

# 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

### USA

#### **Harvard Gutman Library holds online book talk on *Hope and Joy in Education***

On October 14, 2021, the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Gutman Library hosted a virtual book talk for *Hope and Joy in Education: Engaging Daisaku Ikeda Across Curriculum and Context* (see link below for further details). The multi-author work was developed in association with the Ikeda Center for Peace, Learning, and Dialogue and published by Teachers College Press. The event was attended by some 200 participants from 17 countries, including Costa Rica, Italy, Brazil, Indonesia, India and Mexico. It featured presentations by and dialogue with co-editors Drs. Isabel Nuñez, director and professor of the School of Education at Purdue University Fort Wayne, and Jason Goulah of DePaul University, who directs DePaul's Institute for Daisaku Ikeda Studies in Education.

Prof. Goulah shared that Daisaku Ikeda gave two addresses at Harvard University, one on "the Age of Soft Power" in 1991, and the other on "Mahayana Buddhism and 21st Century" in 1993. Noting that "many of the themes [Mr. Ikeda addressed then] are still relevant today," Prof. Goulah explained that

for Mr. Ikeda "education and Buddhism are two aspects of the same reality" in that they "both seek to enhance our humanity." In Mr. Ikeda's view, "we only become human when we make tenacious efforts to live as human beings" and that "this idea of becoming fully human cannot be overemphasized," said Goulah.

In her presentation, Dr. Nuñez, describing "illness, death, racism and violence" as "multiple pandemics," shared the difficulties of putting the book together in a stricken world. At the same time, however, she noted that "the act of teaching itself is an expression of hope, a manifestation of hope. But when the work of teaching had become so much more difficult, there was a real need to reconnect with that hope ... to reconnect with that hope and joy." According to the library's website, the Gutman Library Book Talks, serve as "a venue for critical discussion and engagement with current issues in the field of education research, practice and policy."

Video: [Hope and Joy in Education Book Talk \(panopto.com\)](#)

Ikeda Center article: [Harvard Book Talk Celebrates Hope and Joy in Education | The Ikeda Center for Peace, Learning & Dialogue | Cambridge, MA](#)

### Japan

#### **Daisaku Ikeda's annual peace proposal published in Japan**

On January 26, 2022, Daisaku Ikeda released his 40th annual peace proposal entitled "Transforming Human History: The Light of Peace and Dignity," to commemorate the founding of the Soka Gakkai International.

In his latest proposal, Mr. Ikeda called for the prompt adoption of an international treaty to facilitate the prevention, preparedness and response

to current and future pandemics. Moreover, as part of the global post-pandemic recovery process, he urged the building of “an economy that inspires hope in young people and enables women to shine with dignity.”

Referring to second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda (1900-58), who expressed the idea of global citizenship some 70 years earlier, Mr. Ikeda reiterated his commitment to education and identified “three key issue areas that require prompt resolution for the sake of current and future generations.” The first among these areas is “to ensure and enhance the provision of learning opportunities for children and adolescents,” an issue of particular importance as an estimated 1.6 billion students worldwide have had faced disruptions to their schooling during the pandemic. Citing the Transforming Education Summit that the UN will convene in September this year, which he describes as “a perfect opportunity for productive discussions on such themes as education in emergencies and inclusive education.” And he concludes: “I strongly believe that the adoption of a global action plan for the learning, growth and happiness of all children at the Transforming Education Summit ... will constitute a vital foundation for safeguarding the dreams and hopes of children today, and all those yet to be born.”

2022 SGI Peace Proposal full text:

<https://www.daisakuikeda.org/assets/files/peaceproposal2022.pdf>

### **Thailand**

#### **Thailand’s Thammasat University and Soka University hold joint seminar**

On February 14, 2022, Thammasat University of Thailand and Soka University in Japan held Thammasat University – Soka University Joint Seminar 2022, a joint online seminar with SDGs and Education as its theme.

Thammasat University Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts Asst. Prof. Dr. Passapong Sripicharn and Prof. Noranit Setabutr, President of the Thammasat University Council, offered the opening remarks. They were followed by Soka University President Prof. Yoshihisa Baba, who reiterated his

institution’s commitment to the SDG promise of “leave no one behind” as it strives to contribute to the welfare of all humanity and the advancement of lasting peace worldwide.

Next, four other scholars from the two universities gave their presentations. Thammasat’s Faculty of Economics Asst. Prof. Chol Bunnag spoke on SDGs and the roles of universities, while Faculty of Liberal Arts lecturer Ajarn Anant Utchin presented insights on the importance of gender diversity in university settings and its constructive influence on society in general.

They were followed by Soka University Dean of the Faculty of International Liberal Arts Prof. Laurence MacDonald, who underscored the value of information communication technologies in providing a quality education. Prof. Satoshi Sasaki of Soka’s Faculty of Nursing then spoke on global citizenship education and SDGs.

## **Daisaku Ikeda on Education**

“[Be Creative Individuals](#)” (A speech delivered at Soka University’s third entrance ceremony, the first attended by the author, held on April 9, 1973.)

## **This Issue’s Selected Writing**

Edited by Isabel Nuñez (Purdue University Fort Wayne) and Jason Goulah (DePaul University) and published by Teachers College Press in association with the Ikeda Center for Peace, Learning, and Dialogue, *Hope and Joy in Education: Engaging Daisaku Ikeda across Curriculum and Context* includes 18 chapters from more than 20 scholar-educators from diverse disciplines.

Teachers College Press, *Hope and Joy in Education*  
<https://www.tcpres.com/hope-and-joy-in-education-9780807765104>

### **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](mailto:IRISE-access@soka.ac.jp))
- This Report is distributed on a bimonthly basis, with the next release tentatively scheduled for May 18, 2022.