

**SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE TO THE SGI-USA WOMEN'S
COMMEMORATIVE MEETINGS
LIKE THE SUN OF THE SGI**

'Each of you is like the sun of the SGI,' SGI President Ikeda says. 'With the brightness, liveliness and cheerfulness of the sun, I hope that you will advance through your struggles with great vitality.'

To my dear women's division members of America, who are at the forefront of the kosen-rufu movement: My sincere congratulations on ushering in the Century of Women with your commemorative meetings. I can envision all of you emerging victorious in all your struggles, joyfully gathering with bright smiles on your faces. I truly appreciate your day-to-day efforts, and hope that this will be a most enjoyable day for you.

Each of you is like the sun of the SGI. With the brightness, liveliness and cheerfulness of the sun, I hope that you will advance through your struggles with great vitality. The great conviction of each women's division member is "I am not afraid of anything!"

Nichiren Daishonin states, "If Nichiren's compassion is truly great and encompassing, Nam-myoho-renge-kyo will spread for ten thousand years and more, for all eternity, for it has the beneficial power to open the blind eyes of every living being in the country of Japan, and it blocks off the road that leads to the hell of incessant suffering" (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 736).

Through our activities, directly facing the challenges of the Latter Day of the Law, we are taking on the noble task of relieving the people's suffering on a fundamental level. What wonderful opportunities we have been given to put our faith into practice! What a great place to be at this moment in time!

The great writer Victor Hugo exclaimed: "What is the challenge for today? It is to fight. What is the challenge for tomorrow? It is to win." All of you who have gathered in America have an important mission. My wish is that all of you will uphold the ideals engraved in this profound Buddhism while becoming examples of splendid courage for the whole world to see.

Also, please give your utmost in loving, training, raising and protecting the youth. I have determined to work harder than ever to put my entire being into fostering capable successors who will construct the 21st century.

Each of you is precious. I am sincerely praying for each of you to lead healthy lives overflowing with great fortune.

Please send my regards to all those who could not attend today's meeting.

*February 2001
Daisaku Ikeda*