

## AROUND THE SGI

### **SGI President Contributes to University of Buenos Aires Book**

In commemoration of its 180th anniversary, the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, recently published *The Doctors and Their Convictions—Treasures of the University*, a collection of essays contributed by 47 honorary doctors of the university. SGI President Ikeda, an honorary doctor since 1990, contributed an essay titled “Future Role of Education in the International Community,” which focuses on the role of education in the 21st century. In it, he promulgates “humanistic education,” which focuses on the development of each individual’s potential and the transformation of the ensuing “energy” toward the creation of value for constructing a new era.

The SGI leader further suggests that a new philosophy is required toward that end. In contrast to the three pillars of the French Revolution—“liberty,” “equality,” and “philanthropy,” he proposes three principles—“value-creation,” “symbiosis” and “service”—as being basic indicators for the 21st century. We must not merely be content with winning liberty, he points out, but rather, make it the basis for progress in creating further value. He emphasizes that the mission of education in the 21st century is to inspire people to take action for others’ happiness, transcending egoism.

Other contributors to the commemorative book include Frederico Mayor, former director-general of UNESCO; Kenneth J. Arrow, Nobel laureate in economics (1972); and Oscar Niemeyer, world-renowned Brazilian architect whose work includes the original buildings in Brasilia City and the United Nations building in New York.

### **SGI’s ‘World Boys and Girls Art Exhibit’ Opens in Yugoslavia**

On Nov. 5, the SGI’s “World Boys and Girls Art Exhibit—We Are All Friends on This Planet” opened at Progress Gallery, Belgrade, Serb Republic, in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The opening ceremony, which began with a performance by a children’s chorus, was attended by some 400 guests, including Her Royal Highness Princess Jelisaveta Karadordevic of Yugoslavia, Serb Republic Culture Minister Branislav Lecic and UNICEF Belgrade director Jean-Michel Delmotte. Some 150 children’s drawings and paintings from 100 different countries with 75 of them by Yugoslavian children are displayed.

At the opening, SGI-Europe Chair Shoichi Hasegawa read a message from SGI President Ikeda, who calls children “Angels of Peace,” and said their drawings, imbued with their hopes and dreams, are the universe of their soul. Art can unite the hearts of the world’s children. He called on adults to respond to their “prayers for peace” and to keep aflame their “light of hope.” Culture Minister Lecic said the world drawn through the eyes of children with their purity and innocence overflows with humanity, and should be a signal for adults to actualize a peaceful society.

### **SGI-Europe Youth Hold Commemorative Meetings**

SGI youth members across Europe celebrated the 40th anniversary of the introduction of Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism to Europe with a variety of activities. SGI-Spain youth held meetings in 13 cities in Spain to commemorate the occasion. In Madrid, the young

people hosted a human rights forum on Oct. 20. Human rights activists, musicians and scientists discussed the concept of Buddhist compassion and the spirit to serve others, and their beneficial application in society.

Members in France and Portugal held a study session on the Daishonin's Buddhism and learned to better apply Buddhist principles for bringing about a positive change in their personal circumstances and society. At a meeting in Luxembourg, where a headquarters was just established in June, Headquarters Leader Chizuko Breden encouraged members to lead lives of value and happiness based on their Buddhist practice.

In addition, SGI general meetings were held in the Netherlands, Norway, Italy, the United Kingdom and Sweden.

### **New SGI Center Opens in Malaysia**

Sarawak Culture Center, the 11th center for SGI-Malaysia, opened in the state of Sarawak on Oct. 20. SGM General Director Koe Teng Hong and other representative leaders and members attended the opening ceremony.

In his congratulatory message, SGI President Ikeda related his belief that developing friendship and gaining trust in society as good citizens are sure ways to peace. A children's art exhibition will take place Nov. 3–5 to commemorate the center's opening.

*Courtesy of SOKANET ([www.sokagakkai.or.jp](http://www.sokagakkai.or.jp))*