

Report on Ikeda Studies in Education

Purpose

The Report on Ikeda Studies in Education is compiled and circulated by the Ikeda Research Institute for Soka Education ([IRISE](#)) of Soka University. The Report serves as an information-sharing tool for scholars and researchers of this field of study, with the aim of facilitating on a global basis, further advances in the research of and activities relevant to Ikeda studies in education.

Announcement: Daisaku Ikeda passes away at age 95

Soka University founder Daisaku Ikeda passed away at the age of 95 from natural causes on November 15. All of us at Soka are deeply saddened by his loss and offer our heartfelt condolences.

Mr. Ikeda dedicated his adult life to the advancement of education, establishing numerous schools and universities worldwide, with Soka International School Malaysia opening just three months before his passing. He carried forward the spirit and insights of Soka value-creating pedagogy from Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda, whom he honored as his mentors in life, further developing its philosophy and objectives to where it is now not only being studied but applied globally as well.

Soka University and the Ikeda Research Institute for Soka Education (IRISE) pledge to continue Mr. Ikeda's work, hopefully for an ever-expanding audience. Toward this end, we look to cooperate even closer with the contributors and readers of this Report going forward.

Junichi Kanzaka
Director, IRISE

News Update

Paraguayan University Confers Honorary Doctorate upon President Ikeda

On December 13, 2023, a ceremony was held for the conferment of an honorary doctorate upon Daisaku Ikeda by the Ibero-American University of Paraguay (UNIBE) in recognition of his contributions to education and the culture of peace. The doctorate's conferment was decided in March. UNIBE Rector Sanie Romero de Velázquez and Postgraduate Director Mgs. Eduardo Velázquez attended the award ceremony held at Soka University in Japan. Executive Advisor to Soka University in Japan Hiromasa Ikeda received the degree on behalf of his late-father. This is the 409th academic honor awarded to Mr. Ikeda.

Soka Gakkai Spain holds symposium with speakers from IEDDAI and other schools

On October 21, 2023, Soka Gakkai Spain held its 11th symposium on education, which featured speakers from the Daisaku Ikeda Research Institute for Education and Development (IEDDAI) at the University of Alcalá and the Autonomous University of Madrid. The symposium took place at a Soka Gakkai Spain culture center and linked online to other facilities in the country.

Soka Gakkai Spain General Director Enrique Caputo delivered the opening statement, followed by speeches from Autonomous University of Madrid, Faculty of Pedagogy Prof. Ana Belén Bayón, IEDDAI Director Dr. Alejandro Iborra Cuéllar and Vice Director Dr. Ana Belén Garcia Varela. The speakers shared insights on empathy and caring from the perspective of their respective fields of expertise.

University of Guelph-Humber's SERC-GC holds annual special lecture

On November 16, 2023, the Soka Education Research Centre on Global Citizenship (SERC-GC) of Canada's University of Guelph-Humber held its annual special lecture online. Following greetings from SERC-GC Director Dr. Paul Sherman, Soka University Prof. of Leadership Studies Maria Guajardo delivered a lecture entitled, "Dialogic Learning and Global Citizenship Education," in which she examines the capacity of dialogue to learn more about others and to effect transformative change in oneself.

The annual special lecture was first held in November 2018 to commemorate the publication of Tsunesaburo Makiguchi's seminal work, *The System of Value-Creating Pedagogy*, on November 18, 1930. Originally established in 2017 as an initiative of the university and renamed SERC-GC two years later when it became an official University of Guelph-Humber research centre, the Centre conducts academic inquiries into the educational philosophy of the three founding presidents of the Soka Gakkai.

Chinese Culture University's IRC holds international youth forum on Ikeda studies

On December 16, 2023, the Ikeda Research Center (IRC) of Chinese Culture University in Taiwan held its ninth international youth forum on Ikeda studies at its Taipei campus. Twelve researchers took part, including those from the National Taiwan University, Tokyo Institute of Technology and Soka University. Ritsuko Akasu of DePaul University, visiting researcher at Soka University's Ikeda Research Institute for Soka Education (IRISE), made a presentation entitled, "Enacting Ikeda's Educational Philosophy: Analysis of Teacher Accounts on Practicing Human Education for Peace."

Following the presentations, former Chinese Culture University president Lin Tsai Mei, who also served as the first director of IRC, provided a prepared critique. In it, she underscored the need for a human-centric education based on the philosophy of life's fundamental sanctity that Daisaku Ikeda persisted in advocating, a perspective that educators worldwide should embrace in fostering young people in order to realize global peace and human happiness.

IRC was established in September 2003 as the first academic body engaged in Ikeda studies in Taiwan, publishing Chinese translations of Ikeda's

works and related research papers to this day.

Soka University holds Goethe exhibition

The "Soka University Collection—Goethe Treasures Exhibition" opened at the university's Central Education Building in December 2023. It was held in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of Daisaku Ikeda's lecture at Soka on March 10, 2003, the first in his special series entitled "Goethe the Man."

The Soka University founder admired Goethe for his humanistic endeavors and constant striving toward noble ideals. Goethe scholar Manfred Osten described him as "one of his most loyal friends of Goethe" in 2009, when Ikeda was presented with a special commendation from the Goethe Society in Germany that same year.

Among the collectibles the "Goethe Treasures Exhibition" featured were a number of first edition works of the 19th-century German writer, playwright and poet, along with nine original missives. The exhibition closed on December 22, 2023.

Daisaku Ikeda on Education

[Teachers of My Childhood](#)

(From the book *One by One*, published in 2004)

This Issue's Selected Writing

Goulah, J. (2020). [Human education: Daisaku Ikeda's philosophy and practice of ningen kyōiku](#). *Schools: Studies in Education*, 17(1), 153-170.

Postscript

- We welcome comments regarding this Report as well as suggestions on specific material that it should feature in future issues. Contact: Ikeda Research Institute for Soka Education (IRISE) of Soka University (IRISE-access@soka.ac.jp)
- This Report is issued on a bimonthly basis, with the next release tentatively scheduled for March 18, 2024.