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S O K A • G A K K A I • I N T E R N A T I O N A L

A N I N T R O D U C T I O N



Soka Gakkai International

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## WHAT IS SGI?

Soka Gakkai International (SGI) is a Buddhist network linking more than 12 million people in 192 countries and territories worldwide.

For SGI members, Buddhism is a practical philosophy of individual empowerment and inner transformation that enables people to fulfill their potential and take responsibility for their lives.

As lay believers and "engaged Buddhists," SGI members strive in their everyday lives to live with confidence, to create value in any circumstances and to contribute to the well-being of family, friends and community.

The promotion of peace, culture and education is central to SGI's activities.

“PEACE, ACCORDING TO SOKA GAKKAI BUDDHISTS, BEGINS WITH INDIVIDUAL PEACE AND HAPPINESS, AND SPREADS AS ENLIGHTENED INDIVIDUALS BECOME ACTIVE IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE AT THE LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.”

—*Soka Gakkai in America* by Phillip E. Hammond and David W. Machacek, Oxford University Press

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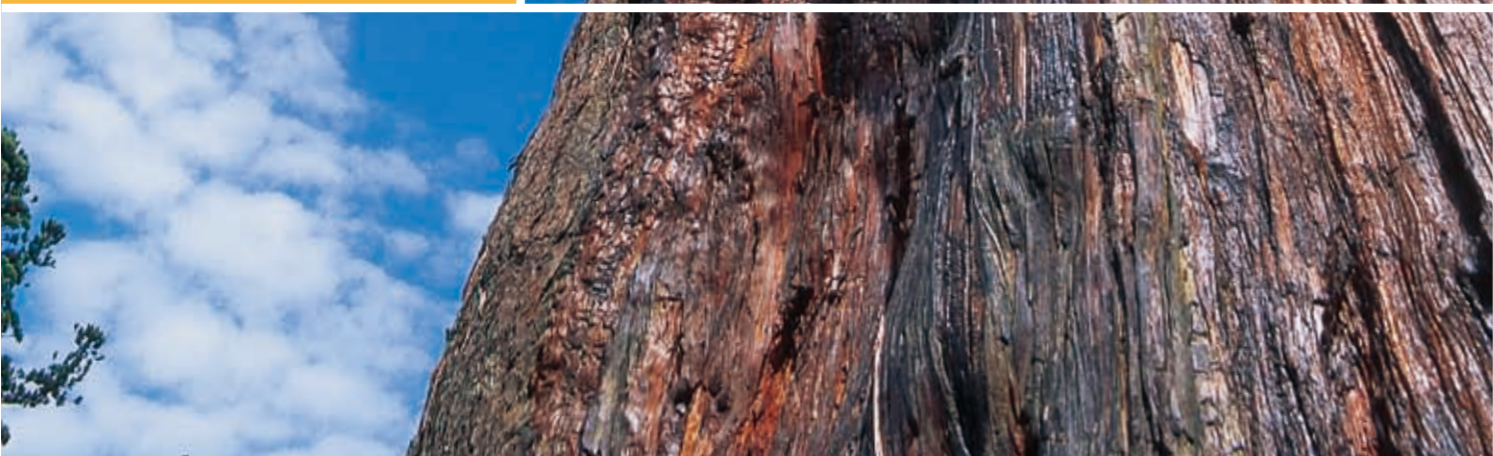
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Front cover: (Left) Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, founder of the Soka Gakkai and educator, with his pupils. (Right) SGI members.

Inside front cover: The Himalayas at sunset. *Photo by Daisaku Ikeda.*



“One who, without swaying or moving, clearly grasps the present, deepens his state of life. Simply set your heart on doing what must be done today.”  
—Shakyamuni, *Bhaddekaratta-Sutta*



## PHILOSOPHY

The Buddhist tradition embraced by SGI members is based on Mahayana Buddhism and the Lotus Sutra in particular. This sutra expresses the compassionate intention of Shakyamuni, the historical founder of Buddhism who lived in the Indian subcontinent 2,500 years ago. It reveals that a universal principle, the Buddha nature, is inherent in all life, and stresses that all people are capable of developing immense wisdom and compassion and attaining enlightenment.

SGI members follow the practice established by Nichiren, a 13th-century Japanese Buddhist monk who affirmed that the Lotus Sutra encapsulates the heart of Buddhist teachings and the truth to which Shakyamuni was awakened. Nichiren felt that Buddhism can enable people living in the real world to become empowered and change their lives for the better.

“LIFE ITSELF IS THE MOST PRECIOUS OF ALL TREASURES. EVEN THE TREASURES OF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE CANNOT EQUAL THE VALUE OF A SINGLE HUMAN LIFE.” —Nichiren

Inheriting this spirit, SGI members believe that each individual has the power to overcome life's inevitable challenges, to develop a life of great value and creativity and to positively influence their community, society and the world.

Nichiren Buddhism stresses the profound connection between one's own well-being and that of others, and that the greatest satisfaction and fulfillment in life is realized by working for the happiness of others.



Page 2: A 1,000-year-old tree at Seicho-ji temple, where Nichiren studied Buddhism and first declared Nam-myoho-renge-kyo. Photo from *Clique*.

Page 3: How Buddhism spread from India.



"One highlight was attending a meeting of young SGI members and of prospective members... here was a cross section of youth united in a common enterprise of studying and discussing Buddhist thought, testifying to its relevance and chanting with enthusiasm. The honesty, openness and the happiness at being together in common dedication to the values of the bodhisattva ideal remain with me as an especially meaningful memory."

—Howard Hunter, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Comparative Religions, Tufts University, U.S.A.



**PRACTICE:** (1) An SGI discussion meeting in San Francisco, U.S.A. *Photo by Kingmond Young.*  
 (2) SGI members in India. (3) Chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo is the daily practice of SGI members. *Photo by Jonathan Wilson.*

## PRACTICE

Nichiren taught that the Lotus Sutra's title *Myoho Renge Kyo* encapsulates the universal truth to which Shakyamuni was enlightened and that by chanting "Nam-myoho-renge-kyo"<sup>1</sup> and exerting themselves in faith and practice, people could perceive and manifest the Buddha nature in their own lives.

Today this chanting constitutes the basic practice of SGI members around the world, along with recitation of parts of the Lotus Sutra and the study of Buddhist teachings.

At regular local discussion meetings, SGI members exchange ideas, hopes, challenges and experiences of their Buddhist faith and practice. They also study Buddhist principles and how to apply them to everyday life.

Key concepts in Nichiren Buddhism include:

- The inherent dignity and interconnectedness of all life
- The eternity of life
- The unity of life and its environment
- The development of each person's limitless potential through a process of self-motivated reform or "human revolution"

### Human Revolution

The core philosophy of the SGI can be summed up in the concept of "human revolution." This is the idea that the self-motivated inner change of even a single individual positively

**"A GREAT HUMAN REVOLUTION IN JUST A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL WILL HELP ACHIEVE A CHANGE IN THE DESTINY OF A NATION AND, FURTHER, WILL ENABLE A CHANGE IN THE DESTINY OF ALL HUMANKIND."**

—Daisaku Ikeda, president of Soka Gakkai International

affects the larger web of life. A person previously overwhelmed by their own suffering can manifest the strength and wisdom to solve their own problems, change the dynamics of their interrelations and, further, take compassionate action to help others.

It is this vibrant process of self-reformation—from fear to confidence, from destruction to creativity, from hatred to compassion—and the resultant rejuvenation of human society that forms the essence of SGI's vision of a peaceful world.

<sup>1</sup> Nam (Sanskrit) means "to devote oneself."

1



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:** (1) The exhibition "Seeds of Change: The Earth Charter and Human Potential," World Summit for Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa. (2) Recycling at a Soka Gakkai Malaysia center. (3) Reforestation project at SGI's Amazon Ecological Conservation Center.

2



3



4



5



**PEACE:** (4) Soka Gakkai student members in Hiroshima listen to an atomic bomb survivor. (5) SGI cohosts a forum on the theme of nuclear abolition held in New York, U.S.A.

## HUMANISM IN ACTION

The ultimate aim of Buddhism and of the SGI is the establishment of a peaceful world. Toward this end, SGI actively promotes peace, culture and education. Such initiatives vary according to local needs and priorities, and each independent SGI organization around the world undertakes activities and projects appropriate to its own culture and context.

As a broad-based grassroots movement, SGI focuses its efforts on awareness-raising and community education programs on the following themes:

- Peace and Disarmament
- Sustainable Development
- Human Rights

As a nongovernmental organization (NGO), SGI has UN liaison offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna and works in partnership with like-minded NGOs and relevant UN organizations.

campaigns in the U.S.A. and New Zealand, youth peace forums in Argentina and the setting up of a youth peace-builders group in Venezuela. Women's peace forums have been held in Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and Japan.

In Japan, 100 volumes of testimonies of war have also been published so that future generations do not forget the misery of war.

### Sustainable Development

As Buddhists, SGI members believe in the interconnectedness of all life, and SGI organizations engage in a range of activities to protect the natural environment, from clean-up campaigns in Korea, the U.S.A. and Germany to tree planting projects in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Canada and the Philippines. SGI's Amazon Ecological Conservation Center in Brazil has been engaged in reforestation, environmental education,

**"IN GENERAL, BUDDHISM IS VIEWED AS A STATIC RELIGION, EPITOMIZED BY THE IMAGE OF A MEDITATING OR SITTING BUDDHA, BUT THE TRUE IMAGE OF SHAKYAMUNI IS ONE OF A DYNAMIC, WALKING BUDDHA, AN ACTIVE BUDDHA. THE BUDDHA IS A STRANGER TO REST, CONTINUOUSLY TAKING ACTION TO LEAD PEOPLE TO HAPPINESS AND MAKE THEM FREE."** —Daisaku Ikeda

### Peace and Disarmament

SGI seeks to cultivate a culture of peace through educational activities such as exhibition showings and the holding of seminars and workshops.

Strongly committed to the cause of nuclear abolition, SGI's grassroots activities have included the holding of exhibitions designed to convey the inhuman nature of nuclear weapons as well as large-scale petition campaigns.

In 2007, SGI launched the People's Decade for Nuclear Abolition, to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of second Soka Gakkai President Josei Toda's 1957 declaration calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and to help galvanize grassroots momentum toward this goal.

A DVD of testimonies by women affected by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has been produced, along with the "From a Culture of Violence to a Culture of Peace: Transforming the Human Spirit" exhibition which explores the urgent need for nuclear abolition through the lens of human security.

Peace education initiatives around the world also include the "Victory Over Violence"

protection of endangered animal species and creating a seed bank to preserve the seeds of Amazonian trees.

SGI has created a range of educational tools about sustainability, including the DVD "A Quiet Revolution" which shows that one person's actions do make a difference in tackling environmental degradation. SGI supports the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014).

SGI also endorses the Earth Charter as a set of common values for sustainability. SGI-Italy runs forums which use the Earth Charter to frame discussions on social issues relevant to young people, and in Canada, an SGI Earth Charter youth group engages in education, interfaith and community activities promoting sustainable living. The exhibition "Seeds of Change: The Earth Charter and Human Potential" was first shown at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, and has been translated into 13 languages and shown in over 20 countries.



**HUMAN RIGHTS:** (1) The "City of Human Rights" exhibition organized by SGI-Italy in Florence. **EDUCATION:** (2) At an exhibition introducing the diversity of children's books from around the world in Toronto, Canada. **INTERFAITH DIALOGUE:** (3) The "NAEIS and NAIN Connect 2004" interfaith conference held at the SGI-USA New York Culture Center.



**HUMANITARIAN RELIEF:** (4) Taiwan SGI members delivering relief goods after the 1999 earthquake. (5) Delivering relief supplies donated by the Singapore Soka Association to those affected by the 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka. (6) SGI-Philippines members preparing to deliver relief goods following severe flooding in 2009.

### Human Rights

SGI holds exhibitions on human rights and hosts a wide range of debates, discussions and seminars related to human rights and responsibilities, often in collaboration with other organizations and institutions.

Since its opening in Tokyo in May 1994 in cooperation with the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the exhibition "The Courage to Remember: Anne Frank and the Holocaust" has been seen by over 2 million people around Japan. Children's rights exhibitions created by SGI organizations have been shown extensively throughout the U.S.A. and Japan.

In support of the UN Decade of Human Rights Education (1995-2004), SGI held the exhibition "Toward A Century of Humanity: An Overview of Human Rights in Today's World" in 40 cities in eight countries.

As a key civil society contributor to the launching of the United Nations World Programme for Human Rights Education that began in 2005, SGI collaborates closely with other NGOs, UN agencies and key governments engaged in human rights education programming.

### Humanitarian Relief

SGI organizations also respond promptly to humanitarian emergencies. Local fund-raising takes place and relief supplies are either delivered direct or given to agencies responsible for emergency assistance.

Local SGI community centers are often opened to provide shelter and emergency aid for survivors of natural disasters.

After the Asian tsunami disaster of 2004, SGI organizations throughout the region mobilized financial and human resources for relief assistance, working closely with other organizations and official agencies. Local and regional relief responses were also mounted following the 2008 earthquake in Sichuan, China, the cyclone which hit Myanmar in the same year, wildfires in California, flooding which affected the Philippines and Taiwan in 2009, and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

Over a 15-year period, SGI youth in Japan held 21 refugee relief fund-raising drives, raising over \$12 million for UNHCR and NGOs assisting refugees.

### INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

SGI is active in interfaith dialogue and cooperation, aiming to foster mutual understanding, build on our common humanity and work together toward the resolution of fundamental issues facing humanity.

SGI representatives participate in a growing number of interfaith initiatives around the world, especially in multicultural societies such as Singapore, Malaysia and the U.S.A. SGI has also held a series of interfaith dialogues with the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, covering topics from environmental problems to human rights.

SGI was an active participant in the 1999, 2004 and 2009 Parliaments of the World's Religions, contributing to interfaith dialogue on issues such as nuclear abolition and sustainable development.

In 2008, SGI-UK helped create the pioneering Three Faiths Community Project which brought



Soka Gakkai Malaysia and the Malaysian Chinese Muslim Association cosponsor "A Discourse on Islam and Buddhism" in July 2007.

together young people in Tooting, South London, from Christian, Muslim and Buddhist backgrounds for an intensive process of reflection, dialogue and learning, and has led to conferences and ongoing collaboration.



**HISTORY:** (1) Tsunesaburo Makiguchi with his pupils at the Shirokane elementary school. (2) Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, first president of the Soka Gakkai. (3) A re-creation of a cell at the Tokyo Detention Center where Makiguchi and Toda were imprisoned. (4) Second Soka Gakkai President Josei Toda delivers his speech calling for the banning of nuclear weapons, September 1957. (5) Josei Toda with Soka Gakkai leaders.



(6) Daisaku Ikeda leaves on his first journey to encourage Soka Gakkai members overseas, October 1960. (7) Daisaku Ikeda greeting children in Russia. (8) An SGI meeting in Brazil.

## HISTORY

### Educational Reform

Soka Gakkai (literally, "Society for the Creation of Value") began in 1930, as a study group of reformist educators. Its founder Tsunesaburo Makiguchi (1871–1944) was an author and educator, inspired by Nichiren Buddhism and passionately dedicated to the reform of the Japanese educational system. His theory of value-creating education, which he published in book form in 1930, is centered on a belief in the unlimited potential of every individual and regards education as the lifelong pursuit of self-awareness, wisdom and human development.

Makiguchi's emphasis on independent thinking over rote learning, and self-motivation over blind obedience, directly challenged the Japanese authorities of the time, who saw the role of education as molding docile subjects of the state.

### Opposition to Militarist Government

The 1930s saw the rise of militaristic nationalism in Japan, culminating in its entry into World War II. The militarist government imposed the State Shinto ideology on the population as a means of glorifying its war of aggression, and cracked down on all forms of dissidence. The refusal of Makiguchi and his closest associate Josei Toda (1900–58) to compromise their beliefs and lend support to the regime led to their arrest and imprisonment in 1943 as "thought criminals."

Despite attempts to persuade him from his principles, Makiguchi held fast to his convictions and died in prison in 1944.

### Postwar Reconstruction

Josei Toda survived the ordeal and was released from prison a few weeks before the war ended. Amidst the confusion of postwar Japan, he set out to rebuild the Soka Gakkai, expanding its mission from the field of education to the betterment of society as a whole. He promoted an active, socially engaged form of Buddhism as a means of self-empowerment—a way to overcome obstacles in life and tap inner hope, confidence, courage and wisdom. This message resonated especially among the disenfranchised in Japanese society, and before Toda's death in 1958 there were approximately one million members. In 1957, in a powerful public statement, Toda had called on youth to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and this became the cornerstone of the Soka Gakkai's peace activities.

### Broadening the Vision

Toda's successor, Daisaku Ikeda, was 32 when he became president of the Soka Gakkai in 1960. Under Ikeda's leadership, the organization continued to grow and broaden its focus.

In 1975, in response to the needs of an increasingly international membership, the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) was founded. Today it is a worldwide network with 84 constituent organizations and members in 192 countries and territories, sharing a common vision of a better world. SGI's Buddhist philosophy underpins a grassroots movement promoting peace, culture and education.

Believing that dialogue holds the key to building peace, SGI President Daisaku Ikeda has held discussions on topics ranging from peace, human rights, the role of religion in society and astronomy to the power of culture, with leading figures from many countries. These dialogues and other works have been published in more than 30 languages.

Each year on January 26, to commemorate the founding of the SGI, Ikeda issues a proposal highlighting ideas and initiatives for peace.

## AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Daisaku Ikeda's efforts to fulfill the vision of a peaceful world have led him to establish a number of institutions dedicated to peace, education and intercultural exchange.

### Peace

The Ikeda Center for Peace, Learning, and Dialogue, located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A., was founded in 1993 (as the Boston Research Center for the 21st Century). The Center's programs include public forums and scholarly seminars that offer a range of perspectives on key issues in global ethics.

The Center's main event series is the annual Ikeda Forum for Intercultural Dialogue which honors the founder's commitment to dialogue as the surest path to peace. The 2009 forum explored connections between John Dewey's philosophical naturalism and Buddhist

humanism, with an emphasis on the need to foster hope and vision during a time of global instability.

The Center's books have an inclusive, international orientation, and have been used in more than 680 college and university courses. Recent publications include *Creating Waldens: An East-West Conversation on the American Renaissance* by Ronald A. Bosco, Joel Myerson and Daisaku Ikeda (2009).

The Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research was founded in 1996 in honor of the ideals advocated by second Soka Gakkai President Josei Toda, a staunch pacifist who called for the abolition of all nuclear weapons. The Institute brings peace researchers, policy-makers and community activists together on projects related to peace-building and dialogue among civilizations.

“I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A GREATER POWER IN THE WORLD THAN THE EVIL POWER OF MILITARY FORCE, OF NUCLEAR BOMBS—THERE IS THE POWER OF GOOD, OF MORALITY, OF HUMANITARIANISM. I BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT.” —Linus Pauling, *No More War*

The Institute's research program has engaged over 500 peace scholars in all five continents, focusing on issues related to human security, regionalization, democratization and sustainability. It has brought together prominent peace scholars for international conferences in London, Berlin, Durban, Cyprus, Istanbul, Okinawa, Tokyo, Madrid, Vancouver, Budapest and Hawai'i which have led to the publication of over 25 volumes of academic analysis.

The Institute also publishes the annual journal *Peace & Policy* and books including *Peace Journalism: The State of the Art* (2008) and *The Challenge of Abolishing Nuclear Weapons* (2009).



PEACE: (1) The “Talking Back’ to Whitman: Poetry Matters” forum in 2005 at the Ikeda Center for Peace, Learning, and Dialogue. (2) Scholars and researchers engage in discussion at the sixth annual Ikeda Forum for Intercultural Dialogue, November 2009. (3) Discussing the Transcendentalists, 2004. (4) Publications from the Ikeda Center.



(5) Participants in the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research's international conference, “Facing Climate Change with a Renewed Environmental Ethic,” in Honolulu, U.S.A., in November 2008.





**EDUCATION:** (1) Soka University of America (SUA), in Aliso Viejo, California. (2) Students at SUA. (3) Children at the Brazil Soka Kindergarten display vegetables they have grown. (4) Soka High School students in Japan participate in the EarthKAM project studying satellite images of the Earth.



**Education**

Building on the child-centered educational philosophy of Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and his successor Josei Toda, Daisaku Ikeda has founded a number of educational institutions with the aim of encouraging students to develop wisdom and humanity and contribute to the realization of a peaceful world. In Japan the Soka education system runs from kindergarten through to graduate study.

Soka University in Japan has exchange programs with over 100 universities in more than 40 countries.

Soka kindergartens have also been opened in Singapore, Brazil, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Korea, and Soka University of America (SUA) in Aliso Viejo, California, offers a liberal arts program for undergraduate students. Its core curriculum, based on the ideal of promoting global citizenship, includes a second-language program with a study-abroad period and the study of global issues and the human condition.

The Soka education system, which is open to all and offers no religious instruction, is based on Makiguchi's educational philosophy of value creation. It emphasizes close interaction between faculty and students and encourages students to develop into people with a broad outlook on life. The schools aim to nurture the unique creative potential of each student.

“EDUCATION IS NOT THE PIECEMEAL MERCHANDISING OF INFORMATION; IT IS THE PROVISION OF KEYS THAT WILL ALLOW PEOPLE TO UNLOCK THE VAULT OF KNOWLEDGE ON THEIR OWN.”

—Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, founder of the Soka Gakkai

The Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP), founded in 1962, is a research center that aims to make Asia's rich philosophical heritage accessible to people throughout the world. The IOP organizes seminars, conferences and symposiums examining social and scientific issues from the perspectives of Buddhism and other religions and participates in exchanges with scholars from different cultural traditions.

Under the sponsorship of the Soka Gakkai, the IOP's Buddhist manuscript series is helping to preserve ancient Lotus Sutra texts and make them more widely available to scholars and students. The IOP has also organized public exhibitions of rare Buddhist manuscripts, collaborating with the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences.



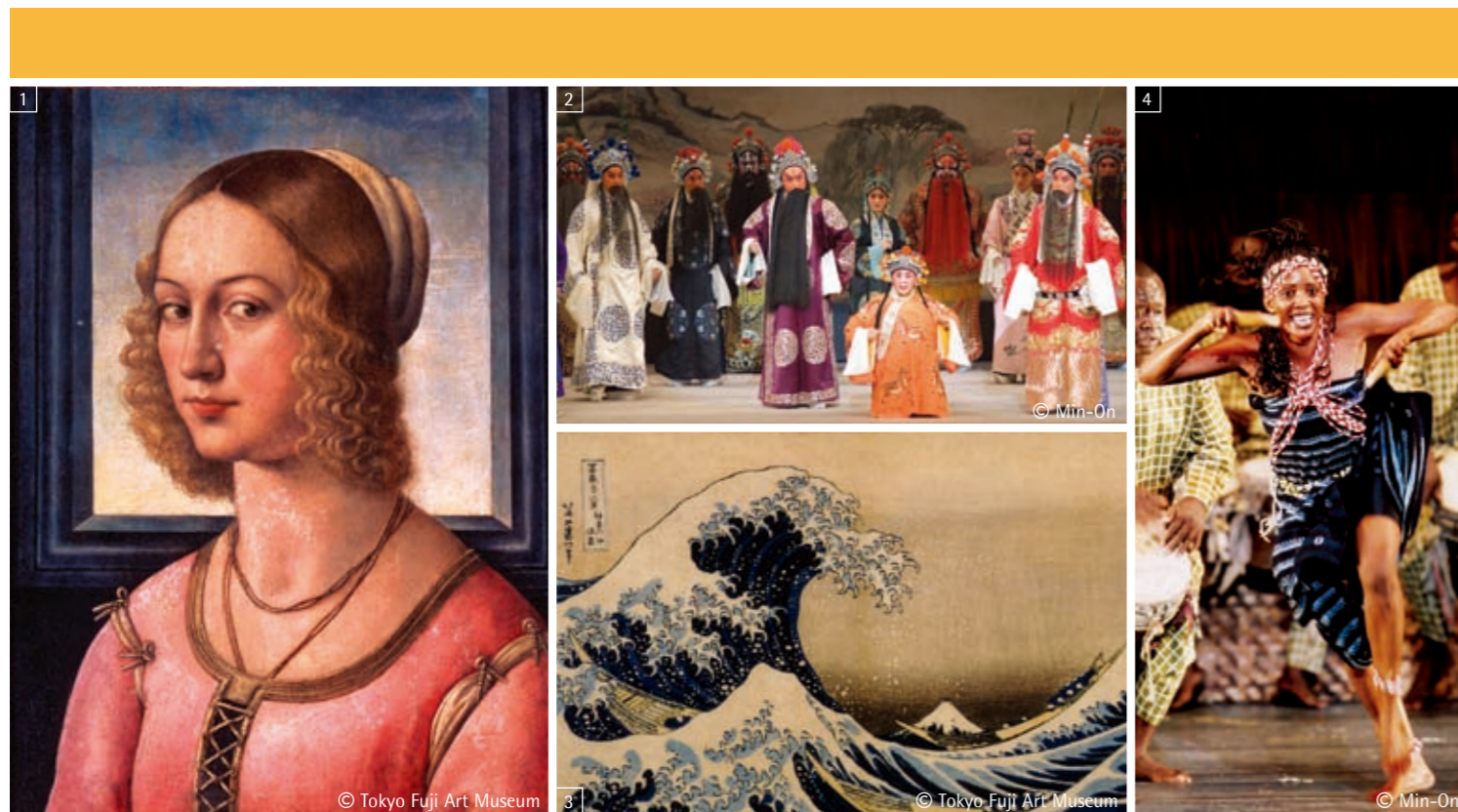
The exhibition "Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence" shown in Bangalore, India, in October 2009.

### Culture

The Min-On Concert Association seeks to deepen mutual understanding and friendship among countries by promoting global music and cultural exchange, in the belief that artistic expression has the ability to foster peace by transcending differences of culture, language and nationality. Since its inception in 1963, Min-On, based in Tokyo, has participated in music, dance and performing arts exchanges with groups from more than 100 countries and regions.

Min-On has also established a music museum and a music library, initiated music competitions to encourage young talent and provided free school concerts.

The Tokyo Fuji Art Museum, founded in 1983, not only brings to the Japanese public the treasures of the world's cultural heritage, but also makes its own collection of art available to museums around the world. The museum houses over 30,000 items of artwork—paintings, pottery, lacquerware, calligraphy, woodblock prints, sculptures and photographs—from East and West, ancient and modern.



**CULTURE:** (1) Portrait of *Giovanna Tornabuoni* (?) by Domenico Ghirlandaio from the collection of the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum. (2) The China National Peking Opera Company performs "The Water Margin" in Japan in 2009 at the invitation of Min-On. (3) *The Great Wave* by Hokusai from the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum. (4) Dancer with the Senegal National Ballet on the "Heartbeat of Dakar" tour hosted by Min-On in Japan, 2005.

## SGI CHARTER

### Preamble

We, the constituent organizations and members of the Soka Gakkai International (hereinafter called SGI), embrace the fundamental aim and mission of contributing to peace, culture and education based on the philosophy and ideals of the Buddhism of Nichiren Daishonin.

We recognize that at no other time in history has humankind experienced such an intense juxtaposition of war and peace, discrimination and equality, poverty and abundance as in the 20<sup>th</sup> century; that the development of increasingly sophisticated military technology, exemplified by nuclear weapons, has created a situation where the very survival of the human species hangs in the balance; that the reality of violent ethnic and religious discrimination presents an unending cycle of conflict; that humanity's egoism and intemperance have engendered global problems, including degradation of the natural environment and widening economic chasms between developed and developing nations, with serious repercussions for humankind's collective future.

We believe that Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism, a humanistic philosophy of infinite respect for the sanctity of life and all-encompassing compassion, enables individuals to cultivate and bring forth their inherent wisdom and, nurturing the creativity of the human spirit, to surmount the difficulties and crises facing humankind and realize a society of peaceful and prosperous coexistence.

We, the constituent organizations and members of SGI, therefore, being determined to raise high the banner of world citizenship, the spirit of tolerance, and respect for human rights based on the humanistic spirit of Buddhism, and to challenge the global issues that face humankind through dialogue and practical efforts based on a steadfast commitment to nonviolence, hereby adopt this charter, affirming the following purposes and principles:

### Purposes and Principles

1. SGI shall contribute to peace, culture and education for the happiness and welfare of all humanity based on Buddhist respect for the sanctity of life.
2. SGI, based on the ideal of world citizenship, shall safeguard fundamental human rights and not discriminate against any individual on any grounds.
3. SGI shall respect and protect the freedom of religion and religious expression.
4. SGI shall promote an understanding of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism through grassroots exchange, thereby contributing to individual happiness.
5. SGI shall, through its constituent organizations, encourage its members to contribute toward the prosperity of their respective societies as good citizens.
6. SGI shall respect the independence and autonomy of its constituent organizations in accordance with the conditions prevailing in each country.
7. SGI shall, based on the Buddhist spirit of tolerance, respect other religions, engage in dialogue and work together with them toward the resolution of fundamental issues concerning humanity.
8. SGI shall respect cultural diversity and promote cultural exchange, thereby creating an international society of mutual understanding and harmony.
9. SGI shall promote, based on the Buddhist ideal of symbiosis, the protection of nature and the environment.
10. SGI shall contribute to the promotion of education, in pursuit of truth as well as the development of scholarship, to enable all people to cultivate their individual character and enjoy fulfilling and happy lives.

*The Charter of the Soka Gakkai International was adopted by its Board of Directors on October 16, 1995.*