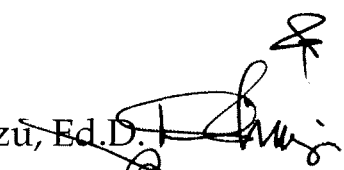


I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2008 (SECOND) Regular Session

Exec. Com.
Resolution No. 159

Introduced by:

D.L.G. Shimizu, Ed.D. 

T.R. Muña-Barnes 

J.T. Won Pat, Ed.D. 

RELATIVE TO COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING
THE WORLD-WIDE MEMBERS OF SOKA GAKKAI
INTERNATIONAL (SGI) ON THEIR TIRELESS EFFORTS
AND DEDICATION IN PROMOTING WORLD PEACE AND
CONGRATULATES SGI-USA, GUAM ON THE 33RD
ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF SGI

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF I

2 MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

3 WHEREAS, thirty three (33) years ago, on January 26, 1975, one
4 hundred fifty eight (158) delegates from fifty one (51) countries met on Guam
5 for the first World Peace Conference at which Soka Gakkai International was
6 inaugurated; and

7 WHEREAS, Guam was selected as the venue to conduct the first World
8 Peace Conference, given that the Chamorro people suffered so terribly from
9 the ravages of war; and

10 WHEREAS, from this auspicious occasion, the delegates founded Soka

1 Gakkai International (SGI), thus began the worldwide grassroots activities of
2 peace, education and culture, based on the humanistic outlook of Nichiren
3 Buddhism; and

4 **WHEREAS**, today SGI is a worldwide network with eighty two (82)
5 constituent organizations and more than twelve million (12,000,000) members
6 in one hundred ninety (190) countries and territories, sharing a common
7 vision of global peace and prosperity and for twenty eight (28) years has been
8 accredited as a Non-governmental Organization (NGO) by the United Nations
9 (UN); and

10 **WHEREAS**, as a NGO of the UN, SGI has worked tirelessly with other
11 UN entities in promoting harmony and coexistence between nations,
12 disarmament, human rights and humanitarian relief; and

13 **WHEREAS**, throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Dr. Ikeda's peace
14 proposals addressed such themes as the power of dialogue; the adoption of a
15 Universal Declaration Renouncing War; and the need for mutual respect in
16 cultural exchange, and he cited the important role of the United Nations in
17 maintaining global security, while challenging it to become more
18 representative of the people and not just nation states; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Ikeda, who has attained the status of a world-
20 renowned Buddhist scholar and peace activist, has made it his personal
21 mission to engage in more than one thousand five hundred (1,500) dialogues
22 for peace with such noted world leaders as Dr. Arnold Toynbee; Nobel
23 Laureate and former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela; former U.S.
24 Secretary of State Henry Kissinger; former Soviet Union President Mikhail

1 Gorbachev; civil rights leader Rosa Parks; and Dr. Elise Boulding; and

2 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Ikeda, the recipient of two hundred-eleven (211)
3 honorary doctorates since May of 2007 and a recipient of the UN Peace
4 Awards has used the principles of Nichiren Buddhism throughout his own
5 life and in his role as president of SGI where he acts to support the
6 membership in a number of ways, including providing support and
7 encouragement through his writings and lectures, by striving to promote a
8 dialogue on Nichiren Buddhist principles as they apply to today's global
9 challenges, and as such, Dr. Ikeda is viewed as a great role model by millions
10 of people around the world for how to apply this practice in their own lives,
11 and is often referred to by some members as their "mentor in life"; and

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

15 **WHEREAS**, the members of the SGI resolve to contribute to the
16 prosperity of their respective societies and countries, while respecting
17 individual cultures, customs and laws; and

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

1 **WHEREAS**, the members of SGI-USA, Guam have pursued activities to
2 advance the cause of peace in dedication to the commitment by Dr. Ikeda
3 including the donations of numerous books to the Nieves M. Flores Memorial
4 Library, the University of Guam Tan Siu Lin Library, and the Guam
5 Community College Library; and

6 **WHEREAS**, on January 2000, SGI-USA, Guam commemorated the 25th
7 anniversary of the founding of SGI, by co-sponsoring with the University of
8 Guam, Soka University of America and SGI-USA the first Pacific Islands New
9 Millennium Peace Conference

10 **WHEREAS**, the conference brought together heads of states and high
11 chiefs from many of the Pacific Islands to share their memories of the Pacific
12 War and resolve to never again allow such violence; and

13 **WHEREAS**, on January 2005, SGI-USA, Guam commemorated the 30th
14 anniversary of the founding of SGI, by hosting numerous commemorative
15 events in the name of peace, including the opening of two (2) traveling
16 exhibitions, "Building a Culture of Peace for the Children of the World" and
17 Morehouse College's "Gandhi, King, Ikeda: A Legacy of Building Peace which
18 was co-sponsored by the Guam Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights
19 Commission, these traveling exhibits were displayed at the Main Conference
20 Room of the Governor of Guam, the University of Guam and the Guam
21 Community College; and

22 **WHEREAS**, SGI-USA, Guam hosted the Second Pacific Islands New
23 Millennium Peace Conference for educators focusing on "Humanistic
24 Education: Fostering a Culture of Peace" and sponsored a cultural

1 festival celebrating the diverse culture of mankind which was attended by
2 state education leaders and philosophical and religious leaders; and

3 **WHEREAS**, on January 13, 2007, SGI-USA, on its 32nd anniversary of
4 the founding of SGI, Guam, another milestone was realized with the grand
5 opening of its new Activity Center, something that the members of SGI-USA,
6 Guam have been working hard for years in order to accommodate their
7 Buddhist activities; and

8 **WHEREAS**, on January 26, 2008, SGI-USA, Guam will celebrate another
9 landmark occasion with the celebration of the 33rd anniversary of the
10 inauguration of SGI; and

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

17 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does
18 hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend the world-
19 wide members of SGI on it's tireless efforts and dedication in promoting
20 world peace, which is ever more relevant in this era of terror and war, and
21 congratulates SGI-USA, Guam on the 33rd anniversary of the founding of SGI;
22 and be it further

1 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairman of the Executive
2 Committee certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption
3 hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to President
4 Daisaku Ikeda of Soka Gakkai International (SGI); to Mrs. Kaneko Ikeda; to
5 SGI-USA; to SGI-USA, Guam, and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I*
6 *Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA
LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE _____ DAY OF JANUARY 2008.**

MARK FORBES
Speaker

RAY TENORIO
Senator and
Secretary of the Legislature