

## **SGI President Meets With Moscow State Univ. Rector Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER**

SGI President Ikeda met with Moscow State University Rector Victor A. Sadovnichy on April 8 at the Seikyo Shimbun building in Shinanomachi, Tokyo. The two discussed plans for publishing a dialogue together, tentatively titled "Education for the 21st Century." Topics they hope to cover include their thoughts on humanity's future, the rapidly advancing information age, the role of educational institutions and the family.

Dr. Sadovnichy is a well-known proponent of humanistic education. The SGI president applauded the fact that, since becoming rector, he has striven to infuse education with the highest artistic values based on the belief that culture and education must never be separated. Mr. Ikeda also paid tribute to Dr. Sadovnichy's many initiatives to maintain the high educational standards of the university without relying on government support during the trying economic times following the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

In their dialogue, which ranged from literature to mathematics, President Ikeda asked Dr. Sadovnichy about the concept of the whole number series (e.g., 1, 2, 3...). The Russian scholar remarked that this is a key point in mathematics and one that he has been studying with close interest. Number theory, he explained, encompasses the entire scope of human recognition. Between 1 and 2, there is 1.5, and between 1 and 1.5, there is 1.25, and so on, and these figures can be divided further ad infinitum. He then pointed out that the square root of 2 also gives us a figure that lies between the numbers 1 and 2. But while it can be expressed in mathematical terms, it continues dividing without end.

Just as the universe is boundless and unending, Dr. Sadovnichy said, the world of the microcosm can also be divided endlessly. Therefore, the fundamental questions of the world are in a sense all condensed between the numbers 1 and 2. He further speculated that if ancient people had come up with a method of counting other than the whole number series, human thought and civilization would now be entirely different, and he made the observation that numbers are said to contain the formula of civilizational development. The concept of the whole number series, he said, touches on the very foundations of mathematics.

During the meeting, the Russian educator was conferred the title of honorary professor of Soka University.

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