



SGI Peace News

Newsletter introducing Soka Gakkai International (SGI)' s activities to promote a culture of peace
September, 2016 (Vol. 13)

“A way forward to eliminate nuclear weapons”

Bergen, Norway, Sept, 2016

SGI together with three Norwegian peace organizations – ICAN Norway, No to Nuclear Weapons (NNW) and the Norwegian Peace Association (NPA) organized an event consisting of an exhibition titled, *“Everything You Treasure – For a World Free From Nuclear Weapons”* and a symposium titled, *“Conversation: A way forward to eliminate nuclear weapons – Perspectives of Norwegian and Japanese peace movements.”* In his [message](#) to this event, SGI President Ikeda stated, “More than anything, it is crucial that we remember that the task of eliminating nuclear weapons is not one that rests solely with the nuclear-weapon states; it must be a shared, global enterprise with the participation of all states and civil society.”...[more](#).



“Building a nuclear-weapon-free world”

Astana, Kazakhstan, Aug. 29 to 30, 2016

As divisions between States on how to achieve nuclear disarmament grow, countries like Kazakhstan must lead the way to common ground and inclusive dialogue. Such leadership is urgently needed to make our world truly secure, said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a message delivered to the conference on 'Building a Nuclear-Free World'...[more](#)



Kazuo Ishiwatari, Executive Director of SGI’s Peace and Global Issues spoke at Panel Session IV “Initiatives and campaigns – legislators, religious leaders and civil society” asserting that nuclear weapons are entirely incompatible with Buddhist values as well as by respective faith traditions and that diverse actors should come together toward the shared goal of abolishing nuclear weapons...[more](#)

High-level panel of Human Rights Council

Geneva, Switzerland, Sep. 14, 2016

“High Level Panel Discussion on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training: good practices and challenges” was held with Member states, UN agencies, and NGOs in attendance. Within the context of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training and Target 4.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the panel aimed to generate recommendations to give further impetus to national implementation of human rights education and training, based on good practices and utilizing current opportunities. It also provided an opportunity to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Declaration, which was adopted in 2011 by the UN General Assembly.

An excerpt of the documentary ‘A Path to Dignity: The Power of Human Rights Education’ co-produced by HREA, Soka Gakkai International and OHCHR was shown before starting the discussion.

Sneh Aurora, on behalf of SGI and [HRE 2020](#), was one of 4 NGO representatives who spoke during the session. Ms. Aurora shared a statement calling for specific measures to strengthen the implementation and follow-up of human rights education training such as monitoring and review processes.



Education for Sustainable Development

Ahmedabad, India, Sep. 16 to 18, 2016

The International Conference “Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) for transforming for children and youth” was held at the Center for Environmental Education (CEE) in Ahmedabad, India.

During the conference, SGI cohosted a workshop titled “Earth Charter and Ethics” together with Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust, Earth Charter International (ECI), Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and Institute for Sustainable Futures.

Tadashi Nagai, SGI Program Officer for Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Affairs, shared some of the SGI’s non-formal education activities such as exhibitions., Mr. Nagai introduced the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Mobile Application, currently produced jointly with ECI which will be officially launched in November. He also spoke about the App in the plenary session “Global Citizenship for Sustainable World.”

The SGI’s exhibition “Seeds of Hope – Vision of sustainability, steps toward change” was shown at the venue throughout the days.



The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR)

Tokyo, Japan, Sept. 14, 2016

October 13 marks the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR).

The youth division of Soka Gakkai Japan hosted a lecture titled “Questions from Minamata - the 60th anniversary of its official recognition” by Mr. Yuta Jitsukawa, General director of the Minamata Forum, a non-profit organization in Japan. Minamata disease is a neurological syndrome caused by severe mercury poisoning



through the release of the industrial wastewater from the Chisso Corporation. Mr. Jitsukawa emphasized that the corporation was reluctant to listen to victims’ voices at the initial stages noting that this exacerbated the situation. He concluded that industry today can effect both people and the environment in unexpected ways, and that the voices of these people should be prioritized rather than those of corporations or governments.

On October 10, SGI will hold [a roundtable](#) and an opening ceremony of an exhibit showing at the Ecumenical Centre in



Geneva. The roundtable, co-organized by the Joint Learning Initiative, SGI and World Council of Churches, will highlight faith-based organizations' contribution to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It will gather participants from UNISDR, ICRC and IFRC in addition to FBOs and secular NGOs. The exhibition "Restoring Our Humanity", co-produced by Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network and SGI, will be on display until October 14. More information on these events can be found here: <http://www.preventionweb.net/go/50165>

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