

# 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

### Canada

#### **Canada's University of Guelph-Humber Soka Education Research Centre on Global Citizenship holds First International Symposium**

On April 8, the Soka Education Research Centre on Global Citizenship ([SERC-GC](#)) of the University of Guelph-Humber in Canada held its First International Symposium online on the theme, "Operationalizing Value-Creating Education Across International Milieus." More than 130 scholars, researchers and students from 21 countries took part in the event.

The symposium opened with a message from Daisaku Ikeda read out by SERC-GC Director Dr. Paul Sherman. In his message, Mr. Ikeda explained that Tsunesaburo Makiguchi "perceived that lying at the heart of value is 'life'" and that is why, in a world confronting the most daunting of challenges, "the inestimable worth of all lives, those of young people and children in particular, must lie at the root of our every expression and endeavor."

Mr. Ikeda goes on to say, "the challenge of education is to safeguard the inherent dignity of each and every young life and set free their boundless capacity for creativity; a task requiring persistent, often unseen effort, and serving as a beacon of hope that nothing can dim or diminish." And he concludes, "The path to a future of peace and harmonious

coexistence ... is to be found in amplifying the union of global citizens as they strive to cast for themselves and others the light of wisdom and compassion." And it was this reason that he remains convinced that "this symposium represents a step forward that is as enduring as it is resolute in realizing a century of education, of life, and of peace."

Following words from University of Guelph-Humber Interim Vice-Provost Dr. George Bragues and Soka University President Masashi Suzuki, Dr. Olivier Urbain, director of the Min-On Music Research Institute affiliated with the Japan-based Min-On Concert Association, delivered the keynote address. In his address, "Multi-Modal Value-Creating Education for Global Justice Enactment," Dr. Urbain pointed out that it was not enough to seek solutions through progressive logical reasoning for a world riddled by various challenges whose roots lie in prejudice and discrimination. He argued that in order to overcome the challenges humanity currently faces, "this is the exact time when we, the people ... need to stand up in solidarity to create value and transform all crises into opportunities for individual and collective growth."

The virtual symposium also featured presentations and a Q&A session. Dr. Sherman examined the defining attributes of global citizen education and spoke on the importance of students to constantly be aware of the roles and responsibilities that a global citizen needs to embrace and enact.

### Canada

#### **Université Laval of Canada Opens Ikeda Studies Centre for Education to Global Citizenship, Dialogue and Peace**

On April 19, [Université Laval](#) held a ceremony formally establishing its Ikeda Studies Centre for Education to Global Citizenship, Dialogue and Peace, the first of its kind in the world for a French-language institution.

In a message of felicitations submitted for the

occasion, Daisaku Ikeda framed “education as a fundamental force that can set free the boundless potentiality found within the life of every youth” and by “resolutely choosing dialogue over all else, we are able to transcend the differences that divide us.” In doing so, it will “inspire in global citizenry new creative capacities to overcome every crisis” and that the Centre “represents a message of hope that education, as a united endeavor, will prevail over whatever violence or division riddles the world.”

Université Laval owes its roots to a seminary founded in Québec in 1663, making it the oldest French-language university in North America boasting numerous distinguished alumni. In May 2010, Université Laval presented Daisaku Ikeda with an honorary doctorate of education and, having taken an active interest in Ikeda studies and research, it began offering an undergraduate course led by Dr. Vincent Fauque that centers on the ideals of global citizenship, dialogue and peace drawing on Mr. Ikeda’s ideas and works, in January 2022.

The subsequent effort to establish the Centre was led by Faculty of Education Dean Fernand Gervais, Faculty of Arts and Humanities Dean Guillaume Pinson and Faculty of Theology and Religious Sciences Dean Guy Jobin. The Centre plans to organize lecture series for students as well as seminars on Ikeda studies going forward.

In her address, Université Laval Retor Sophie D’Amours expressed hope that the vision and ideas developed by Mr. Ikeda that bring people together in this divisive era would take firm root at her school, while Dean Gervais spoke on the importance of carrying forward Mr. Ikeda’s thoughts empowering individuals to lead contributive lives.

## **USA**

### **“Hope and Joy in Curriculum Studies” Session at 2022 AERA Annual Meeting**

On April 22, the symposium session “Hope and Joy in Curriculum Studies: Engaging with Daisaku Ikeda’s Thought” was held as part of the 2022 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting. The session featured six scholars from diverse geographies and disciplines and aimed to: “examine the many places across curricula where hope and joy are and can be strong and vibrant.” Inspired by and drawing on the thought of Daisaku Ikeda, these scholars delivered presentations on reinvigorating hope and joy in curriculum studies, as well as in their own

professional lives and in the lives of their students and communities. With the session, the scholars sought to advance Ikeda studies as a necessary and new—uniquely Eastern and quintessentially universal—framework for addressing the most pressing issues facing society and education today.

Presenters included Jason Goulah of DePaul University, who also chaired the session; Isabel Nuñez of Purdue University, Fort Wayne; Nozomi Inukai of DePaul University; Francyne Huckaby of Texas Christian University; Joe Ohlinger of Purdue University, Fort Wayne; and Johnny Lupinacci of Washington State University.

In his overview, Dr. Goulah explained that the session was inspired by and featured contributors to the book *Hope and Joy in Education: Engaging Daisaku Ikeda Across Curriculum and Context* (Teachers College Press, 2021). He also shared that the Society of Professors of Education had recently announced it was recognizing the book with its 2022 Outstanding Book Award at its annual meeting held concurrent with AERA (see below).

Thereafter, Drs. Nuñez and Inukai reported on their chapters and the impact Daisaku Ikeda’s philosophy has in their research and practice. In her presentation, Dr. Huckaby acknowledged that while she tends to be more pessimistic, she was struck by the underlying joy and hope found in Daisaku Ikeda’s work and thinking and called for individuals to come up with imaginative ways in which to amplify means to achieve peace. Dr. Lupinacci noted in his presentation that value creation in Ikeda’s thought takes hope as a point of departure, which he felt was particularly important and aligns with focus on the wisdom and capacity of Earth’s diverse species to facilitate healing. In his presentation, Dr. Ohlinger noted that writing his chapter for *Hope and Joy in Education* involved “a personal reeducation,” that while scholarship and related achievements have been associated with self-esteem, self-worth and confidence, Mr. Ikeda’s notion of “the greater self” lies in a much deeper realm derived from a realization of self.

The session ended with questions from the audience on such topics as the importance of dialogue and the role that education must play during the pandemic.

## **USA**

### **Society of Professors of Education Awards *Hope and Joy in Education***

On April 23, *Hope and Joy in Education: Engaging Daisaku Ikeda Across Curriculum and Context* (Teachers College Press, 2021) received the 2022 Society of Professors of Education Outstanding Book Award. The multi-author book was edited by Isabel Nuñez (Purdue University, Fort Wayne) and Jason Goulah (DePaul University) and developed in association with the Ikeda Center for Peace, Learning, and Dialogue.

The award was conferred by the chair of the book award committee, Pamela Konkol of Concordia University Chicago, at the Society's annual meeting. The full list of awardees can be found here: <https://societyofprofessorsofeducation.com/2013/08/15/society-of-professors-of-education-book-award/>

The Society of Professors of Education is one of the oldest and most respected academic associations in the United States. Established in 1902, its founding members include John Dewey, Charles DeGarmo, and Walter B. Jacobs. It strives "to serve the diverse needs and interests of the education professoriate" and aims "to provide a forum for consideration of major issues, tasks, problems and challenges confronting professional educators."

### **Japan**

#### **Soka University's IRISE releases "Soka Education" No. 15**

Soka University's Ikeda Research Institute for Soka Education (IRISE) recently published Volume 15 of its journal *Soka Education*. The latest annual publication features "What Ikeda Daisaku Learned at 'Toda University'" (translated into English by DePaul University's Dr. Nozomi Inukai) as well as the keynote address by former Soka University President Yoshihisa Baba delivered at the 11th Daisaku Ikeda International Philosophy Academic Symposium held in November 2021.

Click here for:

[Publications - Ikeda Research for Soka Education \(IRISIE\)](#)

### **Japan**

#### **Soka University's IRISE to host the 1st International Symposium on Global Citizenship Education in 2022**

The Ikeda Research Institute for Soka Education (IRISE) of Soka University will be holding the 1st International Symposium on Global Citizenship

Education on October 22-23, 2022. The symposium, which has adopted "Restoring Learning to Daily Living: Global Citizenship and John Dewey" as its theme, will commemorate the 15th anniversary of the opening of the Center for Dewey Studies at Soka University. IRISE has begun to accept papers (in English only) from both established and emerging scholars and researchers on this theme. Due date for the abstract submission is on June 28, 2022. Each abstract will undergo a blind peer-review process, and a notification of acceptance will be sent out within one month. For further information, please visit the institute website at: [https://www.soka.ac.jp/en/edu/lec\\_sympto/gce\\_sympo](https://www.soka.ac.jp/en/edu/lec_sympto/gce_sympo)

## **Daisaku Ikeda on Education**

[Realizing a Sustainable Future Through the Power of Education](#) (On the occasion of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development)

## **This Issue's Selected Writing**

["History and Overview of Soka Education: Practical Implications"](#)

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## **Announcement**

### **Soka University names new president**

On April 1, 2022, Masashi Suzuki was appointed Soka University President, succeeding Yoshihisa Baba, who served in that post since 2013. President Suzuki previously served as university vice president and dean of the Faculty of Education.

Link:

<https://www.soka.ac.jp/en/news/2022/04/10848/>

## **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 issued on a bimonthly basis, with the next release tentatively scheduled for July 18, 2022