



DISCUSSION MEETING TOOLBOX

TIPS ON BEING EMCEE

Practical points on the crucial role of the emcee at meetings and events.

As a youth, SGI President Ikeda served as the emcee at various meetings and events, including the Otaru Debate, on March 11, 1955, at the Otaru Civic Hall in Otaru, Hokkaido, and the last event second Soka Gakkai President Josei Toda attended, on March 16, 1958, in which he entrusted the future of kosen-rufu to the youth. In volume 25 of *The New Human Revolution*, President Ikeda offers the following points regarding the crucial role an emcee plays in determining a meeting's success.



1. *The emcee's voice should be stirring, powerful and brimming with life force. "Emcees must have the determination to bear full responsibility for the meeting and use their voices to transform the atmosphere into a place of joy in seeking the Law, a true Buddhist assembly" (June 2013 Living Buddhism, p. 36).*

2. *Get a good night's sleep and eat a proper meal. "An emcee needs to enunciate, so that everyone can hear and understand what is said. Facial expressions are also important. An emcee mustn't look tired or unwell. When you're going to take on the crucial role of emcee, you need to get a good night's sleep the day before" (p. 36).*

3. *Pay special attention to timing during the meeting and be able to respond quickly. "There are times when you need to jump right in and speak to keep the tempo upbeat, and times when you need to take a breath and pause. If you lack that crucial sense of timing, you can possibly ruin the meeting's mood" (p. 38).*

4. *Chant Nam-myoho-renge-kyo prior to the meeting. "It is vital that you chant with strong determination to make the meeting you're moderating a success. The purpose of Soka Gakkai meetings is to advance kosen-rufu, and they are the contemporary versions of the assembly of the Lotus Sutra. As such, serving as an emcee at a meeting is to carry out the noble work of the Buddha" (p. 39).*



Hi! Help us improve the Toolbox! Please send comments, suggestions, short videos, sample intro-to-Buddhism scripts, ice-breakers etc., to: DMtoolbox@sgi-usa.org