

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOKA GAKKAI SINGAPORE

1. This Association shall be known as the Soka Gakkai Singapore ("SGS" or "the Association").

2. PLACE OF BUSINESS

Its place of business shall be at 10 Tampines Street 81, Singapore 529014 or such other place as the Association may decide, subject to the approval of the Registrar of Societies. The address for correspondence shall be at 10 Tampines Street 81, Singapore 529014.

3. OBJECT

The objects of the Association are:

- a. To promote and propagate the Buddhist teachings of Nichiren Daishonin;
- b. To contribute to the attainment of peace, happiness, stability and prosperity of all persons through the teachings of Nichiren Buddhism;
- c. To organise and conduct study classes, seminars, forums, examinations and discussions relating to Nichiren Buddhism;
- d. To promote and encourage moral and spiritual education, cultural activities, community welfare services and charitable activities based on Nichiren Buddhism;
- e. To publish and circulate newsletters, literature and materials on Nichiren Buddhism and related articles of interest;
- f. To assist cultural, educational and charitable institutions where necessary in connection with the advancement of education, culture and welfare and/or other charitable aims which the Management Committee may decide from time to time deem expedient;
- g. To initiate and organise religious rites and other functions for the promotion of faith and welfare of its members;

- h. To run a Childcare Facility to provide childcare services and a pre-school developmental education programme, which aims to develop joyful, healthy and responsible early learners who will grow to be of contribution to society.
- i To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

4. STATEMENT OF FAITH

a. Religious Tenets

Soka Gakkai Singapore shall look to Nichiren Daishonin as the Buddha of the Latter Day of the Law. It shall embrace with faith the Three Great Secret Laws embodying the fundamental law of *Nam-myoho-renge-kyo*, chant *daimoku* to the Gohonzon as the practice for oneself and others, and base itself on Nichiren Daishonin's writings. It shall strive to support the attainment of the human revolution of each individual and to realize, as its ultimate goal, worldwide *kosen-rufu*, the propagation of Nichiren Buddhism, thus fulfilling the Daishonin's mandate.

b. The Three Founding Presidents of the Soka Gakkai

The Three Founding Presidents of the Soka Gakkai shall be regarded as eternal mentors of worldwide *kosen-rufu* – Tsunesaburo Makiguchi Sensei for founding the Soka Gakkai; Josei Toda Sensei for calling forth 750,000 Bodhisattvas of the Earth; and Daisaku Ikeda Sensei for the unprecedented advance of *kosen-rufu* worldwide. Their guidance and the example they set with their lives, which embody the spirit of selfless dedication to propagating the Law for the attainment of *kosen-rufu*, shall guide this Organisation for all time. The honorific title of each of the "Three Founding Presidents" shall be "Sensei."

This Organization shall regard Ikeda Sensei as the mentor of worldwide *kosen-rufu* and the President and spiritual leader of SGI in perpetuity.

Please refer to Annex A for SGS's complete Statement of Faith.

5. MEMBERSHIP AND ADMISSION

- 5.1 A SGS Member shall follow the religious tenets of this Association, and pursuant to the guidance and spirit of the "Three Founding Presidents," follow the guidance of this Association, deepen his/her faith in Nichiren Buddhism, propagate this religion and study the teachings of Nichiren

Daishonin, for the purpose of promoting the objectives of this Association. The requirements and procedure for acquisition and loss of membership shall be governed by the Association.

- 5.2 The Association shall have three categories of membership, namely Ordinary (Voting) Members, Ordinary (Non-Voting) Members and Associate Members.

a. ORDINARY (VOTING) MEMBERS

- i) Ordinary (voting) membership shall only be open to all Singapore citizens above the age of twenty-one years, irrespective of gender, race and status, who are of good character and willing to observe the Buddhist teachings of Nichiren Daishonin and to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Association.

This rule, as far as Singapore citizenship status is concerned, shall not be altered or deleted.

- ii) Every application for ordinary (voting) membership shall be made on the Association's application form, and must be proposed by no fewer than three Management Committee Members, and no applicant shall be admitted as an Ordinary (Voting) Member of the Association until the Management Committee is satisfied that he/she satisfies the requirements set out at Rule 5(a)(i) and if the Management Committee approves the applicant's application for Ordinary (Voting) Member.
- iii) All persons who were Ordinary Members of the Association immediately before the date on which this Rule 5a. is amended, shall on the effective date of the said amendment, automatically become Ordinary (Voting) Members of the Association, having all the rights to which Ordinary (Voting) Members are entitled to under this Constitution.
- iv) Ordinary Members may participate in all activities organised by the Association; they shall have the right to :
- (1) attend and vote in person at any general meetings of the Association, and receive notice of the same;
 - (2) vote or be elected as officers of the Association;
 - (3) participate in all activities organized by the Association.
- v) Ordinary (Voting) Members are not permitted to appoint a proxy or other person (including fellow Ordinary (Voting) Members) to attend or vote at a general meeting of the Association

b. ORDINARY (NON-VOTING) MEMBERS

- i) Ordinary (non-voting) membership shall only be open to Singapore citizens, irrespective of gender and race, who are followers of Nichiren Buddhism. This rule, as far as Singapore citizenship status is concerned, shall not be altered or deleted.
- ii) Ordinary (Non-Voting) Members may participate in all activities organised by the Association, but they shall not, at any time, have any right to:
 - (1) attend any general meetings of the Association (or receive notice of the same);
 - (2) vote or be elected as officers of the Association;

c. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- i) The Association may admit non-Singapore citizens, who are followers or believers of Nichiren Buddhism, as Associate Members of the Association.
- ii) All Associate Members may participate in all activities organised by the Association, but they shall not, at any time, have any right:
 - (1) to attend any general meetings (or receive notice of the same);
 - (2) to vote or be elected as officers of the Association; nor
 - (3) over the property, premises or funds of the Association.

d. GENERAL RULES RELATING TO ALL MEMBERS

- i) All applications for membership (of whatever category) shall be made on the application forms prescribed by the Management Committee from time to time. All applications shall be completed by the applicant, in compliance with the relevant provisions of this Constitution, and submitted to the Management Committee for approval.
- ii) Admission of applicants for any category of membership shall be at the sole discretion of the Management Committee, which may refuse to admit any person as a member without giving any reason whatsoever for such refusal, and the decisions of the Management Committee shall be final and shall not be called in question in any court.
- iii) On the admission of a new member, the Honorary Secretary shall register such person as a member by recording the name, address, occupation and other particulars of the member in a Register kept for that purpose.
- iv) All memberships shall be non-transferable and non-assignable.

- v) Membership in the Ordinary (Non-Voting) Members and Associate Members categories shall be unlimited.
- vi) Unless the Management Committee otherwise decides, there shall be no entrance or membership fee payable for membership in the Association.
- vii) The Register of Members for all the categories of membership is subject to periodic review and update by the Management Committee.
- viii) All three categories of members shall follow the religious tenets and the guidance of this Association and shall embrace the guidance and the founding spirit of the Three Founding Presidents of the Soka Gakkai.

6. FUNDS

Until the Management Committee otherwise decides, the funds of the Association shall be primarily derived from the voluntary donations or contributions by members and well-wishers. The funds will be used only in furtherance of the objects of the Association.

7. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

a. RESIGNATION

Any member may resign his membership by giving to the Honorary Secretary written notice to that effect and every such notice shall, unless otherwise expressed, be deemed to take effect from the date of receipt by the Honorary Secretary of the notice and the Honorary Secretary shall acknowledge and record such resignation in the Register of Members.

b. EXPULSION

- i) Subject to Rule 7b(ii), the Management Committee shall be empowered at its discretion to expel any member from the Association when the member is determined by the Management Committee:-
 - (1) to have ceased being a follower or believer of the Buddhist teachings of Nichiren Daishonin;
 - (2) to have breached any provision of the Constitution, Rules and By-Laws of the Association; or
 - (3) to have done some act against the interests or harmony of the Association; or

(4) to have made use of the name of the Association for personal gain.

- ii) Before a member is expelled, his conduct shall be inquired into by the Management Committee or a Disciplinary Committee and/or Board of Inquiry appointed by the Management, and he shall be given full opportunity to defend himself and to justify or explain his conduct. If a majority of the Management Committee is of the opinion that the member is guilty of such conduct as aforesaid and that the member has failed to justify or explain it satisfactorily, the Management Committee shall call upon the member to resign and, if he does not resign, shall expel him.

c. EFFECTS OF TERMINATION

Any person shall upon ceasing to be a member, forfeit all right to claim upon and access to the Association, its property, premises and funds. Expelled members shall be barred from participating in any of the Association's activities.

8. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

a. COMPOSITION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The management of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in the Management Committee consisting of the following: -

- 1 Chairman
- 2 Vice Chairmen
- 1 Honorary Secretary
- 1 Assistant Honorary Secretary
- 1 Honorary Treasurer
- 1 Assistant Honorary Treasurer
- 5 to 8 Committee Members

Unless with the prior approval in writing of the Registrar or an Assistant Registrar of Societies, majority of the Management Committee Members shall be Singapore Citizens. In addition, the Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and their deputies shall be Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents. Foreign Diplomats shall not serve as Management Committee Members.

b. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- i) All officers shall be elected at each annual general meeting and shall hold office until the next annual general meeting.

- ii) Names of the officers shall be proposed and seconded at the annual general meeting, and the election will be on a simple majority vote for members.
- iii) Officers shall only be eligible for election into the post of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer when they have served on the Management Committee for at least two terms.
- iv) The Honorary Treasurer and Assistant Honorary Treasurer may be re-elected to the same or related post for a maximum of four consecutive years. After meeting the maximum term limit for the Honorary Treasurer and Assistant Honorary Treasurer, a Board member's reappointment to the position may be considered after a minimum of two years. Should the Honorary Treasurer and Assistant Honorary Treasurer leave the position for less than two years, and when they are being re-appointed, the Honorary Treasurer and Assistant Honorary Treasurer's years of service will continue from the time they stepped down. All other officers may be re-elected.
- v) Paid staff, who are ordinary voting members, can be elected to the Management Committee. However, the total number of paid staff should not comprise more than one-third of the Management Committee, and staff should not chair the Management Committee. They are not allowed to vote on matters on the remuneration of the staff employed by the Association.
- vi) Upon the death, incapacity, or resignation of any officer, the remaining members of the Management Committee shall have the power, from time to time, to co-opt any Ordinary (Voting) Member as an officer to fill up such vacancy. Any such co-opted officer shall hold office for such period as determined by the Management Committee. Any changes in the Management Committee shall be notified to the Registrar of Societies and Commissioner of Charities within two (2) weeks of the change.
- vii) The Management Committee shall have the power to remove a Management Committee member who is appointed by the Management Committee before the expiration of his period of office and may appoint another person in his stead.

c. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

- i) A Management Committee meeting shall be held at least once every two months and shall be convened on such date and at such time as the Chairman (or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman) may deem fit. The Management Committee members shall be notified of the meeting at least three days in advance.

- ii) At least half of the officers of the Management Committee, inclusive of either the Chairman or the Vice Chairman, must be present for its proceedings to form a quorum.
- iii) All resolutions of the Management Committee shall be deemed passed if approved by a simple majority of the officers present thereat.
- iv) A resolution of the Management Committee shall also be deemed valid and effective, as if it had been passed at a Management Committee meeting duly convened and held, if it is signed by not less than half of the Management Committee members, inclusive of the Chairman, Honorary Secretary, and Honorary Treasurer. Any such resolution may consist of several documents in like form, each signed by one or more of the three key officers.
- v) Whenever a member of the Management Committee in any way, directly or indirectly, has an interest in a transaction or project or other matter to be discussed at a meeting, the member shall disclose the nature of his interest before the discussion on the matter begins.
- vi) The member concerned should not participate in the discussion or vote on the matter and should also offer to withdraw from the meeting, and the Management Committee shall decide if this should be accepted.

d. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- i) The Management Committee shall have the power to authorise running expenditures up to a sum of \$500,000.00 per month from the Association's funds for the Association's purposes.
- ii) The Management Committee shall have the power to employ, supervise, pay, and dismiss such servants or agents as they may deem necessary.
- iii) The duties of the Management Committee shall include organising and supervising the daily activities of the Association, and the Management Committee shall have such administrative powers as may be necessary for properly carrying out the objects of the Association in accordance with these Rules.
- iv) The Management Committee may, at any time, and from time to time, make by-laws to regulate the conduct of any or all categories of members, which by-laws shall be binding on all such members.
- v) The Management Committee shall have the power and authority to deposit and/or invest the Association's surplus funds and assets with banks or financial institutions to generate reliable and safe income. The exercise of such power and authority by the Management Committee shall be made with prudence and care to protect the funds of the Association.

9. OFFICE BEARERS

The duties of the office bearers are as follows:

- a. The Chairman shall attend to the general supervision of the management of the various religious activities and conduct all general and Management Committee meetings. He shall also represent the Association in its dealings with outside persons.
- b. The Vice Chairman shall assist the Chairman and deputise during the latter's absence.
- c. The Honorary Secretary shall keep all records, except financial, of the Association and shall be responsible for their correctness. He will keep minutes of all general and Management Committee meetings.
- d. The Assistant Honorary Secretary shall assist the Honorary Secretary and deputise during the latter's absence.
- e. The Honorary Treasurer shall keep all funds, collect and disburse all monies on behalf of the Association. He shall keep an account of monetary transactions and shall be responsible for their correctness. He is authorised to expend up to \$15,000.00 per month for petty expenses on behalf of the Association. He shall not keep more than \$15,000.00 in the form of cash, and money above this amount shall be deposited in a bank or other financial institution.
- f. Cheques for withdrawals from the Association's bank account(s) shall be signed by the Chairman or Vice Chairman, and the Honorary Secretary, in addition to the Treasurer.
- g. The Asst Honorary Treasurer shall assist the Honorary Treasurer and, in the latter's absence, will sign cheques, etc. for withdrawals from the bank in addition to the Chairman and the Hon Secretary.
- h. The Management Committee members shall assist in the general affairs of the Association.

10. GENERAL MEETING

- a. The supreme authority of the society is vested in a General Meeting of the members.
- b. An annual general meeting will be held no later than the last day of May each year. At other times, a general meeting may be called by the Chairman on the request in

writing of 30 or more Ordinary (Voting) Members and may be called at any time by order of the Management Committee.

- c. At least two weeks' notice will be given of an annual general meeting and at least ten days' notice of any other general meeting to the Ordinary (Voting) Members of the Association. Particulars of its agenda will be posted on the Association's notice board four days in advance of the meeting. The following points will be considered at the annual general meeting:
 - i) The previous year's account and report of the Management Committee.
 - ii) The election of office bearers for the following year.
 - iii) Matters concerning the activities of the Association.
- d. Any Ordinary (Voting) Member who wishes to place an item on the agenda of a general meeting may do so provided he or she gives notice to the Honorary Secretary one week before the meeting is due to be held.
- e. The quorum for a general meeting shall be one quarter of the total ordinary (voting) membership of the Association or thirty (30) voting members, whichever is the lesser.
- f. In the event that there is no quorum, the meeting shall be adjourned to the same day in the following week at a time and place to be appointed. Should the number present then be insufficient to form a quorum, those present shall be deemed a quorum; however, they shall have no power to alter, amend, or add to any of the existing rules.
- g. The omission of notice for a general meeting of the Association, or the non-receipt of such notice by any individual entitled to receive it, shall not invalidate any actions taken at that meeting.
- h. All resolutions tabled at the general meeting shall be deemed passed where it is approved by a simple majority vote of the Ordinary (Voting) Members present at the general meeting.

11. AUDIT

- a. In accordance with the provision in Section 14 of the Charities Act 1994, an approved company auditor shall be appointed to audit the Association's financial statements of accounts.
- b. The appointment of the Auditor shall be effected with a resolution adopted by the Management Committee.
- c. The Auditor will be required to audit each year's accounts and present a report upon them to the Annual General Meeting. They may also be required by the

Chairman to audit the Association's accounts for any period within their service and at any date and make a report to the Chairman.

12. TRUSTEES

- a. If the Association at any time acquires any immovable property, such property shall be vested in trustees (who need not be members of the Association) who shall be appointed from time to time by the Management Committee. All trustees shall be required to execute appropriate declarations of trust of such property in favour of the Association. The trustees shall not effect any sale or mortgage of property without prior approval of the General Meeting of members.
- b. Any trustee may at any time resign his trusteeship, subject to his proper transfer of all property of the Association vested in his name to the remaining or new trustees.
- c. If a trustee dies or becomes a lunatic or of unsound mind or moves permanently or is absent from the Republic of Singapore for a period of one year, he shall be deemed to have resigned his trusteeship.
- d. If a trustee is guilty of misconduct of such kind as to render it undesirable that he continues as a trustee, the Management Committee may forthwith remove him from his trusteeship.
- e. Vacancies in the trusteeship may be filled at a general meeting, but the number shall not be greater than five or less than two.
- f. Notice of any proposal to remove a trustee from his trusteeship or to appoint a new trustee to fill a vacancy must be given by affixing in the premises of the Association a document containing such proposal at least two weeks before the meeting at which the proposal is to be discussed. The result of such a meeting shall then be notified to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities for approval.
- g. Only Singapore citizens shall be trustees. This rule shall not be altered or deleted.
- h. The address of each immovable property, the name of each trustee and any subsequent change must be notified to the Registrar of Societies and Commissioner of Charities.

13. PROHIBITIONS

- a. Gambling of any kind, excluding the promotion or conduct of a private lottery which has been permitted under the Private Lotteries Act Cap 250, is forbidden on the Association's premises. The introduction of materials for gambling or drug taking and bad characters into the premises is prohibited.

- b. The funds of the Association shall not be used to pay the fines of members who have been convicted in court. The Association shall not stand bail or guarantor for any person.
- c. The Association shall not attempt to restrict or in any other manner interfere with trade or prices or engage in any trade union activity as defined in any written law relating to Trade Unions for the time being in force in Singapore.
- d. The Association shall not hold any lottery, whether confined to its members or not, in the name of the Association or its office bearers, Management Committee or members.
- e. The Association shall not indulge in any political activity or allow its funds and/or premises to be used for political purposes.

14. AMENDMENT TO RULES

No alteration or addition to these Rules shall be made except as approved by a resolution passed by a majority of the Ordinary (Voting) Members who are present at a general meeting called for such purpose, and they shall not come into force without the prior sanction of the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities.

15. INTERPRETATION

In the event of any question or matter arising out of any point which is not expressly provided for in the Rules, the Management Committee shall have the power to use its discretion to determine the same, which determination shall be final and binding on all members.

16. DISSOLUTION AND CESSATION OF CHARITY STATUS

- a. The Association shall not be dissolved except with the consent of not less than 3/5 of the members of the Association for the time being resident in Singapore, expressed either in person or by proxy at a general meeting convened for the purpose, or by postal vote.
- b. In the event of the Association being dissolved as provided above, and that the Association ceases to be a registered charity under the Charities Act, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of the Association shall be fully discharged, and the remaining funds will be contributed to charity with similar objects in Singapore which are registered under the Charities Act, and as the members of the Association may determine at the General Meeting, unless otherwise allowed by the Commissioner of Charities.

- c. Notice of dissolution shall be given within seven days of the dissolution to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities.

<END>

ANNEX A

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Buddhism was first expounded by Shakyamuni Buddha. The Lotus Sutra, the essence of Mahayana Buddhism, clearly illuminated the way for all living beings to attain enlightenment. Nichiren Daishonin, the Buddha of the Latter Day of the Law, revealed the fundamental Law that is the heart of that sutra as *Nam-myoho-renge-kyo*. He went on to establish the means for the enlightenment of all humankind into the eternal future by giving concrete expression to *Nam-myoho-renge-kyo* as the Three Great Secret Laws. He also called for the realization of worldwide *kosen-rufu*.

The Soka Gakkai was founded on November 18, 1930, by Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda, his disciple with whom he shared a complete unity of purpose. They served as the organization's first and second presidents, respectively. The Soka Gakkai is a religious organization fulfilling the unique mission of actualizing the Daishonin's call for worldwide *kosen-rufu*, in exact accord with his teachings. It is the sole organization that embodies the vast compassion of Nichiren Daishonin and is spreading the Law amidst the challenging realities of life in the Latter Day of the Law. It was for this reason that Toda Sensei declared that it would be recorded as "Soka Gakkai Buddha" in the Buddhist scriptures of future ages.

Through a profound karmic connection, Makiguchi Sensei started to practice Nichiren Buddhism. He came to see it as a guiding principle for daily life and a source of value creation. Together with Toda Sensei, he began to actively propagate Nichiren Buddhism in order to achieve *kosen-rufu*. During World War II, Makiguchi Sensei remonstrated with the militarist government that had implemented a policy of compulsory worship of State Shinto. As a result, he was persecuted and imprisoned by the authorities, and ultimately died in prison. By laying down his life for his beliefs, Makiguchi Sensei left for future generations an example of the spirit of selfless dedication to propagating the Law.

Toda Sensei was imprisoned along with his mentor and, while in prison, awakened to the truth that the Buddha is life itself and realized his identity as a Bodhisattva of the Earth. After the war's end, he set to work on rebuilding the Soka Gakkai. Propounding the principle of human revolution, he began the task of reviving and renewing the significance of Nichiren Buddhism in the contemporary world based on his understanding of the true nature of life.

When he was inaugurated as the second Soka Gakkai president, he vowed that the Soka Gakkai would without fail accomplish *kosen-rufu*. He initiated that effort by enshrining at the Soka Gakkai Headquarters, as "the banner of propagation of the Lotus Sutra," the gohonzon (object of devotion) bearing the inscriptions "For the Fulfillment of the Great Vow for Kosen-rufu through the Compassionate Propagation of the Great Law" and "To be enshrined permanently

within the Soka Gakkai.” Achieving his lifetime goal of 750,000-member households, he established the foundation for *kosen-rufu* in Japan.

Third Soka Gakkai president, Daisaku Ikeda, declared his intent to take the leadership in *kosen-rufu* as a disciple fully sharing the spirit of Toda Sensei and initiated a dynamic new phase in the development of the organization.

In Japan, Ikeda Sensei achieved unprecedented growth in terms of propagation and membership, building a new popular force comprised of individuals awakened to their mission for *kosen-rufu*. He also realized all the plans and visions set out by Makiguchi Sensei and Toda Sensei, creating a wide-ranging and multifaceted movement for peace, culture, and education based on the principles of Nichiren Buddhism. Through undertaking pioneering initiatives in diverse spheres, he has established the Soka philosophy of value creation as a leading presence in society and the era, thus making *kosen-rufu* a tangible reality.

Immediately following his inauguration, Ikeda Sensei began to travel the globe, sowing the seeds of the Mystic Law, fostering capable individuals, and building the foundations for worldwide *kosen-rufu*. On January 26, 1975, he established the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) as an international association of the Soka Gakkai, comprising constituent organizations in countries and territories across the globe.

At the same time, he began engaging in dialogues based on Buddhism with leading world thinkers, delivering addresses at renowned universities, and authoring peace proposals, all in the effort to pursue a universal philosophy of humanism and build a network of people of goodwill committed to peace. Ikeda Sensei’s achievements in opening the great path of worldwide *kosen-rufu* are without precedent in the history of Buddhism. The Soka Gakkai thus regards Ikeda Sensei as the mentor of worldwide *kosen-rufu* and the President and spiritual leader of SGI in perpetuity.

The three founding presidents of the Soka Gakkai -- Makiguchi Sensei, who founded the Soka Gakkai; Toda Sensei, whose efforts led to the emergence of 750,000 Bodhisattvas of the Earth; and Ikeda Sensei, who then achieved the unprecedented by advancing *kosen-rufu* worldwide - - appeared in this world with the mission to fulfill Nichiren Daishonin’s call to realize *kosen-rufu*. They shall be regarded as the eternal mentors of worldwide *kosen-rufu*. The spirit of oneness of mentor and disciple and the practice of selfless dedication to propagating the Law demonstrated by the founding presidents represent the “Gakkai spirit” and serve as a timeless model for all Soka Gakkai members. The Soka Gakkai, originating in Japan and now encompassing the entire world, embodies this spirit in every endeavour.

Ikeda Sensei proposed building a centre of faith and practice for the Soka Gakkai in Shinanomachi, where Toda Sensei had led the movement for *kosen-rufu* and the enduring place of origin for the Soka Gakkai’s efforts for *kosen-rufu* imbued with the mentor-disciple spirit of the three founding presidents. He named this the Hall of the Great Vow for *Kosen-rufu*.

On November 5, 2013, Ikeda Sensei presided over the enshrinement of the *Kosen-rufu* Gohonzon at the official opening of the Hall and offered prayers for the realization of the great vow for worldwide *kosen-rufu* throughout eternity in the Latter Day of the Law. In this way,

he offered a model and example to his disciples worldwide of making a profound pledge to propagate the Mystic Law globally and into the eternal future.

Members from throughout the world, regardless of differences of nationality, gender, or age, gather in the Hall of the Great Vow for *Kosen-rufu* and -- uniting in spirit with the three founding presidents, eternal mentors of *kosen-rufu* -- pray for the happiness and prosperity of humankind, for world peace, and their personal human revolution, pledging together to advance worldwide *kosen-rufu*.

Ikeda Sensei has expressed the identity and mission of the Soka Gakkai in a calligraphy as “Nichiren Sekai-shu Soka Gakkai” (Nichiren World Religion Soka Gakkai), indicating that the Soka Gakkai is the organization carrying out the Buddha’s intent and decree, fulfilling the unique mission of widely propagating Nichiren Buddhism throughout the world.

Looking to the future of worldwide *kosen-rufu* into the twenty-third century, Ikeda Sensei shared his grand vision of establishing Shinanomachi as the Soka Gakkai’s global headquarters and entrusted its realisation to his disciples throughout the world, under the leadership of each successive president.

Honouring the three founding presidents as the eternal mentors of *kosen-rufu*, the Soka Gakkai is committed to fulfilling the great vow for worldwide *kosen-rufu* with faith that manifests the spirit of “many in body, one in mind,” and in accord with the global, future-oriented vision that Ikeda Sensei has set forth.

The Soka Gakkai Singapore (SGS), being a constituent organisation affiliated to the Soka Gakkai and practising Nichiren Buddhism in Singapore, is similarly committed to the vision of the three founding presidents. We became officially registered in 1972 with the Registry of Societies, and also became a registered charity in 1985.