

Message

To my dear, matchless and precious friends of the SGI-USA Culture Department! Congratulations on holding your spirited conference! Together with my wife, I am watching over your event, praising your efforts as if we were shaking hands with all of you who shoulder a noble and unique mission.

Nichiren Daishonin writes, "Unlike most people, in the course of spreading these doctrines of mine I, Nichiren, have occasion to meet with a great many persons" (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 2, p. 778). Throughout his lifetime, the Daishonin remained among the ordinary people and was constantly engaged in society. We, who are directly connected with him, should also live out our precious existences by engaging ourselves in heart-to-heart, courageous and inspiring dialogue.

All the painstaking efforts you make, without a single exception, will be transmitted eternally as good fortune in your own lives and those of your family, including all succeeding generations.

I hope that you, my comrades of the SGI-USA Culture Department, will spread and practice this magnificent Buddhism and experience its immeasurable benefit. Nichiren Buddhism makes it possible for us to live without regret, contributing to the happiness of the people and the prosperity of our community. It is also my hope that you will show tremendous proof of victory within American society. Together with my wife, I will pray even more earnestly for your good health, longevity and the prosperity of your families.

When you return home, please convey my best regards to all my valued fellow members in your respective areas. Please stay in high spirits! Please enjoy the most harmonious and brightest conference in the world.

May victory and glory be yours, as doctors of happiness who are truly the heroes and heroines of culture!

Daisaku Ikeda

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