

**THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION  
'SECURING THE FOUNDATION'  
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*'Realizing genuine happiness begins with challenging and winning over our own cowardice and laziness,' explains Shin'ichi Yamamoto. 'Human revolution means to overcome the negative aspects of the self, and our Soka Gakkai activities are the arena in which we can do so.'*

The Tokyo No. 1 Headquarters Leaders Meeting took place on June 3 in the Taito Gymnasium, kicking off a string of such meetings in the Tokyo and Kanto regions. The newly appointed headquarters leader of Tokyo No. 1 Headquarters was General Director Koichi Harayama.

Members attended despite the rain, and many vice general directors came to congratulate them and offer a few words. Since each had also been appointed the leader of another headquarters, their speeches reflected a spirit of healthy competition.

Katsu Kiyohara, leader of Tokyo No. 5 Headquarters, declared: "Please be aware that your biggest rival from now on will be Tokyo No. 5. We don't intend to lose!" Eisuke Akizuki, the newly appointed head of Tokyo No. 4 Headquarters, said, "I have come here to challenge Tokyo No. 1 to a contest of propagation." And Kiyoshi Jujo, head of Tokyo No. 2 Headquarters, remarked, "I hope that Tokyo No. 1 will always be the best in the Soka Gakkai, but I want you to understand that we of Tokyo No. 2 intend to be even better!"

Each of these challenges was greeted by a wave of applause and smiles that were fueled by the members' fighting spirit. Healthy and enjoyable competition is an important factor in activities for kosen-rufu. A friendly rivalry motivates the individual as well as the organization as a whole.

Shin'ichi Yamamoto was happy to see that these new headquarters leaders each wanted to make their headquarters the best. He felt that Mr. Toda was without a doubt looking warmly on this "contest of goodwill" that his disciples were engaging in while aiming for his seventh memorial service (the sixth anniversary of his death).

Shin'ichi spoke next, his tone humorous: "General Director Harayama has just been made leader of Tokyo No. 1 Headquarters, but it looks like all the vice general directors now in charge of the other headquarters are plotting to bring his headquarters down!"

"As president, it wouldn't be right for me to get behind any one headquarters, but today I am here as a member of Tokyo No. 1. Therefore, I'd like to declare just for today that Tokyo No. 1 will become the top runner in the race for kosen-rufu not only in Tokyo, not only in Japan, but in the entire world!"

"Please build a tradition of winning every challenge you take on. In whatever struggle, coming out a winner makes you happy. When we succeed in our activities, we experience boundless vitality and joy, which becomes a great source of hope and energy. If we lose, however, that joy and energy does not well forth from our lives."

Shin'ichi next explained why it is important for the individual to win in activities for kosen-rufu: "Whether in our efforts to share Buddhism with others or to increase the number of members attending meetings, if we want to win, we need to first set a goal, muster our determination and chant daimoku in earnest. We must then bring forth our wisdom and bravely face the challenge while taking resolute action."

“Each obstacle that we overcome brings us wonderful benefit and good fortune. It is through this process that we learn the formula for triumphing in life. Moreover, the tremendous conviction in faith we gain by exerting ourselves in our activities endows us with the strength to surmount any difficulty or hardship we encounter in life.

“Nichiren Daishonin writes, ‘Buddhism primarily concerns itself with victory or defeat’ (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 835). This is because kosen-rufu is a struggle against the devil king of the sixth heaven, the negative function that destroys life. In fact, human existence is itself a struggle. Realizing genuine happiness begins with challenging and winning over our own cowardice and laziness. Human revolution means to overcome the negative aspects of the self, and our Soka Gakkai activities are the arena in which we can do so.

“I am not really concerned with the short-term results of our propagation activities; what matters most is that each of you exerts yourself wholeheartedly in faith, enjoys great benefit and an enriched life, and attains a boundless state of life overflowing with joy. I hope you will always remember that this is the reason we share the Daishonin’s Buddhism with others and why we engage in Soka Gakkai activities.”

After this, Shin’ichi attended headquarters leaders meetings held successively in the Tokyo and Kanto regions, giving his all to encouraging the members. With all of the new organizational changes and personnel assignments that had been made, Shin’ichi wished to secure a strong spiritual foundation for kosen-rufu in the heart of each member.

At almost every one of these meetings, Shin’ichi personally led the members in singing Soka Gakkai songs. His shoulders swelled from swinging his fan, and his exhaustion mounted, but he was determined to do anything necessary to encourage and inspire his precious fellow members and to serve them to the end. He was also trying to be an example of the essential attitude of a leader.

The series of headquarters leaders meetings that took place throughout the Tokyo and Kanto regions ended on June 14 with the Santama Headquarters Leaders Meeting in a suburb of Tokyo. Thus, the wheels of fresh advancement were set in motion.

Late that night, a big news story began to circulate around the globe.

Daisaku Ikeda appears in the  
novel as Shin’ichi Yamamoto.  
The events take place in 1963.