

Brazilian City To Build Ikeda Peace Park Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER

The Brazilian city of Londrina, in Paraná state, has announced plans to construct a public park called the Dr. Daisaku Ikeda Peace Park. The park, which will cover some 80 acres, is one of a number of urban projects the southern Brazilian city is undertaking under the leadership of Mayor Antonio Casemiro Belinatti. The park will include an Event Center with facilities for international trade fairs, conventions and other cultural and industrial events. The city also plans to preserve forests covering 60 acres within the park.

Mayor Belinatti said he hoped the park would become a place where citizens would be encouraged to work for peace. City Councilor Carlos Kita, former president of the municipal assembly and a key proponent of the project, said that the park would be a symbol of Londrina, and that he felt the city had made the best possible choice in naming the park after Mr. Ikeda, in honor of his commitment to global peace. The park's architects, Elisa Koyama and Márcia Ivale, indicated that the park was designed around the themes of harmony with nature and international friendship.

Members of the local SGI organization, including the Fife and Drum Corps and Brass Band, have in the past taken part in many civic events in Londrina. The Brazil and World Boys and Girls Art Exhibition, shown there in May, was viewed by 130,000 citizens. In 1993, the city bestowed honorary citizenship on President Ikeda.

The city of Curitiba, also in Paraná, has opened a Tsunesaburo Makiguchi Park, and São José dos Campos has announced plans to build a Josei Toda Park. Thus Brazil will soon have parks named after each of the first three Soka Gakkai presidents.

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