

It's an Honorary Doctorate for Daisaku Ikeda

Varsity Honors Peace Crusader

The University of Nairobi conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Letters upon the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) President Daisaku Ikeda last December. The presentation ceremony took place at the Soka University auditorium in Tokyo Japan. Soka University is ran by Soka Gakkai international. The ceremony was attended by thousands of Soka university students and staff including the Rector, Dr Kazuo Takematsu and the President, Mr Kinnosuke Komuro and Kenyan Embassy, Tokyo, officials.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof F. J. Gichaga conferred the honorary degree on behalf of the Chancellor President Daniel arap Moi. President Ikeda is the fifth person to receive an honorary degree from the University of Nairobi. Other recipients include the first president of the Republic of Kenya Mzee Jomo Kenyatta and President Daniel arap Moi. The ceremony marked the first time the university has conducted a conferment ceremony for an honorary doctorate outside Kenya. The Vice-Chancellor was accompanied by the academic registrar Prof Jesse Mugambi and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts Prof Dustan Obara.

Prof Gichaga opened the proceedings which were emceed by Prof Mugambi. He lauded the SGI's presidents leaderships in promoting activities toward the creation of global harmony and exist-

ing co-operation between UoN and Soka University.

Prof Obara read the citation for the honorary title and paid tribute to President Ikeda's wide ranging activities in promoting peace, culture and education throughout the world. Prof Obara said that Mr Ikeda gives credence to the assertion of the English Poet Rudyard Kipling that 'words are — the most powerful drug used by mankind. He handed the citation to the SGI leader. (see citation)

In his acceptance speech Mr Ikeda, donned in the official academic gown of the University of Nairobi, said he would continue his endeavours in the same spirit as that of the Kenyan President Kenyatta, who declared he would endure any persecutions for the purpose of serving the people. The SGI leader asserted that the rich humanism pulsing through the African culture would without fail become a wellspring of wisdom for the world in overcoming the deadlocks of modern civilization. President Ikeda declared that "as a proud member of the University of Nairobi", he would do all in his power to further spread the tide of dialogue centering on humanity, culture and philosophy around the world.

Meanwhile the University of Soka conferred the Soka University's "Highest Award of Honor" on the Vice Chancellor Prof F. J. Gichaga.

The Award was conferred in recog-

nition of Prof Gichaga's professional contributions in engineering and technology and to the general development and management of various engineering fields in Kenya. The Award also recognised his contributions to teaching, research and publishing and in university management and administration.

On receiving the award the Vice-Chancellor thanked Soka University for the great honour bestowed on him, the University of Nairobi and Kenya.

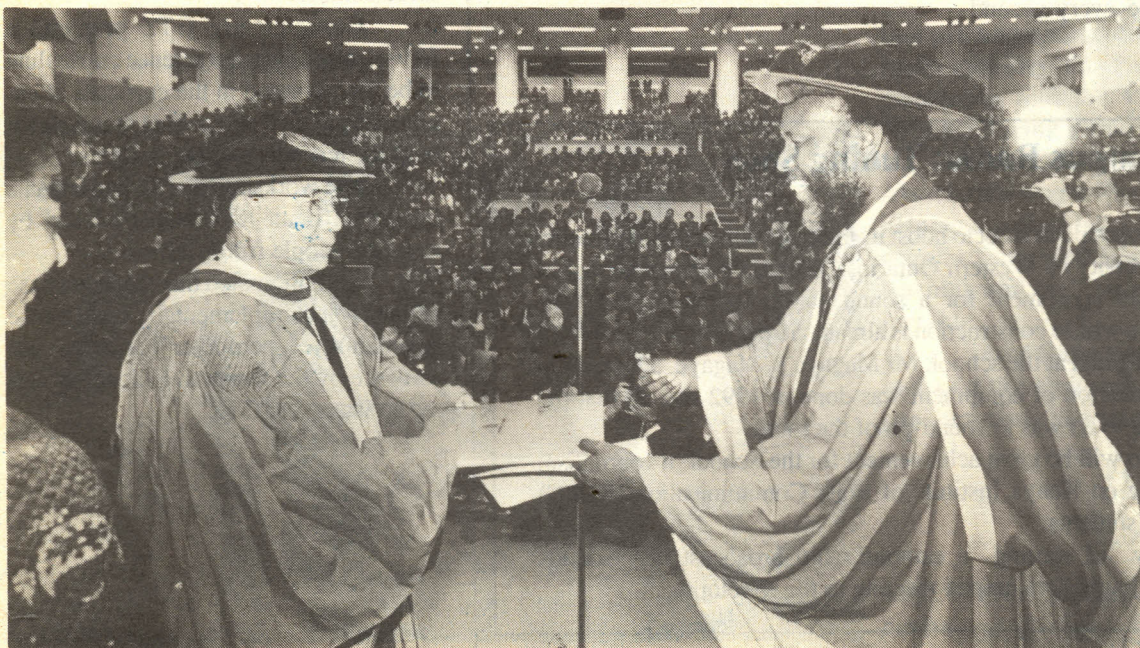
Other recipients of the Highest Award include the African National Congress President Mr Nelson Mandela and former Nigerian President General Olesegun Obasanjo.

In the Spirit of Co-operation

Since 1984, the University of Nairobi and Soka University have engaged in several cultural and educational exchange programmes. This relation culminated in the conclusion of a students exchange agreement in 1989. The first phase of this agreement is in force. Soka University is currently hosting a Nairobi University Student who is pursuing a PhD in commerce. Likewise the first exchange student from Soka University joined the Institute of African Studies of the University of Nairobi last September to pursue his postgraduate studies in anthropology.

The Department of Literature at

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The Vice-Chancellor Prof F.J. Gichaga (right) present the Honorary Doctorate of Letters to Dr Daisaku Ikeda.