

Experts debated how to harness the power and passion of youth at a symposium on SGI president Daisaku Ikeda's 2017 peace proposal

What is it to be a young person in the 21st century and live with the shroud of a huge nuclear stockpile that could blow the planet ten times over? What do you make of an era of communication where humanism is dipping and we have stopped listening to each other? What do you do when surrounded by the cushion of familiarity, you treat the unfamiliar like an alien invasion?

Amid a backdrop of growing regional tension, the urgent need for universal solidarity and the humanitarian challenge from a growing refugee crisis came alive last Friday at a symposium centering around Soka Gakkai International president Daisaku Ikeda's 2017 peace proposal.

Arun Maira, former member, Planning Commission, and former India Chairman of the Boston Consulting Group was the keynote speaker. Other speakers were Cmdr C. Uday Bhaskar, Retd Commodore, Indian Navy, Director, Society for Policy Studies; Rajat Kathuria, head of Indian Council for Research on Economics Relations (ICRIER); and Ms Prathibha Prahlad, eminent classical dancer and cultural visionary.

Keynote speaker Arun Maira said, "We should work to reduce WMD (Weapon of Mass Destruction). But there is one WMD that we must proliferate; it is Ways of Mass Dialogue. We must learn to overcome the fear of the stranger, then we develop and learn more. When we keep searching for the familiar, we are not evolving."

He even highlighted how a recent study had shown increased use of social platforms had resulted in a 40 per cent drop in real conversations and intimacy. "Social media is everywhere. You can find anything in the world on it. But because there is so much, we select. We are pushed into communities which are tightly bound by familiarity and shut ourselves from people who may be different from us. The ability to listening to others is weakening. It is a very complex society with complex problems. For me, listening is the simple way to deal with it. We must increase the ability to listen. Only then can there be compassion. Schools should teach students to listen. In fact, there should be a National Listening Day. It is time to press the pause button and put our smart phones on silent."

Emphasising the urgent need for working towards global peace, Cmdr Uday Bhaskar said that though the world would be commemorating the September 11 attacks in another three days, global peace continues to elude humanity.

Mr Kathuria asked how do we invest in peace? "By investing in trade. When we establish a system of mutual inter-dependence, then the probability of conflict reduces. Within India what investment do we need to make for peace? We need to invest in jobs. That will buy us peace and therefore a better environment."

However, Prathibha Prahlad felt that cultural engagement was the only way of building mutual understanding and tolerance. Only when we are sure of where we come from and our identity would we be respectful of others and their roots. Drawing parallels between peace and culture, Prahlad said, "We take art and culture for granted. However, culture and art can bind people, build relationships beyond boundaries and create one world and one boundary."

Focussing on the peace proposal, Vishesh Gupta, chairperson, Bharat Soka Gakkai, said, "In these times of conflict, the human touch of reaching out and listening to the other is at a premium. There is an urgent need to establish a culture of trust, a culture of inclusiveness. President Ikeda's current proposal addresses many of these issues, impressing on us the need to bring to the fore a culture of respect for the other." Going further Gupta quoted President Ikeda and said: "The world is not simply a collection of states, nor is it composed solely of religions and civilisations. Our living, breathing world is woven of endeavours of countless human beings, ... but no two of whom are the same.

"To view and judge others only through the prism of religion or ethnicity distorts the rich reality we each possess as individuals. In contrast, when we develop a deep appreciation, through our individual friendships, of each other's unique value, differences of ethnicity or religion are illuminated by the dignity and worth of that friend and shine as the value of diversity."

In the peace proposal, Dr Ikeda said that the world should go beyond looking at the problem of displaced persons in terms of numbers and build truly just and inclusive societies. Towards that end, he has proposed that such people should be given the opportunity to directly work in areas that help others who have been forcibly dislocated.

Further, Dr Ikeda urged the United Nations and the world's universities to work together to create educational opportunities for refugee youth. Despite the many challenges to achieving global peace, Dr Ikeda said he is "not pessimistic about humanity's future" because of his faith in "our world's young people, each of whom embodies hope and the possibility of a better future." Each year President Ikeda formulates a peace proposal that goes beyond diagnosing obstacles to providing pragmatic solutions based on humanism and nurturing of people-to-people contacts. A staunch proponent of dialogue as the foundation of peace, Ikeda has travelled to more than 50 countries, meeting and holding dialogues with people, including political and intellectual leaders, with absolute conviction that international understanding and the realisation of peace begins with people-to-people dialogue. Recognising his tireless and unflagging efforts for world peace, the United Nations conferred the Peace Award in 1983 on him.

Youth key to a better and peaceful future: Experts

New Delhi, Sep 10 As nations war, inequality widens and an ever-growing humanitarian challenge of a global refugee crisis threatens peaceful existence, the promise of a better future lies in the hands of the youth, a symposium here has stressed.

The call for global peace and solidarity was made at the conference centring around Soka Gakkai International (SGI) president Daisaku Ikeda's 2017 peace proposal titled "The Global Solidarity of Youth: Ushering in a New Era of Hope".

The SGI is a Buddhist NGO with branches across the world, including many in India. Held by the Indian arm of SGI, Bharat Soka Gakkai, Friday's symposium, attended by eminent economists, classical dancers and defence and planning experts, focussed on different aspects of development through which global coexistence can be achieved.

Invoking the September 11 attacks in the US, C Uday Bhaskar, security and strategic affairs expert, said that "global peace was more elusive now than ever".

"We are just days away from Sept 11 and all of you are aware of the significance, the corrosive resonance of Sept 11. Sixteen years later, I submit it to your consideration that global peace is even more elusive this year than it was in the last," he said. "Its desirability has been burnished by a few more notches given the kind of challenges to global peace. But nonetheless I believe the efforts now should be made with renewed vigour," Bhaskar, retired commodore in Indian Navy, said.

He noted that the younger generations require "higher levels of awareness of the problem at hand" pointing at the increasing nuclear risk ranging from Hiroshima to Fukushima. Elaborating on the economy's part in achieving global peace mentioned in the proposal, Rajat Kathuria of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) said that conflict could be reduced by increasing trade between countries. "The probability of conflict reduces considerably if two countries or a group of countries trade with each other or are economically interdependent. That's one way to approach it," Kathuria said.

To create a peaceful environment inside the country, he pointed out that more employment opportunities would reduce inequality in society and lead to a peaceful future for the coming generations.

Eminent classical dancer Prathibha Prahlad reflected upon Ikeda's words about young people's part in upholding and protecting the core values of human rights.

She also said a deep connection to culture was required. "Education needs to be linked to culture. Culture of hearts brings people together, it teaches us to respect others and yourself. If we make an effort to understand other cultures and their traditions, and they do the same, we can all aim for a better future with respect for each other in our hearts," she said.

The 35th peace proposal by Ikeda says that the "world should go beyond looking at the problem of displaced persons in terms of numbers and build just and inclusive societies". Ikeda has listed three priority areas crucial to a peaceful society as well as to attaining the United Nations' sustainable development goals.

In his proposal he highlighted "prohibiting and abolishing nuclear weapons, restoring hope in the hearts of refugees and building a culture of human rights" as the primary tools for a better world.

'Future lies in youth power'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 8 SEPTEMBER

That the future lies in the power and passion of youth was the crux of the symposium on Daisaku Ikeda's 2017 peace proposal whose theme was "The Global Solidarity of Youth: ushering in a New era of Hope" held here on Friday.

Ikeda is the president of the Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a Buddhist association of more than 12 million members in 192 countries and territories. A staunch proponent of dialogue as the foundation of peace, Ikeda has travelled to more than 50 countries, meeting and holding dialogue with people, including political and intellectual leaders, convinced that international understanding and the realisation of peace begins with people-to-people dialogue.

Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG) is the Indian affiliate of the Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a global association of grassroots organisations that seek to promote peace and respect



for all people. It is emphasised that amid a backdrop of growing regional tensions, there is an urgent need for universal solidarity to deal with the humanitarian challenges like refugee crisis. Arun Maira, former member of Planning Commission, was the keynotes speaker at the symposium. Other speakers were C Uday Bhaskar, Retd. Commodore, Indian Navy and Director, Society for Policy Studies; Rajat Kathuria, Head of Indian Council for Research on Economics Relations (ICRIER); and Prathibha

Prahlad, eminent classical dancer, cultural visionary and Padma Shri Awardee.

Maira said: "We should work to reduce WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction). But there is one WMD that we must proliferate; it is Ways of Mass Dialogue. We must learn to overcome the fear of the stranger, then we develop and learn more. When we keep searching for the familiar, we are not evolving," he said. Highlighting the urgent need for working towards global peace, Bhaskar said though the world

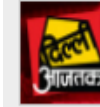
will be commemorating the September 11 attacks in another three days, global peace continues to elude humanity. Drawing parallels between peace and culture, Prathibha Prahlad said, "We take art and culture for granted. However, culture and art can bind people, build relationships beyond boundaries and create one world and one boundary."

Focusing on the peace proposal, Vishesh Gupta, chairperson, Bharat Soka Gakkai, said: "In these times of conflict, the human touch of reaching out and listening to the other is at a premium. There is an urgent need to establish a culture of trust, a culture of inclusiveness. President Ikeda's current proposal addresses many of these issues, impressing on us the need to bring to the fore a culture of respect for the other."

Coming from all walks of life, the members of BSG are engaged in their 'human revolution', believing that a fundamental change in a single individual can bring about a great transformation in society.

Humari Delhi: SYMPOSIUM ORGANISED BY BHARAT SOKA GAKKAI

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Youth key to a better and peaceful future: Experts **Business Standard**

Press Trust of India | New Delhi

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Invoking the September 11 attacks in the US, C Uday Bhaskar, security and strategic affairs expert, said that "global peace was more elusive now than ever". "We are just days away from Sept 11 and all of you are aware of the significance, the corrosive resonance of Sept 11. Sixteen years later, I submit it to your consideration that global peace is even more elusive this year than it was in the last," he said. "Its desirability has been burnished by a few more notches given the kind of challenges to global peace. But nonetheless I believe the efforts now should be made with renewed vigour," Bhaskar, retired commodore in Indian Navy, said. He noted that the younger generations require "higher levels of awareness of the problem at hand" pointing at the increasing nuclear risk ranging from Hiroshima to Fukushima.

Elaborating on the economy's part in achieving global peace mentioned in the proposal, Rajat Kathuria of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) said that conflict could be reduced by increasing trade between countries. "The probability of conflict reduces considerably if two countries or a group of countries trade with each other or are economically interdependent. That's one way to approach it," Kathuria said.

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Eminent classical dancer Prathibha Prahlad reflected upon Ikeda's words about young people's part in upholding and protecting the core values of human rights. She also said a deep connection to culture was required. "Education needs to be linked to culture. Culture of hearts brings people together, it teaches us to respect others and yourself. If we make an effort to understand other cultures and their traditions, and they do the same, we can all aim for a better future with respect for each other in our hearts," she said.

The 35th peace proposal by Ikeda says that the "world should go beyond looking at the problem of displaced persons in terms of numbers and build just and inclusive societies". Ikeda has listed three priority areas crucial to a peaceful society as well as to attaining the United Nations' sustainable development goals. In his proposal he highlighted "prohibiting and abolishing nuclear weapons, restoring hope in the hearts of refugees and building a culture of human rights" as the primary tools for a better world.*(This story has not been edited by Business Standard staff and is auto-generated from a syndicated feed.)*

आईएनएस

दाइसाकु इकेदा के शांति प्रस्तावों पर संगोष्ठी आयोजित (21:23)

नई दिल्ली, 8 सितंबर, (आईएनएस)। बढ़ते क्षेत्रीय तनाव की पृष्ठभूमि में सार्वभौमिक एकता की बढ़ती आवश्यकता और शरणार्थी संकट से मानवता के समक्ष उत्पन्न चुनौती पर शुक्रवार को सोका गाकाई अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष दाइसाकु इकेदा के 2017 के शांति प्रस्तावों पर आयोजित संगोष्ठी में गहन चर्चा की गई। इस संगोष्ठी में भारत के योजना आयोग के पूर्व सदस्य और बोस्टन परामर्श समूह के अध्यक्ष अरुण मायरा, रक्षा और सामरिक मामलों के विशेषज्ञ सी. उदय भास्कर, अर्थशास्त्रीय संबंधों पर भारतीय अनुसंधान परिषद के प्रमुख रजत कथूरिया और सुप्रसिद्ध भरतनाट्यम नृत्यांगना एम. एस. प्रतिभा प्रमुख वक्ता रहे। संस्था की ओर से जारी बयान के अनुसार, भारत में सोका गाकाई के अध्यक्ष विशेष गुप्ता ने कहा, "संघर्ष के इस दौर में मानवीय रूप से किसी दूसरे तक पहुंचना और उसे सुनना आज बहुत कम दिखाई देता है। अतः विश्वास व समग्रता की संस्कृति स्थापित करने की आवश्यकता है। भारत सोका गाकाई, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सोका गाकाई से सम्बद्ध भारतीय संस्था है।" डॉ. इकेदा के लेखों का हवाला देते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि डॉ. इकेदा ने इन लेखों में विभिन्न संस्कृतियों और राष्ट्रों के बीच अंतर को पाटने के लिए संवाद के माध्यम से हल ढूँढ़ने पर बल दिया है, ताकि सारी मानवता एकजुट होकर समस्त समस्याओं का हल खोज सके। अपने नवीनतम शांति प्रस्ताव 'युवाओं की वैश्विक एकता : आशा के एक नए युग में प्रवेश में' डॉ. इकेदा ने कहा कि हमें विस्थापितों की समस्या को संख्या की दृष्टि से ही नहीं देखना चाहिए, अपितु सही मामले में न्याय संगत और समावेशी समाज के निर्माण के सन्दर्भ में इसे समझना चाहिए। डॉ. इकेदा ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र और विश्व के विश्वविद्यालयों से शरणार्थी युवाओं के लिए शैक्षिक अवसर बनाने के लिए मिल कर काम करने का आग्रह किया। --आईएनएस

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What is it to be a young person in the 21st century and live with the shroud of a huge nuclear stockpile that could blow the planet ten times over? What do you make of an era of communication where humanism is dipping and we have stopped listening to each other? What do you do when surrounded by the cushion of familiarity, you treat the unfamiliar like an alien invasion?

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Keynote speaker Arun Maira said, "We should work to reduce WMD (Weapon of Mass Destruction). But there is one WMD that we must proliferate, it is Ways of Mass Dialogue. We must learn to overcome the fear of the stranger, then we develop and learn more. When we keep searching for the familiar, we are not evolving."

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Let's begin a dialogue

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— PRATIBHA PRAHLAD



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However, Prathibha Prahlad felt that cultural engagement was the only way of building mutual understanding and tolerance. Only when we are sure of where we come from and our identity would we be respectful of others and their roots. Drawing parallels between peace and culture, Prahlad said, "We take art and culture for granted. However, culture and art can bind people, build relationships beyond boundaries and create one world and one boundary."

Focussing on the peace proposal, Vishesh Gupta, chairperson, Bharat Soka Gakkai, said, "In these times of conflict, the human touch of reach-

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Going further Gupta quoted President Ikeda and said: "The world is not simply a collection of states, nor is it composed solely of religions and civilisations. Our living, breathing world is woven of endeavours of countless human beings, ... but no two of whom are the same."

"To view and judge others only through the prism of religion or ethnicity distorts the rich reality we each possess as individuals. In contrast, when we develop a deep appreciation, through our individual friendships, of each other's unique value, differences of ethnicity or religion are illuminated by the dignity and worth of that friend and shine as the value of diversity."

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Further, Dr Ikeda urged the United Nations and the world's universities to work together to create educational opportunities for refugee youth. Despite the many challenges to achieving global peace, Dr Ikeda said he is "not pessimistic about humanity's future" because of his faith in "our world's young people, each of whom embodies hope and the possibility of a better future."

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PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
India's Premier News Agency

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Held by the Indian arm of SGI, Bharat Soka Gakkai, Friday's symposium, attended by eminent economists, classical dancers and defence and planning experts, focussed on different aspects of development through which global coexistence can be achieved.

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SGI PRESIDENT ISSUES 2017 PEACE PROPOSAL

New Delhi: Amid a backdrop of growing regional tensions, the urgent need for universal solidarity and the humanitarian challenge from a growing refugee crisis came alive on Friday at a symposium centering around Soka Gakkai International President Daisaku Ikeda's 2017 peace proposal. Highlighting the urgent need for working towards global peace, harmony and prosperity, Uday Bhaskar, director of Society for Policy Studies and a defence and strategy expert, said that though the world will be commemorating the September 11 attacks that took place in 2001 in another three days, global peace and harmony is continuing to elude the human race. Drawing parallels between peace and culture, head of Indian Council for Research on Economic Relations (ICRIER) Pratibha Prahlad said: "The world is taking art and culture for granted. However, culture and art has the power to help bind people, build and sustain relationships beyond boundaries and create one world and one boundary."

Symposium organised by Bharat Soka Gakkai

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a backdrop of growing regional tensions, the urgent need for universal solidarity and the humanitarian challenge from the growing refugee crisis came alive on Friday at a symposium organised by Bharat Soka Gakkai on "Soka Gakkai International" (SGI) president Daisaku Ikeda's peace proposal titled 'The Global Solidarity of Youth: Ushering in a New Era' to discuss the ways to awaken people towards global issues that pose a threat to humanity.

Focusing on the peace proposal, Vishesh Gupta, Chairperson Bharat Soka Gakkai said, "At the time of conflict the human touch of reaching out and listening to the other is at a premium. There is an urgent need to establish a culture of trust, a culture of inclusiveness. President Ikeda's current proposal addresses many of these issues, impressing on us the need to bring to the fore a culture of respect for the other," he said.

President Ikeda said: "The world is not simply a collection of states, nor is it composed solely of religions and civilizations. Our living, breathing the



world is woven of the endeavours of countless human beings but not two of whom are the same," Gupta also said "To view and judge others only through the prism of religion or ethnicity distorts the rich reality we each possess as individuals. In contrast, when we develop a deep appreciation, through our individual friendships, of each other's unique value, differences of ethnicity or religion are illuminated by the dignity and worth of that friend and shine as the value of diversity."

"There is an urgent need to establish a culture of trust and inclusiveness. The peace proposal by the SGI president,

Ikeda, addresses current problems in the world and how on the basis of Buddhist philosophy these problems can be solved," he added.

An official of the Bharat Soka Gakkai said that our peace proposal is the key to address global issues as the action plan is intended to awaken individuals, who can play a constructive role.

Further, the official said that Dr Ikeda has urged the United Nations and the world's universities to work together to create educational opportunities for refugee youth.

C Uday Bhaskar, Director of society for policy studies said

there is a need to deliberate and take positive action for restoring global peace in times of proliferation of arms and nuclear weapons. He said the threat of terrorism is also growing worldwide and collective effort for global peace is of utmost necessity. "The global challenge today is to avoid another Hiroshima," he said.

Rajat Kathuria, one of the speakers and head of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relation said that increasing trade is the best and very feasible option to reduce conflict. The more trade we have the fewer chances of conflict will be there.

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New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI) As nations war, inequality widens and an ever-growing humanitarian challenge of a global refugee crisis threatens peaceful existence, the promise of a better future lies in the hands of the youth, a symposium here has stressed.

The call for global peace and solidarity was made at the conference centring around Soka Gakkai International (SGI) president Daisaku Ikeda's 2017 peace proposal titled "The Global Solidarity of Youth: Ushering in a New Era of Hope". The SGI is a Buddhist NGO with branches across the world, including many in India. Held by the Indian arm of SGI, Bharat Soka Gakkai, Friday's symposium, attended by eminent economists, classical dancers and defence and planning experts, focussed on different aspects of development through which global coexistence can be achieved.

Invoking the September 11 attacks in the US, C Uday Bhaskar, security and strategic affairs expert, said that "global peace was more elusive now than ever". "We are just days away from Sept 11 and all of you are aware of the significance, the corrosive resonance of Sept 11. Sixteen years later, I submit it to your consideration that global peace is even more elusive this year than it was in the last," he said. "Its desirability has been burnished by a few more notches given the kind of challenges to global peace. But nonetheless I believe the efforts now should be made with renewed vigour," Bhaskar, retired commodore in Indian Navy, said. He noted that the younger generations require "higher levels of awareness of the problem at hand" pointing at the increasing nuclear risk ranging from Hiroshima to Fukushima.

Elaborating on the economy's part in achieving global peace mentioned in the proposal, Rajat Kathuria of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) said that conflict could be reduced by increasing trade between countries. "The probability of conflict reduces considerably if two countries or a group of countries trade with each other or are economically interdependent. That's one way to approach it," Kathuria said. To create a peaceful environment inside the country, he pointed out that more employment opportunities would reduce inequality in society and lead to a peaceful future for the coming generations.

Eminent classical dancer Prathibha Prahlad reflected upon Ikeda's words about young people's part in upholding and protecting the core values of human rights. She also said a deep connection to culture was required. "Education needs to be linked to culture. Culture of hearts brings people together, it teaches us to respect others and yourself. If we make an effort to understand other cultures and their traditions, and they do the same, we can all aim for a better future with respect for each other in our hearts," she said.

The 35th peace proposal by Ikeda says that the "world should go beyond looking at the problem of displaced persons in terms of numbers and build just and inclusive societies". Ikeda has listed three priority areas crucial to a peaceful society as well as to attaining the United Nations' sustainable development goals. In his proposal he highlighted "prohibiting and abolishing nuclear weapons, restoring hope in the hearts of refugees and building a culture of human rights" as the primary tools for a better world.



दाइसाकु इकेदा के शांति प्रस्तावों पर संगोष्ठी आयोजित

नई दिल्ली, 8 सितंबर, (आईएनएस)। बढ़ते क्षेत्रीय तनाव की पृष्ठभूमि में सार्वभौमिक एकता की बढ़ती आवश्यकता और शरणार्थी संकट से मानवता के समक्ष उत्पन्न चुनौती पर शुक्रवार को सोका गाकाई अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष दाइसाकु इकेदा के 2017 के शांति प्रस्तावों पर आयोजित संगोष्ठी में गहन चर्चा की गई।

इस संगोष्ठी में भारत के योजना आयोग के पूर्व सदस्य और बोस्टन परामर्श समूह के अध्यक्ष अरुण मायरा, रक्षा और सामरिक मामलों के विशेषज्ञ सी. उदय भास्कर, अर्थशास्त्रीय संबंधों पर भारतीय अनुसंधान परिषद के प्रमुख रजत कथूरिया और सुप्रसिद्ध भरतनाट्यम नृत्यांगना एम. एस. प्रतिभा प्रमुख वक्ता रहे।

संस्था की ओर से जारी बयान के अनुसार, भारत में सोका गाकाई के अध्यक्ष विशेष गुप्ता ने कहा, “संघर्ष के इस दौर में मानवीय रूप से किसी दूसरे तक पहुंचना और उसे सुनना आज बहुत कम दिखाई देता है। अतः विश्वास व समग्रता की संस्कृति स्थापित करने की आवश्यकता है। भारत सोका गाकाई, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सोका गाकाई से सम्बद्ध भारतीय संस्था है।”

डॉ. इकेदा के लेखों का हवाला देते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि डॉ. इकेदा ने इन लेखों में विभिन्न संस्कृतियों और राष्ट्रों के बीच अंतर को पाटने के लिए संवाद के माध्यम से हल ढूंढने पर बल दिया है, ताकि सारी मानवता एकजुट होकर समस्त समस्याओं का हल खोज सके।

अपने नवीनतम शांति प्रस्ताव ‘युवाओं की वैश्विक एकता : आशा के एक नए युग में प्रवेश में’ डॉ. इकेदा ने कहा कि हमें विस्थापितों की समस्या को संख्या की दृष्टि से ही नहीं देखना चाहिए, अपितु सही मामले में न्याय संगत और समावेशी समाज के निर्माण के सन्दर्भ में इसे समझना चाहिए।

डॉ. इकेदा ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र और विश्व के विश्वविद्यालयों से शरणार्थी युवाओं के लिए शैक्षिक अवसर बनाने के लिए मिल कर काम करने का आग्रह किया।