

SGI-USA STUDY DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES FOR 2000

I. Goals

In his essay series titled “Thoughts on *The New Human Revolution*,” SGI President Ikeda clarifies the purpose of Buddhist study:

- It deepens faith.
- It gives impetus to the advance of kosen-rufu.
- It is the key to establishing a new humanistic philosophy.

The SGI-USA Study Department adopts these three primary points as our mottoes and encourages all members to challenge them regardless of their study department level, as follows:

Buddhist study deepens faith.

- Study and promote *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin* every day to deepen faith and advance our human revolution.
- Study President Ikeda’s guidance every day to gain more understanding of Buddhism and take action in our daily lives as we learn from our mentor. (Promote the book *The Wisdom of the Lotus Sutra*, created from the series “Dialogue on the Lotus Sutra,” which appears in *Living Buddhism*.)

Buddhist study gives impetus to the advance of kosen-rufu.

- Make study a part of our daily kosen-rufu activities such as at discussion meetings, world peace prayer meetings, home visits, leaders meetings, etc.
- Take action in daily life that reflects that we have grasped the teachings of the Daishonin’s Buddhism.

Buddhist study is the key to establishing a new humanistic philosophy.

- Take the initiative in spreading Buddhist teachings for the peace and prosperity of humankind based on a clear understanding of Buddhist principles.
- Take the lead in our battle as the Daishonin willed in his writings to refute erroneous teachings that deceive people and disrupt the kosen-rufu movement.

II. Study Activity Guidelines

Bimonthly study of the Daishonin’s writings in even-numbered months. It is recommended that bimonthly study meetings of the Daishonin’s writings be held by chapter, led by chapter, area or region leaders. Each area, region or zone should hold a preparation meeting the month before the study meeting. Material will be selected from newly published *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin* and a study guide will be published in odd-numbered months in *Living Buddhism*.

Other study meetings in odd-numbered months. It is recommended that smaller study

meetings be held at the chapter or district level in every odd-numbered month, so that there is a study meeting for members to attend every month. *The Wisdom of the Lotus Sutra* (to be published in five volumes in 2000 and 2001) should preferably be studied in dialogue format rather than in lecture format. Study material could also be selected from SGI President Ikeda's speeches or curriculum study material.

Curriculum study and examinations. The current study curriculum will not be revised until it is completed in 2001, even though many areas do not use the program except a few months before a particular level examination. The schedule of exams is as follows:

April 30, 2000 — Entrance-level Examination.

Oct. 22, 2000 — Elementary-level Examination.

Spring 2001 — Entrance-level Examination.

Fall 2001 — Advanced-level Examination.

Supporting study material for activities in the *World Tribune*. The Study Department will publish study articles, Buddhist terms and Q & A for new members regularly in the *World Tribune* designed to be used in discussion meetings, kosen-rufu gongyo meetings, home visits, etc.

Soka Spirit movement.

Occasionally, the Study Department in each area or region will sponsor Q & A meetings to clarify the importance of the temple issue, based on *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*.

Study Department events for the public.

At least twice in 2000, the Study Department in each area or region will sponsor public seminars, lectures, panel discussions, etc., at universities, halls, libraries, etc., to introduce the humanism of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism and the philosophy of the SGI in society.

Study Department Conference at FNCC.

The 1st Nationwide Study Department Conference at FNCC will be held on April 20–23. *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin* and various Buddhist concepts will be studied extensively and at the same time, the future direction of our study activities will be discussed.

Study Department organization.

After each region establishes a region, area and chapter Study Department leadership structure, we would like to ask the region personnel board to look into the possibility of the appointing of district study coordinators to promote study activities on the forefront of the organization.

We would like to establish a nationwide research staff within the Study Department to integrate resources for supporting the production of study materials.