

The Vow of Ikeda Kayo-kai

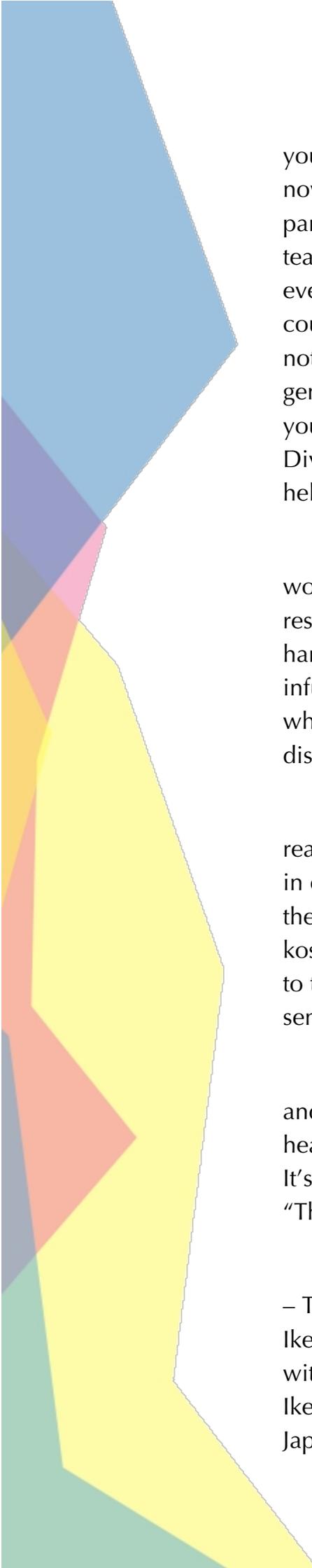
Background of the Song:

“The Vow of the Ikeda Kayo-kai” was announced and shared during the 27th Headquarters Leaders Meeting of the New Era which was held at Makiguchi Memorial Hall in Hachioji, Tokyo on March 4, 2009. Representatives of the young women division presented the song “The Vow of the Ikeda Kayo-kai” in high spirits. Upon hearing the song, SGI President Ikeda applauded loudly to express his utmost appreciation.

The “Ikeda Kayo-kai for the Second Phase of Kosen-rufu” was formed, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Kosen-rufu Day on March 16, 2008, for all members of the young women division who have committed to a vow to live out their lives for the realization of kosen-rufu together with their mentor.

In May 2008, President Ikeda wrote in his essay, “While the present members of the group constitute its first ‘class’, a second and a third and countless other ‘classes’ will steadily follow, creating a beautiful, admirable, and mighty stream of capable individuals that will flow on into the eternal future.” The pride of the Ikeda Kayo-kai is none other than the vow we have made as disciples of President Ikeda. We must convey this spirit to our future generations, into eternity. This is the way we want to respond to the encouragement from our mentor.

With these sentiments overflowing from our hearts, the composition of the song, “The Vow of Ikeda Kayo-kai” began. The first draft was completed, and the song was recorded in a CD and presented to President Ikeda on February 18, 2009. In response, President Ikeda wrote the following.



“On February 18 this year, I first heard the original draft for the young women’s new song, ‘The Vow of the Ikeda Kayo-kai’, which is now being sung throughout Japan and also [in translation] in other parts of the world. I thought it was a fine song and that its writing team had done a commendable job. But I knew that they could do even better — that, with the challenging spirit of the Kayo-kai, they could easily go beyond what they had achieved so far and produce not just a good song but a great one that would live on for generations. This is because I truly believe in the potential of these young leaders I had fostered. I shared these thoughts at the Women Division and Young Women Division executive conference that was held that day.”

Deeply inspired by their mentor powerful speech, the young women division firmly resolves: “We must compose a song that responds to this profound expectation of our mentor! Let’s strive even harder!” They took on this challenge, starting with prayers. They infused the lyrics with an even deeper vow to grow into individuals who are the very embodiment the spirit of oneness of mentor and disciple.

President Ikeda presented a poem to the Ikeda Kayo-kai which reads, “Together with our mentor, with eternal brilliance of the sun in our hearts! With hearts like the beautiful Lotus, the network of is the world’s foremost garden of happiness!” As flowers of hope and kosen-rufu, we have the mission to expand the network of happiness to the entire world! Let us fulfil our mission with joy! It was based on sentiments of gratitude and joy that we recomposed the melody.

Two days later, on February 20, the newly composed melody and lyrics were presented to President Ikeda, who was delighted to hear the revised version and commented, “This is extremely good. It’s rock-solid!” Thereafter, the lyrics were given a final touch-up and “The Vow of Ikeda Kayo-kai” was finally completed.

Living one’s youth dedicated to a shared vow with the mentor – This is the core message is encapsulated in the song, “The Vow of Ikeda Kayo-kai”. Today, as we initiate a triumphant advancement with great cheer while singing this song in high spirits, “The Vow of Ikeda Kayo-kai” is now sung by the youthful disciples throughout Japan and the world.