

CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER NAMES JAN. 2 PRESIDENT IKEDA DAY

With a fresh start for the new millennium, Rocky Mountain Region members celebrated the news that Jan. 2, SGI President Ikeda's birthday, would be President Ikeda Day in Denver. Cara Roberts, Elbra Wedgeworth and Dennis Gallagher, representatives from the City and County of Denver, presented the proclamation to Eiichi Wada, SGI general director.

Mr. Wada replied with a message from President Ikeda expressing his deepest appreciation to Mayor Wellington Webb and the citizens of Denver. It read in part: "I want to share today's honor with all the SGI-USA members, who have exerted themselves as good citizens in the community. I'm also sure that all the SGI members from 148 countries will be celebrating their joy together with you. We, the SGI members, have been nurturing a deep friendship with the City of Denver for more than 10 years by the annual planting of cherry trees. It is an honor that the City of Denver opened the Ikeda Cherry Tree Garden in 1998. Soon, the City of Denver, Denver University and the SGI-USA will cosponsor the 'Dialogue with Nature' photo exhibit. I'm overjoyed that we can contribute to your city's prosperity and happiness. SGI-USA members are determined to continue our persistent efforts in promoting peace, culture and education."

— *IRLENE OWADA*