

Youth with a Noble Vow

Background of the Song:

The song “Youth with a Noble Vow” with lyrics by Shin’ichi Yamamoto (pen name of SGI President Ikeda) and music by Music Corps representatives, was presented at the 5th Soka Gakkai Headquarters Leaders Meeting of the New Era of Worldwide *Kosen-rufu*—celebrating May 3, Soka Gakkai Day and Soka Gakkai Mothers’ Day—held at the Toda Memorial Auditorium in Sugamo, Tokyo, on April 19, 2014.

Explaining his thoughts behind the song in his essay “The Song of Human Victory”, President Ikeda said:

“A youth dedicated to the vow of *kosen-rufu* can spread boundless and eternal hope.

As my mentor Josei Toda said, the sight of our members singing songs resonating with fresh vigor is a sign of the Soka Gakkai’s triumphant future development.

In the song, I indicated that the Chinese characters for *youth* (normally read as *seinen* in Japanese) should be read as *kimi* (a familiar expression for “you”) so as to refer to all of you, my dear friends and fellow members. I did this because the vow to strive together for *kosen-rufu* that connects you and me in a one-to-one bond is the essence of the path of mentor and disciple. Another reason is that I would like all of you to continue striving and challenging yourselves in the vibrant spirit of youth as long as you live.”

President Ikeda elucidated the three points that was incorporated into the song:

- 1) To stand up courageously with the spirit that now is the time.
- 2) To speak out for truth and justice, viewing difficulties as a badge of honour.
- 3) To open the future through the triumph of successors united in spirit with their mentor.