

FROM SGI-USA GENERAL DIRECTOR DANNY NAGASHIMA OUR PRECIOUS DISTRICTS: OUR FOUNDATION

‘Let’s expand the number of our districts in order to better care for each precious member of our organization,’ says SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima, ‘ensuring that everyone gets the most personal support in faith possible.’

This is the first of several issues to focus on the district, the most important unit of our organization. I hope that the articles contained in this *World Tribune* will help each of your districts in every way possible.

I want to express my deepest appreciation to all members of all districts throughout the country. It is my wish that each of you truly enjoy your daily Buddhist practice and receive many benefits. Please treasure your families and friends. Your joy and personal growth will spread and influence your respective communities, thereby enhancing the growth of everyone around you. As you make efforts to create harmony and well-being in your neighborhoods, you can naturally gain trust and respect from those whose lives you touch. This is a natural way to share Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism with as many people as possible.

President Ikeda always praises those who dedicate themselves to district activities: “No one could be nobler than these men and women who are devoting themselves earnestly to our multifaceted SGI activities on the very front lines of the kosen-rufu movement. I have no doubt that they would be praised by the Daishonin and that they are being protected by the Buddhas and bodhisattvas throughout the ten directions—the protective functions of the universe” (Oct. 22, 1999, *World Tribune*, p. 7).

Let’s expand the number of our districts in order to better care for each precious member of our organization, ensuring that everyone gets the most personal support in faith possible. A smaller district means that we can more easily connect with our members’ hearts and advance together.

Let’s also appoint young men’s and young women’s leaders in each district nationwide, providing opportunities to a new generation of Bodhisattvas of the Earth. And based upon this kind of nurturing, supportive environment, let’s naturally invite our friends to join our organization and begin their own human revolution.

President Ikeda also says about the district: “The district is the home port of kosen-rufu. Just as ships take on fuel and supplies in a port before they set out to sea, our members set forth from the district and gather there again to refuel. When our districts flourish, the Soka Gakkai as a whole succeeds....It is the district leaders who keep our districts, our home ports, running smoothly. And their unity is a strong seawall that protects our members” (Nov. 27, 1998, *World Tribune*, p. 5).

Once again, thank you for your amazing, priceless contributions to our kosen-rufu movement. Together, let’s create an SGI-USA that can respond to each member’s needs and support each person’s faith, the true purpose of our organization.