

DISTRIBUTE TO: Region–Territory Leaders, Region–Territory Future Division and Parent Group Leaders, Zone and Territory Offices
FROM: SGI-USA Organization Center
SUBJECT: **Ikeda Sensei’s Message for June Future Division Activities**

Congratulations! Ikeda Sensei has sent a message to the SGI-USA Future Division members! (see p. 2)

Please have this message read at the various Future Division activities being held during this month of June, SGI-USA Future Division Month.

Message

To the SGI-USA Future Division members:

You are our most valuable treasures of hope for humanity. Thank you for attending this commemorative meeting today! I also offer my sincere appreciation to all the Future Division leaders for your consistent support.

People throughout the world are facing various hardships due to the coronavirus pandemic. In the United States as well, with schools closed and events and activities cancelled, Future Division members have had to stay and study at home.

There may have been many days when you felt worried or confused. Because it is such a difficult time, I'm sure you have also been encouraging one another and reaching out to even more friends. For that, I wish to applaud your efforts with all my heart. I will continue supporting you.

Nichiren Daishonin says: "When the sun rises in the eastern sector of the sky, then all the skies over the great continent of Jambudvipa in the south will be illuminated because of the vast light that the sun possesses" (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 169).

The Buddhism we uphold is the Buddhism of the Sun, which illuminates the lives of people throughout the entire world with the vast light of hope and happiness. It enables the dignity of each person to shine with utmost brilliance. And it expounds an incredible philosophy that can resolve all of life's problems and can be a light in the darkness that shrouds the times.

I am recalling the talks that I enjoyed with Linus Pauling, an influential figure in the field of chemistry, whom I met several times on my visits to the United States. A recipient of two Nobel Prizes in chemistry and peace, Dr. Pauling once predicted that the 21st century will be "a century in which greater attention will be paid to human beings and their happiness and health."

Fully supportive of the SGI's movement to spread the ideal of respect for the dignity of all life, Dr. Pauling also expressed his immense trust and hope in our efforts, declaring that the world was fortunate to have the Soka Gakkai. Such voices of understanding and support continue to increase year after year. You are all successors of this noble mission of the SGI. Because this is a time of great ordeals, you are each a sun of hope. Ten years from now—when we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Soka Gakkai's founding and the 70th anniversary of kosen-rufu in America—you will all be playing leading roles.

Even when faced with difficulties, please never forget to chant the lion's roar of Nam-myoho-renge-kyo, and please keep the sun shining in your heart as you advance vibrantly and cheerfully with your good friends in faith. This is the time for you to develop yourselves and find creative ways to further your learning as you make study and health your top priority. Together, let's win as we illuminate the 21st century with the bright sun of youth.

My wife, Kaneko, and I are earnestly chanting for your health and growth. Each of you are irreplaceable and dear to me, so please take care of yourselves. I am sending you daimoku. With a warm smile, please give my best regards to your families.

Daisaku Ikeda

June 2020

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