

## **Important announcement about SGI-UK activities between 3<sup>rd</sup> March and 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

Dear Friends,

The Coronavirus situation in the UK is providing us with an interesting opportunity to be creative about how we carry out activities for kosen-rufu.

Following advice from SGI-Europe, and the example of a number of other SGI organisations around Europe, we have made a decision which will affect all SGI-UK's activities from tomorrow (Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March) until Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April, by which time we will have reviewed. Today's Government Public Health advice and COBRA meeting both suggest that this is a situation which is going to escalate. In light of this, and to ensure that we put the protection of the members and guests of SGI-UK as our highest priority, I am sending this out to you today.

Given the potential for this contagious virus to spread rapidly throughout our membership, we feel it is justified to limit, as much as possible, the opportunities for people to meet together and reduce social contact and thereby spread the virus through our network.

We have decided therefore to suspend with effect from tomorrow (Tuesday) the following activities:

- All local meetings at Area, headquarters, chapter and district level.
- Meetings of more than 3 people. This includes discussion meetings, study lectures, Divisional meetings and so on. Smaller local meetings of up to 3 people can take place, based on local circumstances - to be reviewed.
- Meetings at our London centres: South London National Centre, London Ikeda Peace Centre, West London Centre. The centres will be closed, so there will be no keibi and no shop facilities at any of these London centres.
- Activities at Taplow Court will be suspended from Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Taplow Court will not be open for visitors. The shop will be closed, although mail order will still be possible for the time being.
- Courses, whether at Taplow Court or any other venue, will be cancelled between 7<sup>th</sup> March and 19<sup>th</sup> April.

We feel that this decision is a necessary measure to protect our members and the wider population. I am sure that a lot of effort has gone into preparing for

the activities which will be affected – please be assured that no effort is ever wasted.

As I mentioned above, this provides us with a creative opportunity to look at how we use this current time, taking advantage of technology and other ways of remote access to keep in touch and share inspiration.

In 2003, during the SARS outbreak in Hong Kong and Taiwan, when severe travel restrictions were imposed, members devised the 1-2-3 campaign which involved:

1. Chanting daimoku for at least 1 hour every day
2. Studying the Goshō and President Ikeda's guidance for at least 20 minutes every day
3. Contacting – by phone, for example – and encouraging at least 3 members and friends every day

Restrictions around people's movement led to these creative ways to maintain connections and keep their 'faith like flowing water'. Let's consider how we can emulate this example and ensure that the kosen-rufu movement continues despite the challenges this situation is giving us.

More information will follow very soon with: suggestions about using technology for inspiration and keeping in touch, information about cancellations and refunds for courses and other activities, Gohonzon receiving and maintaining our determination about doubling the Youth Division, even in this unusual time. I am sure that there will be many other questions, and we will send information as we have it.

Thank you all for your understanding at this time.

Best wishes,  
Robert

Robert Harrap  
SGI-UK General Director