

## SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S JAN. 7 SPEECH—PART 3 TRUE JOY FROM THE MYSTIC LAW

**SGI President Ikeda says, 'True joy is an expression of our faith—of our desire to help others and guide them to happiness, to introduce them to faith in the Mystic Law.'**

*The conclusion of SGI President Ikeda's speech at the 1st Soka Gakkai Headquarters Leaders Meeting, held at the Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall in Hachioji, Jan. 7.*

This May 3, Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo in Orange County, Calif., will at last be officially dedicated. It is my wish that the university will produce outstanding students of world-class caliber, leaders of the new century.

SUA, Aliso Viejo will be a noble seat of learning—the crystallization of the shared wish of ordinary people around the globe for peace. I am devoting my utmost energies to the university's development. I ask all of you for your warm support as well.

Recently, appointments for the new university's Board of Trustees have been decided, and I want to take this opportunity to introduce them. As you know, I am the school's founder. Soka Gakkai President and SGI Deputy President Einosuke Akiya will be senior advisor. Hiroshi Okayasu, who is chairman of the Board of Trustees of Soka University, Japan will take on the responsibility of board chairman of SUA, Aliso Viejo. Board vice chairman will be attorney Stephen Dunham, a partner and former chairman of a leading American law firm, who is renowned as an outstanding legal advisor in the field of education.

For trustees, we will have Harvard University professor emeritus Dr. John Montgomery and Claremont McKenna College professor Dr. Alfred Balitzer. Dr. Montgomery is also the director of SUA's Pacific Basin Research Center and one of the key scholars of Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, where I delivered a lecture in 1991. I also spoke at Claremont McKenna College in 1993. Incidentally, the eminent scientist Dr. Linus Pauling, who was 91 at the time, kindly attended the lecture at Claremont.

Other trustees include SGI-USA General Director Daniel Nagashima and SGI Women's Leader Eiko Akiyama. I understand that several other trustees are still to be appointed.

Dr. Daniel Habuki, a graduate of the 1st class of Soka Junior and Senior High School and of Soka University, Japan is SUA's first president. In the future, a second and a third and an unending line of presidents of profound mission will follow in his footsteps, carrying on the university's founding spirit.

Next year, Soka Junior and Senior High School will celebrate its 35th anniversary. And this year, Soka University, Japan celebrates its milestone 30th anniversary. I deeply thank all of you for making this possible.

Graduates of the 1st class of Soka Junior and Senior High School total 500. Today, the combined number of graduates from the Soka high schools and Soka University is more than 50,000. Some 4,000 graduates have gone on to become educators, 130 have obtained doctorates, and 23 have become Soka Gakkai vice presidents. Around Japan and throughout the world, Soka alumni are making wonderful contributions in various spheres of society and in the realm of kosen-rufu. I am confident that the arena of their activities will expand even further in the future.

July 17, 2001 — a date that has been an important target since the founding days of Soka Junior and Senior High School — is fast approaching. Later this year, after achieving total victory in all their challenges ahead, the high school alumni are planning to hold a grand commemorative meeting. [On July 17, 1969, on the occasion of the Soka Junior and Senior High School's 2nd student festival, President Ikeda, as the school's founder, proposed to students that they assemble again on July 17, 2001.]

The great stream of promising, talented people for the 21st century that is being produced by Soka education will grow even more rich and abundant when it is conjoined by the flow of outstanding talent from SUA, Aliso Viejo.

Today, we have with us representatives of successful early applicants for the 1st historic class of SUA, Aliso Viejo, students of highest excellence. As the school's founder, I offer my deepest appreciation to them for choosing to study at SUA. Thank you.

### **We can turn all our sufferings and problems into enlightenment.**

Now I want to share with you some immortal words that shed light on life and society.

The English writer Jane Austen, famous for her novel *Pride and Prejudice*, said that the roots of patience may be bitter, but the fruit will be sweet. This is so true. Buddhism teaches that we can turn our sufferings and problems into a source of enlightenment.

The French writer François de Salignac de La Mothe Fénelon writes in his epic novel *The Adventures of Telemachus*, "When thou shalt have dominion over others, forget not that thou hast been like them, weak, destitute, and afflicted." Political leaders would do well to engrave these words in their hearts.

The French philosopher René Descartes writes, "To be possessed of a vigorous mind is not enough; the prime requisite is rightly to apply it." For us, the most important thing is following the path of faith, practice and study.

The great Russian writer Leo Tolstoy writes, "One of the most startling misconceptions is that human happiness is not having to do anything." Here Tolstoy asserts that the misguided belief that doing nothing or living in idleness constitutes happiness is in fact the greatest delusion and source of unhappiness. We who are earnestly striving in our SGI activities are advancing directly on the path to absolute happiness.

At a plenary session of China's Communist Party Central Committee last October, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, whom I have met, referred to corruption and bureaucracy in the party: "As history and reality clearly demonstrate, the future and the fate of an administration or a political party are ultimately determined by whether public sentiment supports it or goes against it. Unless it wins the widest possible support of the public, ruin will inevitably follow." These are important words that all leaders should bear in mind. The people are the true protagonists of history.

The Swiss philosopher Carl Hilty writes: "The basis of all friendship is sincerity. Without it, friendship has no worth whatsoever." It does not matter what others may do — we ourselves must act with the greatest sincerity. We cannot win people's hearts by scheming or by ordering them about.

The French thinker Simone Weil writes: "Pleasure, entertainment, diversions, and gratification of the senses and vanity are not joy. Joy is not something derived from outside of the human being or the group, but from within them." Joy wells forth from our hearts. Gongyo also enables us to tap joy from within. True joy is an expression of our faith — of our desire to help others and guide them to happiness, to introduce them to faith in the Mystic Law.

## **Buddhism is a struggle to win happiness.**

The English writer Charlotte Brontë writes, “But the task that is without difficulty is almost without merit; there is great interest in triumphing over obstacles.” Let’s make this spirit our credo for the coming year! Buddhism is a struggle to win. So is life. Defeat is sad. If we triumph, our lives will brim with joy, and we will accumulate good fortune and benefit. The times, too, will move in a positive direction. Victory gives rise to confidence. And that confidence gives rise to further victories. Let us surmount all difficulties and obstacles, and advance with a sense of exhilaration.

Finally, I want to quote Hilty again: “Victory is the greatest pleasure in life to be found on this earth.” Let’s challenge ourselves this year in a way that allows us to savor that truth.

With that, let’s close the first leaders meeting of 2001 and the new century for the Soka Gakkai—the world’s foremost organization dedicated to peace, culture and the realization of kosen-rufu, a great religious organization directly linked to Nichiren Daishonin.

Thank you for all your efforts.