

HONORARY DOCTORATES AND HONORARY PROFESSORSHIPS

As of October 2011, Daisaku Ikeda had been awarded a total of 315 academic honors, mainly honorary doctorates and honorary professorships, from academic institutions in some 50 countries and territories for his efforts to promote peace, educational and cultural exchange.

98 academic honors have been conferred upon Ikeda from institutions in China alone. This achievement is significant in light of Ikeda's wish to contribute to building friendship between China and Japan that was formulated in his youth on hearing of the atrocities committed in China by the Japanese military.

Selection of academic honors received:

Jordan:	University of Jordan (Honorary Doctorate, 2004)
Russia:	Moscow State University (Hon. Doctorate 1975, Hon. Prof. 2002)
Malaysia:	Putra University, Malaysia (Honorary Doctorate, 2000)
Australia:	University of Sydney (Honorary Doctorate, 2000)
India:	University of Delhi (Honorary Doctorate, 1998)
U.S.A.:	University of Denver (Honorary Doctorate, 1996)
Ghana:	University of Ghana (Honorary Doctorate, 1996)
Italy:	University of Bologna (Honorary Doctorate, 1994)
U.K.:	University of Glasgow (Honorary Doctorate, 1994)
Brazil:	Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Honorary Doctorate 1993)
Turkey:	Ankara University (Honorary Doctorate, 1992)
Philippines:	University of the Philippines (Honorary Doctorate, 1991)
China:	Peking University (Honorary Professorship, 1984)

Reasons cited for conferring honors

The most common reasons cited for the awarding of honorary doctorates and professorships to Ikeda are summarized in the following list. The awarding institutions recognize him as engaging in a wide range of activities for the sake of peace, and as a multi-faceted individual committed to putting his ideas and values into action.

Commonly cited attributes:

- Peacebuilder, citizen diplomat
- Promoter of education as a way of enhancing cross-cultural understanding and peace
- Champion of dialogue, writer, philosopher
- Founder of institutions to promote peace, cultural and educational exchange
- Visionary humanist
- Man of action
- Champion of youth
- Concern for the oppressed
- Empowering ordinary people
- Making art and culture available to all
- Bridging East and West

Excerpts from citations and speeches given at conferral ceremonies:

University of Jordan (Honorary Doctorate, 2004)

Vice-President, Professor Shtaywy Abdalla

“He has devoted his entire career to rooting out the fundamental causes of conflict and to the promotion of a culture of peace. . . [A]s thinker, author and educator, [he] has committed himself to the noble premise that [it is] only through personal interaction and dialogue across cultural and philosophical boundaries that human beings can nurture trust and understanding.”

Statement of Prince El Hassan bin Talal on the occasion of the awarding of the Honorary Doctorate from the University of Jordan

“Our shared vision of peace is one of mutual trust and understanding between the individuals of our small planet, through networks not of abstracts or ideologies but between people who have institutionalized places of safety for all conversations. . .

“I would suggest that you are such a guardian of our shared human birthright, with whom moderates and centrists from every culture can discuss the idea of heritage without frontiers, of global understanding between citizens. As a scholar and a religious man gifted with great comprehension and compassion, you have called us to higher thought and more thoughtful action.”

University of Delaware (Honorary Doctorate, 2000)

President, Professor David P. Roselle

“Distinguished educator and articulate advocate of global good citizenship, your life has been a quest to use the power of education to . . . ‘drive back the dark clouds of the mind.’

“Visionary humanist, you have always believed and espoused that within each individual lies the key to lasting peace and happiness. Convinced that everyone—when nurtured by education—has both the potential and the resources to make a true and lasting difference in our world, you have devoted yourself to imparting values that engender respect for the dignity and fundamental rights of all people.

“Tireless worker for a better world, you have entered into meaningful dialogue with individuals around the globe, enjoying their respect and friendship, and to further your impact on the world’s conscience and consciousness, you have published in more than 20 languages.”

University of Sydney (Honorary Doctorate, 2000)

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Judith Kinnear

“In a life which has been given wide international acclaim it would be easy to overlook Daisaku Ikeda’s promotion of other people’s interests. His insight into the human condition is apparent in his humour, in his photography, in his poetry and in face-to-face communication. He has associated with Presidents and Princes but still makes a deep commitment to ordinary citizens, to schoolchildren and to students from all parts of the globe. His promotion of international dialogue and his own Soka Gakkai’s fostering of international friendship are a gift to humanity. He is a unique world citizen.”

University of Delhi (Honorary Doctorate, 1998)

Vice Chancellor, Professor V.R. Mehta

“We recognize Ikeda’s untiring efforts in the field of education, international understanding, pacifism and in promoting individual happiness. In a world of conflicting aims and beliefs, Ikeda, as the leader of Soka Gakkai International, has worked for over four decades to bring nations together based on peaceful dialogue, understanding and culture. . .

“As a philosopher, Ikeda has provided new hope for mankind through his New Humanism based on the concept of a cosmological dharma of King Ashoka implying truth, virtue and justice. . . Ikeda places a deep respect for life as the prime requisite of his new humanism. He believes that humans should under no circumstances kill other humans. In brief, Ikeda has been transforming society by empowering the individual and leading him to happiness.”

University of Hong Kong (Honorary Doctorate, 1996)

Public Orator, Professor Mimi Chan

“Religious leader, philosopher, author, poet, international humanitarian, educationalist, a prominent figure in the cultural scene of the world: these names can only begin to sum up the many attributes and achievements of President Daisaku Ikeda, truly a Renaissance man.

“As a staunch advocate of world peace Ikeda has traveled widely and published extensively in an effort to promote peace and international understanding. He has directed his energies in particular towards healing the rift between China and Japan and towards advocating a revitalized and strengthened United Nations.”

Other awards include:

UN Peace Award (1983), UNHCR Humanitarian Award (1989), Rosa Parks Humanitarian Award (1993), Simon Wiesenthal Center International Tolerance Award (1993), Tagore Peace Award (1997), Rizal International Peace Award (1998), PRIO Prize (International Peace Research Institute, Oslo) (2002). Ikeda has also been decorated with 27 national orders from around the world.

Memberships include:

Ikeda is an honorary member of the Club of Rome, an honorary adviser of the World Federation of United Nations Associations, an honorary senator of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, an advisory board member of the World Centers of Compassion for Children, honorary life member of the Thoreau Society, honorary member of the Russian Academy of Arts and a nonresident member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters.