

SGI Peace News

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

June, 2014

Working to foster a culture of peace

Welcome to the first issue of SGI Peace News!

This bimonthly newsletter will provide updates on the activities to promote a culture of peace by the Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a lay Buddhist association with 12 million members in 192 countries and territories worldwide.

As a non-governmental organization (NGO) with formal ties to the United Nations (UN), SGI engages in a wide range of activities at the grassroots and international levels, working in partnership with civil society and UN affiliated organizations.

SGI Peace News will especially focus on SGI's public educational activities to raise people's awareness of such issues as nuclear disarmament, human rights, sustainable development, interfaith cooperation and humanitarian assistance.

Editorial Team, SGI Peace News

Recent News

[Making a Difference: Faith Communities and the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons](#)

Washington DC, US, Apr. 24, 2014

An interfaith symposium on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons was held at the US Institute of Peace in Washington DC on April 24.

Over 100 participants from diverse faiths including Buddhist, Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions came together with peace activists and experts to identify common concerns and refresh their determination to rid the world of these inhuman weapons. At the symposium, representatives of 14 different faith groups adopted a joint statement pledging increased activism by religious communities toward nuclear weapons abolition. This statement was later presented to the chair of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) PrepCom at the UN Headquarters in New York on April 29...[more](#).

See [here](#) for the Joint Statement. See [here](#) for video clips.

Special Feature:

A Forum for Peace: Compilation of 30 Years of SGI President Ikeda's Peace Proposals Launched at UN HQ

New York, US, Feb. 20, 2014

[A Forum for Peace: Daisaku Ikeda's Proposals to the UN](#), a collection of key excerpts from 30 years of peace proposals by SGI President Daisaku Ikeda, was launched in a high profile event held at the UN Headquarters in New York...[more](#)

Also covered by [Inter Press Service](#):

Experts from the fields of education, disarmament and diplomacy joined the book launch and the panel discussion "Global Citizenship and the Future of the UN" chaired by former UN Under-Secretary-General Anwarul K. Chowdhury...[more](#)

Annual Peace Proposal

Tokyo, Japan, Jan. 26, 2014

SGI President Ikeda released his annual Peace Proposal for this year, titled "[Value Creation for Global Change: Building Resilient and Sustainable Societies.](#)" He calls for increased regional cooperation in response to extreme weather events and natural disasters, as well as a comprehensive program of global citizenship education and the holding of a youth summit on nuclear abolition in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 2015...[more](#)

Peace and Disarmament

[SGI Joins 2nd Conference on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons](#)

Nayarit, Mexico, Feb. 13-14, 2014

SGI participated in the 2nd Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, hosted by the Mexican Government held in Nayarit. The conference was attended by delegations representing 146 governments...[more](#)

Education for Sustainable Development

[Earth Charter International Conference on Education for Sustainable Development](#)

San José, Costa Rica, Jan 31, 2014

SGI representatives participated in the inauguration of the new Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development in Costa Rica. The conference "Ethics for Sustainability: New Perspectives on Leadership, Decision Making and Education" was co-organized by Earth Charter International (ECI) and University for Peace (UPEACE). The "Seeds of Hope: Visions of sustainability, steps toward change" exhibition, jointly created by SGI and ECI, was shown as part of this event....[more](#)

Human Rights Education

[DVD "A Path to Dignity: The Power of Human Rights Education"](#)

SGI's activities for human rights education aim to promote respect for the equality and dignity of all people. Together with the Human Rights Education Associates (HREA) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), SGI has produced a 28-minute film titled "A Path to Dignity: The Power of Human Rights Education" to raise public awareness about the importance of human rights education....[more](#) (Available in English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian)

[58th Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#)

New York, US, March 13, 2014

SGI organized an event "Moving Ahead from the MDGs: Highlighting Women's Leadership," together with the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund. Active discussions took place on the topic of what contributions women's leadership bring to implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The participants agreed on the importance of having a female role model or mentor in fostering women's potential as leaders.

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