presence of earnest individuals who spare nothing for others can positively transform everything, he said.

Meeting with Soka University officials from Japan and America today, President Ikeda emphasized that the SGI accords the highest respect and consideration to each country in which it is active. This is an eternal rule of the SGI. The Buddhist Law is the law of the universe, he said; based on this universality, we treasure the culture of each country.

Whatever the field, he went on, great people are always modest. The leaders of the SGI must never be haughty or arrogant. When you do not seek special treatment from others but take action with the spirit that titles and positions do not matter, resolving to do more for everyone, to serve them with greater sincerity and dedication — only then can you be called a genuine Buddhist leader, President Ikeda concluded.

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