

## **General Guidelines for Gohonzon Application and Enshrinement for Leaders\***

### **Application Criteria**

- Is a SGI Australia member for at least 6 months
- Have the ability to recite Gongyo
- Have been attending group meeting regularly over 6-12months period.

### **Application Process**

- Gohonzon recipient to have dialogue with Group/Area leader about applying for Gohonzon
- Fill in Gohonzon application form and submit to Group/Area leader
- Area/Region leader will arrange a home visitation with Group leader. Group leader may visit Gohonzon recipient on their own with Area/Region supporting them behind the scene. The main thing is communication and dialogue between Group and Area/Region.
  - Purpose of home visitation is to explain and answer any questions on receiving Gohonzon
  - Once home visitation is completed, Region will discuss and agree in unity from four divisions on the Gohonzon application and put forward to State team to facilitate and confirm conferral at Commemorative Meeting.

### **Gohonzon Conferral and Enshrinement**

- Confirmation on conferral
  - Region/State leader will inform Gohonzon recipient if Gohonzon application has been confirmed for conferral at Commemorative Meeting. Region needs to communicate that to Area and Group to ensure everyone is in unity to support Gohonzon recipient.
- Enshrinement preparation for Gohonzon recipient
  - Prepare the altar space at home for Gohonzon enshrinement, for example ensure that the altar area is not cluttered.
  - Check that the altar is not too low; the guideline is that one is able to see Gohonzon at the eye level when chanting.
  - Accessories such as candles or incense is subject to individual's preference
- Gohonzon conferral day for Gohonzon recipient
  - Arrive early to office for briefing
  - Make financial contribution for receiving Gohonzon
- Enshrinement: This is a simple yet significant celebration where the purpose is to celebrate the recipient's receiving Gohonzon.
  - Gohonzon recipient to arrange a day and time with Group leader or Area and Region leaders to enshrine Gohonzon (most recipients have their enshrinement on the same day as conferral)
  - Gohonzon recipient to invite group members and friends to attend the enshrinement celebration

- Group/Area/Region can enshrine the Gohonzon (discuss with Gohonzon recipient if they had preferred individuals in mind e.g. their mother who is also practising and support the person). Ideally two people do so, one to hold each end of the Gohonzon, unroll it and put it in the Butsudan whilst the Gohonzon recipient leads chanting and Gongyo. Gongyo will be performed once the Gohonzon is enshrined and the chanting may continue with no specified length of time after Gongyo. The whole process is usually short and sweet.
- What will happen after that is usually exchange of congratulatory remarks and encouragements and celebration over some snacks (that is not mandatory, it is completely up to the Gohonzon recipient)

**Note:**

\*This is a guideline document for leaders especially leaders who may be new and it is not a rule book. The purpose of producing this is to support leaders and it is very important to remember that every element of it hinges on respect, care and dialogue for the Gohonzon recipient and their family, supporting leaders and members.