

**SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE TO THE FNCC JUNIOR HIGH/HIGH  
SCHOOL CONFERENCE  
OPEN A PATH OF OVERFLOWING HOPE**

I congratulate you, my beloved Junior High and High School Division members, on the opening of your conference, which promises to be cheerful like the warm Florida sunshine. And to you who are taking responsibility, I would like to express my appreciation for your passionate dedication toward raising successors despite your busy schedules. Thank you for all your efforts.

The Gosho states, "Nam-myoho-renge-kyo is like the roar of a lion" (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 412). No matter how fierce an animal may be, it flees when it hears a lion roar. In other words, no matter what obstacles you may confront, nothing can impede the path toward happiness when you chant daimoku.

You who possess the law of *myoho* are lion cubs. No matter what sickness you may encounter, no matter what environment you may find yourself in, lion cubs are lions themselves. You who possess infinite hidden potential, if you base yourselves on faith and challenge the problems that lie before you beginning with your studies, while joyfully and powerfully chanting daimoku, you will without fail be able to open a path of overflowing hope toward your future, as you are.

My heart leaps for joy when I think of you boisterously dancing on the stage of the 21st century. I am sincerely praying for your good health, your joyful activities and your victory.

Please convey my warmest regards to all those who could not participate together with you today.

*Daisaku Ikeda*  
*July 13, 2000*