

**SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE FOR KOSEN-RUFU DAY,
MARCH 16, 2001
THE SGI IS PART OF ME**

‘It is important to have the awareness and sense of responsibility of a protagonist of kosen-rufu—the active attitude that “the SGI is part of me” rather than the more passive stance “I am part of the SGI,”’ SGI President Ikeda says.

SGI President Ikeda wrote a message that appeared in the March 16 issue of Seize the Day for the SGI-USA's March introductory meetings commemorating Kosen-rufu Day. He wrote this additional March 16 message to all SGI members.

I am delighted to celebrate this landmark March 16—Kosen-rufu Day, 2001—with all of you, my dear fellow members in 163 countries and territories, as we advance with fresh determination and hope toward further victories and development in our movement.

Last month, the number of honorary doctorates and professorships granted me by universities and academic institutions around the globe reached 100. I am humbled by this great honor. I have accepted each one as a direct disciple of Soka Gakkai presidents Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda, and as a representative of all of you. These awards attest to the support, trust and high expectations for the humanism of the SGI among people who are widely acknowledged as the world's leading intellectuals.

There is a passage in the “Record of the Orally Transmitted Teachings,” a transcript of Nichiren Daishonin's lectures recorded and compiled by his true disciple, Nikko Shonin, which states: “It is due to the authority and supernatural power of Bodhisattva Universal Worthy that this Lotus Sutra is propagated throughout Jambudvipa [the entire world]” (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 780). In a broad sense, this means that worldwide kosen-rufu will advance through the power of universal, wise intellect.

There could be no better example of this function of Bodhisattva Universal Worthy than you, the SGI members. All over the world, you bring forth great wisdom to challenge and overcome various hardships while striving as good citizens in your communities to forge friendships and foster greater solidarity among people.

The activities of the youth in each country and region have been astounding. The 21st century will be the grand stage for the youth. The time has come to hand everything over to you, our youth.

As you all know, March 16 is the eternal prime point of mentor and disciple—it is the day when the youth stand up and shoulder full responsibility for the realization of kosen-rufu. I hope that each of you, in your respective countries and regions, will become a leader determined to show proof of the principle that faith manifests itself in society, who works to create a strong alliance of people committed to justice and humanism.

It is important to have the awareness and sense of responsibility of a protagonist of kosen-rufu—the active attitude that “the SGI is part of me” rather than the more passive stance “I am part of the SGI.” From the time I was a young man, irrespective of my organizational position, I regarded any and all matters relating to the Soka Gakkai as my personal responsibility. I worried, thought, and chanted about how we could best advance kosen-rufu.

I pray earnestly each day that you will move forward with joy and courage, always

remembering to cherish the pioneer members around you, and that you will strive to grow stronger and develop into genuine leaders who will prove the SGI's correctness.

I close with my fervent wish that each of you will achieve a proud, momentous victory in life and in society, making this first March 16 of the 21st century a day of fresh determination and fresh departure.

Please take good care of your health. I entrust the future of the SGI to you—I leave everything in your hands.

Together sharing both suffering and joy, let us lead lives of unsurpassed fulfillment!

March 16, 2001

Daisaku Ikeda