






2012 FEB 27 12:51 PM
kum

I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2012 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 338 - 31, (LS)

Introduced by:

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D. 
T. R. Muña Barnes 
v.c. pangelinan 
B. J. F. Cruz 
F.F. Blas Jr. 

Relative to commending and congratulating the worldwide members of Soka Gakkai International (SGI) on their tireless efforts and dedication in promoting world peace, and to congratulating the members of SGI-USA, Guam, on the Thirty-seventh (37th) Anniversary of the founding of SGI.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***GUÅHAN*:**

3 **WHEREAS**, March 16 is a symbolic day for Soka Gakkai and SGI members,
4 commemorating the occasion on March 16, 1958, when Josei Toda, second president
5 of the Soka Gakkai, then in frail health, made an impassioned speech to 6,000 Soka
6 Gakkai youth, entrusting them with the responsibility for the future of the Soka
7 Gakkai and its efforts to contribute to the creation of a peaceful world and promote
8 understanding of the humanistic philosophy of Nichiren Buddhism; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Toda passed away on April 2, 1958, just two weeks after the
2 March 16 gathering, confident that his efforts would be continued by the youth in
3 whom he had great trust; and

4 **WHEREAS**, March 16 is now viewed within the Soka Gakkai and the SGI as a
5 day of new departures, "of eternal beginnings and perpetual hope." It is also an
6 occasion for focusing on fostering capable youth; and,

7 **WHEREAS**, around the world SGI members celebrate March 16 by holding
8 commemorative meetings led by youth members; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in response to the needs of an increasingly global community of
10 Soka Gakkai members, the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) was formed in Guam on
11 January 26, 1975, and on the same day thirty-five (35) years ago, one hundred fifty-
12 eight (158) delegates from fifty-one (51) countries met for the first World Peace
13 Conference, nominating Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, then president of Soka Gakkai, to head the
14 new Soka Gakkai International; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Guam was selected as the venue to conduct the first World Peace
16 Conference, given that the *Chamorro* people suffered so terribly from the ravages of
17 war; and

18 **WHEREAS**, from this auspicious occasion, the delegates founded SGI, and
19 thus began the worldwide grassroots activities of peace, education and culture, based
20 on the humanistic outlook of Nichiren Buddhism; and,

21 **WHEREAS**, today, SGI is a worldwide network with eighty-four (84)
22 constituent organizations and more than twelve million (12,000,000) members in one
23 hundred ninety-two (192) countries and territories, sharing a common vision of global
24 peace and prosperity, and for thirty-one (31) years it has been accredited as a non-
25 governmental organization (NGO) by the United Nations (UN); and

1 **WHEREAS**, as an NGO of the United Nations, SGI has worked tirelessly with
2 other UN entities in promoting harmony and coexistence between nations in the fields
3 of humanitarian relief and public education, with a focus on peace, environmental
4 protection and human rights; and

5 **WHEREAS**, since 1975 to the present Dr. Ikeda has introduced peace
6 proposals each year addressing the power of dialogue, the adoption of a Universal
7 Declaration Renouncing War, the need for mutual respect in cultural exchange; and he
8 further cited the important role of the United Nations in maintaining global security,
9 while challenging the U.N. to become more representative of the people, rather than
10 just nation states; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Ikeda, who has attained the status of a world-renowned
12 Buddhist scholar and peace activist, has made it his personal mission to engage in
13 more than one thousand five hundred (1,500) dialogues for peace with noted world
14 leaders such as British historian and scholar Dr. Arnold Toynbee; Nobel Laureate and
15 former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela; former U.S. Secretary of State
16 Henry Kissinger; former Soviet Union President, Mikhail Gorbachev; civil rights
17 leader, Rosa Parks; and peace activist and Ivy-league scholar Dr. Elise Boulding; and

18 **WHEREAS**, for Dr. Ikeda's humanitarian endeavors in a range of fields
19 earning him numerous honorary doctorates and awards to include the United Nation's
20 Peace Award, the Rosa Parks Humanitarian Award, the National Order of the
21 Southern Cross of the Republic of Brazil, the United States Congressional Award, the
22 Honorary Cross of Science and the Arts from the Austrian Ministry of Education, the
23 Medal of the Grand Officer of Arts and Letters from the French Ministry of Culture,
24 the Grand Officer Award from the President of the Italian Republic, and the World
25 Poet Laureateship from the World Poetry Society, the Order of Friendship from
26 Russia, and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Guam; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Ikeda's philosophy of world peace is not something that can
2 be realized simply by politicians signing treaties, or by business leaders creating
3 economic cooperation. Instead, Dr. Ikeda professes that true and lasting peace may
4 only be realized by forging bonds of trust between people at the deepest level, in the
5 depths of their very lives; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in the nearly 50 years since becoming president of the Soka
7 Gakkai lay Buddhist association at the age of 32, Daisaku Ikeda has pursued a diverse
8 range of activities in the pursuit of global peace. His energetic efforts include personal
9 diplomacy during the Cold War, ongoing dialogues with a broad range of individuals
10 from around the world, numerous publications and proposals and the founding of
11 various peace-related institutions; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Ikeda has also been a continuing source of inspiration for the
13 SGI's global grassroots activities in such areas as human rights protection, nuclear
14 abolition, disarmament, sustainable development and cultural exchange; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Ikeda's commitment to peace grows from his experience as a
16 young teenager during World War II. His interactions with second Soka Gakkai
17 president Josei Toda in the aftermath of the war helped shape Ikeda's antiwar
18 sentiments into a philosophy that supports a multifaceted peace movement; it is what
19 sustains Dr. Ikeda's energetic engagement is his Buddhist belief in the sanctity of life
20 and the creative potential of individual human beings; and it shores up his faith in the
21 power of dialogue to bridge the distances between people; and

22 **WHEREAS**, for Dr. Ikeda, peace is far more than the mere absence of war.
23 Rather, it points to a set of conditions in which cultural differences are embraced and
24 appreciated and in which dialogue is firmly established as the means of choice for
25 resolving conflict. In recent years, the idea of a "culture of peace" has gained

1 widespread currency in the world. From his writings and actions it is clear that Ikeda
2 has been a pioneering practitioner of this concept; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Ikeda has encouraged the members of SGI to devote their
4 lives to planting seeds of peace throughout the world, rather than seeking to bring the
5 flowers of their own lives to bloom; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the members of the SGI resolve to contribute to the prosperity of
7 their respective societies and countries, while respecting individual cultures, customs
8 and laws; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Daisaku Ikeda and Mrs. Kaneko Ikeda have received
10 worldwide recognition for fulfilling the dreams of Mr. Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and
11 Mr. Josei Toda, with the establishment of the Soka Education system, which includes
12 elementary to university-level institutions in Japan, and Soka University of America
13 located in Aliso Viejo, California, the establishment of the Min-On Concert
14 Association, and the creation of the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum; and

15 **WHEREAS**, each year since 1975, SGI President Daisaku Ikeda presented
16 peace proposals on behalf of the international lay Buddhist organization, to which
17 Soka Gakkai belongs. In them, he articulates Buddhist ideals and philosophy as a
18 framework for addressing the manifold problems our global society faces in its efforts
19 to realize human security and world peace; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the members of SGI-USA Guam have pursued activities to
21 advance the cause of peace in dedication to the commitment by Dr. Ikeda; and,

22 **WHEREAS**, on January 2000, SGI-USA Guam commemorated the twenty-
23 fifth (25th) anniversary of the founding of SGI by co-sponsoring, with the University
24 of Guam, Soka University of America and SGI-USA, the first Pacific Islands New
25 Millennium Peace Conference; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the conference brought together government leaders and high
2 chiefs from many of the Pacific Islands to share their memories of the Pacific War and
3 resolve to never again allow such violence; and

4 **WHEREAS**, on January 2005, SGI-USA Guam commemorated the thirtieth
5 (30th) Anniversary of the founding of SGI by hosting numerous commemorative
6 events in the name of peace, including the opening of two (2) traveling exhibitions,
7 “Building a Culture of Peace for the Children of the World and Morehouse College’s
8 Gandhi, King, Ikeda: A Legacy of Building Peace;” these traveling exhibits were
9 displayed at the office of the Governor of Guam, the University of Guam and the
10 Guam Community College; and

11 **WHEREAS**, SGI-USA Guam, hosted the Second Pacific Islands New
12 Millennium Peace Conference for educators focusing on “Humanistic Education:
13 Fostering a Culture of Peace,” and sponsored a cultural festival celebrating the diverse
14 culture of mankind; and

15 **WHEREAS**, on January 2007, SGI-USA, on the thirty-second (32nd)
16 anniversary of the founding of SGI-USA Guam, realized another milestone with the
17 grand opening of its new Activity Center, an occasion that members of SGI-USA,
18 Guam have been working hard for years in order to accommodate their members and
19 Buddhist activities; and

20 **WHEREAS**, on January 2010, SGI-USA Guam, commemorated its Thirty-fifth
21 (35th) Anniversary by encouraging the advancement of innovative ideas that focus on
22 positive changes that promote a stronger, stable, and more sustainable world,
23 beginning with the self and extending into the local community and expanding
24 throughout our global society; and

25 **WHEREAS**, during its Thirty-fifth (35th) Anniversary, SGI-USA Guam will be
26 hosted various events throughout Guam, including a conference at the Guam

1 Community College and an exhibit at the Agana Shopping Center offering a variety of
2 speakers and performing artists promoting the theme “Seeds of Change: The Earth
3 Charter and Human Potential,” an awarding of honorary Professorship to President
4 Daisaku Ikeda at the Guam Community College, and the unveiling of a Peace
5 Monument and the dedication naming of a pavilion at the Tamuning Community Park,
6 across the International Trade Center (ITC) where the first World Peace Conference
7 was held in 1975; and,

8 **WHEREAS**, SGI-USA Guam, believes that the creation of lasting peace and
9 the elimination of violence, rather than the promotion of high level social reform,
10 ultimately lies upon the ability of each individual on Earth to inherently embrace the
11 spirit of peace in their hearts; and,

12 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Daisaku Ikeda and Mrs. Kaneko Ikeda have dedicated more
13 than sixty (60) years of their lives to the promotion of peace, culture, and education
14 through their committed efforts as leaders of SGI, and they continue to serve as
15 inspiring examples of how one person’s committed efforts can transform the lives of
16 millions of people around the world, including those of us here on Guam; and,

17 **WHEREAS**, in passing this resolution, *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan*
18 *Guåhan* acknowledges the need to mitigate deepening conflict and division in the
19 world; and,

20 **WHEREAS**, *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* acknowledges that
21 peace, the advancement of knowledge, and healing of all peoples may be achieved
22 through dialogue and the perpetuation of good will throughout the world; and,

23 **WHEREAS**, *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* further
24 acknowledges that as fellow humans we may conquer the ills of the world through a
25 collective human spirit of cooperation and that it is incumbent upon the People of

1 Guam to demonstrate our interconnectedness and shared common commitment to
2 peace, knowledge, and good-will; and, now therefore be it

3 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* hereby adopts
4 this resolution as symbolism of our people's firm determination, action and
5 persistence in continuity of effort towards the preservation of peace, knowledge, and
6 good-will, and in expression of the People of Guam's appreciation for Soka Gakkai's
7 advancement of humanism, engagement of global problems, and fostering of trust and
8 peace between peoples; and be it further

9 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
10 on behalf of the people of Guam, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and
11 commend the worldwide members of SGI on their tireless efforts and dedication in
12 promoting world peace, which is ever more relevant in the age of terror and war, and
13 does congratulate SGI-USA Guam, on the Thirty-seventh (37th) Anniversary of the
14 founding of SGI; and be it further

15 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,
16 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to President
17 Daisaku and Mrs. Kaneko Ikeda of Soka Gakkai International (SGI); to Danny
18 Nagashima, General Director; to SGI-USA; to SGI-USA, Guam;; and to the
19 Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahren Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE DAY OF FEBRUARY 2012.

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary