



SGI Peace News

Newsletter introducing Soka Gakkai International (SGI)'s activities to promote a culture of peace

March, 2016 (Vol. 10)

[“Universal Respect for Human Dignity: The Great Path to Peace,” by Daisaku Ikeda](#)

Tokyo, Japan, January 26, 2016

Daisaku Ikeda, president of the SGI, calls for intensified efforts to respond to the needs of humanity's most vulnerable, including those displaced by conflict in Syria and elsewhere or by natural disasters. He urges renewed focus on the protection of children uprooted by conflict and their educational needs, as well as further support to countries that have taken in large numbers of people fleeing armed conflict and persecution.

Ikeda stresses that dialogue is key to the genuine empathetic understanding that leads to action. Noting that “The irony of humanitarian crises is that the deeper the gravity of people's plight, the less they are heard,” he encourages us to listen to the voices of those affected, to focus on their inherent dignity and potential rather than their current dire status and to “re-cast the world map in our hearts.” He also highlights human rights education as a vital tool for overcoming racism and discrimination.

Click [here for the Synopsis](#) and [here for the Full text](#).

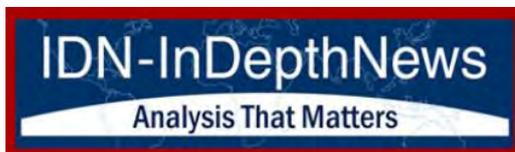


[The Beginning of the End for Nuclear Weapons?](#)

Tokyo, Japan, March 3, 2016

Last year's NPT Review Conference closed without bridging the chasm between the nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon states. It was deeply regrettable that no consensus was reached at this significant juncture marking the seventieth anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Hope still remains, however, thanks to a number of important developments. These include: the growing number of countries endorsing the Humanitarian Pledge, a commitment to work together for the resolution of the nuclear arms issue; the adoption in December 2015 by the UN General Assembly of several ambitious resolutions calling for a breakthrough; and rising calls from civil society for the prohibition and abolition of nuclear weapons. [...more](#)



“Advocacy, Interfaith and Conflict Resolution Dimensions of Humanitarian Action”

Jakarta, Indonesia, February 23-24, 2016

A regional conference titled "Refreshing Humanitarian Action: Developing and Reframing Responses to Meet New Challenges" was organized by the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), Overseas Development Institute - Humanitarian Policy Group and Humanitarian Forum Indonesia. Officials from the Indonesian government, the UN, academics, private sector and NGOs mainly in the Southeast Asian region were the main participants.

The discussions at the conference will be reflected in a synthesis report which will be fed into the World Humanitarian Summit process.

In a session titled "Advocacy, Interfaith and Conflict Resolution – Dimensions of Humanitarian Action,"



SGI delivered a presentation on the roles of the faith-based organizations (FBOs) and the significance of interfaith dialogue in the field of humanitarian affairs. SGI highlighted some of its activities including its active participation in the "Japan Religion Coordinating Project for Disaster Relief," launched after the Great Earthquake by the academics, and shared lessons learned through the dialogues.

“Seeds of Hope: Vision of Sustainability, Steps Toward Change” Exhibition in India and US
New Delhi, India, and Washington DC, US, February, 2016

The exhibition “Seeds of Hope: Vision of Sustainability, Steps toward Change” was jointly produced by the Earth Charter International and SGI to promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), which aims to encourage the viewer to overcome feeling of powerlessness and highlights the fact that a single individual can initiate positive change in their environment.

At Don Bosco School in India, the exhibition was held from February 11-13 and shown to more than 2000 visitors including young students. One of the visitors commented, “it was an eye-opener and encouraged us to do something for our environment – to become a front-runner and not wait for others to take initiative.”

An educational film “A Quiet Revolution,” created by the Earth Council in cooperation with UNDP and UNEP and supported by SGI, was also screened at the exhibition venue.

From February 28 to March 8, the Kay Spiritual Life Center in American University (AU) hosted the exhibition to increase the awareness of sustainability which is part of the AU’s theme this year. At the opening ceremony, students, community members, environmental professionals, faculty, and alumni attended.



Philip Rosenberg Photography

Relief Donation in Response to the Earthquake in Tainan
Tainan, Taiwan, February 6, 2016

A huge earthquake with M6.4 hit southern part of Taiwan. Taiwan Soka Association immediately set up a disaster relief center in Tainan City to conduct relief activities. In the afternoon of the same day, representatives of the organization visited the city's Deputy Mayor Tseng Shu-Zheng and presented a relief donation of NT \$ 3 million (USD 90,000). The Deputy Mayor commented that it was the first donation received by the Tainan City office after the earthquake and expressed appreciation for it.



“March 11, 2011, More Than Survival: Message to the Future”
Sendai, Japan, March 11, 2016

In remembrance of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, the Youth Division of Soka Gakkai Tohoku published a book titled "March 11, 2011, More Than Survival: Message to the Future" which contains ten accounts of ordinary citizens' experiences at the earthquake, tsunami and the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant accident.

On March 12, the city of Sendai and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) organized the “2016 Sendai Symposium for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Future” at the Sendai International Center. The youth division set up a booth in the exhibition space in the center and showcased its activities including



relief efforts and disaster prevention, as well as its efforts to heal and restore the survivors' hearts through visitations and regular musical concerts.

This bimonthly SGI Peace News provides recent updates on SGI's public educational activities to help raise awareness on issues such as nuclear disarmament, human rights, sustainable development, interfaith cooperation and humanitarian assistance.

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