

## AROUND THE SGI

### **SGI Representatives Attend Anti-Racism Conference in South Africa**

SGI representatives attended the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. SGI Peace and Culture Committee Chair Kazuo Ishiwatari, SGI-South Africa leader Jane Roach and SGI representatives in the United Nations offices in Geneva and New York, Kazunari Fujii and Hiroyuki Sakurai, respectively, attended a preliminary NGO (Non-Governmental Organizations) forum held on Aug. 28, prior to the opening of the main event on Aug. 31 in Durban, South Africa. Mr. Ishiwatari is scheduled to participate as a panelist at a symposium on education for peace and human rights.

### **New SGI Centers Open in South Korea**

The SGI-Korea Kuri Culture Center in Kuri, South Korea, opened on Sept. 12 with the attendance of Mayor Pak Yon Sun and City Councillor Kim Gyon Son, together with 600 local SGI members. SGI-Korea General Director Yeo Sang Lak said at the opening that the center will serve as a citadel contributing to the welfare and happiness of the community. In addition, the SGI-Korea Incheon Sunrise Culture Center opened in Incheon, Seoul, South Korea, on Aug. 25. SGI President Ikeda sent a message to the members who gathered at the opening, calling it a center for the cultivation of peace and culture.

### **SGI-Argentine Women Meet With Argentina's First Lady**

On Sept. 19, SGI-Argentine women's division representatives visited Argentina's First Lady Ines Pertine de la Rúa at the President's second official residence in the suburb of Buenos Aires. The women wished to personally thank Mrs. De la Rúa, who had sent a message to the first SGI "Latin American Women Peace, Culture, Education Conference" on Sept. 8 and 9, which was hosted by SGI-Argentina. She stated that she identifies with the SGI women members' contributions to society and that she and the President fully support the SGI's activities for pursuit of peace.

Mrs. De la Rúa serves as an honorary public welfare advisor to the Foundation for the Republic's Research Center, a think tank founded to find solutions to problems concerning national growth and prosperity, which has expanded to direct participation in resolving social problems.

### **SGI Celebrates World Peace Day**

Forty-one years ago on Oct. 2, SGI President Daisaku Ikeda embarked on a worldwide journey for peace, based on the ideals of "global citizenship," which his mentor, Josei Toda, advocated. Soka Gakkai International members throughout the world celebrated Oct. 2, "World Peace Day," with prayers for the peace and happiness of all humanity at respective SGI centers. **Brazil:** On Oct. 2, 1,000 SGI-Brazil members attended a commemorative meeting at the BSGI Culture Center in São Paulo. BSGI General Director Eduardo K. Taguchi said peace will be realized through each individual's strong determination and courageous actions. **India:** Some 6,000 Bharat (India) Soka Gakkai

members gathered in 50 cities throughout the country to jointly celebrate Oct. 2 World Peace Day and the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth. **Uruguay:** SGI-Uruguay members held a peace rally at the SGI-Uruguay Culture Center in Montevideo City. **Hong Kong:** To commemorate World Peace Day, Hong Kong-SGI members invited guests and held friendship meetings at 50 locations throughout the country. **United Kingdom:** on Oct. 2, SGI-UK members gathered at the Taplow Court Grand Culture Centre, in Birkshire. SGI-UK General Director Richard Baynes encouraged the members to conduct dialogues for peace.

### **SGI-Canada Participates in National Book Fair**

On Sept. 30, SGI-Canada participated for the first time in Toronto's 12th annual National Book and Magazine Fair, a one-day book and magazine street festival, at Queens Street West in Toronto, Canada. More than 150,000 people visited the street book fair, lined with over 250 stalls sponsored by local and national publishers, booksellers, organizations promoting literacy, and other groups exhibiting books and magazines to browse or buy. There were "event tents" offering children's activities, musical performances, readings and book signings by new and established Canadian authors. Some 2,000 people stopped by the SGI-Canada's booth introducing SGI President Ikeda's peace proposals, magazines and books on SGI's peace, culture and education activities.

*Courtesy of SOKANET (www.sokagakkai.or.jp)*