

## NEWSBRIEFS

### **SGI-India Members Provide Relief to Cyclone Victims**

On July 11, SGI members in India successfully completed a relief operation in Jamnagar to assist families suffering the aftereffects of a cyclone that hit coastal Gujarat on June 9. More than 2,000 people, mostly slum dwellers, salt pan workers and port laborers, were killed when the cyclone hit, and more than 45,000 had their homes and property damaged by tidal waves and winds that gusted to 145 mph.

Visiting the area, Akash Ouchi, SGI India representative, said: "Not a pole, a tree or a house was left intact. No one had escaped loss and suffering, but people are slowly coming out of shock and rebuilding their homes."

SGI members in Delhi and Bombay donated milk powder, rice, beans and lentils, oral rehydration salts, chlorine tablets and clothing in matching sets. In Delhi, more than 50 members helped sort and pack the goods in waterproof bags. With the cooperation of district officials SGI members distributed the goods directly to 1,241 families.

District Magistrate Girish Chandra Murmu wrote, "It was heartening to know the lengths to which your organization is going to distribute donations so that they really reached the people who need them most."

— *Courtesy of the SGI*

### **Daisaku Ikeda Day Proclaimed in El Paso**

The City of El Paso proclaimed Aug. 24, 1998, as Dr. Daisaku Ikeda Day. On July 14, General Director Zaitzu attended the city council meeting along with local members to accept the honor on Mr. Ikeda's behalf. Mayor Carlos Ramirez named the day in honor of Mr. Ikeda's efforts to promote peace, culture and education throughout the world. City Representative Chuy Terrazas read the proclamation and Mr. Zaitzu then urged SGI members in El Paso to dedicate themselves to work with the city to make their community a great oasis of humanity toward the 21st century.

— *JUDY HYMAN, correspondent*

### **SGI President Meets With South Korean Educators**

On July 4, SGI President Ikeda met with South Korea's Chung Cheong College President Chung Jong Taeck and Chairperson Oscar Oh. Their meeting took place following a ceremony in which the SGI leader received an honorary professorship from the Korean college, held at the Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall in Hachioji, Tokyo.

Expressing his sincere wish to tell as many people as possible about the achievements of President Ikeda and the SGI, Dr. Chung hailed the efforts of the South Korean SGI members to contribute to their respective communities through such activities as environmental cleanup campaigns. He voiced appreciation for the SGI leader's constant assertion that Korea is a great cultural benefactor of Japan and also paid tribute to the wonderful ideals of peace, culture and education he upholds.

Mr. Ikeda quoted Chairperson Oscar Oh as saying that the future of humankind depends entirely upon education and that it is from the outstanding characters and examples of educators that students will be inspired, and that though a gap may always exist between reality and the ideal, it is vital that education continue to advance step by step, always looking far into the future.

The SGI leader remarked that he wholeheartedly concurs with his guest's insights.

— *Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER*

Title: Daisaku Ikeda Day Proclaimed in El Paso

Subject: World Tribune 08/07/98 n.3203 p.3 WT980807p03

Author: Judy Hyman

Keywords: Awards Cyclone Daisaku Educational Educators Events Help Honors Ikeda International

1 Korean Meets Members National News Organization Paso President Proclaimed Reports SGI-India South Vi  
p.1 of 1