

**SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE TO THE SPANISH-LANGUAGE
CONFERENCE AT THE FNCC
A LIFE OF THE HIGHEST VALUE**

'I wish for all of you to please advance, having as your treasures of life the Gohonzon, the Goshō and true friendship,' SGI President Ikeda says.

The Spanish-language conference was held at the Florida Nature and Culture Center, April 6–9.

Many congratulations on your first International Latin American Spanish-language Conference in the United States of America. I have been informed that today 12 Central and South American countries are gathered at the Florida Nature and Culture Center: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. I want to express to all of you my great respect for the effort you have put forth.

You came from afar with a burning, seeking spirit; this fact is in itself victory. People with a seeking spirit are always jovial, cheerful and refreshing; they observe themselves with modesty and they forge themselves discretely. For this reason, they can develop themselves into great people. Why do you practice? Why do you deepen your understanding of Buddhism? Why do you need friendship and unity? You do it for the sake of the Mystic Law. You always ask yourselves about the purpose of life. You try to develop yourselves and you challenge yourselves daily for the good of people in society. You are truly sublime bodhisattvas and Buddhas. Please have full conviction that developing compassion, friendship and confidence—in the place where each one of you lives, and each one in his own way—is the actual proof of world kosen-rufu.

I wish for all of you to please advance, having as your treasures of life the Gohonzon, the Goshō and true friendship.

Singing the song of victory together with your comrades, joyfully conduct a life of the highest value. This is the true objective of the SGI.

The Goshō says: "There is no true happiness for human beings other than chanting Nam-myōhō-rengē-kyō" (*The Writings of Nichiren Dai-shōnin*, "Happiness in This World," p. 681). I am praying day after day from the bottom of my heart for the health, safety, tranquility, victory and great development of all of you. Please send my greetings to the members of your respective countries, and to your families and friends.

*In the early morning hours of Friday, April 7, 2000
Makiguchi Memorial Hall*

Daisaku Ikeda