

NEWSBRIEFS

CALIFORNIA

Soka University Is Honored by Aliso Viejo Library

The new 21,500-square-foot public library opened in Aliso Viejo on Jan. 31. In the opening ceremony, Soka University of America and its founder SGI President Ikeda were recognized and thanked for SUA's gift of 1,000 new books to be acquired over the next five years. SUA's 3,400-acre campus, located in Aliso Viejo, is scheduled to open in 2001.

— WENDY HARDER

CHINA

SGI President's Interview Airs on Beijing Television

Marking the centennial this year of the birth of the late Chinese premier Zhou Enlai (1898–1976), Beijing Television in China broadcast a 12-part documentary beginning on the evening of Feb. 4. The special series highlights the late premier's achievements, featuring recollections from the many people who shared close or meaningful ties with him. During his visit to Shanghai last year, SGI President Ikeda was interviewed for the program. Clips from that interview appear in the fourth and eighth installments of the series.

— Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER

CHINA

SGI President Talks With Writer Jin Yong

SGI President Ikeda met with famed Chinese author Jin Yong in Hong Kong on Feb. 20. They confirmed plans to publish in book form in May this year the Japanese version of their dialogue — which has been serialized in Japan's *Ushio* magazine and Hong Kong's *Ming Pao Monthly* under the title "Quest for a Bright New Century." In this dialogue, the two men discuss diverse topics, including friendship, literature, memories of their youth, and the Buddhist view of life and death.

— Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER

PHILIPPINES

SGI President Receives Honorary Citizenship

The City of Tagaytay conferred an honorary citizenship on SGI President Ikeda in a ceremony on Feb. 14. The SGI president's son, SGI Vice President Hiromasa Ikeda, accepted the award on his father's behalf and read a short acceptance speech in which President Ikeda praised the city.

"In the final years of the 19th century, Tagaytay played an important role in the struggle for independence, serving as an important base for the heroes of the Philippine Revolution," President Ikeda said. "Now, under the wise leadership of Mayor Tolentino, Tagaytay is pioneer in the quest for harmony between humanity and the natural environment, demonstrating a new ideal of city planning and development."

He also praised the city for carrying on the spirit of José Rizal, the national hero: "He engaged in farming, opened a school, beautified a town, built a plaza, constructed a waterworks and a street lighting system. I feel that the noble spirit of Dr. Rizal, who gave everything for the happiness of the people, can be found here, as a living, vital reality, among the people of Tagaytay and in your mayor."

— Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER

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