



Office of the General Director

February 16, 2008

My dear precious members of Culture Department:

Congratulations on the 18th anniversary of the SGI-USA Culture Department established by SGI President Ikeda in 1990!! I understand these gatherings are being held in various cities around the country. Thank you very much for your participation in this significant activity. I am currently with the members in Fairbanks, Alaska, who are celebrating the women's general meetings and making preparations for the 50th anniversary of March 16th in -21 degree weather. I am speechless to describe their dedication for kosen-rufu and the happiness of the people of Alaska.

We can see President Ikeda's great compassion and profound vision in establishing the Culture Department, which has greatly contributed to the tremendous growth of our kosen-rufu movement in America. I would like to also express my heartfelt appreciation for all those who have worked so hard throughout the years to respond to President Ikeda's vision. Thank you so much!

*With the spirit of "many in body, one in mind", together with the SGI-USA Culture Department leaders, Michael Curtis and Amanda Rivera, and all your dear comrades, please use today's gathering to refresh the spirit shared in President Ikeda's message to the Culture Department in 2004, **"Be Heroes of American Kosen-rufu! Be Victorious Champions of Life! Cheers to the SGI-USA Culture Department!"***

I am sincerely praying for the good health, prosperity, greater development and happiness of all the members of the Culture Department.

Sincerely,

*Danny Nagashima
SGI-USA General Director*