

I MINA'TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2013 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 1-32 (LS)

Introduced by:

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

T. C. Ada

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V. C. Pangelinan

R. J. Respicio

Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.

Michael F.Q. San Nicolas

Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.

Relative to recognizing and commending the members of Soka Gakkai International (SGI) USA, Guam, on their tireless efforts and dedication in promoting world peace; and to further congratulating the members on the Thirty-Eighth (38th) Anniversary of the founding of SGI.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, March 16 is a symbolic day for Soka Gakkai International-USA,
4 Guam members, commemorating the occasion on March 16, 1958, when Josei Toda,
5 second president of the Soka Gakkai, then in frail health, made an impassioned speech
6 to six thousand (6,000) Soka Gakkai youth, entrusting them with the responsibility for

1 the future of the Soka Gakkai and its efforts to contribute to the creation of a peaceful
2 world and promote understanding of the humanistic philosophy of Nichiren Buddhism
3 by embracing and devoting their lives to the Lotus Sutra by chanting, *Nam myo ho*
4 *renge kyo*; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in response to the needs of an increasingly global community of
6 Soka Gakkai members, the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) was formed in Guam on
7 January 26, 1975, and on the same day thirty-eight (38) years ago, one hundred fifty-
8 eight (158) delegates from fifty-one (51) countries met for the first World Peace
9 Conference, nominating Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, then president of Soka Gakkai, to head the
10 new Soka Gakkai International; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Guam was selected as the venue to conduct the First World Peace
12 Conference, given that the *Chamorro* people suffered so terribly from the ravages of
13 World War II; and

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

17 **WHEREAS**, today, SGI is a worldwide network with eighty-four (84)
18 constituent organizations and more than twelve million (12,000,000) members in one
19 hundred ninety-two (192) countries and territories, sharing a common vision of global
20 peace and prosperity; and for thirty (30) years it has been accredited as a non-
21 governmental organization (NGO) by the United Nations (UN); and

22 **WHEREAS**, since 1975 to the present, Dr. Ikeda has introduced peace
23 proposals each year addressing the power of dialogue, the adoption of a Universal
24 Declaration Renouncing War, and the need for mutual respect in cultural exchange;
25 and he further cited the important role of the United Nations in maintaining global

1 security, while challenging the U.N. to become more representative of the people,
2 rather than just nation states; and

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

6 **WHEREAS**, SGI Guam members strive to emulate Dr. Ikeda's energetic
7 engagement in his Buddhist belief in the sanctity of life and the creative potential of
8 individual human beings; and

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

12 **WHEREAS**, Guam members of the SGI resolve to contribute to the prosperity
13 of their respective societies and countries, while respecting individual cultures,
14 customs and laws; and

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

17 **WHEREAS**, SGI-USA Guam has further demonstrated its commitment to
18 Guam by embracing the village of *Tamuning* as a community partner, and by co-
19 hosting the first Latte Peace Festival on January 12, 2013, in collaboration with the
20 Honorable Louise Rivera, Mayor of *Tamuning*; and working for peace through culture
21 and education by featuring cultural dances and activities from the neighboring islands;
22 and

23 **WHEREAS**, in January 2000, SGI-USA Guam commemorated the Twenty-
24 Fifth (25th) Anniversary of the founding of SGI by co-sponsoring, with the University
25 of Guam, the Soka University of America and SGI-USA, the first Pacific Islands New
26 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**, in 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**, in 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**, in 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 hosted
26 various events throughout Guam, including a conference at the Guam Community

1 College and an exhibit at the *Agaña* Shopping Center, offering a variety of speakers
2 and performing artists promoting the theme, “Seeds of Change: The Earth Charter and
3 Human Potential”; an awarding of honorary Professorship to President Daisaku Ikeda
4 at the Guam Community College; and the unveiling of a Peace Monument and the
5 dedication naming of a pavilion at the *Tamuning* Community Park, across from the
6 International Trade Center (ITC) where the first World Peace Conference was held in
7 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 Dos Na Liheslaturan*
18 *Guåhan* acknowledges the need to mitigate deepening conflict and division in the
19 world; and

20 **WHEREAS**, *I Mina'Trentai Dos 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 Dos 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; now therefore, be it

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

9 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Dos Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
10 on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend the worldwide members of
11 SGI on their tireless efforts and dedication in promoting world peace, which is ever
12 more relevant in the age of terror and war; and does further congratulate SGI-USA
13 Guam on the Thirty-Eighth (38th) Anniversary of the founding of SGI; and be it
14 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 Honorable
19 Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 11TH DAY OF JANUARY 2013.


BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ
Acting Speaker


TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary