

NEWSBRIEFS

HONG KONG

Exhibition of European Masters Opens

HONG KONG, OCT. 14 — The exhibition “Masterpieces of Western Oil Painting From the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum” opened today at the Hong Kong Museum of Art. The showing, consisting of works on loan from the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum, is jointly sponsored by the Hong Kong museum and the Hong Kong Urban Council. The 61 paintings on display — works by such masters as Monet, Renoir, Cézanne and Chagall — showcase 500 years of European art, spanning the Renaissance, the French Revolution and the 20th century.

At the opening, Tokyo Fuji Art Museum Vice Director Tatsuo Takakura read a message from SGI President Ikeda describing his joy at sending the exhibition as a “cultural ambassador of art and peace” in this significant year marking the territory’s return to China and the 25th anniversary of normalized diplomatic relations between Japan and China. He said he hoped that this event would serve to solidify an eternal bond between the citizens of Japan and Hong Kong.

JAPAN

SGI President Meets With Brazilian Composer

TOKYO, OCT. 7 — SGI President Ikeda met with the internationally acclaimed Brazilian composer and concert pianist Amaral Vieira at the newly completed Min-On Culture Center today. Mr. Vieira, who was visiting Japan en route to China for a number of performances, presented Mr. Ikeda with the piano score and CD recording of his most recent composition, “The Snow Country Prince,” which was inspired by the children’s story of the same title written by the SGI leader.

Expressing his joy to meet with President Ikeda again, Mr. Vieira said that he had composed “The Snow Country Prince” out of a desire to convey in music the SGI leader’s commitment to fostering young people as reflected in the children’s tale. He said that he had endeavored in the composition to communicate the message that whatever sorrows we may meet, through our efforts we can turn them into joy.

Mr. Vieira said he feels his great purpose in life is to transmit Mr. Ikeda’s ideals to people around the world through music. In fact, this is the sixth piece he has created based on the SGI leader’s poetry and thought. In his latest composition, he said he intentionally strove for simplicity so that the score could be played with ease by even beginning musicians.

CHINA

Music School Honors SGI President

BEIJING — President Zhao Feng of the Central Conservatory of Music here informed President Ikeda by letter of the school’s intent to name him an honorary professor. The decision was made in recognition of the SGI leader’s long-standing contributions to the promotion of China–Japan friendship and his endeavors to cultivate music and academic exchange through such institutes as the Min-On Concert Association and Soka University, both of which he founded.

The conservatory, China’s most prestigious music school, was founded in 1950 and is overseen directly by the Ministry of Culture of the State Council. Noted world musicians,

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such as Italian opera singer Luciano Pavarotti and Japanese conductor Seiji Ozawa, have visited the school. Violinist Yehudi Menuhin is also an honorary professor.

— *Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER*

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