

Message

To my fellow members of the SGI-USA Culture Department, whom I so dearly cherish and respect! I offer my sincerest congratulations on the holding of your wonderful conference at the Florida Nature and Culture Center, which on June 19 marked the 15th anniversary of its opening. As I picture you gathering joyfully from across the United States with vibrant, seeking spirits, I am looking forward from here in Japan to your great success.

My mentor, second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda, once gave the following guidance about the importance of maintaining faith throughout one's life: "Nichiren Buddhism shows the way for human beings to fundamentally change their destiny. It teaches how to set our lives on a course of endless fulfillment, filled with the virtues of eternity, happiness, true self and purity. There is no greater way to live. For that reason, when it comes to faith, dedicate yourselves fully, and you will have no regrets."

Each of you is a noble Bodhisattva of the Earth with an important mission to fulfill. You have emerged energetically in the land of America as trailblazers of kosen-rufu who uphold this great Mystic Law. So long as you forge ahead on the correct path of faith, practice and study, there is not the slightest doubt that you will secure a life-state of genuine happiness that can never be destroyed. Faith in the SGI means to make continual effort to read the writings of Nichiren Daishonin, take his teachings to heart and translate them into action, while sharing this joy of faith with others.

Please make your conference a most enjoyable and meaningful one, so that each of you will grow and advance yet another step further. Every one of you is very important to me. With all my heart, I am praying for your good health, successful efforts and for the abundant happiness of your family.

June 24, 2011

Daisaku Ikeda

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