

**Int'l Study Conference Focuses on Temple Issue**  
**By JEFF FARR, Associate Editor**  
**Calabasas, Calif., Aug. 16**

The temple issue was the hot topic at today's 1st U.S.–Japan Youth Study Conference. Thirty-two youth from the United States and Japan met at Soka University of America's Wisdom Hall to discuss propagation, youth study and the temple issue — but the temple issue seemed to be foremost on everyone's minds.

One question that kept coming up when the participants broke into discussion groups was “Why does SGI President Ikeda emphasize the temple issue so much?”

There were a variety of answers, but the consensus pointed to the importance of educating members now about the true intent of the Nichiren Shoshu priesthood, so they will not be confused in the future — it's a way to protect the kosen-rufu movement.

Ed Feasel, SGI-USA youth division chief, summed up things in his closing remarks when he shared guidance from President Ikeda's “Dialogue on the Lotus Sutra,” from which the study material for today's conference was culled. To forget the seeking spirit necessary to be what the Lotus Sutra calls a teacher of the Law is to become arrogant, Mr. Feasel related, while to forget the spirit to save others is to become self-centered.

“In Nichiren Shoshu, there are no teachers of the Law,” Mr. Feasel argued, “for they are no longer seeking or saving. The SGI is the only religious organization with true teachers of the Law.”

This conference was sponsored by the seven-member SGI-USA Youth Division Study Committee, which worked closely with Soka Gakkai youth division study leader Masaaki Morinaka, also the leader of the Japanese delegation, in the preparations.

Study committee members, national youth division leaders and local representatives participated from the U.S. side.

Based on the success of this year's conference and last year's preliminary study exchange at the Florida Nature and Culture Center, where participants studied “The Buddha” chapter of *The New Human Revolution*, vol. 3, the study committee hopes this conference will be a yearly event and that more members can participate in the future.

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