

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.

News Update

Soka University's IRISE holds commemorative Zhou-Ikeda symposium

On November 30 and December 1, the Ikeda Research Institute for Soka Education (IRISE) of Soka University held an international symposium to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the meeting between former Chinese premier Zhou Enlai and Daisaku Ikeda. The symposium, entitled “Peace and Development through Dialogue,” was held at the university and attended by 54 educators and scholars from seven countries engaged in research on Mr. Ikeda's philosophy on education and peace.

At the general session, Soka University President Masashi Suzuki and Board of Trustees Chair Yasunori Tashiro gave the opening remarks. These were followed by keynote speeches delivered by Yuji Miyamoto, president of the Japan-China Friendship Center and former ambassador of Japan to China; Kang San-jung, president of Chinzei Gakuin University and professor emeritus of the University of Tokyo; Han Dongyu, president of the Chinese Academic Study of Japanese History* and former

vice president of Northeast Normal University; Jia Huixuan, professor at Peking University's School of International Studies; Kazuteru Saionji, visiting professor of Higashi Nippon International University; and Ji Yanguant, professor of Nankai University's College of Marxism.

Two parallel sessions were held on the first day of the symposium, with the presenters and their papers accessible at this link:

[Parallel Sessions | Ikeda Research Institute for Soka Education \(IRISE\) | Soka University](#)

*Tentative translation

Soka Gakkai Spain hosts 12th symposium on education

On November 2, Soka Gakkai Spain (SGS) held the 12th online symposium on education under the theme “Education to awaken unlimited potential.” SGS General Director Enrique Caputo gave the opening remarks and followed by a lecture by Ana Belén García Varela, vice director of the Daisaku Ikeda Research Institute for Education and Development (IEDDAI) at Spain's University of Alcalá. In her lecture, “Rethinking education from the legacy of Daisaku Ikeda,” Vice Director Varela stated that education played a foundational role in realizing social reform; she also spoke of the importance for educational institutions to embrace “the spirit of dialogue” envisioned by Daisaku Ikeda.

University of Guelph-Humber's SERC-GC holds annual lecture online and participates in Youth Nuclear Peace Summit in November 2024

On November 18, the Soka Education Research

Centre on Global Citizenship (SERC-GC) of Canada's University of Guelph-Humber held its seventh annual lecture series online. The series is organized to commemorate the founding of the Soka Education Society (Jpn: Soka Kyoiku Gakkai) by Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda in 1930.

The latest lecture was delivered by Dr. Ira Helfand, a member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) International Steering Group. Citing escalating global tensions over armed clashes worldwide and the continued growth of cyberspace, Dr. Helfand stated that the possibility of a nuclear war occurring was greater today since the end of the Cold War. He said it was imperative to reaffirm that such a war could lead to the extinction of humanity and to forge ahead in the pursuit of abolishing nuclear arms. Before Dr Helfand's lecture, SERC-GC Director Dr. Paul Sherman introduced the history and advances of Soka education.

On November 7-8, Dr. Sherman and his six SERC-GC research assistants took part in another event, the Youth Nuclear Peace Summit held in Winnipeg at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, where he delivered a keynote address. In his address, he spoke on the Collaborative Online International Learning initiative in which his research center and Kansai Soka High School in Osaka, Japan, have been partnering in for the past three years.

The SERC-GC research assistants then shared the projects they are engaged in for nuclear abolition education.

Link to the SERC-GC's participation in the Youth Nuclear Peace Summit:

[Guelph-Humber student researchers present peace education, nuclear disarmament work at Youth Nuclear Peace Summit with Dr. Paul Sherman | University of Guelph-Humber](#)

Kantian studies scholar delivers online lecture at Soka University

On November 18, Prof. Dr. Dr. Matthias Lutz-

Bachmann of Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, an international authority in Kantian studies, delivered an online lecture for students at Soka University. The lecture was held as an affiliated event of the "Beethoven and the Ode to Joy" Exhibition held at the university's Global Square produced by the Ikeda Research Institute for Soka Education (IRISE) in honor of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Immanuel Kant (1724-1804).

After IRISE Deputy Director Takao Ito gave the opening remarks, Dr. Lutz-Bachmann noted that Beethoven's worldview was greatly influenced by Kant's ideas. The central philosophical belief of Kant, Dr. Lutz-Bachmann explained, lay in holding every human being, regardless of moral disposition or social standing, as having intrinsic worth and dignity. The Kantian scholar also shared his joy of imparting Kant's thoughts on peace with the youth studying at the institution founded on the pedagogical principles of Tsunesaburo Makiguchi.

Latest APPA journal on Daisaku Ikeda's perspectives released

The American Philosophical Practitioners Association (APPA) recently released its journal, "Philosophical Practice Vol. 19" focusing exclusively on the lifelong work and perspectives of Daisaku Ikeda.

APPA was founded by Dr. Lou Marinoff in 1998, who believes in the therapeutic capacity of philosophy to cope with daily-life problems, or "philosophical counseling." He met with Daisaku Ikeda on two separate occasions, their discourse culminating in a published dialogue "The Inner Philosopher: Conversations on Philosophy's Transformative Power."

In the latest journal, Dr. Marinoff shares his recollections of their encounters. Other contributors to the special issue were former UN Under-Secretary-General Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury; Dr. Jim Garrison, former president of the John Dewey Society; Dr. Sarah Wider, former

president of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society; Dr. Olivier Urbain, director of the Min-On Music Research Institute; and Dr. Jason Goulah, director of the DePaul University Institute for Daisaku Ikeda Studies in Education.

Because the “Philosophical Practice” is a paywall-protected journal, Dr. Marinoff has graciously agreed to provide a PDF version to subscribers of this Report. Interested parties are asked to contact intl-affairs-info@soka.jp for the PDF file.

Daisaku Ikeda on Education

[Peace and Human Security: A Buddhist Perspective for the Twenty-first Century](#)
(East-West Center, 1995) | [Daisaku Ikeda Official Website](#)

This Issue’s Selected Writing

Tsuneshaburo Makiguchi’s Geographic Pedagogy and Dialogue for Sustainability – Andrew Gebert, Professor of Ikeda Research Institute for Soka Education

[Earth Charter Magazine Vol IV - December 2024 - Earth Charter](#)

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, 2025.