



Soka Gakkai International – USA
Office of Public Affairs

February 7, 2013

To The Judges for the 2013 World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize:

I am writing to urge the The Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought to choose Faith in Action DC's recent event, the first ever "DC Young Adult Faith Leaders Summit" (DCYAFLS), held on February 9th, 2013 for the World Interfaith Harmony Week Grand Prize. I believe that this initiative embodies the key elements you are looking for in your institute's quest to nurture interfaith harmony.

I was particularly impressed with the organizers' ability to bring together the emerging generation of faith leaders from the such a wide range of traditions, including Bahá'í, Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, Latter Day Saint, Muslim, Protestant, Sikh, and Zoroastrian communities. In addition, the event connected with both local and national political leadership including the Mayor of the District of Columbia, Vincent Gray and a representative from the White House Office of Faith Based and Community Partnership.

The participation by both the faith and political leaders speaks eloquently of the ability of the organizers to link these two communities in a way that truly elevated the significance of interfaith harmony.

We felt particularly proud that our community the Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Association was able to play an active role in supporting this summit. We found the organizing leadership to be first rate and we believe that the summit embodied the Buddhist community's commitment to build peace through trust and trust through dialogue.

Again, I commend the organizers of Faith in Action DC's "Young Adult Faith Leaders Summit" for their outstanding work and hope that you will see fit to select them for the World Interfaith Harmony Week Grand Prize.

Sincerely yours,

William K. Aiken
Director of Public Affairs