

NEWSBRIEFS

Brazilian City Commends President Makiguchi

In commemoration of June 6, the 127th birthday of the Soka Gakkai's first president, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, the Brazilian city of Campinas in the state of São Paulo commended Mr. Makiguchi and honored SGI President Ikeda and his wife, Kaneko. On behalf of Council President Francisco Sellin, city councilor Luíz Carlos Rossini and his wife, Marta, traveled to Japan to bestow the awards. Mr. Rossini lauded Mr. Makiguchi's commitment to human rights, conferring upon him a Plaque of Commendation. President Ikeda was presented with a Certificate of Honorary Citizenship, the Campinas City Council Medal, the Flag of the City and the Carlos Gomes Medal, the city's highest distinction in the field of arts. Mrs. Ikeda also received a Plaque of Commendation in recognition of her invaluable contributions to world peace through her continued support of Mr. Ikeda.

— *Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER*

Midwest Region Youth Think About Unity

More than 150 Midwest Region youth met in Minnesota the weekend of June 13–14. The theme: "Let's Create a Powerful Flow of Unity for Peace." Members from all divisions throughout the region united during the weeks of preparations, and youth traveled up to 14 hours by bus, van and car.

Each youth made a fresh determination toward the future. Below are a few new insights gained by youth members:

Masaki Hiraguri, Minnesota: "To me unity means harmony of many kinds of people, not just one style, but rather many people who have their own character and ability. Those people work together for one purpose, which is world peace."

Sandi Harvey, Kansas: "I learned unity means that I have to stand alone. Cherish your moment here today and on, because you'll be able to share it."

Elizabeth Gross, guest, Minnesota: "[Unity to me means] accepting other people, accepting that they're different, and that they're happy with that."

— *SUSAN POEHLER, Minnesota Correspondent*

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