

**SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE
TO THE YMD CONFERENCE AT THE FNCC
OPEN THE DOOR TO THE NEW ERA**

‘Only the burning passion of youth will open the door to the new era,’ SGI President Ikeda says. ‘It is my hope that you will become excellent citizens who show splendid actual proof in your communities, in society, at your places of work and in your families.’

The Young Men's Division Conference was held at the Florida Nature and Culture Center, June 8–11.

To all the young men's division members of SGI-USA, in whom I place the highest trust and greatest hopes: Congratulations on the holding of your Florida Nature and Culture Center conference. Soka University of America will finally be opening next year. It has been my hope and prayer to make America the stage from which many promising young people will gallantly emerge to create a new age. Please take this opportunity to make a fresh, courageous start toward the future.

Only the burning passion of youth will open the door to the new era. It is my hope that you will become excellent citizens who show splendid actual proof in your communities, in society, at your places of work and in your families. Please lead upright lives that are free from compromise and dedicated to the ideal of kosen-rufu.

Nichiren Daishonin states: “Although Nichiren and his followers are few, because they are different in body, but united in mind, they will definitely accomplish their great mission of widely propagating the Lotus Sutra. Though evils may be numerous, they cannot prevail over a single great truth” (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 618). As the Daishonin promises, if you, as young, brave generals, make your hearts one and strive together to build a solid network of good, then there is nothing you cannot accomplish.

I am praying from the very depths of my heart that all of you will spend a most significant, joy-filled time together at this conference, cultivating many deep, meaningful friendships. With my whole life, I am sending daimoku to each of you to play out a splendid drama of growth and victory in society and in life. Please convey my warmest regards to your families and friends.

*Daisaku Ikeda
June 8, 2000*