

AROUND THE SGI

'The Human Revolution' Selected to Represent 20th Century by Writers Association in India

The Writers Forum for Harmony of India has selected *The Human Revolution* by Daisaku Ikeda as a novel representing the 20th century in recognition of its message of world peace and triumph of human spirituality. The screening committee of the Forum announced its unanimous decision during a celebration held at the Gandhi Memorial Hall in New Delhi on Oct. 23. Founded in 1997, the Writers Forum promotes goodwill and the Gandhian principles of nonviolence in society. Included among its 600 writers are Dr. Mulk Raj Anand and B. N. Pande, with Dr. A. Padmanabhan, Governor of Mizoram, serving as president. In addition to its literary activities, the Forum also sponsors lectures and seminars to raise public awareness of pressing social issues, including gender equality.

Soka Gakkai Malaysia Sponsors Women's Peace Conference

During October, Soka Gakkai Malaysia (SGM) women sponsored women's peace conferences, titled "Leading the Way to a Culture of Peace," at 24 locations. Approximately 17,000 women attended. At the Kuala Lumpur conference on Oct. 29, more than 1,000 women gathered to discuss women's roles in establishing peace. As a prelude to discussion, the history of war throughout human civilization and the violence and conflicts that jeopardize today's society were portrayed through visual panels and videos. Malaysia National Unity and Social Development Minister Datuk Dr. Siti Zaharah Sulaiman, along with three other panelists, urged women to take more initiative in promoting peace among the races in their country, beginning with creating "the culture of peace" in their daily lives. Women, especially as caregivers and educators of children, hold the key to bridging social and cultural barriers and building peace. The culture of peace must be instilled in the young. Dr. Sulaiman commended SGM for organizing the peace conference and hoped more NGOs would take such initiatives in the future.

Animation of 'Shining Kingdom in the Himalayas' Broadcast in Nepal

An animation based on *Shining Kingdom in the Himalayas*, a children's book by Daisaku Ikeda, was broadcast on Nepal Television on Oct. 13. The story is about an initially faint-hearted Nepalese boy who, through confronting challenges, develops courage and strength of character that can be epitomized by the Himalayan mountains. The boy aids a queen in trouble and is regarded as a hero in the end.

SGI-Iceland Members Hold Study Session

On Oct. 21–22, SGI-Iceland members held their annual study session in Reykjavik, with SGI-Europe Chair Shoichi Hasegawa. The participants exchanged their experiences of

practicing Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism and shared reports about recent activities, including an SGI-Europe youth gathering held in Denmark in summer.

SGI-Hong Kong Sponsors Lecture on Chinese Literature

On Oct. 20, SGI-Hong Kong sponsored a public lecture by renowned Chinese author Liu Zaifu at the SGI-Hong Kong Culture Center. Mr. Liu, a former director of the Institute of Literature at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, has taught as a visiting professor at various universities in Europe and the United States for the past ten years. Mr. Liu traced the history of Chinese literature following the 1911 Revolution in Wuchang, China, and spoke of changes in sensitivity relative to the times. He emphasized the necessity for increasing people's awareness as world citizens. He stated that the current times demand the "human revolution" espoused by the SGI, and expressed support for SGI President Daisaku Ikeda's consistent efforts to help people awaken to their own inner humanity and develop rich human relationships based on mutual trust and respect.

SGI Children's Exhibit Opens in Two German Cities

The SGI "World Boys and Girls Art Exhibition" is currently on display in two German cities. The exhibit at the Oldenburg City Culture Center opened on Oct. 8 with 200 guests attending. Erlangen City declared the exhibit, which opened in a local theater on Oct. 15, as an official event of its annual October cultural exchange activities. In September, the children's art exhibit was in Wolfratshausen. Erlangen is the fourth German city to host the SGI exhibit.

*Courtesy of SOKANET
(www.sokagakkai.or.jp)*