

NEWSBRIEFS

CALIFORNIA

First Aid Seminar Held in San Francisco

On April 26 at the San Francisco Ikeda Auditorium, health care professionals who belong to the Culture Department presented a forum titled "Introduction to First Aid: What To Do in an Emergency." Steve Jo, MD, stated that human life is the most important treasure in the universe, so we need to learn through our own efforts how to use the basic techniques of first aid to save a person's life. Medical professionals made presentations on topics such as general first aid, CPR, disaster preparedness and suicide prevention. By the end of the afternoon, SGI members and friends had learned practical methods that may save a life.

— ZONIA ALSTON, *Correspondent*

WASHINGTON/ALASKA

Two Cities and a University Recognize the SGI

On May 11, the Office of the Mayor of Tukwila, a small city south of Seattle where the SGI-USA Seattle Culture Center is located, issued a proclamation designating May 18 as International Justice Day in recognition of the SGI's efforts for peace. The proclamation was signed by Mayor John W. Rants.

On May 18, the Mayor of Anacortes, Wash. sent a letter of appreciation to SGI President Ikeda. Mayor H. Dean Maxwell wrote: "What I feel is most respectable is the unwavering attention the SGI places on the happiness of each human being, always focusing on the unlimited potential within." Further, the mayor invited President Ikeda to visit Anacortes.

Also on May 18, Edward Lee Gorsuch, chancellor of the University of Alaska Anchorage, issued a certificate of recognition stating: "I congratulate Soka Gakkai International, led by President Daisaku Ikeda, that strives to contribute to the happiness and welfare of world citizens through peace, culture and education."

— BILL LAWRENCE, *Bureau Chief*

JAPAN

SGI President Meets with Chinese Vice President

SGI President Ikeda met with visiting Chinese Vice President Hu Jintao in Tokyo on the evening of April 22. This was their first meeting since 1985, when Mr. Hu, as director of the All-China Youth Federation, led a Chinese youth delegation to Japan. On this reunion, they discussed topics ranging from the importance of youth exchanges for promoting lasting friendship between China and Japan to relations between North and South Korea. Mr. Hu, who was elected as vice president by the National People's Congress this past March 16 and is regarded as one of the new generation of leaders who will guide China into the new century, said he was honored to renew his acquaintance with the SGI leader.

— *Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER*

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