

Guam Praises SGI's Efforts During May 3 Events
By HELENE ANDERSON & JOSEPH DeTORRES
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Guam members marked Soka Gakkai Day with several significant events. On May 1, General Director Zaitu and several members, including Sen. Judith Won Pat-Borja, met with Lt. Gov. Madeline Z. Bordallo to witness the signing of a proclamation designating May 3, 1998, as SGI Peace Day. Noting the 1960 inauguration of Daisaku Ikeda as the Soka Gakkai's third president, the proclamation calls on the "community to acknowledge the many contributions of the SGI in their far-reaching and humanistic efforts to promote world peace and human rights."

Later that evening, at a special dinner, Mrs. Bordallo bestowed Guam's Ambassador-at-Large Award on SGI President Ikeda, along with a personal letter inviting him back to the island for the 25th anniversary of the SGI in 2000. Both Mrs. Bordallo and her husband, the late Gov. Ricardo J. Bordallo, attended the festivities surrounding the SGI's founding on Guam in 1975. They also met with the SGI leader during the Hawaii convention of 1985.

On May 2, a tree planting was held in honor of the three Soka Gakkai presidents as well as the late governor at the Afleje (formerly Rizal) Memorial Park, the site of the World Peace Festival in 1975 and a bloody battle during World War II.

"This beach should be remembered not solely because war was waged on it, but because it was here on Guam that the foundations for world peace and the SGI we know today were created," Mr. Zaitu said.

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