

I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
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.
T. C. Ada
V. Anthony Ada
Chris M. Dueñas
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA
Sam Mabini, Ph.D.
Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.
R. J. Respicio
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
M. Silva Taijeron
Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.

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 further congratulating the members of SGI-USA, Guam on the Thirty-Seventh (37th) Year Anniversary of the founding of SGI.

- 1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***GUÁHAN*:**
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 six thousand

1 (6,000) Soka Gakkai youth, entrusting them with the responsibility for the future of
2 the Soka Gakkai and its efforts to contribute to the creation of a peaceful world and
3 promote understanding of the humanistic philosophy of Nichiren Buddhism; and

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

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

10 **WHEREAS**, throughout the world, SGI members celebrate March 16 by
11 holding commemorative meetings led by youth members; and

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

18 **WHEREAS**, Guam was selected as the venue to conduct the first World Peace
19 Conference, given that the *Chamorro* people have suffered terribly from the ravages
20 of war; and

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

24 **WHEREAS**, today, SGI is a worldwide network, with eighty-four (84)
25 constituent organizations and more than twelve million (12,000,000) members in one
26 hundred ninety-two (192) countries and territories, sharing a common vision of global

1 peace and prosperity, and for thirty-one (31) years it has been accredited as a non-
2 governmental organization (NGO) by the United Nations (U.N.); and

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

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

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

21 **WHEREAS**, for Dr. Ikeda's humanitarian endeavors in a range of fields, he has
22 earned numerous honorary doctorates and awards, to include the United Nation's
23 Peace Award; the Rosa Parks Humanitarian Award; the National Order of the
24 Southern Cross of the Republic of Brazil; the United States Congressional Award; the
25 Honorary Cross of Science and the Arts from the Austrian Ministry of Education; the
26 Medal of the Grand Officer of Arts and Letters from the French Ministry of Culture;

1 the Grand Officer Award from the President of the Italian Republic; the World Poet
2 Laureateship from the World Poetry Society; the Order of Friendship from Russia;
3 and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Guam; and

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

9 **WHEREAS**, in the nearly fifty (50) years since becoming President of the Soka
10 Gakkai lay Buddhist Association at the age of thirty-two (32), Dr. Daisaku Ikeda has
11 pursued a diverse range of activities in the pursuit of global peace. His energetic
12 efforts include personal diplomacy during the Cold War, ongoing dialogues with a
13 broad range of individuals from around the world, numerous publications and
14 proposals, and the founding of various peace-related institutions; and

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

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

25 **WHEREAS**, for Dr. Ikeda, peace is far more than the mere absence of war.
26 Rather, it points to a set of conditions in which cultural differences are embraced and

1 appreciated and in which dialogue is firmly established as the means of choice for
2 resolving conflict. In recent years, the idea of a “culture of peace” has gained
3 widespread currency in the world. From his writings and actions, it is clear that Dr.
4 Ikeda has been a pioneering practitioner of this concept; and

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

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

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

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

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

24 **WHEREAS**, on January 2000, SGI-USA Guam commemorated the Twenty-
25 Fifth (25th) Year Anniversary of the founding of SGI-USA by co-sponsoring, with the

1 University of Guam, Soka University of America and SGI-USA, the first Pacific
2 Islands New Millennium Peace Conference; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the conference brought together government leaders and high
4 chiefs from many of the Pacific Islands to share the horrors or experiences of the
5 Pacific War and resolve to never again allow such violence; and

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

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

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

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

1 **WHEREAS**, during its Thirty-Fifth (35th) Year Anniversary, SGI-USA Guam
2 hosted various events throughout Guam, including a conference at the Guam
3 Community College and an exhibit at the *Agana* Shopping Center offering a variety of
4 speakers and performing artists promoting the theme “Seeds of Change: The Earth
5 Charter and Human Potential”; and awarding of honorary Professorship to President
6 Daisaku Ikeda at the Guam Community College; and the unveiling of a Peace
7 Monument and the dedication naming of a pavilion at the *Tamuning* Community Park,
8 across the street from the International Trade Center (ITC) where the first World
9 Peace Conference was held in 1975; and

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

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

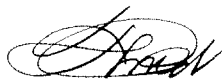
19 **WHEREAS**, in adopting this Resolution, *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan*
20 *Guåhan* acknowledges the need to mitigate deepening conflict and division in the
21 world; acknowledges that peace, the advancement of knowledge, and healing of all
22 peoples may be achieved through dialogue and the perpetuation of goodwill
23 throughout the world; and further acknowledges that as fellow humans we may
24 conquer the ills of the world through a collective human spirit of cooperation; and that
25 it is incumbent upon the people of Guam to demonstrate our interconnectedness and
26 shared common commitment to peace, knowledge, and goodwill; now therefore, be it

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

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

13 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
14 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to President
15 Daisaku Ikeda and Mrs. Kaneko Ikeda of Soka Gakkai International (SGI); to SGI-USA
16 Headquarters, Guam; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 27TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2012.



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary