

SOKA UNIVERSITY CENTRAL TOWER COMPLETED

The Soka University Central Tower was completed in commemoration of May 3, Soka Gakkai Day. Rising from the center of the main campus in Hachioji, Japan, the 18-story building is meant to symbolize peace and culture spreading in world society in the 21st century.

Calligraphy in the hand of the founder of Soka education, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, reads *Soka University* above the front entrance of the building, which will house the World Language Center, various conferences rooms (including one specially equipped for international academic exchange), the Correspondence Education Office, an alumni center, multimedia-ready classrooms, faculty offices and a restaurant commanding a view of Mount Fuji. A statue of Leonard da Vinci will welcome visitors in the Central Tower's Entrance Hall.

Soka University, which welcomed its first students in 1971, will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2001. At that time, the first class will also enter Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo (Calif.). The completion of the Central Tower coincided with the cornerstone laying for the Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda Library at SUA in Orange County.

Significantly, both events took place exactly 20 years after the May 3, 1979, Soka Gakkai Headquarters General Meeting, held at the Soka University gymnasium. That general meeting came at a tense time just a few days after a conspiracy against President Ikeda had led to his resignation (see this week's essay by the SGI president). In the 20 years since, under President Ikeda's leadership, both the SGI and the Soka education system have flourished.

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